



# The John Hampden School Wendover

## NEWSLETTER

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### UPCOMING EVENTS:

1st—5th November Safety Week	8th—12th November Health Week
Friday 19th November—BBC Children in Need—Children to come to school in their own clothes in return for a donation	Friday 26th November—MUFTI DAY Friday 3rd December—INSET DAY

## 1. MESSAGE FROM MRS BARNES

I hope you managed to have a relaxing holiday. The curriculum theme of the first two weeks after the half term break is Health & Safety. This week, following their return to school, the children really appear to have enjoyed the first of these enrichment weeks—Safety Week, and I hope you will have heard about some of the activities/visitors that have formed a major part of the learning. You could also visit the 'Classes' tab or the 'News' section of the school's website to see photographs and further details of the activities and visitors.

In an earlier newsletter near the beginning of the school year, I mentioned that we will be monitoring attendance and punctuality regularly. Attendance monitoring takes place twice a term and parents will be informed if their child's attendance gives any cause for concern. However, in these uncertain times we must reiterate that parents/carers must continue to be vigilant regarding coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, such as a raised temperature, a new continuous cough, or a loss of or change to sense of smell or taste. Anyone displaying these symptoms should stay at home and organise for a PCR test to be booked. They should not attend our school setting until a negative PCR result is received or until the statutory isolation period has been fulfilled. If your child becomes unwell whilst at school, we will call you immediately to come and collect them. While your child is awaiting collection they will be kept separately from others by a distance of at least 2 metres, in a well ventilated room with appropriate adult supervision. When you collect your child you should take them straight home; do not use public transport; do not visit the GP, pharmacy, urgent care centre or a hospital unless the child is seriously unwell. Punctuality is not only important in developing good habits for the future, our pupils are involved in a range of activities first thing in the morning and children who arrive late are disadvantaged if they miss the first important instructions of the day. **Please do not arrive before 8.45a.m (unless your child attends Breakfast Club) as you will not be able to access the classrooms** but as soon as gates and doors are shut in the morning, children need to be brought to the main entrance to the school to gain access.

### PLEASE NOTE: Some changes to the School Calendar

We are very keen to be able to put on Christmas performances for you to attend this year, but we have now decided that it would be safer for the children to put on separate Year Group performances rather than a whole KS1 production. Please note the following dates:

Early Years Class (Cricket)	Foundation Stage	Year 1	Year 2
One performance on 30-11-21 @ 9.30am Max. 2 adults per child attending (tickets will be issued but there is no charge for this short performance)	<u>Performance 1:</u> 01-12-21 @ 9.30a.m <u>Performance 2:</u> 02-12-21 @ 9.30a.m Max. 2 adults per child attending (Tickets on sale from today via parentpay)	<u>Performance 1:</u> 09-12-21 @ 9.30a.m <u>Performance 2:</u> 10-12-21 @ 11.00a.m Max. 2 adults per child attending (Tickets on sale from today via parentpay)	<u>Performance 1:</u> 09-12-21 @ 11.00a.m <u>Performance 2:</u> 10-12-21 @ 9.30a.m Max. 2 adults per child attending (Tickets on sale from today via parentpay)



**CHILDREN IN NEED** - the children may come to school in their own clothes (something spotty or a Superhero costume if they like) on Friday 19th November in return for a minimum donation of £1 (any coin denominations) which will be sent to the BBC Appeal.

## 2. GOVERNOR SECTION

Hello,

I hope that everyone is settling back into school routines after half term. I'm sure you can agree that it has been amazing to see the progress that the children have made so far. The progress can be especially evident in reading and writing. In my role as a governor, I am responsible for supporting Mrs Parkinson as Phonics Leader. In my own job role, I am a Specialist Leader in Education for Phonics.

The basis for teaching children to read and write is through phonics. The children at John Hampden receive daily phonics lessons that are pitched according to their phonetic development. Phase 1 in phonetic development begins in Early Years Foundation Stage and continues to Phase 5 in Year 1 and beyond in Year 2. Phonics instruction teaches children how to decode letters (graphemes) into their respective sounds (phonemes). This is an essential skill to enable children to read unfamiliar words independently.

Quite simply, if a child can hear and segment each sound to blend and read a whole word, a child can then use these auditory skills to translate each sound in a word to write. At John Hampden, we praise phonetically plausible attempts at writing and then build on these successes to progress to accuracy in spelling.

We really value our partnership with parents and the support you give your child at home to practise home reading. Please do hear your child read for a few minutes everyday.

Children in Year 1 will sit a Phonics Screening Check, a statutory assessment, in the Summer term. This will measure how successful the school has been in teaching segmenting and blending skills and any individual areas for each child to improve upon. Children in Year 2 will sit the Phonics Screening during this half term because statutory assessments were halted for them when they were in Year 1 due to Covid.

There are many websites and apps that allow for children to further practise segmenting and blending skills. If you are wondering about any aspects of phonics and how you can support your child please do speak to a staff member—they are always happy to provide support.

Ann Whytewood

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 us at the school gate so please feel free to email the Chair of Governors, Ben Gattlin, [Chair@johnhampdenwendover.co.uk](mailto:Chair@johnhampdenwendover.co.uk) if you would like to raise a matter for discussion

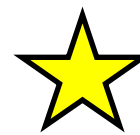
### 3. IMPORTANT MESSAGES

#### MOVING UP TO JUNIOR SCHOOL SEPTEMBER 2022

Parents/Carers of Year 2 children at John Hampden must apply for a Junior School place for their child. The Junior School online application service opened at 11am on **3rd November 2021** and the deadline for online applications is **3pm on 15th January 2022**.



Parents should use the following website to make their application:



<https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/education/school-admissions/starting-school-or-moving-up-to-junior-school/>

#### STARTING SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2022

If you, or someone you know, has a child who is eligible to start in **reception** in September 2022, an application for a Primary School place must be made in the next few months. The Primary School online application service opened at 11am on **3rd November 2021** and the deadline for online applications is **3pm on 15th January 2022**. Please note that a place in the Early Years Class at John Hampden does not guarantee you a place in the school—an online application must still be made. Parents should use the following website to make their application:

<https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/education/school-admissions/starting-school-or-moving-up-to-junior-school/>

If there is interest in securing a place in our Early Years Class for January 2022 please contact the school office and we will be happy to provide you with further information.

#### STARTING NURSERY (EARLY YEARS) IN SEPTEMBER 2022

If you, or someone you know, has a child who is eligible to start in our **Nursery Class** in September 2022, an application for a place can be made directly with the school at any time (application form is available on the school website) Places will be allocated at the end of May/beginning of June 2022.

If you have friends looking for a school place who want their children to go to a fantastic school do encourage them to book onto another of our Open Mornings (16th November) or to take a look at the John Hampden School Wendover website where we have information about the school to help their decision making. Alternatively we are happy for prospective families to contact us directly by phone or email if they need any further information about our school.

#### Warm clothing

Since coming back to school, after the half term break, the weather has become cooler. Children must wear a coat every day now and we also advise that children bring named hats and gloves to school to wear at playtimes in colder weather. We do sell woolly hats with the school logo on them—available from the school office at a cost of £4.50. As we still need to keep teaching areas well ventilated please make sure your child comes to school with appropriate layers of clothing on.

#### School Lunches

Please make sure lunches are ordered by the deadline of midnight on a Tuesday for the following week. If your order is not placed by the deadline you will need to provide your child with a packed lunch for the week. We are noticing a number of children who have had a hot lunch ordered for them but are then bringing a packed lunch to school. This means their booked meal goes to waste—please ensure it is either the packed lunch or hot meal rather than both.

#### Outdoor P.E. Kit

The children will still go outside for P.E. when weather permits. Please make sure they have a pair of tracksuit bottoms and a sweatshirt in their P.E bag to ensure they stay warm enough. Girls who wear tights to school should have a pair of socks in their P.E. bag to wear with their plimsolls. Thank you

#### Staff Car Park

We politely request that parents do not use the staff car park at any time. Please take extra care when walking your children up and down the school drive—this is especially relevant in the darker evenings.

#### Returning Scroll of Honour Badges

Please make sure all Scroll of Honour badges are returned to school on a Thursday. Each week new children are selected for this reward and it would be a shame if we could not give them a badge which they have earned.

#### Smoking on campus

Please could you refrain from smoking on campus and this includes e-cigarettes. Thank you..

## 4. PUPIL'S SECTION

The children have clearly enjoyed the learning opportunities that Safety Week has offered. Here are some of their comments:

In Squirrels class, Aitana learnt that when you hold a sparkler you must keep gloves on and Harry learnt if a dog comes running up to you cross your arms and turn away

In Ladybirds class, Delilah really liked learning about fire safety and drawing a fire engine and Ronnie liked learning about road safety—you have to stop, think, look and listen before you cross the road

In Badgers class, Harley learnt that if something comes up on your computer and you don't know what it is tell your parent and Grace learnt that you should always hold some ones hand when you cross the road

In Crickets class, Imogen loved learning about swimming and you don't run next to the pool. Sienna liked it when Mrs Taylor dressed up as a firefighter and learnt that only a grown up can use matches

In Hedgehogs class, Rosa enjoyed doing the firework paintings and they turned them into posters and Joel liked learning a song about keeping safe on a tablet—don't press anything if you don't know what it does!

In Firecrests class, Harrison enjoyed the e-safety assembly given to them by the junior school children because they had put effort in to make it and Emilia enjoyed learning about bike safety because she has got a bike and she has just learnt how to ride it properly

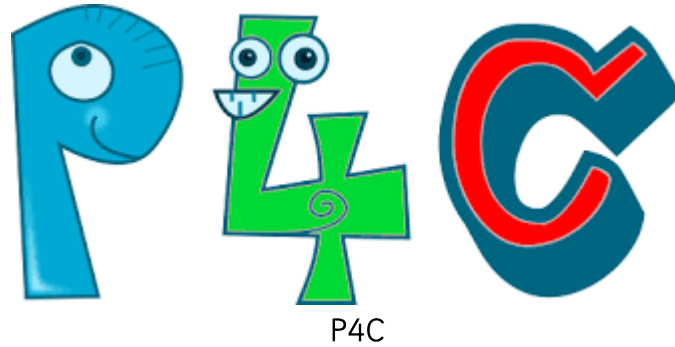
In Herons class, Annabelle enjoyed learning about safety especially bike safety because it was interesting and Eira liked the fire safety talk when Mr Beattie dressed up as a fire fighter because it was fun.

In Honeybees class, Alexander liked it when Mrs Zucconi put on the fire fighter clothes. He liked the helmet and learnt that it keeps their face safe so their face doesn't get burnt and Katie got to draw a fire engine and she liked the ladder and how the wheels spin around

In Caterpillars class, Tristan enjoyed the firefighter assembly because he learnt a song about not touching fire and Shay learnt that fire fighters put fires out and he liked looking at the fire fighter helmet

In Red Kites class, Oliver found out more about computer safety—if someone sends an unkind message you must tell an adult and Isabella really enjoyed learning about fire safety—stop, drop and roll. The fire fighter's visor is reflective to protect their face from fire and their boots are heavy

## 5. CURRICULUM -



Philosophy for Children, or P4C, has long been a part of life at the John Hampden School. It is a way of learning that was established over forty years ago by Professor Matthew Lipman of Montclair State University in the United States and is now practised around the world. P4C involves the children taking a question and sharing their opinions and ideas. It helps to build a whole host of skills from turn taking, listening, expressing a view, sharing ideas, collaborating and building confidence.

“P4C aims to help children become more thoughtful, more reflective, considerate and reasonable individuals.”

Professor Matthew Lipman, Founder of P4C

P4C in school takes the form of an enquiry, led by the teacher as the ‘facilitator’, but with the children having all the ideas and leading the direction of the discussion. This can begin with a stimuli such as a piece of music, a picture, a story, an object or a poem. The children are then encouraged to think of questions about the stimulus and this then forms the basis of the enquiry. We begin by teaching the children how to express an opinion though ‘Would you rather..’ or ‘odd one out’ questions and then move on to how to form open ended philosophical questions. We are always amazed by the children’s perceptive and thoughtful ideas and opinions.

I will be putting a P4C style question in each newsletter from now on for you to share with your children at home if you choose to. I’d love to hear any examples of great debates that have happened at home.

It’s also a great way to fill time on a journey.

Here is one to get you started.....

Would you rather be able to ride on a magic carpet as many times as you like or have one special wish?

Encourage your child to explain their reasons using ‘because’.

Have fun!

Mrs King

P4C Co-ordinator

## 5. CURRICULUM (CONTINUED)

### Health & Safety fortnight 2021

As PSHE (Personal, Social & Health Education) lead it is my role to ensure that all pupils gain an understanding about these areas of the curriculum and our annual focus fortnight gives staff the perfect opportunity to teach their classes about what it means to be healthy and how to keep safe in an interactive and engaging way. It has been wonderful to be able to welcome visiting speakers, teachers and pupils from the local community into school to share related important messages. The staff have worked hard to provide pupils with a range of interesting and interactive activities using a variety of resources both inside and outside the classroom. These have enabled pupils to participate in thought provoking discussions and to seek answers to their questions to help further their understanding of these important topics.



This week, the focus has been on how to keep safe. Mrs Shrimpton shared important messages about e-safety and all classes have learnt more about fire safety with a super talk led by Mrs Daley. WJS Junior Road Safety Officers led an informative assembly about road safety and even included a rap for the children to sing along to! Pupils also received important advice about how to stay safe and how to deal with unkindness and bullying, led by Mrs Barnes and Mrs Parkinson as well as a fantastic presentation by anti-bullying ambassadors from WJS for Year 2. The children have also learnt what to do if they are ever lost, Mrs Beattie delivered scooter training to Year 1 and our local school bike trainer, Chris German provided a presentation about staying safe when cycling for Year 2 teachers to share. The classes have also learnt about dog and water safety.



There were a wide range of follow up activities in class including; medicines, risk and danger, P4C linked to making good decisions and the importance of rules. The children also learnt about firework safety.

At the end of each week, pupils will be asked to reflect on all of the life skills that they have learnt, all hopefully serving to make them all better equipped for their future.

A huge thank you to the staff, WJS pupils and other contributors involved—you have given our pupils a terrific Safety Week.

Look out for activities during Health week in the next newsletter.

Jo Spencer



## 6. THE FRIENDS OF JOHN HAMPDEN

### HALLOWEEN TRAIL

Thanks to all the kind parents and volunteers who made this year's Halloween Trail a huge success. Thank you to everyone who came along after school and either made cakes, bought cakes or paid for and enjoyed the trail. We raised over £700, which is an incredible amount of money! We really hope you enjoyed it and plan to do something similar at Easter time.



### JAM JAR DECORATING COMPETITION

The jam jar tombola at the school's Christmas Fair is the most popular stall year after year and sells out very quickly. It is a stall where children are guaranteed to win a prize. Each year we invite children and their siblings to decorate a jam jar (or glass jar with lid – please don't use any jars previously containing nuts). The jar needs to contain a small gift (such as dinky toy or hair slides) or wrapped sweets or chocolate – whatever you decide and that you know a child would love to receive. The decoration can be left to your child's imagination, perhaps a painted jar, or covered in stickers, or tinsel, the choice is theirs!

We will award a prize during assembly for the best jar in each class, so please put your child's name on the bottom of the jar (with sticker/pen). Please feel free to enter more than one jam jar if you wish. Could be a help-way of using up all those Halloween sweets!



ful

**Please leave your named, filled and decorated jar in the box in Reception, by Friday 19th November, ready for judging.**

Many thanks for your Support.

### MUFTI DAY

In return for bringing in something for the Christmas Fair, Friday 26th November will be a Mufti Day so children can come to school in their own clothes.



# JOHN HAMPDEN SCHOOL

## Christmas Market and Fair

### Saturday 27th November

### 1pm to 4pm



Wharf Road, Wendover, HP22 6HF



We're so excited to be able to hold a Christmas market and fair this year. Look out for more information coming soon.

#### **BUY YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS ONLINE!**

Some fabulous and generous local businesses have been donating some wonderful gifts and experiences for our raffle this year. More prizes being added each week. Rather than buying and filling out paper tickets, you can view the prize items and purchase your raffle entries on the following website:

<https://go.rallyup.com/fjhaffle>

**There will be a prize for the Class who sells the most raffle tickets. More details to follow next week.**

Please share this link far and wide and encourage your friends and family to purchase their tickets!

#### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

We need dozens of volunteers to make the Christmas Fair the success it always is, so if you can help by giving a little of your time we would be SOOOOOOOO grateful.

Email us at [FJHVolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:FJHVolunteers@gmail.com)

or join our Whatsapp group <https://chat.whatsapp.com/E8BmDdWcSMkJUKO9olsy37>.

Let us know your name, class and telephone number and we'll be in touch!



## 7. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

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

### GOAL A: QUALITY OF EDUCATION

So far in the Autumn Term 2021 we have implemented a transition curriculum which has been monitored through: checking learning environments inside and out; lesson observations; formative assessment in maths, English and phonics. We will soon begin gathering pupil's views about the transition curriculum and listening to their feedback.

By now Early Years & Foundation Stage children have all been assessed using a Baseline Assessment tool and we will use the resulting data to plan learning experiences to meet the needs of this cohort of children.

The week before half term was assessment week where teachers used time to gain final pieces of evidence to support their on-going teacher assessments. Specific interventions and support will then be offered to children of all abilities. At this stage of the year we are focussing on understanding your child's current strengths and areas for development rather than trying to award a summative judgement.



### GOAL C: PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

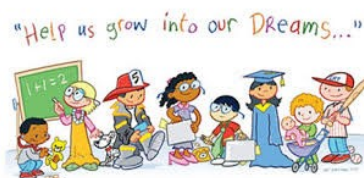
The fortnight of work linked to Health and Safety will be enhanced by having a number of visitors to talk about how their work helps to keep us safe and healthy. So far, feedback from the children has been very positive and they appear to have learnt a great deal. This is just one example of how we are aiming to achieve an exciting, memorable and engaging curriculum.

Safety week has provided a good opportunity to reinforce messages about e-safety. Mrs Shrimpton has reinforced important messages about internet safety with all our pupils and there are reminders of these messages in each classroom.



### GOAL B: BEHAVIOUR & ATTITUDES

Since the beginning of the Autumn Term we have introduced revisions to our Behaviour Policy and we have spent time focusing on our core Values and our Behaviour Expectations. Following significant breaks from normal schooling in the last 18 months we felt it was vital to reinforce the features that underpin our ethos and vision with all our pupils. We have monitored the implementation of our Behaviour and Self-Regulation policy and each week we are noting the children who have experienced the protective and educational consequences associated with not adhering to the Behaviour Expectations. We look to collaborate with families to support children who are experiencing any difficulties with settling back into school and behaviour management plans will be implemented with a positive approach to encouraging and supporting appropriate learning behaviours.



### GOAL D: LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT

At John Hampden, we have a senior leadership team made up of Mrs Barnes, Mrs Parkinson and Mrs Spencer. We firmly believe that this model of distributed leadership enables the most effective leadership of the school. Ben Gattlin has become the Chair of Governors and he is being ably assisted by the other governors in the team.

Since the beginning of term these teams have been working to ensure the School's Self-Evaluation and the School Development Plan are accurate representations of where we are currently and where we hope to get to by the end of this academic year. These documents reflect a range of views and an array of data that is available to us.

The school's website is constantly evolving and, as important stakeholders, we would always be happy to hear your suggestions for how it could be improved further.

**SENIOR  
LEADERSHIP TEAM**

## 8. E-SAFETY

## E-safety

As part of Safety Week, the children are learning more about how to keep themselves safe online. The internet is amazing! Children can play, learn, create and connect - opening up a whole world of exciting possibilities, but with the digital world changing all the time, and with more and more young children using their parents' computers, smartphones or tablets to play games, use apps, or just watch their favourite TV shows, we thought it might be helpful to point you, their 'grown ups', in the direction of a few websites that give advice on simple things you can do to make sure they're using the internet safely.

[www.internetmatters.org](http://www.internetmatters.org) is a website for parents that is full of advice on how to keep your children safe online whatever their age.

[www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk) also has lots of advice in their 'online safety' section. They also have a dedicated phone number, where experts can talk you through how to set up parental controls, adjust privacy settings or get advice on social networks - 0808 800 5002.



## 9. MISCELLANEOUS

### **Wendover Christmas Trail - 10<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> December 2021** **Christmas around the world!**



This year's Christmas trail will feature international Christmas traditions. We invite you to make a scene to display a Christmas tradition from another part of the world in your window or front garden. Make it distinctive (or include a flag so people can guess which country you are showing). For ideas checkout: <https://www.whychristmas.com/cultures/>.

Entry is free and there will be prizes for the best displays and for those who guess which countries are represented. For more information and to take part email [christmas@wendoverfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:christmas@wendoverfreechurch.org.uk)

### **Christmas Fair Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December** **Wendover Christian Centre**

Cakes, festive crafts and refreshments and the opportunity to pick up an entry sheet to follow the Christmas trail.