

The John Hampden School Wendover

# NEWSLETTER

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Message from Mrs. Barnes	1	Thursday 6th February Curriculum Evening for Parents— Mathematics 7.00pm—8.15pm Refreshments from 6.45pm	Week beginning 10th February   • Assessment Week   • Discovery Week   Friday 14th February   School ends at 3.15pm—Half Term
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# 1. MESSAGE FROM MRS BARNES

Despite having a National Curriculum which directs the content of what should be taught to children at this stage of their education, we are given the freedom to choose how we feel it is best to deliver this content. We have found that some topics are universally popular with infant aged pupils whilst at other times we take account of particular interests of the children to plan something new. Our teachers work very hard to keep the learning opportunities relevant and interesting for the children so they are motivated and engaged in their learning.

At The John Hampden School Wendover we try hard to present the content as a linked curriculum whenever possible. This means we choose topics which enable aspects of different subjects to be taught in a meaningful way to the children. So, rather than having a history lesson each week we may choose to block the teaching of this subject into a specific topic. At other times we may choose to have specific enrichment days or weeks to focus attention on a particular subject or a particular theme. So far this academic year we have enjoyed a fortnight of Health and Safety. 'Discovery Week' is coming up soon where the children will be investigating mathematically and scientifically. There will also be a focus on thinking skills linked to philosophy (P4C) and Growth Mindsets.

When we come back after the half term break, Mrs Webb and Mrs Collins have planned an exciting Arts Week that will involve the children creating art work linked to a specific theme. This will be enhanced with music, drama and poetry. Later on in the year there will also be World Weeks to look forward to.

Whenever possible we invite visitors into school or we plan trips to enhance the learning experiences. Sometimes we ask the children to come to school wearing costumes to make their learning more memorable. With this is mind I would like to draw your attention to World Book Day which we will be celebrating on Friday 6th March. Every year we ask the children to dress up and this year we are asking everyone to come dressed as their favourite character from a book. We will be celebrating our love of books by providing a range of activities throughout the day including sharing books with Wendover Junior School children.

## **SMARTWATCHES**

Finally, can I remind parents/carers that just as we do not allow mobile phones in school, we can also not allow children to wear any smart devices e.g. watches. We have noticed a few of these being worn following the Christmas holiday and we respectfully ask that, in line with our e-safety policy, no devices that can record images of others are worn by pupils in school. Traditional analogue or digital watches are acceptable if your child is keen to practise telling the time.

Thank you.

## 2. GOVERNOR SECTION

February 2020, back to school following the Christmas break seems a distant memory now. I hope any new years resolutions you attempted at the start of the year have continued and hope they stay with you through 2020.

The children are continuing to develop fundamental skills in reading, writing and mathematics and have also had the chance to apply to join clubs for the term, which I know are widely popular with spaces a premium.

The "Children's New Year Disco" was a big success on the 24<sup>th</sup> January. Whilst attending the event you really get the feeling of community wrapping around the school with volunteer contributions coming from staff and parents alike and additional help provided by parents on the night too! Observing the children dancing, colouring and sitting quietly watching a DVD really brings home the developing individuality of the children and how this is encouraged by the school.

Along with the upcoming cabinet reshuffle, the Board of Governors is having a reshuffle of its own. Dave Wheeler's term has come to end and he will no longer be the Deputy Chair of Governors, however will retain a role as an Associate Governor. Simon Ward's term as a parent governor will come to an end in February along with Matt Glanville who was co-opted back in February 2016. I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Dave, Simon and Matt for their dedicated service and wish them well in future endeavours. We do welcome two new Governors, Martin Whitthread and John Wilkinson, who will be formally co-opted at our next Full Governing Body meeting. You can read more about the Governors here;

https://www.johnhampdenwendover.co.uk/website/meet\_our\_governors/39839



Ben Gattlin Parent Governor

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 if you would like to raise a matter for discussion.

## 3. IMPORTANT MESSAGES

#### School Times

This is a polite reminder that children should arrive at school between 8.45a.m. and 8.55a.m. each day. We have a number of children who are either arriving very early or after 8.55a.m. It is a shame that those children arriving late are often missing the important first instructions of the morning. Please try to ensure your child arrives on time. The black security gate is locked promptly at 8.55am so <u>if your child is late please ac-</u><u>company them to the main entrance</u> where we will let them into the school and ask you to complete the late arrivals sheet.

#### **Scooters and Bicycles**

Please note, scooters and bicycles left at school are left entirely at the owner's risk. John Hampden School accepts no liability for any loss or damage from any cause whatsoever. It really helps if bicycles and scooters are clearly named and we are happy for them to be padlocked to the fence for extra security if you wish. Siblings from Wendover Junior School should not leave their scooters or bikes on our premises.

#### Scroll of Honour Badges

Our behaviour initiative, which allows any pupil in the school to be nominated by an adult for demonstrating excellent behaviour, appears to be working well. Every child who is nominated has their name included on the Scroll of Honour and is asked to stand up in front of the rest of the school during Merit Assembly on Friday. They are given a yellow 'Spotted for Something Special' badge which they can wear for one week. We are asking for your support in ensuring the badges are returned to school on the following Thursday. This way we can make sure they can be passed to the next set of children who are nominated. We only have a limited supply of the badges and others will be really disappointed if they don't get a badge when it is their special moment. Thank you for your support.

#### Jewellery

Please remember that children should not be wearing any jewellery to school. Children with pierced ears should definitely have their earrings removed on P.E. days or be provided with tape to cover the studs if they cannot be removed yet. This is for health and safety reasons as earrings can easily get caught up as children get changed for P.E.

#### Cough Sweets etc.

Please do not provide your child with lozenges etc. for coughs or sore throats, in their book bags/coat pockets. Always come and see a member of staff if you believe your child needs to have some sort of medication during the day and we will do our best to accommodate this but children should not have lozenges etc. without adults in the school being aware. Thank you.

# 4. CURRICULUM

At The John Hampden School Wendover we use the 'Talk 4 Writing' approach to develop proficiency and skill in writing. This involves the children becoming very familiar with particular genres of writing through verbal retelling which allows them to memorise the appropriate structure and features. They then move on to imitating the style before innovating an alternative, and finally inventing their very own version. This half term the genre they are focusing on is 'recount' writing. Initially the children in KS1 were asked to write their own recount (a cold task) so teachers could identify what they already know about the genre and what they need to be taught. At the end of this half term, following lots of targeted teaching, the children are asked to write another invented recount (a hot task) where they are expected to demonstrate as many of the features of this particular genre as they can. The children are supported by having success criteria grids to refer to which remind them of what to include and which they can use to self-assess their writing.

We are a few weeks into this particular genre of writing and we are already seeing some impressive results being produced.

We thought you might like to read some examples from each year group:

## Foundation Stage

I went to the moon in a rocket. I saw a moon bug.—written by Stephanie (Caterpillars) I went to the moon but it was too dark and I saw an alien on the moon, so I went back home. Zim, Zam, Zoom! - written by Frankie (Ladybirds) One dark night I went to the moon to have a picnic! I saw a shooting star and an ugly

One dark night I went to the moon to have a picnic! I saw a shooting star and an ugly alien but it was cold but it was fun! I went back home. Zoom! by Ella MH (Honeybees)

Year 1

Last week I went on the most amazing adventure. First I had the shiny gold key. The shiny gold key glowed as bright as the sun and took me to a magical little shop. Soon after POP BANG WHOOSH and a puff of purple smoke. Next a bright coloured man was standing in front of me. Afterwards he tapped me on the head. I was cross. Next he unscrewed the bottle and tipped it over my head. Finally he undid the spell. I want to go there again and shrink so that I don't have to go to school! Written by: Callie (Hedgehogs)

## An account of the Great Fire of London

Dear Diary.

Year 2 Last week was the worst week of my life. London was burning, hundreds of houses were destroyed and I saw it with my very own eyes. On Sunday I woke up and I heard sizzling sounds. So I looked out of the window and saw the bakery on fire! The fire was spreading quickly because the strong wind was wildly blowing. Houses were being wrecked, burnt and destroyed. On Monday I saw many people begin to flee London very quickly. They took their belongings—jewels, food, water, diaries and money. They looked worried and scared. The next day the blazing fire was still burning and spreading. I could see the red and orange flames and smell the smoke. I could feel the hot flames from my window. I could hear people screaming as the houses were blown with gunpowder. On Wednesday the wind slowed down so the fires settled down and by the end of the day they were out, except one. On Thursday I went out. There was huge damage across London. It was so sad to see London destroyed.

Written by Planes groups in Firecrests, Herons and Red Kites

# 5. PUPIL'S SECTION

For the first half of the Spring term the theme for our Monday whole school assemblies is 'Going for Goals'. We thought you might like to read some of the goals our pupils have set for themselves in 2020. For some, the school value of perseverance will definitely be tested!

Ella in Badgers goal for 2020 is to help other people when they are hurt and to impress the teachers because I like telling my mum about the things I have done at school.

Arthur in Badgers goal for 2020 is to be brave and kind because if somebody gets hurt I always will help them.

Nell in Hedgehogs goal for 2020 is to get better at riding her bike because she wants to ride without stabilisers.

Ellie in Hedgehogs goal for 2020 is to get better at her maths because she keeps writing numbers back to front.

Blake in Squirrels goal for 2020 is to listen to grown ups when they are talking because it is important and good manners.

Jake in Squirrels goal for 2020 is to smile more in the mornings when he goes to school because he doesn't like to cry and feel upset.

Miley in Red Kites goal for 2020 is to persevere more with things she finds hard so that I can be more grown up.

Ryder in Red Kites goal for 2020 is to spend more time sitting down and relaxing because it helps him to think about things.

Rosie in Herons goal for 2020 is to do 10 minutes of mindful colouring to calm me down because she can get cross sometimes.

Chloe in Herons goal for 2020 is to find more relaxing time for herself because sometimes she can get frustrated.

Neave in Firecrests goal for 2020 is to do more mindful colouring in her spare time because it keeps her nice and calm and happy.

Austin in Firecrests goal for 2020 is to say at least one kind thing every day to someone because it makes people feel nice and happy.

## 6. The Friends of John Hampden

## Save the Date!

- Quiz night with Fish and Chip supper Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March at JHS. This is a joint event with the Junior School. Please contact Sally Deane/PTA at <u>fjhvolun-teers@gmail.com</u> if you would like to help plan this event or can help on the night
- Next PTA meeting Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February at Shoulder of Mutton, Wendover. 8pm. Please join us to plan the quiz, Easter trail and talk about the May Fayre

Easter Trail and themed cake bake - Thursday 2nd April 3.30pm



## New Year Disco

We hope the children and parents enjoyed the New Year Disco that took place last Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January. Many thanks to Tots Disco for the entertainment; including the snowball fight, giant balloons and parachute games! We're delighted to announce that we raised £1077.00 through ticket sales and the tuck shop on the night. Special thanks go to Danielle Gaglione, mum to Xander in Reception, who arranged the evening and coordinated our lovely volunteers; over 30 parents helped on the night, which is wonderful and really makes a difference! Thanks too to Mrs Barnes and Mrs Parkinson who attended the event and stayed behind to clear/lock up.

## Fundraising update

The PTA are discussing ways to utilise the money you raise this year and we are hoping to financially contribute to the development of the area outside of the Y2 classrooms, purchase new Learnpads or equivalent, plus support the school with PSHE resources and books.

## Easyfundraising:

Are you signed up to Easyfundraising? This is a fantastic way to raise money for the school without costing you a penny. Click here to sign up and download the app <u>https://</u>www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/fihwendover/

#### Amazon Smile:

Do you shop on Amazon? Did you know that if you shop via the Amazon Smile homepage, Amazon will donate a percentage of cashback to your school? Simply save the following link to your favourites, select 'The Friends of John Hampden School, Wendover' the first time you shop and order as normal. Click here to get set up – remember to save this webpage to your favourites <u>https://smile.amazon.co.uk/</u>

#### Vale Lottery:

FJH has joined Vale Lottery as an official good cause. Lottery tickets can now be bought with HALF of the ticket price going to FJH. Each ticket costs just £1. Every ticket has a 1 in 50 chance of winning a prize every week, ranging from £25-£25,000. Click here to buy your tickets www.valelottery.co.uk/support/friends-of-john-hampden-school

If you would like to contact the Friends of John Hampden School, please email the Chair, Sophie Hughes, jhsvolunteers@gmail.com.

## A big Thank you to the Friends of JH!

All the children would like to thank the Friends for funding a new set of hand drums, 2 pairs of maracas, a bell stick and a 2-tone wood block. They are really enjoying playing them in their music lessons and performances.

"When I listened very carefully and played the instruments, it matched the words of the song" Edward -Badgers

"The big drum makes a low sound and the little one makes a higher sound" Ernie - Hedgehogs

"We tapped the drums with our hands to make a sound and there was a little thumb hole to help us hold it properly" Ava-Jane : Squirrels

"I liked the new maracas and I was shaking them to the beat of the Great Fire Of London rap" Harry - Firecrests

"I enjoyed making a beat pattern on the woodblock" Chloe - Herons

Red Kites used all of the instruments and their voices, to explore and compose some Chinese music for their dragon puppets to dance and celebrate Chinese New Year!

# 7. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

We aim to keep you fully informed of our actions linked to the school improvement plan. Since the last newsletter we have made progress linked to the actions outlined below:

#### GOAL A: QUALITY OF EDUCATION



This year, we have devoted many staff meetings to making further improvements to the curriculum at John Hampden. Subject areas are being scrutinised to ensure teachers are clear about the knowledge, skills and vocabulary they are teaching in each area to allow for continuity and progression across the school. Year group teams have worked together closely to ensure equality of opportunity for children in FS, Y1 and Y2.

Following the assessment week at the end of last term, internal data has now been analysed to identify differences in performance between the various 'groups' in the school. This includes comparing performance in a range of ways e.g. gender, term of birth etc. This forensic analysis enables us to spot trends and to set performance targets for the end of the academic year. The results of this data analysis are shared within the Senior Leadership Team, with governors and with teaching staff. Other data from the DfE and from the Local Authority has also recently been released and all of this information helps to build a picture of performance over time.

#### GOAL C: PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT



Parents recently received a letter informing them of their child's attendance figure for Autumn 2019. Analysis of whole school data tells us that 79 children (27%) had 100% attendance and 97% of children had an attendance percentage of over 80%. 73% had

above 95% attendance (the expected figure)

Punctuality data was also analysed. As a rule, punctuality is very good but we do have a small number of families who are regularly arriving later then 8.55am. We will continue to monitor attendance and punctuality regularly.

We have introduced a new set of lunchtime monitors and Play Pals who are responsible for ensuring all children have someone they recognise who can help and support them lunchtime. Our monitors wear special tabards or bright red caps so they can be easily identified and their photos are proudly displayed in the corridor. We are keen to ensure our pupils are given these types of roles of responsibility and there are further opportunities e.g. School Council representatives who complement the work of the Class Council.

#### GOAL B: BEHAVIOUR & ATTITUDES



Last week class teachers completed a Circle Time with the theme of kindness with each of their classes. This is another action linked to our Year of Kindness. The comments from each class were collated and shared with the staff and governors . The findings have also been discussed by the School Council who met this week. We were pleased to welcome the representatives from the Foundation Stage classes who have now taken on their new roles.

Last week every year group had an individual 'Anti-Bullying' assembly led by Mrs Barnes. This reinforced the messages that were given during a similar activity in Safety Week in November. Constant drip feeding of this important anti-bullying message is our way of ensuring our pupils understand what the term bullying means, are vigilant in spotting bullying if it were to occur and know what to do to help stop it.

#### GOAL D: LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT

Mrs Griffiths, our Finance Manager, left her role on Friday 17th January to take up a School Business Manager post. We advertised and interviewed for her replacement last week and will inform you of the successful outcome in due course.

As we approach the end of the financial year we are waiting for indicative budget figures for 2020-2021. Pupil numbers looked healthy on census day in October 2019 and as most of our funding is derived from this factor we are hoping for a more prosperous new year. We are grateful to the Friends of John Hampden who ran a very successful school disco last Friday. Thanks to those who supported this event—all the money raised will be used to purchase the additional extras that benefit all the pupils in the school.



# 8. MISCELLANEOUS

Please see below the hot lunch choices for this term. Please ensure you discuss with your child their menu choices as we are having a lot of children not eating all of their hot lunches as they are saying that they don't like what has been ordered for them.



St Mary's Church, Church Lane, Wendover HP22 6DU



# **Crochet Marathon**

in the church

# 9am Sat 22 – 9am Sun 23 February

We'll be **making blankets and warm clothing** to be distributed by Hand in Hand for Syria www.hihfad.org

Donations and sponsorship will go towards rehabilitating schools in Syria



# Anyone is welcome to do all or part of the marathon Knitters also welcome!

Donations of <u>acrylic DK yarn</u> much appreciated (it's easy to care for, warm and soft) place in the box in church or take into Just, 11 High St., Wendover.

# Thank you for whatever you can offer!

More information from Rev. Sally Prendergast 07876 515098 or <u>curate@stmaryswendover.org</u>



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