



The John Hampden School Wendover



NEWSLETTER

1. MESSAGE FROM MRS BARNES

Reflection

Well, we've reached and passed the milestone where we have all lived with the Covid-19 pandemic for a year. When I think back to this time last year at school, we had just completed two weeks of the first bout of remote learning and we were reaching the Easter break with the prospect of more to come and a great deal of uncertainty. Thankfully, we appear to be in a much better position now. Everyone is back at school and whilst we are operating with the necessary protective measures in place, these measures are very familiar to us all and we believe we are managing them well. Staff in the school now have access to lateral flow testing, which they complete twice a week and approximately 50% of the school staff have now been vaccinated too, so there are positive signs that things are much further forward.

The children continue to respond well to the health and safety measures that are in place and, on the whole, they have coped extremely well with the return to school. They have spent the last three and a half weeks re-discovering school, re-establishing friendships, working hard to make academic progress as well as trying to demonstrate the School Values, so it is not surprising to say that for many, the Easter break has not come too soon.

We asked our Key Stage 1 pupils for their feedback about remote learning and the return to school - the results of these questionnaires have been collated. You can see what they told us within the Pupil's Section of this newsletter. We also asked you for your views and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your feedback. The data has been collated and your comments have been noted. I sincerely hope we won't find ourselves in another lockdown scenario but it is good to reflect on what went down well and where parents/carers feel there is still room for improvement. Remote learning is certainly not an ideal way to educate young children and I think we all recognised the challenges that it brought. Let's hope, by continuing to follow the restrictive measures for the time being, we will be in the position to ease some of these in due course and begin to reinstate some of the activities that have been missing over the past year.

Asking parents to act as teachers in their own homes inevitably brings challenges and we are deliberately choosing not to send home too much 'homework' at the moment to give everyone a chance to recover from the experiences of home learning. However, we all know that giving children the opportunity to practice key skills regularly undoubtedly helps them to make good progress. It is important that children are heard to read regularly at school and at home. We have noticed that a significant number of children do not appear to be reading their books at home as regularly anymore and whilst this may be understandable after a prolonged period of home learning it is obviously not something we would want to continue. There is obviously no expectation for children to complete any remote learning during the holiday but we are offering two Easter holiday challenges to keep our pupils reading and exercising. There is no obligation to do either but it would be great to see as many as possible getting involved. There will be prizes and certificates as rewards for those that complete the challenges and provide their evidence of this when we return to school on Monday 19th April. The challenge sheets are in your child's book bag today, along with a 'Look for a Book' text to hide. Please see the next section of this newsletter for further details.

I truly hope you can all have a peaceful and relaxing Easter break whilst still following all the Covid-19 restrictions, so that we can all look forward to an enjoyable full Summer Term at school. The school remains responsible for track and trace duties until 6th April so please email the school office if your child should test positive for Coronavirus up until this point. Thank you.

2. EASTER HOLIDAY CHALLENGES

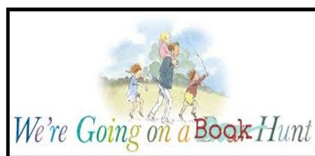
EASTER HOLIDAY READING CHALLENGE

This Easter holiday we have set a Easter Reading Challenge and today we have sent home Reading Challenge Cards. The challenge is to read/share 10 books throughout the holiday. The class with the most Reading Challenge Cards collected will win a prize. Good luck and happy reading!

LOOK FOR A BOOK, WENDOVER

Look for a Book encourages children to explore their local area while finding something new to read. Books are hidden in spots across the community for children to find, read and then re-hide in a different location once they're done. On August 1st 2019, 30 books were hidden around Wendover to be found, read and then re-hidden for someone else to find. This vastly grew to over 400 books circulating around Wendover before COVID restrictions took hold. Look For A Book is back again and John Hampden School wish to support it. Today, your child will bring home a book to read/ share and then hide somewhere around Wendover. You may wish to go on a Book Hunt during the Easter Holidays. If you find a book and choose to take it away to enjoy, you could re-hide it when you have finished it. You could even hide a new book for someone else to enjoy. There is a Facebook page to post your finding or a clue to where you have hidden a book if you wish to do so. Look For A Book Wendover

Happy reading!



EASTER HOLIDAY FITNESS CHALLENGE

During the Easter holiday we are setting a fitness challenge for anyone who wants to join in. There is a recording sheet in your child's book bag. Anyone who joins in with the challenges for 10 days will be eligible for a medal and a certificate when they return their completed challenge sheet after the Easter holiday.

3. GOVERNOR SECTION

I have been a member of the Governing body at John Hampden for 4 years now and I am still enjoying being part of a great team at a great school. I remember as a parent often wondering what the Governors actually do so thought I would give you all a bit of a lowdown on our role and what we get up to. We are looking for another Governor to join the team so wanted to give parents an insight into what is involved and hopefully inspire someone to put themselves forward!

What do Governors do?

According to the Governor Handbook, 'the purpose of governance is to provide confident, strategic leadership and to create robust accountability, oversight and assurance for educational and financial performance'. Governors 'play a vital role in ensuring the best possible education that takes every child as far as their talents allow.' Yikes - no pressure then! So how do we do that?

How do we do it?

These are some of the key things that the Governors do that help ensure children get the absolute best from the school:

Committees – There are Committees focusing on (among other things) Finance and Buildings, Teaching and Curriculum, and Personnel. Governors can choose which committees they would like to be on, based on their skills and interests. Committees meet around once a term and work through an agenda specifically relating to that area. The Finance and Buildings committee, for example, will review the budget/ finance plan for the year, consider contract renewals and tenders, review Health and Safety inspections and accident reports as well as review policies related to this committee. Governors ask questions, challenge and make suggestions to help ensure that money is being used effectively in the best interests of the children and that policies are up to date and being followed.

Link Governors – Each subject taught at the school (numeracy, literacy, RE, science, geography, history etc.) has a Teacher responsible for being the main co-ordinator of that subject area. A governor is assigned to each of these subjects and is responsible for meeting with the co-ordinating teacher and gaining in-depth insight into that specific area and how it is taught at the school. They consider how the teaching links to the school's ethos, aims and values as well as the school development plan and report back to the Governing body. There are also Link Governors for areas such as Special Educational Needs, EYFS, Pupil Premium and Safeguarding, all working with the school to ensure children are being supported fully in those areas.

Full Governing Body meetings

These happen every half term (clerked termly). Mrs Barnes provides a comprehensive report to Governors termly which includes extensive data and reports on anything and everything you can imagine relating to the school. The agenda includes time for Governors to raise any questions relating to this report and challenge any of the data. Committees and Link Governors also report back to this meeting, updating the team on what has been happening in their areas. These meetings ensure that all Governors have an oversight of what is going on in the school and provide an opportunity to challenge, monitor, make suggestions and work together to help ensure the school is the best it can be.

Who are we?

The team has a wide range of skills, experience and backgrounds – have a look ...

https://www.johnhampdenwendover.co.uk/website/meet_our_governors/39839



Suzanne Pim
Co-opted Governor

4. IMPORTANT MESSAGES

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE LOOKING FOR PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION FROM SEPTEMBER 2021?



The John Hampden School Wendover is organising places for a new cohort of children in their Early Years Class from September 2021. We can offer your child:

Up to three terms of high quality education in a new, purpose built learning environment

Excellent facilities and resources – an irresistible learning environment inside and out

Outstanding transition arrangements

A gentle introduction to school

Highly qualified, experienced and caring staff committed to developing the potential of every child

A friendly and welcoming environment

Five compulsory morning sessions 8.45a.m- 11.45a.m, universally funded

Chargeable lunch club

Optional afternoon sessions 12.15p.m-3.15p.m (up to 30 hours of flexible free entitlement)

Breakfast Club from 7.45a.m, After School Club until 6.00p.m (Childcare vouchers accepted)

Eligible children will be born between 1st September 2017 and 31st August 2018 and admission criteria apply.

For further information please contact the school office 01296 622629, email office@jhampden.bucks.sch.uk or view the school website www.johnhampdenwendover.co.uk

We look forward to welcoming you!

Please note a place in the Early Years Class does not guarantee a place in the Reception Classes at the school.

Find out more from the school website www.johnhampdenwendover.co.uk
under the Virtual Open Day tab

Or contact 01296 622629 or office@jhampden.bucks.sch.uk

4. IMPORTANT MESSAGES

As you probably already know, everyone working in primary schools and Early Years settings is testing twice a week for COVID-19 to help keep the school community safe. While nursery and primary school pupils do not have to be tested, other members of their households can access regular testing and we urge you to do so - every case we can pick up and isolate helps to stop the virus spreading and ultimately keeps us all safer.

Anyone with a child at a primary school can get tested regularly by attending one of the four rapid test sites in Buckinghamshire, or you can go and collect test kits to do yourself at home. If it's hard for you to go to a site, you can have test kits posted out to you – all the details are on the government's website at www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff

Thank you so much for playing your part in the fight against COVID-19. For more local information about COVID-19 and to find the locations of the Buckinghamshire rapid test sites, you can go to the Buckinghamshire Council website at www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/coronavirus

Simon James, Service Director – Education Buckinghamshire Council

CAN YOU HELP?



We are always keen to hear from anyone who has access to spare seedlings, seeds, compost, pots etc. Pupils in all year groups complete topics linked to planting and growing, so do contact us if you are in the position to be able to donate anything to help with this. Thank you

Red Nose Day

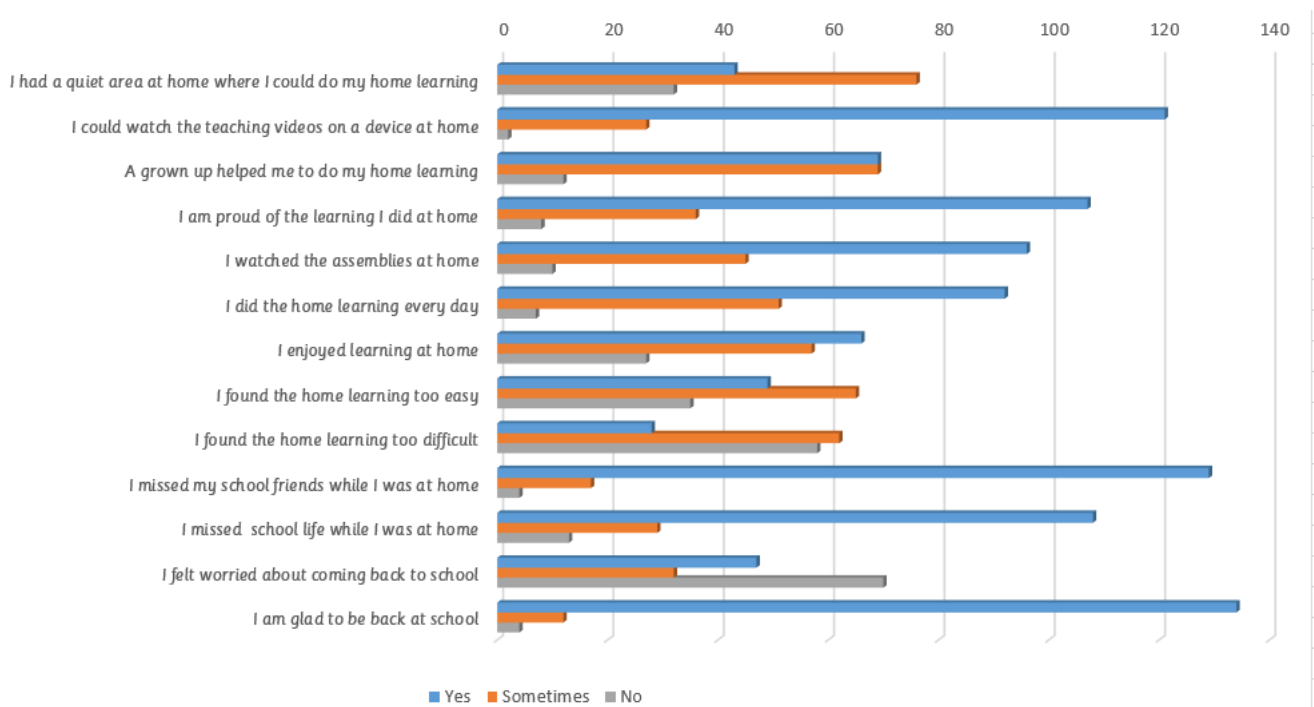
Many thanks to all the children who donated to the Red Nose Day fundraiser. We raised £305.00 for the charity.

Driving onto Campus

Following a number of complaints can we please just remind you that the campus is a no car campus for parents and visitors. There has been an increasing number of parents accessing the campus by tailgating through the barrier by driving at speed behind the car in front of them. We are getting increasingly concerned that an accident may happen if this behaviour continues and the number of cars on campus continues to increase. Please help us to keep everyone safe by not attempting to drive onto campus at any time. Thank you.

5. PUPIL VOICE

	Year 1 and Year 2	Yes	Sometimes	No
1	<i>I had a quiet area at home where I could do my home learning</i>	43	76	32
2	<i>I could watch the teaching videos on a device at home</i>	121	27	2
3	<i>A grown up helped me to do my home learning</i>	69	69	12
4	<i>I am proud of the learning I did at home</i>	107	36	8
5	<i>I watched the assemblies at home</i>	96	45	10
6	<i>I did the home learning every day</i>	92	51	7
7	<i>I enjoyed learning at home</i>	66	57	27
8	<i>I found the home learning too easy</i>	49	65	35
9	<i>I found the home learning too difficult</i>	28	62	58
10	<i>I missed my school friends while I was at home</i>	129	17	4
11	<i>I missed school life while I was at home</i>	108	29	13
12	<i>I felt worried about coming back to school</i>	47	32	70
13	<i>I am glad to be back at school</i>	134	12	4



6. FRIENDS OF JOHN HAMPDEN



Can you help the Easter Bunny?

The Easter Bunny has been very clumsy and has lost some of his eggs around Wendover Village. Can you use the map to help him find the eggs and solve his hidden message?

Dates:	Friday 2nd April – Friday 16th April
Where:	Around Wendover Village (locations on map)
What you need:	The Easter Trail Map (supplied) The Easter Trail Answer Sheet (supplied) A pen or pencil (Prizes or Treats if you want to supply them) *
How long will I need:	About 2 hours for little legs; but you don't have to do it all in one go!

What do we need to do?

1. COLOUR print the Map and Answer Sheet. The School Office will have emailed everyone these and it will also be available on eSchools;
2. Follow the Map around Wendover Village to find the large cardboard eggs displayed in the windows, (remember to look high and low);
3. When you find an egg match its pattern with the one on the Answer Sheet and fill in the letter you see.
4. When you have found all 19 eggs you will reveal the Easter Bunny's hidden message.
5. CONGRATULATIONS you have completed the FJH Easter Trail and have helped the Easter Bunny find all of his lost eggs.

* This is a FREE Easter Trail provided by members of the FJH, there are no prizes supplied for finding the eggs and/or solving the message. Please feel free to provide eggs or a prize for your little ones if you so wish.



There is an additional page at the back of the Map and Answer Sheet PDF containing all of the addresses where the eggs can be found as well as the list of the egg patterns and matching letters just in case you need them.



A letter to young people from Gavin Williamson MP, Secretary of State for Education

I wanted to let you all know how grateful I am for the way you have responded to the huge challenges you have all faced throughout the coronavirus pandemic.

Whether this is your first year at school or your final year of college, I know the disruption you have all faced to your education since the pandemic began has been incredibly challenging and has meant completely changing the way you learn - either learning remotely at home or continuing at school or college with fewer of your friends around you and lots of safety measures in place.

Whether you were at home or at school, the disruption last term and throughout last year asked a lot of you and your families. I am filled with admiration for the incredible way you all responded and the resilience you have shown. Not being in school or college with your teachers and friends was a huge sacrifice. Everything you did, with the help of your families and your schools and colleges, and everything you missed out on – time in school, taking exams, seeing friends, playing sport and much more - made such a huge difference to helping us stop the spread of the virus. I want to say a huge thank you to all of you.

Getting all young people back into school and college safely has been my priority throughout the pandemic. I know how vital it is not just for your education but also to spend time with your friends and to feel happy and secure. All our lives have changed a lot in the past year but the challenges that young people have faced have been some of the hardest. I will continue doing everything in my power to make sure that all of you are supported to boost any areas of work you've had less time at school to study, get the qualifications you deserve and have the opportunities you need to succeed.

Continuing to follow all the safety measures your schools and colleges have worked hard to put in place, as well as taking a test twice a week, is so important and helps us to stop the virus spreading. The testing that thousands of you have been taking part in at school and college is a vital part of this. I am so grateful to you and all the staff who have supported you to do this. I know your schools and colleges have worked incredibly hard to prepare you to test yourself at home.

As most of you at secondary school and college move to testing yourself regularly at home, it's vital that you continue to test and report online twice a week through the Easter holidays and after you return to school. Home testing twice a week for you and everyone you live with makes a huge difference and means you are playing a really important role in helping us move back to a more normal way of life. Your school or college will continue to support you and make sure you have tests. You and your family can also find out more about home testing [here](#).

I was delighted to see the enthusiasm with which so many of you returned to school at the beginning of March and I am sure you have had a wonderful few weeks catching up with your friends and teachers. It was fantastic to meet pupils delighted to return to school on my visits to schools like Arden Academy and Bedford Free School and to see so many more of your reunions on social media. I hope that the new term will be just as enjoyable and successful for all of you.

Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE MP, Secretary of State for Education

7. MISCELLANEOUS

Rennie Grove have a new Easter Activities Fundraising Pack / Quiz / Virtual Balloon Race / Raffle which may be of interest to families for the Easter holidays.

Big Easter Quiz

Host the Big Easter Quiz from the comfort of your own home over the Easter weekend or school holidays. The quiz includes eight rounds; six question rounds and two picture rounds. The quiz pack will be provided for a minimum suggested donation of just £5 Register online.

Rennie Grove Easter Activity Pack

Their bumper activity pack includes:

- Easter egg hunt
 - how to make your own Easter bunting
 - chocolate rice krispie cake recipe
- and lots more.

They are asking for a donation of £5 and your pack can be purchased online.

Easter Raffle

Be in with the chance of winning their Easter hamper full of treats for the whole family to share this Easter. Tickets cost only £1 per entry. Every ticket purchased helps them to keep their nurses caring for their patients and their families in the community this Easter. Purchase tickets online.

Virtual Balloon Race

Take part in their Easter Virtual Balloon Race which launches on 4 April. It's a 7 day computer simulation race where everything is real except the balloon, and it's 100% environmentally friendly too! Each balloon costs just £3, you can buy as many as you like and be in with the chance to win some fabulous prizes.

Visit <https://www.renniegrove.org/>

Telephone 01442 890222

Free Trial Session and £40 discount at Perform

Popular children's drama and dance school Perform is offering a Free Trial Session and a special introductory discount of £40 for members of The John Hampden School if they sign up by Saturday 9th May. Parents should quote THEJ090520 when they book their free session by going to perform.org.uk/try or calling 020 7255 9120.

You can find out more about the classes at perform.org.uk/try. Alternatively, pdf flyers can be downloaded from [here](#).

The nearest classes to The John Hampden School are as follows (please click for a map and further details):

Perform Wendover (Drama for 4-7s)
(0 miles)
Tuesdays at 4pm

Wendover Memorial Hall
Wharf Road,
HP22 6HE

Perform Wendover (Drama for 7-12s)
(0 miles)
Tuesdays at 5.05pm

Wendover Memorial Hall
Wharf Road,
HP22 6HF

Perform Tring (Drama for 4-7s)
(3.8 miles)
Tuesdays at 4pm

Tring Baptist Church
89 High Street,
HP23 4AB

Perform Tring (Drama for 7-12s)
(3.8 miles)
Tuesdays at 5.05pm

Tring Baptist Church
89 High Street,
HP23 4AB

Perform Berkhamsted (Drama for 4-7s)
(7.3 miles)
Wednesdays at 4pm

Friends Meeting House
289, High Street,
HP4 1AJ

There are others too. Click to find all the nearest [here](#) or view a list of [all areas](#).

