



# The John Hampden School Wendover



## NEWSLETTER

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### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**17th December**

School closes to pupils at 1.30p.m

**4th January 2022**

INSET DAY—no pupils in school

**5th January 2022**

Start of the Spring Term—all pupils in school

### 1. MESSAGE FROM MRS BARNES

As we reach the end of the first term of this academic year, it is a good opportunity to reflect on what we have achieved since September. Whilst watching the children in their Christmas performances, I saw our core values of perseverance and collaboration shining through. The children have all worked hard during the term and I hope they are beginning to recognise that effort really does lead to success. Many of the 'Over & Above' certificates handed out so far are rewarding children for their continued effort and their ability to uphold the behaviour expectations and the values we believe are so important for effective learning. I hope all our pupils will return in the New Year ready to build on the impressive start they have made.

The Autumn Term, in many ways, has brought a little more normality to schooling than we have experienced in recent years and I am so pleased that we have been able to open our doors to parents on a few occasions to allow you to watch your children perform. The usual Christmas activities and excitement have been a feature of the last few weeks and the children have obviously responded with enjoyment.

Now, as we head towards a much needed break, I would like to thank you for your support as we continue to work in a global pandemic. We have experienced cases of Covid within the school during the term and, for everyone's safety, we have had to ask some parents to organise PCR testing for their children on occasions—thank you for your understanding. As you are aware, a mobile testing unit came to the school last week to conduct PCR tests with one class and the staff associated with it. Findings from this testing suggested that no further action was required, which is reassuring to note. I would encourage you to complete a lateral flow test on your child on Tuesday 4th January so we start the new year at school in a safe way, following all the Christmas celebrations and mingling.

My thanks to the Friends of John Hampden and the Governors for their support this term. We are grateful to all of them who have given their time voluntarily to help the school.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the dedication and commitment of the staff who work at John Hampden—I couldn't ask for a better team and their effort and resilience is amazing. We will be saying goodbye to two members of this team today - Mrs Llewellyn (Teacher) and Mrs Ivory (Midday Supervisor and Playworker) - we wish them both well for the future.

Everyone at John Hampden wishes you a happy and peaceful Christmas

**Reminder that the school reopens on**

**Wednesday 5th January 2022**



## 2. GOVERNOR SECTION

**"Christmas is a-coming,  
The Geese are getting fat,..... "**

We are nearly at the end of the first term of this academic year and almost at the end of the calendar year - a time to reflect and a time to look forward. Your children will have done so much, learnt a lot, played, created, laughed and maybe cried a little, and been able to show how they have assimilated the School Values since they started in their current year group in September. As parents you have played a very important role in their learning journey and I hope you have been able to celebrate their success along the way. The Christmas Productions that have been performed this year have been in a different format with each year group doing a separate production, but have opened up opportunities for all children to be seen by a smaller audience singing and dancing, hopefully allowing the more nervous to gain confidence. I was lucky enough to watch the Wiggly Nativity performed by the Foundation Stage and to marvel at the many songs and movements that the children had learnt and were able to participate in with gusto. I know that the songs sung by the Crickets class and the two different versions of The Nativity from Year 1 and Year 2 were a great success also and will have demonstrated the School Values and beliefs. I am sure every audience was filled with proud parents and who knows, maybe you were watching a fledgling future star of stage and screen. When I taught at the John Hampden School, masterminding the Christmas Productions was one of my roles and I know only too well that they could not happen without all the behind the scenes work from all members of staff, for which I was always very grateful. This year there will have been even more for the staff to do linked to their own year group's performance, on top of their normal very demanding roles. I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Governing Body, to express my thanks to all the staff at the School for all that they have done and continue to do on a daily basis. The children at this school are very lucky indeed to have such a caring and dedicated staff to educate and help them.

2022 will be upon us soon enough and I know that there are many exciting learning opportunities planned for the children in all year groups. At this point in time all we can hope is that as many of them are completed as possible and that your children's learning journey will be smooth and uninterrupted. Led by Mrs Barnes, the staff at the School will do everything within their power to make this happen.

On behalf of the Governing body:

**"We wish you a Merry Christmas, we wish you a Merry Christmas,  
We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! "**



Alison Duggan

Co-opted 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, [bgattlin@johnhampdenwendover.co.uk](mailto:bgattlin@johnhampdenwendover.co.uk) if you would like to raise a matter for discussion or if you just have a query about the school.

### 3. IMPORTANT MESSAGES

#### Notice for parents of children in Foundation Stage

We have told the children and put notices outside classrooms, but this is a polite reminder that children (including younger siblings) should not be allowed to use the equipment in the Foundation Stage garden before or after school. This equipment is specifically for use by children at the school when they are supervised by school staff. We really don't want to see any accidents so we respectfully ask you to keep your children with you and off the equipment.

Many thanks in anticipation of your support.



#### MOVING UP TO JUNIOR SCHOOL OR STARTING SCHOOL IN 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 on 3rd November 2021 and the deadline for online applications is 15th January 2022.

If you, or someone you know, has a child who is eligible to start school 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 on 3rd November 2021 and the deadline for online applications is 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:

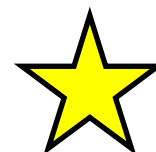
<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools-index/school-admissions/>

#### STARTING IN THE NURSERY CLASS AT JHSW IN SEPTEMBER 2022

If you have a child who was born between 1st September 2018 and 31st August 2019 they are eligible for a place in our wonderful Nursery Class from September 2022. To register your interest please download an application form from the school website or email or phone the school office.



#### P.E. AT SCHOOL



As P.E. bags come home in the Christmas break to be washed please check that your child's P.E. kit is all clearly named and correctly fitting. Please note that children must have a pair of tracksuit bottoms and a sweatshirt to wear for outside P.E. sessions, which continue throughout the winter months. Children with long hair must have it tied back for P.E. lessons and no earrings should be worn for health and safety reasons.

## 4. PUPIL'S SECTION

We thought you might like to read some comments from the children about their experience of performing in front of an adult audience in the Christmas productions

In Crickets class, Iona loved wearing her reindeer hat and the snowflakes and Emma liked it when they did Jingle Bells.

In Ladybirds class, Charlotte felt nervous but excited too going on the stage and she loved singing the songs and George was an angel. He liked flapping his wings and dancing on the stage. He was excited.

In Caterpillars class, Dexter really enjoyed singing the words in the songs and he enjoyed walking around the stage with Mary. Evelyn enjoyed being on stage performing her angel dance, at first she was a bit scared but then she got used to it.

In Honeybees class, Kion was happy being the donkey and Katie liked it because he was her friend and she liked it when he plodded along and she also liked the dancing.

In Hedgehogs class, Henry was a King. He had a crown and he gave frankincense to baby Jesus. His Mum and Dad came to watch him and he felt nervous but was ok in the end. His favourite song was 'Three Kings were Riding'. Bertie was a Shepherd and her special job was to say "It's always the same" and "we've brought some lambs for him". She liked the dance and her favourite song was 'Ring out the Bells'. She liked it when her parents came to watch.

In Squirrels class, Alma felt really nervous on the first performance but she was happy on the second performance and able to say her lines out loud to the audience. She had great fun. Harry was very excited about being Joseph and the second day was extra excited! He was really proud to be Joseph. It was his favourite part.

In Badgers class, Jacob liked singing the songs and doing his lines and his dance and Kelsey liked the dancing and it made her feel happy.

In Herons class, Stephanie liked being up on the stage saying her lines as a Narrator in front of an audience because she's never done anything like that before. Georgie liked her role as a Narrator because she learnt how to say her lines loudly and it has helped her confidence. She liked the dancing too.

In Firecrests class, Yash was King Herod. He was nervous to start but he was so happy when he learnt his lines and said them loudly and clearly. He felt proud and others were proud of him too. Maya was a Shepherd and she was nervous to start with but then it was a lot of fun and she had a nice time and it was great for her Mum and Dad to see it.

In Red Kites class, Ella enjoyed saying her lines as a Narrator in the play. She also liked dressing up in her costume. Reggie really liked playing the part of Joseph in the performance. It was fun to knock at the Inn Keepers doors. He also enjoyed singing to the families.

## 5. MISCELLANEOUS

### **IMPORTANT MESSAGE**

You will all be aware and have seen in the news concern in relation to the Omicron variant of COVID-19. The Department for Education have issued the following statement, which they would like us to share with all our staff and families:

**“There is a new variant of COVID-19 - Omicron - which is highly infectious and spreading fast. Every adult in the country now needs to get a Covid-19 booster vaccine, because two doses of the vaccine are not enough to give the level of protection against infection we all need. Boosters give you the best possible protection against the virus and should significantly reduce your risk of serious illness and hospitalisation.**

**“It is more important than ever to get vaccinated. Get your Covid-19 booster vaccine today to strengthen your protection. Get boosted now.**

Visit [nhs.uk/covidvaccination](https://nhs.uk/covidvaccination).

Kind regards

**Early Years**

Children's Services – Education

Buckinghamshire Council