



The John Hampden School Wendover



NEWSLETTER

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1. MESSAGE FROM MRS BARNES

I wanted to start this newsletter by thanking the Friends of John Hampden for their support this term. They have worked tirelessly to put on a range of events, some new and some more familiar, but each event has been carefully planned and thoughtfully executed. The Halloween trail and cake sale proved to be very popular and it was wonderful to watch those who took part having such fun. The recent Christmas Fayre was testament to the amazing organisational skills of the FJH Committee and their ability to provide an event which was brilliantly supported by our school community. We raised over £4000 during the afternoon so huge thanks to all who came along to this annual fundraiser. This total has been added to the other fundraising events this Autumn Term—the hard work has already raised a considerable sum of money this academic year. The money will be spent on improving the outside learning environment for the Year 2 classes, purchasing some new computing equipment and topping up the playtime equipment which is so popular with the children in the school.

Please remember that tomorrow, Friday 6th December, is an INSET day so the school will be closed to pupils. If you are looking for something to do during the weekend you may want to visit CribFest 2019. This is organised by Wendover Free Church. Pupils in every class in the school have contributed to the display which we will be contributing to the event so do go along to St Anne's Church and the Wendover Christian Centre on Friday 6th or Saturday 7th December. There is a prize for the most creative display and the voting is done by the visitors so we hope you'll be impressed by our contribution and vote for us!!

I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents of our 'open door' policy. If you have any concerns linked to the school please do come and speak to us. We are always prepared to talk to you and I believe we are best placed to deal with any issues surrounding the school community. I am aware that some parents are sharing potentially hurtful comments about other people's children which, I'm sure you agree, is disappointing and totally unacceptable. I would also ask you to refrain from ever using social media for this purpose and instead contact the school directly if you have genuine concerns.

On Wednesday 18th December, the children will join in the fun and games with the parties that have been organized, and we hope they will demonstrate their impeccable manners when a very special guest arrives!!

CHRISTMAS TREE

We are extremely grateful to Christmas Tree Farm, Chesham for donating a magnificent Christmas Tree for our school hall. I am sure you will be impressed when you see it twinkling during the Christmas Performances.

Reminder that the school reopens after Christmas on

Tuesday 7th January 2020

2. GOVERNOR SECTION

“And now the end is near, and so I face the final curtain...” As a parent governor at John Hampden, you serve a term of office of four years. For me, that means I will step down at the start of February 2020. So, this newsletter article is unashamedly banging the drum to recruit a new governor to take my place. What’s in it for you, you may ask... well, there is certainly a commitment to make. Termly meetings of the Full Governing Board, Committee Meetings and as the link for various subjects, you work with the teachers and staff as we continually strive to improve the quality of teaching and the children’s experience at JHS. But... there are distinct tangible benefits for you (not least the job of helping to run the bottle tombola stall at the Christmas Fair!). When I wanted to be a governor, it was the desire and knowledge that I could have a direct positive impact on my children’s life at the school. As time has gone on, I have realised the immense effort of everyone involved in the school to make it the fabulous place it is today. That effort never stops. The Governing Board has a big part to play in that. The words of OFSTED ring true... [The Headteacher] “...along with your governors and dedicated staff team, are determined to provide the best possible opportunities for pupils. The school’s ethos of ‘loving to learn’, alongside the seven key values – perseverance, independence, belonging, collaboration, reflection, good manners and respect – drive your decisions and processes.” So, do you have the desire and the drive to be a part of your school? Do you have professional or life skills that could really benefit the school? Finance, marketing, HR, project management are all good but not essential. Do you just want to do something amazing for your children? If that’s a yes, then look out for a communication from Mrs Barnes early in the New Year and go for it! We are all nice people. Really! So, from me to you, a final seasonal message... Wishing you a very Merry Christmas! The New Year stands before us, like a chapter in a book, waiting to be written .



Simon Ward
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, James Edley, jedley@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

Admission to Junior School

All Year 2 parents applying for a junior school place for September 2020 must note that Bucks County Council (BCC) will not be issuing paper copies of the 'Guide for Parents - Admission to Buckinghamshire Primary Schools'. Instead electronic booklets and information regarding junior transfer are available to download from the BCC website: www.buckscc.gov.uk

Please note that the closing date for online applications for junior school places is 3pm on 15th January 2020

Admission to Foundation Stage at John Hampden

This is a reminder that parents of children due to start school for the first time in September 2020 need to apply for a school place for their child. Parents must make an application by 3pm on 15th January 2020. You can apply online at www.buckscc.gov.uk

Applying online is quick, easy to use, safe and secure. All parents need is an email address and access to a computer, tablet or smart phone.

Once parents have completed their online application and submitted it they will receive an email to let them know it has been received.

On 16th April 2020 (National Allocation Day) parents will receive an email to let them know which school their child has been offered. Parents will then be able to log back into their application and accept the place offered. Parents who are not able to apply online can have a paper application sent to them.

If parents are late making an application for their child it can seriously impact on their chances of getting a place at any of their preferred schools.

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.

Home School Diaries

Your child will receive a new Home School Diary at the beginning of the Spring Term. Please would you make sure you sign the diaries every time you hear your child read and encourage them to draw the faces each day so we can gauge how they are feeling at school.

Each year group's diaries are different and an asterix indicates which days the children can change their reading books.

Important Reminder

For the KS1 Christmas Performances, please note that you will be entering the hall up steps via a side route so please do not even attempt to bring pushchairs into the school. Our pupils and staff work very hard to put on these performances and we would ask you, on this occasion, to make alternative arrangements for all younger siblings as they can find it difficult to sit still and quietly and can spoil the enjoyment for others. Your co-operation would be greatly appreciated.

Christmas Parties

These are planned for **Wednesday 18th December**. We invite the children to come to school wearing party clothes and suitable footwear on that day (the children will be going outside at playtimes so clothing needs to be appropriate for colder weather). We have already asked if you would like to provide your child with their own Christmas party lunch and, as this is a special occasion, we are happy for them to have any food which you consider to be appropriate e.g. sweets, chocolate etc. Each year we are amazed by the wonderful lunches that are provided. Lunchboxes are often specially decorated, or other Christmassy items included. **The FJH will be providing each child with a Christmas cracker at the party.**

Boys Trousers and pants and socks

We are keen to receive donations of any spare boys trousers suitable for 6-7 year olds. Many thanks for all the donations of pants, socks and tights—we now have plenty of spares.

4. CURRICULUM



The Jewish Festival of Chanukah is celebrated from 22nd to 30th December this year, and we were very lucky to have Ms Spyer (Leo & Maya's mum) come to our school on Monday, to tell the children all about this very special Festival.

The children learnt that the Festival of Lights, is a very special Jewish holiday that celebrates a miracle that happened 2,100 years ago in Israel, 100 years before Jesus was even born.

They learnt about the Greek King Antiochus (the Baddie) and Judah the Maccabee (the Goodie). They also learnt about the special spinning tops, dreidels and how each letter was really 'code' for a special prayer. As they spun the spinning tops the Jewish people would then say the prayer of the letter it landed on. The children learnt of the miracle that happened on Chanukah in the Temple, and why there are nine candles on the Chanukkiah (or Menorah). The children got the opportunity to carefully light the Menorah, listen to some Jewish music and take home their very own sticker each.

We can not thank Mrs Spyer enough for her lovely assembly to both EYFS and KS1 and not forgetting Leo and Maya, her trusty helpers!

We also very much enjoyed our Christmas visit from Rev. Sally Moring on Wednesday celebrating Christingle.

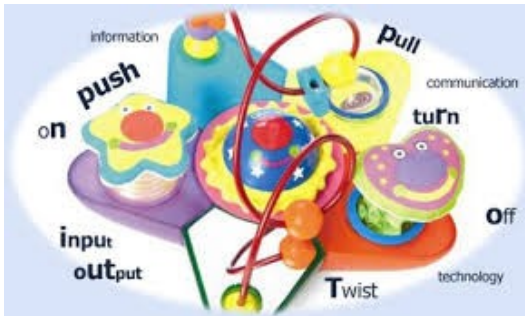
Mrs Grimsdell
R E Coordinator



5. PUPIL'S SECTION

This time of the year provides us with a perfect opportunity to develop and enhance performance skills. Tweaks to the timing for the EYFS and KS1 performances have helped us to ensure that every child in the school, from the youngest to the oldest, is given a moment to shine. It is clear that some children have real strengths in terms of their ability to speak, sing or perform a dance in front of an audience but every child is given the opportunity to collaborate and take part. It has been wonderful to watch the rehearsals going on and to see the progress that is made as well as the enjoyment and commitment that so many children demonstrate as they prepare for the performances.

E-Safety



In the last newsletter we highlighted the safeguards we have in place to allow children to have controlled access to the internet whilst at school. We have effective web filtering in place and we closely monitor how children are using the ICT in school to keep them as safe as possible whilst they work.

However, we recognise that even our very youngest pupils are increasingly using a range of different, internet-connected technology at home. As the Christmas shopping season begins, many parents will be considering buying this type of gift for their children.

To support you, we thought it may be helpful to highlight some potential risks attached to items on the list for Santa. Some of the toys/devices you are thinking of buying will have cameras and microphones recording the environment and the child's play. The Information Commissioner recently published an article looking at the risks of using smart toys and it is well-worth taking note of the 12 steps they advocate:

1. Research the security of a product before buying

Doing your homework before buying a connected device should allow you to recognise those with poor security. Research online reviews and manufacturers' websites for information on privacy notices and policies. You should also look to see how a product will be updated in the future if a security issue is identified.

2. Take care when shopping online

At this time of year, when online shopping is nearing its peak, scammers may be more likely to try to access your personal information such as bank account or credit card details. Only use secure sites when shopping online – secure sites usually carry the padlock symbol. [Get Safe Online](#) has advice on how to protect yourself.

3. Take your time

Don't wait until Christmas Day, when excited children will want to just turn on a new toy or device and skip as much of the set-up process as they can. Take the time beforehand to read the manual and familiarise yourself with the security and privacy options available to you.

4. Change passwords and usernames from default

Default passwords and usernames for many devices are freely available on the web. You should always change the defaults immediately and choose a [suitably strong password](#). Use a different password for each account and device. If a device doesn't allow you to change the default password, you should strongly consider whether it is worth keeping it.

5. Is your router secure?

Your router is the first line of defence on the perimeter of your home network. If you have devices connected to your network, the default settings of your router might be exposing them to the internet and therefore everyone else. Create a strong password and look out for and install security updates.

6. If there's a two-step identification option – use it

Two-factor authentication offers you an additional layer of security when logging in to an online service. While few devices will offer this capability, the website you use to view its data might.

7. Be camera aware – you never know who's watching

Some toys and devices are fitted with web cameras. The ability to view footage remotely is both their biggest selling point and, if not set up correctly, potentially their biggest weakness, as the baby monitor hacking issue of a few years ago demonstrated. If you have no intention of viewing footage over the internet, then turn the remote viewing option off in the device's settings, or else use strong, non-default passwords.

8. Location, location, location

One of the main selling points of children's smart watches is the ability for parents to know where their children are at all times. However, if this isn't done securely, then others might have access to this data as well. Immediately get rid of default location tracking and GPS settings and set strong, unique passwords.

9. Bluetooth ache

It is not just potentially insecure web connections that can put children's online safety at risk. Some toys and devices have been found to have unencrypted WiFi connections or unsecured Bluetooth connections which can be easily accessed by strangers. If there is no option to secure these in the device's settings, consider whether using the device is worth the risk. If there is an option to protect them with either a password or a PIN ensure you choose a strong one.

10. Children have information rights too

Have age-appropriate conversations with children about their online safety, and model the correct way to do this. Children's information and privacy rights are a key area of concern and new legislation coming next year will also strengthen children's legal rights.

11. If in doubt, don't splash out

If you aren't convinced a smart toy or connected device will keep your children's personal information safe, then don't buy it. If consumers reject products that don't protect them, then developers and retailers should soon get the message. If you've purchased a device that you've since discovered is insecure, complain to the manufacturer or retailer and see if you can return it.

12. Have a secure Christmas

By taking some time and care beforehand and following our advice, you can still see a child's face light up when they open their new, web-connected Christmas present, safe in the knowledge that you are keeping them secure as well as happy.

6. THE FRIENDS OF JOHN HAMPDEN



Christmas Fair

Thanks to everyone who joined us on Saturday 30th November for the school Christmas Fair. It was lovely to see Year 1 and Year 2 children take to the stage to sing to us and thank you also to Gian-Carlo Gaglione for the festive piano music and the Wendover Mums' Choir for closing the fair with some wonderful carols. Thanks to the generosity of everyone that came; those that pulled a cracker, bought a jam jar, dug deep for the tombola, knocked an elf off the shelf, or queued to meet the big man, **we raised £4,100!** This will enable the PTA to give the school the next instalment owed for the playground equipment, a great cause.

Bag2School

Thank you to everyone who brought in clothes for the Bag2School promotion. We collected 300 kilos of unwanted clothes, which equates to a cheque for £120 for the school!

Upcoming events

Class Christmas Parties – Wednesday 18th December (in school). Contact Hollie Richards via jhsvolunteers@gmail.com if you can help with decorating the room for this event.

Next PTA meeting – Wednesday 8th January at Shoulder of Mutton, Wendover. 8pm. Please join us to plan our 2020 activities.

Children's New Year Disco – Friday 24th January 2020. Contact Danielle Gaglione via the email address above if you can join the subcommittee organising this popular event.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity in 2019 and wishing you and your families a lovely and restful Christmas and happy New Year.

7. MISCELLANEOUS

JOB VACANCY AT THE JOHN HAMPDEN SCHOOL WENDOVER

Mid day Meals Supervisor

We have a vacancy from January 2020 for a mid day meals supervisor for two days a week with a possibility of more days on an adhoc basis.

The salary will be within Bucks Pay Range 1A (currently £15,870 per annum pro rata) and the closing date for applications is Friday 13th December 2019.

If you are interested in this post and would like more information, please call the John Hampden School office on 01296 622629 or email office@jhampden.bucks.sch.uk

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THURSDAY 19TH DECEMBER

10.30AM - 11.30AM

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