



NEWSLETTER



1. MESSAGE FROM MRS BARNES



This week many of the national newspapers reported findings of a study by University College London which concluded that, in this period of enforced school closure, one in five pupils in the UK either did no home schoolwork at all or less than one hour a day. It is probably fair to say that experiences of 'Home Learning' for pupils at John Hampden will have evolved over time as everyone gets used to this new way of working. You may have started with great intentions,

a rigid timetable and a designated table for learning or you may have taken a more laissez-faire approach. However you started, you may find that what you are doing now has developed to be something very different. If you have found a way that works for you and your child, most of the time, then stick with it—you are being successful. If you are struggling please don't give up—anything you can do will be beneficial and helpful. If your child has returned to school please don't assume that Home Learning can now stop—continuing to support the development of key skills very regularly at home will help enormously. I absolutely recognise that for some people a completed worksheet or a piece of writing on the page provides evidence or reassurance that their child is learning—it is a robust record of what your child has achieved and there is definitely a place for this. Children need to regularly practise their reading, phonics, writing and maths to keep developing their skills, but sitting at a table with a work book is not the only way to achieve this goal. Our strategy for Home Learning was to provide a range of meaningful activities which parents and children could pick and choose from—there should be something that interests everyone. I know that some people have found their own activities too and that is wonderful—do what works for you and your child. Don't forget that teachers have contacted you again this week offering support if things are getting tricky. Do make contact if you need to—we are here to help your children and support you, but sadly we are not in the position to take the whole responsibility at the moment.

I am aware that some parents are starting to become very anxious that this long break from the usual routine and the usual school experience will mean their child will be unprepared and may struggle when they do eventually come back to school more normally. In the last couple of weeks we have welcomed back many of our pupils on a part-time basis and this experience has confirmed our belief that children are hugely resilient and if we, or the next school, provide the right nurturing environment for them, they will quickly and happily adapt to new routines and new learning opportunities as long as the expectations are clear and the learning opportunities meet their needs. This knowledge is what is underpinning our planning for transition activities for all pupils into, out of and within the school. It will also be the driving force for curriculum planning in this school and Wendover Junior school in September. On Monday 22nd June you will receive an emailed letter which will outline the transition plan for our FS, Y1 and Y2 pupils.

continued

In these unprecedented times we can't do transition in the usual way so we hope we have come up with a new way that will be equally as informative and useful. Please don't feel you have disadvantaged your child in any way by not sending them back to school. The transition plan we have designed does not require your child to be in school to benefit from it.

Finally, there is one important aspect of our transition plan which I want to communicate to you now because it impacts all families with children at the school. In consultation with the Governing Board I have made the decision that the **Summer term will end on Friday 17th July** for all pupils in EY, FS and Year 1.

The reason for this decision is that I am very conscious we have a whole cohort of pupils—Year 2—who have not been eligible to return to school. In many settings this is not such a big deal but for us, as an infant school, it means that we have 90 children who have not had the opportunity to end their time at the school in the usual way. They have missed the chance to take part in a Leavers' assembly, they haven't been able to visit their new school and they haven't had the opportunity to say a proper goodbye. So, by closing the school for everyone else at the end of the day on 17th July I am opening up the possibility for our Year 2 pupils to come in on Monday 20th July. At this point we will have the capacity, and a safer environment, to invite our Year 2 pupils back for a final two hour session at the school. Further details will be provided nearer the time but we hope this opportunity will go a small way to helping our Year 2 pupils feel like their time at John Hampden has finished properly.

I hope you agree this is the right thing to do.

Thank you for your continued support.

Please note, school staff will not be providing childcare over the summer break but Premier Education will be running a holiday club from John Hampden with priority given to children of key workers/vulnerable children. Further information about this will be issued in due course. Unlike recent school holidays there will be a cost associated with this provision.

3. MISCELLANEOUS

John Hampden Out of School Care Vacancy

We have a vacancy from September 2020 for a Playworker at our Breakfast Club: 7.30-8.45am Monday to Thursday and After School Club 3.00-6.15pm Tuesday to Thursday term time only. The applicant would preferably have some experience of working with children and a relevant Level 2 qualification, however this is not essential.

Start Date: September 2020

Closing date: Friday 26th June 2020

The salary will be within Bucks Pay Range 1A £16,824 per annum pro-rata.

If you are interested in this post please call the John Hampden School office on 01296 622629 or email: office@jhampden.bucks.sch.uk or contact the OOSC on 07506195699 or email: OOSC@jhampden.bucks.sch.uk for more information.