



# The John Hampden School Wendover



## NEWSLETTER

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Curriculum 4	Postponed from 22-1-19	
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1. MESSAGE FROM MRS BARNES		

Apologies for having to cancel the 'Supporting Success at School' evening for parents on Tuesday 22nd January. The snowy weather was to blame but the event has been re-scheduled for Tuesday 29th January instead—same time, same place!

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 Collins and Mrs Llewellyn 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 in mind I would like to draw your attention to World Book Day which we will be celebrating on Friday 1st 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.

Finally, can I remind parents/carers that we try hard to advertise our open door policy, encouraging you to come into school and speak to us if you have any concerns, questions or worries. Please do approach the school first rather than using Facebook or other social media channels—we are here to help and we are best placed to provide you with the answers that you may need.

Thank you.

## 2. GOVERNOR SECTION

The John Hampden School is very much a community. The opinion of every member of the School is respected, including, of course, the pupils'. This attitude is echoed in the Government's Statutory Guidance which has 'due regard' to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. This gives '...a child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child'.

As History Governor I had this responsibility in mind when I recently met nine representatives of the three Year Two classes to hear what they thought of the topic of Roald Dahl, whose life and work they had studied as part of the History syllabus.

They each spoke well about different elements of Dahl's life including his love of chocolate, the fact that he was bullied at Repton School, and his service in the RAF. They clearly understood that these were some of the incidents which could have had an influence on his work.

Every child shared their thoughts about a particular book and even the less outgoing children showed great enthusiasm for their chosen story. There was a wide range of favourites and everyone else listened attentively as each pupil said which book they liked and why. Following on from their work on 'The Big Friendly Giant' the children had made dream jars and each explained why they'd chosen the subjects that they had.

Dahlicious Day, when they'd come to school dressed as a favourite character, was another high spot of the topic, sparking great enthusiasm.

It was clear that the children had been inspired by their subject and because of the close relationship between Dahl and his illustrator Quentin Blake it had led to some very exciting art work, which I saw when three of the representatives showed me the displays of dream jars in their class rooms. I even had a sneak preview of the calendars which they'd made and which lucky parents received at the end of last term.

It was clear from everything I heard and saw during my visit that the topic of Roald Dahl is one which is very engaging to the pupils at John Hampden and which they wanted to share with me.

Without exception they chose Dahlicious Day as the favourite event in school, only surpassed by the visit to the Roald Dahl Gallery at the Bucks County Museum.

It would be sad to think that if parents' voluntary contributions decrease, as Mrs Barnes wrote in the first newsletter of 2019, there is a real risk that enriching experiences, like this visit, will no longer be viable. This would make our children's experience the poorer.

Fortunately, at the moment, the Pupil Voice at John Hampden is thoughtful, enthusiastic and articulate; long may it continue.

Elna Joseph

**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 them at the school gate so please feel free to email the Chair of Governors, James Edley, [jedley@johnhampdenwendover.co.uk](mailto: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 if your child is late please accompany them to the main entrance** 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 pad-locked to the fence for extra security if you wish. Siblings from Wendover Junior School should not leave their scooters or bikes on our premises.

#### Attendance Letters

Just a reminder that, as mentioned in the attendance letter, one day is two sessions so if your child has had one day off it will be recorded as two sessions absence i.e. morning and afternoon.

#### 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.

#### Parents Using Staff Car Park

Please can we ask, once again, that parents/carers do not use the staff car park at any time unless a specific arrangement has been made with the school.

#### Request from the Early Years Class

Now our youngest children are happily settled into Crickets Class we have become aware that we are short of small sized underwear, socks, tights and trousers. If you have any spares that you would be happy to donate to the school we would be pleased to accept them either directly to the Early Years Classroom or via the school office. Thank you

#### Supervision

Please can we remind parents/carers to supervise children vigilantly before and after school. There have been a number of accidents just outside the school grounds as children have climbed on bollards, fences etc. Also please join us in reminding your child to dismount their cycle or scooter as soon as they enter the school grounds.

#### Ill health

Please make sure your children are fully recovered from any illness that has kept them away from school before sending them back. This way we prevent illness from spreading.

## 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

First I went to the moon.  
Then I saw a rocket.  
Next I saw a star.  
After that I saw the sun.  
Finally I went home. Written by Florence

### Year 1

Last week I went on the most amazing adventure!  
First the magic key began to glow as bright as the sun and it took me to a strange and magical little shop. Next a PUFF of purple smoke and a loud POP BANG WHOOSH.  
After that a little boy dressed in clothes as bright as a Rainbow told me he was learning to be a wizard. Afterwards the boy told me he wanted to play a trick on me. Soon after the boy undid the bottle of shrinking powder over my head. Moments later I began to shrink. I was cross. Then the wizard tapped me on the head to undo the magic but my ears grew huge. I was cross. Finally the magic key began to glow and took me back home. I could still not believe I was still smaller than a mouse but I eventually grew bigger again. Written by Milo

### Year 2

An excerpt from a Samuel Pepy's diary about the Great Fire of London written by Ruby

Sunday 2nd September 1666

What an awful day I've just had! First I was in my cosy, soft, warm and comfortable bed. Then the maid woke me up shouting, "Fire, Fire". Then I quickly ran downstairs in my pyjamas and slowly got my smelly cheese, my wine, my leather diary and my bread and put them in my basket and buried them in my burning garden.

Monday 3rd September

The important King had the idea to blow up houses in the path of the fire with gunpowder to stop the fire spreading. I got my leather, fluffy diary and did some writing. Then a helpful, kind person told me that St. Paul's cathedral was burnt and nothing but a pile of ashes remained.

## 5. PUPIL'S SECTION

### Growth Mindset

We are focussing on achieving our goals in school at the moment. We are encouraging the children to set goals that they can achieve in school and outside. At a time when many people have set New Year's resolutions it is a great time to reflect on how we can use a 'Growth Mindset' to help us achieve what we have set out to do.

In assembly last week I talked to the children about persevering when things become difficult. I told them the story of a boy who had persisted at learning to hoola hoop, practising every day until he could do it and taking advice from his friends on how he could be successful. I read the children the story 'Giraffes Can't Dance' and we talked about how the Giraffe eventually learnt to dance by finding new ways to tackle his problem and persevering. Both stories highlighted that we can overcome difficulties if we keep persevering. I encouraged the children to think about how making mistakes is proof that we are trying and learning. We thought about what we could say to someone who was struggling to encourage them to achieve their aim. Below are some of the comments from the children.

Mrs Anna King—Growth Mindset Co-ordinator

Kingsley in Badgers said "I would say if you give up now you may never get the hang of it. You will feel proud once you can do it"

Jess in Badgers said "I would encourage them to keep going as they can do it. I would also give them a big smile to encourage them"

Alba in Squirrels said "Watch me and then see if you can do it. Try, try and try again"

Patrick in Squirrels said "Try, try and try again. Be a good friend and help them to get it right"

Alice in Hedgehogs said "Don't stop. Just keep on doing it. You'll get there!"

Charlie in Hedgehogs said "You can do it. If you do it loads of times you'll be able to do it!"

Rosie in Herons said "Keep going and going because you will get there."

Phoebe in Herons said "Try, try, don't give up"

Alia in Firecrests said "Keep practising you'll get there"

Charlie in Firecrests said "Try, try, try!"

Jonathan in Firecrests said "You can do it!"

Chloe in Red Kites said "Keep trying, don't give up and you will get it."

Jenson in Red Kites said "Shall I teach you and help you so you can do it."

## 6. THE FRIENDS OF JOHN HAMPDEN

### Children's New Year Disco

They danced, glowed, coloured, ran around, drank, ate, watched, built and laughed (and that was just the parents!) Thank you to Danielle and the team for all your hard work organising the event – the children seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves. Thank you for all of your generous donations - we raised just over £700 – which will be put towards the new outdoor learning space – details to follow in Fundraising Focus!!



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### Bag 2 School Friday 8th February

If you haven't spotted your little white bag – any bag will do! If possible please fill it with any unwanted adults' and children's clothing, paired shoes, hats, belts, handbags, ties and soft toys and bring to school by 9am on Friday **8th February** – date change (there will be a tarpaulin on the grass by the scooter park from **7.30 until 9am**). The school then gets money by weight of the collection. Thanks!

### Curry & Bingo Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February – 7.30pm - £13

Fancy a curry with group of mates – throw some Bingo into the mix and yes we have another fun adult night out planned. Book a table or just a place (we can make up tables if you want to make some new friends). Tickets via Parentpay **NOW!**



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Your cause has raised  
**£3,093.63**  
£116.77 in the last 30 days

You're raising for  
**Friends of John Hampden School Wendover**



Sadly we haven't had any new recruits this month – It's so **EASY** when treating yourself to a Valentine's treat or booking your summer holidays – don't forget to click the link before!

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk>



### **Spring cake Sale Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February**

Brighten up these chilly afternoons with our first cake sale of the year, after school on Friday February 1st. All donations very gratefully received! Please bring your baked or bought goods to reception on the morning of 1st. A little prize will be awarded for the loveliest bakes (don't forget to label your bakes with your child's name and class if you're taking part!) Speak to Caroline or email [FJHvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:FJHvolunteers@gmail.com) - with any questions.



### **Attention New Crickets Parents**

Want to get more involved in the school and meet new families – lookout for PTA Friends of John Hampden Events! Get involved, all help is hugely appreciated and goes to supporting the school in making it the fantastic experience we hope for our children – making memories! Also look out for ‘**JHS Parents**’ FB page – it’s a closed group but hugely useful in reminders for mufti day, meetings, lost property reclaiming...ask to join and admin will join you. You must answer the question before admin will approve you!



Support Aylesbury Vale  
and win amazing prizes!

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.

You can buy individual tickets whenever you like, or set up a Direct Debit for 1 (or more) ticket(s) per week and not worry about forgetting!

Draws are every Saturday night. Buy tickets here -

[www.valelottery.co.uk/support/friends-of-john-hampden-school](http://www.valelottery.co.uk/support/friends-of-john-hampden-school)

Most importantly - FJH receives 50p from every ticket bought in support of the school

### **JHS Pamper, Pudding & Prosecco Night 29<sup>th</sup> March**

A new event is being launched – so save the date – if you know someone who could offer their pamper services, retail products or you are happy to volunteer yourself – let us know on [FJHvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:FJHvolunteers@gmail.com)

### *JHS Pamper, Pudding & Prosecco Night*



### **Save the Dates for this term – please note amended dates.**

Spring Cake Sale	Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> February
Bag to School	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> February (another date change!)
Bingo and Curry	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> February
Ice Cream Day	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> April – last day of term – (yes its moved!)
Pamper, pudding and Prosecco	Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> March



New secretary needed – **could it be you???**  
Chrissie is stepping down at Easter please contact us on [FJHvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:FJHvolunteers@gmail.com) or Emma Childs (PTA Chair) for further info.

**Fancy getting involved with the PTA – please do email us on**

**[FJHvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:FJHvolunteers@gmail.com) or contact us on JHS FB group.**

Look out for the Spring Edition of Fundraising Focus – coming soon – with all the latest news on plans and spends!





## 7. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

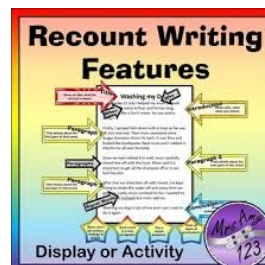
We aim to keep you fully informed of our actions linked to the school improvement plan. Since the last newsletter we have made progress linked to the actions outlined below:

### GOAL A: LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT

Some of the INSET day at the beginning of January was devoted to exploring our vision for learning outside the classroom. We have worked hard over the years to develop a wonderful outside learning environment for our Foundation Stage children and the new Nursery has a great outside classroom attached to the building and marvellous play equipment in the area to the front of the building. It is now time to focus our attention on providing something of similar quality for our KS1 pupils with age appropriate opportunities for outside learning. Plans and ideas have been formulated by the KS1 year group teams and we are waiting for acceptable quotes before beginning a phased project. The fundraising initiatives, including all FJH fundraising, will be used to finance the project which will be of benefit to all pupils in the school.



### GOAL B: TEACHING, LEARNING &



We have devoted the last three staff meetings to making further improvements to the planning for, and delivery of the writing genre for this half term. Mrs Parkinson, our English co-ordinator, has provided clear and effective leadership to ensure continuity and progression relating to the genre of 'recount' writing across the school. Year group teams have worked together closely to ensure equality of opportunity for children in FS, Y1 and Y2. This is another example of how we continue to strive for the highest standards.

### GOAL C: PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, BEHAVIOUR



Parents recently received a letter informing them of their child's attendance figure for Autumn 2018. Analysis of whole school data tells us that 87 children (33%) had 100% attendance and 98% of children had an attendance percentage of over 80%. 78% 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 than 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 D: PUPIL OUTCOMES

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.



## 8. MISCELLANEOUS

### Music and Piano Teacher

Experienced school music teacher and piano teacher living in Wendover has a few vacancies for children of all ages and levels from complete beginner to post Grade 8.

The emphasis is on making learning fun in a relaxed atmosphere.

If you are interested, please phone or text me, Denise Erlandsen

on 07767 372049

or email me at [derlandsen@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:derlandsen@yahoo.co.uk).

