



The John Hampden School Wendover



NEWSLETTER

1. MESSAGE FROM MRS BARNES

Well, we've made it to a half-term break! I think we all deserve a pat on the back for that. There will be no expectation from us for you to continue with any home learning during the short holiday. I really hope you can spend the week relaxing, enjoying the time you have with your children, rather than working hard to try and fit everything in!

Certainly the children we are seeing in school are tired and ready for a break and I sincerely hope the teaching staff will also take a well earned rest, so we can all come back to school rejuvenated and ready to go again. Apparently, England's plan to ease lockdown will be announced around 22nd February, with hopes schools will begin reopening from 8th March. I'm sure we all want a return to more 'normal' times but this can only be when it is deemed safe and appropriate for us to do so.

**THANK
YOU!**

Thank you from all at John Hampden if you have managed to keep up with the home learning over recent weeks. Your effort is appreciated and your children will have benefited from the support you have provided. We are glad to see examples of what your children have been doing, so please do keep sending some evidence to your child's class teacher/s regularly.

For children attending school:

- It is imperative that children bring their exercise books into school each day.
- We would ask that you never allow your children to access anything from the website ahead of the daily plan. It obviously causes us issues if children arrive at school saying they've already done the planned learning for that day.

As I have stated previously, our year group bubble classes are full and we are working at maximum capacity if we are to keep remote learning going in the same way. If anyone, who has a child attending school currently, should find themselves in changed circumstances where they can keep their child at home instead, even just for a day a week, we would hope you would contact the school office and let us know.

We are very aware that many children are not in the position where they can change school reading books regularly, so we will be doing something to remedy this after half-term when parents will be sent the log-in details for a virtual library of books that will be accessible to your child. The teachers will be setting up the system with e-books that are appropriate to your child's reading ability. You will receive all the relevant information via an email and we hope to have the system up and running by the end of the first week back. The set-up involves communicating with each family individually so please do not worry if you hear that someone from the same class/year group has access before you—we will be working through our lists and everyone from Foundation Stage to Year 2 will definitely be included.

Given the challenges we're facing, you may be interested in a toolkit for improving mental health. It has been developed by Elise Williams who visited our school some time ago. She is offering our families a sneak preview of 'The Pocket Mentor; your daily mental wellbeing workout to thrive in the challenges of life' <https://www.pocketmentorapp.com>

In the meantime, have a good break and let's hope the next half-term brings more normality for us all.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING US TO KEEP YOUR CHILDREN LEARNING AS SAFELY AS POSSIBLE

2. NURSERY NEWS

Communication and Language in the Nursery

For this section of the newsletter we wanted to celebrate the fabulous learning that is continually taking place in our school nursery.

As children develop speaking and listening skills, they are building the foundations for literacy and learning. In addition to this, they are learning key skills such as how to express themselves and make friends. Communication and language is one of the three prime areas within the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). Each prime area is divided into early learning goals, for communication and language these are:

- Listening and attention - these skills support language learning and include the ability to discriminate sounds and maintain and monitor attention in a shared context.
- Understanding - young children gradually develop the ability to understand words in context, beginning with single words and building on this with phrases and more and more complex sentences.
- Speaking - this allows children to express their feelings, needs and wants, their thoughts and ideas and be able to talk about what has happened and about creative or imaginative events.

Our highly skilled teachers and teaching assistants are the best resource in our nursery, supporting a child's language and communication development. Young children need many opportunities to have conversations and to hear adults modelling language and introducing new words. They learn language further when they're engaged with things that fascinate, challenge and excite them. They need to hear and say new words often to strengthen the connections in their brains and to keep building their vocabulary.

As a school nursery last year we were fortunate enough to take part in the trial of a language programme which boosts communication and language skills and have now incorporated this into our daily nursery planning. It has been delightful to hear the children using such a wide range of vocabulary.

Last term we introduced Helicopter Stories to the Nursery. Helicopter Stories is based on the Story Telling and Story Acting curriculum of renowned Early Years Practitioner Vivian Gussin Paley. During a Helicopter session, children dictate their stories to an adult to scribe. Later the whole class gather around a stage and the stories are acted out. We are truly amazed at the language that the children are using. Children have their very own special Helicopter Story folder that they take with them to Foundation Stage where they continue their journey.



Flynn's Story

Once upon a time there was a little boy and he built a house. It was a house made of bricks. One day the little boy was in his house when a big wolf came stomping along. He tried to huff, puff and blow the house down but he couldn't so he ran away. And that is the end of my story.

Story Time

Not only is story time a fabulous way to practice words and introduce new vocabulary, it is a time where the children learn and perform poems. We are particularly proud of the children who have already learnt so many poems – 'Chop Chop Choppity Chop' seemingly being the favourite so far!

Phonics

Phonics is often thought of as reading and writing but before children even start learning letter names and sounds, children begin developing their listening skills so that they are tuned into the different sounds in words. Children start their phonic journey at a very young age through Communication and Language activities, promoting speaking and listening skills. Our phonics sessions enable children to grow their vocabulary through role play, discussion, building sentences and through questioning. It places huge emphasis on developing children's love of reading through enticing story and poetry times. The children move onto learning sounds and reading words when they have mastered early skills.

Reading Books

We are delighted to announce that after half term the children in Crickets will have access to online reading books at home that will reinforce Phonics in the EYFS. There are a wide range of books without words and simple blending books. This will give them a flying start before going into Foundation Stage. Details will follow after half term.

Expressive Arts and Design

It is wonderful to see the skills that the children are learning are being applied through every area of learning, in particular Expressive Arts and Design. The children have been singing songs, making music and dancing, and experimenting with ways of changing them and story telling.

Well done Team Crickets – you never cease to amaze us!

3. GOVERNOR SECTION

An ode to parents and carers as we approach this half term

Home –schooling yet again, and still no real end in sight

All the worries still there – Am I doing it right, will they fall behind?

Loving to learn – how do I achieve that with a reluctant learner?

Finding the time to be a parent, worker, teacher and chief cook and bottle washer

Take the time to notice things around you – spring bulbs pushing through the ground, sunshine on your face

Enjoy the small achievements whomsoever makes them, whatever they are

Remember that it will all come to an end someday and we will be able to look back and think of good times

Make the most of this half term break and make memories to last a lifetime

The Governors are all very aware of the tremendous pressure everyone – parents, carers and school staff are under in these strange times, and hope that everyone is able to take some time “off” to recharge batteries and take stock. Onwards and upwards!

Alison Duggan

Co-opted Governor



Hello! My name is Ann Whytewood-Sitzberger and I am one of the Parent Governors at John Hampden School. I am a Deputy Head teacher at another local primary school and have a child in Red Kites class.

I am sure you will all join me in saying a huge thank you to Mrs Barnes, Mrs Parkinson and the team of teachers and support staff. To have 8 hours' notice of a lock down and government instruction to continue provision for keyworker and vulnerable children, moving to online teaching, and providing at least 3 or 4 hours of work per day, has been no mean feat! I have been utterly amazed at the resilience of the teachers to cope with the amount of technology know-how that most perhaps wouldn't have ever used prior to this lockdown. A huge thank you to all.

From a personal perspective, my husband is now an expert in the Great Fire of London thanks to the Year 2 team and we've been especially enjoying Mrs Collins music lessons (which my son insists we all join in with before I leave for my school in the mornings-not sure what the neighbours think of this!)

Teachers and school staff will hopefully now enjoy their half term break. A chance to take a breath, step away from their computers and have a rest before what is likely to be quite a busy term. This will be the first break since last March where there isn't a cloud of uncertainty, or imminent decision waiting to be made by a short notice government announcement. The short notice nature and frequent announcements during holiday periods has caused many a sleepless night for school staff.

Hopefully all of you that have been supporting your children's learning at home will enjoy a well deserved break as well. Enjoy spending time with your family over half term. We are so lucky to live in Wendover where we have access to some amazing walks and open spaces to explore. I know we are really looking forward to lots of family walks.

Lastly, if you would like to feedback about John Hampden School please do consider completing a Parent View on the OFSTED website. <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/> I know that quite a lot of you are sending really supportive emails to the school but it would also be great to let OFSTED know.

Thank you.

Take care and have a lovely half term!



Ann Whytewood-Sitzberger
Parent Governor

4. IMPORTANT MESSAGES

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU
On behalf of everyone at John Hampden we want to say a huge thank you to the Friends of John Hampden and other very kind and generous parents who provided gifts to all the staff this week. We are truly grateful.

WORKSHEETS

If your child has done any home learning on a worksheet these can be placed inside the envelope folder that we provided. Please try to avoid sticking them in books. Thank you.

P.E Kits

Over half term please check that your child has a full, P.E kit with all items named. Girls who wear tights to school would benefit from having a spare pair of short socks in their P.E. bags to wear with their plimsolls.

Zoom Protocol at John Hampden

Just a reminder of the guidelines we sent out prior to starting the Zoom meetings. These meetings will work best if everyone involved adheres to this guidance. Thank you

Zoom Meeting Protocol

Please take a few minutes to go over these Zoom meeting guidelines with your child before their video chats.

Have Everything Ready

Be ready for your zoom meeting. Gather any materials you need ahead of time. Also, make sure you go to the toilet beforehand if you need to.

Stay in One Spot during the Zoom

This may seem like a great time to give your teacher and school friends a tour of your home and introduce them to your pets, but resist the urge. It's distracting to the group. So, stay put throughout the meeting

Don't Use a Fun Background

Zoom has lots of fun backgrounds, but don't use them when you are on with your teacher. It makes it very difficult for them to see you. If possible, find a spot in your house that has a simple background and has good lighting. But, don't sit in front of a window with the light streaming in behind you; that will also make it hard for people to see you. Please don't Zoom from your bedroom.

Know When and How to Mute

The mute button is your friend in Zoom. When your device picks up any sound, Zoom grabs your screen and puts you front and centre. That's great if you are answering a question or adding a comment. However, it's not so great if your brother and sister are playing loudly in the next room. Turn on mute and keep it on until it is your time to speak.

Find a Quiet Spot

To avoid distraction for you and the others in the meeting, find a quiet spot in your house (not your bedroom). It will be easier for classmates to hear from you and for you to hear them. Siblings should not be involved.

Be On Time

Be on time for your Zoom call. Ask an adult to log you into the call a few minutes early to make sure your device is working properly.

Wait Your Turn

Teachers will probably give you a signal to use, like raising your hand, if you have something to say. Use good manners by using this signal before speaking.

Be Presentable

Take a few minutes to make yourself presentable. Do not Zoom in your pyjamas!

Be Respectful

During your Zoom meetings with classmates, act like you would in your class at school. You wouldn't crunch on snacks, or talk with your family during a class at school, so don't do it on the call.

Learning the correct way to behave during a Zoom meeting will help make the calls more fun!

PARENTS—WOULD YOU VALUE SOME FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO HELP IN THESE CHALLENGING TIMES—WOULD YOU LIKE TO PURCHASE A NEW DEVICE FOR YOUR CHILD TO USE FOR HOME LEARNING? DO YOU NEED A PRINTER?
READ ON.....



THE LIONEL ABEL-SMITH TRUST

SUPPORTING THE PEOPLE AND ORGANISATIONS OF
THE PARISH OF WENDOVER AND MOOR PARK



We're here to help you

At the Lionel Abel-Smith Trust we know that the past year has been difficult for many individuals, families and children in our community. Did you know that we were set up with the purpose of supporting the local community and those in need?

For example, in the last year, we have helped local families with covering costs of educational equipment, costs of individuals re-training/ changing careers and support for families with children with specific needs and many others.

Could we help you?

If you, your family or children could benefit from a financial grant please apply to us today by emailing: clerk@wendovertrust.org or writing to: Clerk to the Trust, 51 Dobbins Lane, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6DL*

For more information visit: www.wendovertrust.org and follow us on social media  Lionel Abel-Smith Trust

*Please note you must be a resident of Wendover or Moor Park to be eligible to apply. Applications received by February 28th will be considered at our AGM on April 28th and decisions communicated at that time.
Grants for real need can be made throughout the year. Unfortunately we are not able to guarantee funding for all applications received.

The Lionel Abel-Smith Trust is a registered charity founded in 1977 by Lionel Abel-Smith, Lord of the Manor of Wendover. Registered Charity Number: 274879