



# The John Hampden School Wendover



## NEWSLETTER

### 1. MESSAGE FROM MRS BARNES

Welcome back to the Summer Term. I hope you had an enjoyable Easter holiday and managed to enjoy some of the beautiful sunshine we were lucky enough to experience.

### Starting School in September 2021

During the holiday we received a firm indication of numbers for our Foundation Stage classes in September 2021. It would appear we will be almost full with 89 of the 90 places being offered so far. Once again we will remain at three forms of entry and we will delay any move to four form entry until we have a clear indication that numbers will make this financially viable. Places have also been offered for our Early Years class from September 2021. This class has 26 available places and so far we have filled 21. If you are still looking for an Early Years provider please contact the school office for more information. The class is open for any child born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018 and we aim to take just one intake per year, so if we fill all 26 places by September we will not be able to accept any more eligible children for the rest of the academic year unless anyone leaves. To enable parents and children to learn more about the Early Years class we are holding an Open Morning on Saturday 15th May between 9.30am and 11.30am. This event will be carefully managed with Covid-19 restrictions in place so anyone who wishes to attend needs to contact the school office via [office@jhampden.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@jhampden.bucks.sch.uk) or 01296 622629 to book a time. There is further information about the Early Years Class later in this newsletter.

### Meetings with Parents

I am sure you are keen to hear how your child has settled back into school following the lockdown period and the Easter holiday, so we are planning to provide an opportunity for you to make an appointment to talk to your child's class teacher. If the Government's road map continues on the current trajectory we are all expecting things to change slightly from Monday 17th May, so it will be during this week that we will be offering the chance for you to attend a socially distanced meeting with the class teacher in a similar way to our offer back in October 2020. The meetings will take place outside the classroom and on Wednesday next week you will be receiving an email explaining how to log on to the Eschools platform to make an appointment. If you have mislaid your Eschools account login and password, please contact the school office and we can provide a reminder. I do appreciate that some people may still prefer a virtual appointment so we would ask you to contact the school office if you would prefer to communicate via Zoom and we will organise a 10 minute appointment.

I am sure you are also keen to know whether we will be holding other events that traditionally happen during the Summer Term e.g. Sports Day. The honest answer is that we are waiting for further guidance from the Department for Education and the Local Authority before we can commit to anything. However, behind the scenes we are making sure the children get some of the experiences we know they enjoy so all classes are currently practising country dances, or having the chance to dance around the Maypole, as they traditionally would have done if we were able to hold our usual May Day celebration. I'm sorry we are not able to invite you to watch these things but the children certainly aren't missing out on the opportunity.

Thank you for your continued support.

## 2. GOVERNOR SECTION

How the time has flown! It seems only last week that I last wrote to you waxing lyrical about the efforts of the senior leadership team and entire staff body for their commitment and flexibility in rising to the challenge of providing home learning content and classroom teaching simultaneously. Mindful not to forget the hard work and dedication of all the staff during that period – although hoping we don't have to return to that anytime soon.

The mood following a tricky January and February has most definitely lifted, the re-opening of school on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March was welcomed by staff and parents and more importantly the children – I know ours were so excited to get back into the classroom, a place they felt was their domain with their friends, even at such a young age the sense of ownership, belonging and responsibility shines through. Belonging to a school, a sports team, a church, essentially a place outside the home where they can build new relationships in new environments is so important to the development of children and it has been highlighted by the enjoyment of children going back to school.

I may well be looking at things through rose tinted glasses or be overly impacted by the walks to school in the sunshine we are currently blessed with, seeing the stream of families making the same trip. I think the country overall is going in the right direction and it is not exemplified more than in the confidence our children have in going to their John Hampden School. I hear the children playing from my back garden at break times and lunchtimes and it often makes me smile (maybe because they are there and not making noise in my back garden! ). So, another thankyou to all the team at JHS for making the school a fun, enjoyable and safe space for all of our children.

I hope that you are all well and have the same positive outlook that I do – If not please reach out and talk to someone. Mental Health Awareness Week is 10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> of May and the theme this year is nature. I have added a link below.

Kind Regards

**Ben Gattlin**  
**Parent Governor**  
**Chair of Finance Committee**  
**Deputy Chair of Governors**



<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/campaigns/mental-health-awareness-week>

The Governing Board is always willing to listen to parental queries and to explain in more detail what the Governing Body does. They do realise, however, that it may not always be appropriate to speak to them at the school gate so please feel free to email the Chair of Governors, James Edley, [jedley@johnhampdenwendover.co.uk](mailto:jedley@johnhampdenwendover.co.uk) if you would like to raise a matter for discussion.

### 3. IMPORTANT MESSAGES



A big well done to Red Kites Class who were the winners of the Easter Holiday Reading Challenge. 26 pupils in this class read at least ten books each during the holiday. This class will be awarded their prize this afternoon.

61 children successfully completed the Easter Holiday Fitness Challenge and they will all be awarded certificates and medals today.

#### YEAR 1 PLANTING TOPIC

Our Year 1 classes are busy with a topic about growing plants. If anyone has access to spare seedlings, seeds, compost, pots etc. that they would be willing to donate, we would be very grateful to hear from you. Please bring any contributions to the school office.

#### POLITE REQUEST

Please could we ask that parents/carers collecting children from the Early Years and Foundation Stage classes do not let any of their children play on the outside learning equipment at the start and end of the school day. As we do not have staff supervising the areas at these times we would ask that you refrain from using them for safety reasons. Having highlighted the issue in the newsletter and reinforced the message with the children in the Early Years and Foundation Stage classes we would really appreciate your support with this. Our staff work hard to encourage our pupils to respect a specific set of rules regarding the use of the outside equipment during the school day and this is sometimes undermined if parents allow something different when they are in charge!

#### REMINDER

This is a further reminder that all school uniform must be named. As we reach the Summer Term more children are taking off their coats, cardigans and jumpers and if they are not named there is the real possibility that they may find their way into the lost property box where it is very difficult to match it with the real owner.

#### WATER BOTTLES & SUN CREAM

We have enjoyed some lovely sunny weather recently and at these times it is particularly important that children remain hydrated. Please rest assured that all children have access to water at all times so there is no need for them to bring a water bottle to school.

We advise parents to apply sun cream to their children before they come to school. It is possible to buy cream that only needs to be applied once and this avoids children having to bring their own bottles to school. If you believe your child needs sun cream applied more often, please let the class teacher know and they can organise times for this to happen. Children should be taught to apply their own cream -thank you.

#### SIGNING HOME/SCHOOL DIARIES

Please can we remind parents that we encourage you to hear your child read for a short amount of time each day. 'Little and often' is the best way and we would ask that you sign your child's diary when you have heard them and indicate which pages you have listened to. Please remember that every child also has access to a whole book shelf of online books from the Collins e-book library. If you have any difficulty accessing these virtual books please contact the school office.

Thank you



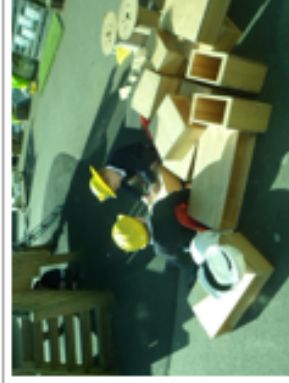
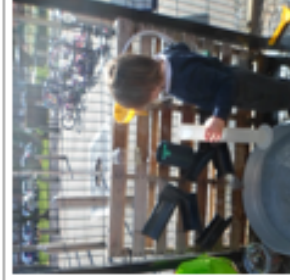
The large outdoor area not only gives children contact with the natural world, it also supports problem solving skills, nurtures creativity and provides rich opportunities to develop imagination, inventiveness and resourcefulness.

Additional outdoor play opportunities on the school playgrounds and extensive grassy areas within the school grounds and the school campus (Covid restrictions allowing) enhances our provision for physical activity.

Learning outside and active learning is a priority.

High levels of engagement, independence, collaboration and autonomy.

*"The Nursery environment continues to further develop outstanding opportunities to support learning and development"* Early Years Advisor



Consistently High Achievement & Progress

A continuing trend where:

- over 90% of EYF5 children achieve a good level of development (20% above national average)
- Over 30% of children exceed in all seven areas of learning
- Over 30% of children make better than expected progress



Play is valued, understood and supported effectively by all staff members.

*The achievement of pupils is outstanding. Children learn rapidly because of the support and direction given to them by adults, who set up interesting activities and pursue excellent lines of enquiry."*  
Independent School Reviewer



Inventive, imaginative and inclusive resources to support a creative curriculum.

Learning is linked to the interests of the children ensuring motivation, high levels of engagement and achievement.

*On entering the large EYF5, the 'purpose for learning' was striking. The outside environment is unequivocally exciting."* School Advisor Visit Report



An enabling environment created based on the Prime Areas of Learning:

Communication and Language

Physical Development

Personal, Social and Emotional Development and the

Characteristics Of Effective Learning



Introduction to projects that are continued throughout the school.

- Helicopter Stories
- Poetry Basket
- Tales Toolkit
- Access to online reading scheme – starting with wordless picture books



Highly effective partnership with parents has led to enhancements in provision and outcomes for children.

*"I just wanted to tell you how amazing I feel the children and I have been supported in their learning since they have started – it really is outstanding."*

Parent

What We Can Offer Your Child



Highly experienced and caring staff committed to developing the potential of every child.

All staff members are qualified, experienced First Aiders.

Adults understand what children need to develop, learn and flourish.



Breakfast Club and After School Club (OOSC)

**Breakfast Club from 7.45 am**

**After School Club until 6.00pm**



Little Owls Early Years Foundation Stage



Cricket Teachers

Weekly music session

Weekly yoga session

Twice weekly session with Sports Coach  
- Premier Sports



- 6 compulsory morning sessions 8.45 – 11.45 am – 15 hours
- universally funded places for 3 and 4 year olds
- Chargeable lunch club
- Afternoon sessions 12.15 – 3.15 pm
- All day sessions available
- 30 hours funded places
- We accept Childcare Vouchers

**What We Can offer Your Child**

Experienced SENDCo who can facilitate excellent support for those pupils with additional needs.

Availability and access to excellent pastoral support ~ Nurture Support Co-ordinator.

Sustainable, recycled, reused, repurposed resources



Nursery Vegetable Patch

Excellent liaison between Nursery practitioners and school staff to support a seamless transition to main school.

Opportunities for Nursery children to join Foundation Stage for various activities throughout the year (Covid Restrictions allowing)



Parent Comments:

"The Early Years Class was an excellent introduction to school."

"My son settled into school life – I put this down to the great start he had in Early Years."

"It was definitely valuable that my child attended Early Years. It made all transitions seamless."

**Contact:**

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The John Hampden School Wendover  
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01296 622629

Email: [office@jhampden.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@jhampden.bucks.sch.uk)

## 4. RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION –CONSULTATION

### Relationships Education Parental Consultation

We are seeking parental engagement in response to The Department for Education required changes to Relationships Education whereby the teaching of Relationships and Health Education will be statutory from the beginning of KS1 from the Summer term 2021 (original compliance date of September 2020 was delayed due to Covid-19).

The consultation process will involve one or two meetings of approximately one hour in length via Zoom to review John Hampden's Relationships Policy and current Curriculum practice with the opportunity to read through relevant documents before the meetings take place.

Jo Spencer (PSHE Coordinator) will lead the consultation process.

We would really value parental input. Please can parents wishing to take part express interest via an email to the school office [office@jhampden.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@jhampden.bucks.sch.uk) by Friday 7th May.

The Relationships Policy document and supporting progression of learning grid will be published on the school website once the consultation process has been completed.

## 5. MISCELLANEOUS



### **Speeding vehicles... Dangerous racing... Illegal exhaust noise...**

Are you concerned about **antisocial behaviour**  
on roads in and around Wendover?

### **Report it**

Dangerous, antisocial driving blights neighbourhoods and risks lives. Help our Police deal with the problem. Report incidents as antisocial behaviour by phoning 101\* or online by visiting [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk)

Make a note of time and, if possible, location of the incident. (Including noise from speeding/racing vehicles on the bypass.) You might also have the registration number and/or vehicle description. But don't worry if you don't have all the details. Report what you do know – your call will help Thames Valley Police tackle the problem.

### **Stop antisocial behaviour on our roads**

**See it? Hear it?**  
**Report it, by phoning 101\* or**  
**visiting [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk)**

If you're deaf or hard of hearing, use Thames  
Valley Police textphone service on 18001 101

\*Phone 101 for all incidents except emergencies, when you should ring 999