



The John Hampden School



NEWSLETTER

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

	Tuesday 4th December—Early Years class visit at 11.00 am
Friday 16th November—BBC Children in Need	Wed 5th & Thur 6th December at 9.30 am—Foundation Stage Nativity Play
Friday 30th November—Mufti day—bring a donation for the Fayre	Friday 7th December—INSET DAY
Sat 1st Dec—FJH Christmas Fayre	10th December—Assessment week

1. MESSAGE FROM MRS BARNES

I hope you managed to have a relaxing half term break. Since the children have come back to school they really appear to have enjoyed the second of our enrichment weeks—Safety Week which took place last week. The theme of the two weeks either side of the half term break was Health & Safety and I hope you heard about the various activities/visitors that formed a major part of their learning. You could also visit the News section of the school's website to see photographs and further details of the activities and visitors.

This week it was good to see so many of you as you came into school for the Consultation Evenings. We have excellent attendance by parents/carers at these meetings so thank you for taking the time to come along and find out about what your child has been learning since the start of the academic year. We hope you found out what you wanted to know.

During the class induction meetings, held at the beginning of the school year, I mentioned that we will be monitoring attendance and punctuality rigorously. Attendance monitoring takes place twice a term and parents will be informed if their child's attendance gives any cause for concern. Punctuality is obviously important as children are involved in a range of activities first thing in the morning and children who arrive later than 8.55 a.m. are disadvantaged if they miss the first important instructions of the day. As soon as gates and doors are shut in the morning, children need to be brought through the main entrance to the school. Parents should then record the reason for the late arrival on forms in the entrance hall—we are vigilant about this as we need to be seen to be addressing issues of persistent lateness. As an infant school we need to work with families to ensure late arrival does not become a habit.

This week our new building was completed and the project has come to an end—albeit with a few outstanding snagging items still to be completed. This work was fully funded by Bucks County Council in preparation for us taking an additional class into Foundation Stage from September 2019. The project was also a way of making sure our pupils continue to benefit from learning in a spacious, well resourced environment which we would not be able to afford to create ourselves in the current difficult financial situation. This project saw improvements made to the playground space, construction of two new classrooms and a new Early Years Classroom as well as enlargement of one of our Foundation Stage classrooms.

Finally I am very pleased to inform you that Mrs Nelson has had her baby. Elijah Parker Nelson was born on Monday 22nd October at 10.57a.m and mother and baby are doing well. We send Mrs Nelson and her husband huge congratulations!



CHILDREN IN NEED - the children may come to school in their own clothes (something spotty or a Superhero costume if they like) on Friday 16th November in return for a minimum donation of £1 (any coin denominations) which will be sent to the BBC Appeal.

2. GOVERNOR SECTION

Although my children have now left John Hampden I still enjoy coming along to some of the events held at the school and recently went to the Quiz Night organised by the Friends of John Hampden. It was a really great evening and the fact that the JHS staff team won is evidence that John Hampden children are taught by the best!

Attending the quiz made me reflect on what an important role the Friends of John Hampden plays. Not only do they raise much needed funds for the school and organise events the children love, they also play an important role in connecting parents with each other and the school.

The quiz was an opportunity for parents to come into the school, something staff and governors encourage. We recognise the significant benefits of involving parents in school life and the essential role that parents perform in their child's education. Parents, teachers and governors share the same goal; ensuring children get the best education possible, so it makes sense to work in partnership with parents to achieve this.

According to a review by the Department of Education; *'Parental engagement has a large and positive impact on children's learning. This was the single most important finding from a recent and authoritative review of the evidence...It is therefore a priority for schools to identify interventions that are effective in supporting parental engagement.'* (DfE, 2011)

The report defines Parental engagement in broad terms, *'including learning at home, school-home and home-school communication, in-school activities, decision making (e.g. being a parent governor) and collaborating with the community.'*

At John Hampden the staff use a number of strategies to involve parents in school life and increase engagement. From the newsletter to curriculum evenings, work sharing events, assemblies and open evenings to parent's evenings, Sports day, shows and performances the school actively encourages parents to get involved. Mrs Barnes is often seen outside school in the morning welcoming children and parents and the website is a fantastic resource for parents.

Friends of John Hampden organise events like the Christmas Fayre, May Fayre, Summer BBQ welcoming parents into the school to help make them feel part of children's school life. As Governors we attend many school events in order to meet and connect with parents, we also use the newsletter as a way of communicating.

We are lucky to have a high level of engagement with parents which is demonstrated by high response rates to our parent questionnaires, good attendance at all school events and an active PTA. There was a hugely positive response to the ParentView questionnaire during our recent Ofsted inspection with 129 parents responding. The inspector noted in the report that *'Parents and carers overwhelmingly support the work of the school'*

Having such engaged and supportive parents is fantastic but we can't be complacent and some parents are less engaged than others so we continue to try and find new ways of including parents in school life. One of the targets in our School Development plan this year is, *'to engage further with parents/carers to ensure pupils are 'school ready' and well supported with their home learning activities'*

If you have any ideas or suggestions on how the school and governors could enhance what we already do please get in touch with your teacher, Mrs Barnes or any of the Governors, we welcome your suggestions. In the meantime, remember that every time you come along to something at school, every time you read the newsletter or volunteer at an event, every time you talk to one of the staff or governors or act on a home learning suggestion you heard at one of the workshops or presentations you are being 'engaged' and that is having a positive impact on your child's learning, which is amazing!



Suzanne Pim
Co-opted Governor

The Governing Board are 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

3. IMPORTANT MESSAGES

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.

MOVING UP TO JUNIOR SCHOOL SEPTEMBER 2019



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 5th November 2018 and the deadline for online applications is 3pm on 15th January 2019.



Parents should use the following website to make their application:

<https://services.buckscc.gov.uk/school-admissions>

STARTING SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2019

If you, or someone you know, has a child who is eligible to start school in September 2019, 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 5th November 2018 and the deadline for online applications is 3pm on 15th January 2019. 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://services.buckscc.gov.uk/school-admissions>

We hope to admit 4 classes of 30 children to our Foundation Stage in September 2019 so we are encouraging as many applications as possible—even from outside our catchment area. So, if you have friends looking for a school place who want their children to go to a fantastic school do encourage them to take a look at John Hampden.

Hot Lunches

Please make sure hot lunches are ordered by the deadline of midnight on a Tuesday for the following week. WE HAVE NO SPARE LUNCHES IN SCHOOL so if your order is not placed by the deadline you will need to provide your child with a packed lunch for the week. Once you have made your menu choices do not forget to 'save' the choices or the order will not go through. Further information about the ordering process and contact numbers for our supplier, Chartwells, can be found on the school website under the 'Key Information' tab.

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

Spare Trousers

Thank you for your donations of spare clothes for use in case of accidents. We are still short of boys trousers (bigger sizes) and girls socks, so if you can help please bring spares to the school office.

Staff Car Park

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

4. PUPIL'S SECTION

The children have clearly enjoyed the learning opportunities that Health & Safety Weeks have offered. Here are some of their comments:

I learnt that you should eat 5 a day of fruit and vegetables. I made a fruit face—the hair was carrots!
Oscar C (Hedgehogs)

Our teeth are made out of enamel and it is stronger than bone!
Ella (Heron)

I learnt about how you need to eat different types of food each day. You must eat your healthy food first and then you can have one unhealthy food—Cameron (Squirrels)

I liked learning about the Police because I didn't know about the special spray. I didn't know that there were so many things on their jacket—Beabs (Badgers)

We loved running everyday. We started running for 5 minutes and then by the end of the week we ran for 10 minutes—Blake (Caterpillars)

I learnt that the Police have lots of things to help them do their job. They try to catch bad people to keep us safe—Florence (Hedgehogs)

When you have just brushed your teeth but have something sugary to eat you might get cavities—Scarlett (Red Kites)

I enjoyed it when the Police visited. I didn't know there were so many types of jobs in the Police force—Leo (Heron)

When you ride a bike, your helmet should have one strap in front of your ear and one behind—Chloe (Red Kites)

I learnt that you have to have an adult with you at the swimming pool. Children are not allowed in the really deep end. If you can't swim you might need a woggle to keep you floating—Joe (Badgers)

I really liked making fruit kebabs because I like eating healthy fruit—Milly (Honeybees)

You mustn't call 999 for a joke—only if it is serious—Arthur (Firecrests)

You need to eat more healthy foods than sugary foods—Charlie (Firecrests)

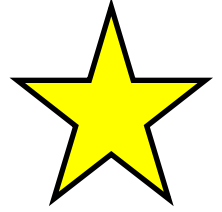
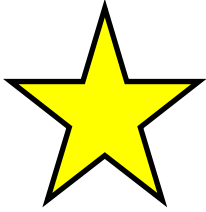
I loved the scooter training because we had to go around the cones and also scooter in a big circle — Grace (Squirrels)

I liked Tom the Policeman. We went in the van and heard the siren—Katherine (Caterpillars)

I really liked making Mr Potatohead because I used a sharp knife for the first time to cut up the vegetables—Henry (Honeybees)

I liked making fruit faces and fruit kebabs. We used knives and learnt how to use them carefully—Olunwatunmishe (Ladybirds)

I liked the visit from the Policeman when he showed us all the things on his vest—walkie talkies and handcuffs. We also went in the van—Archie (Ladybirds)



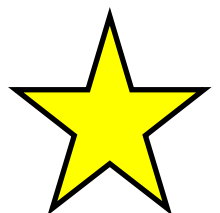
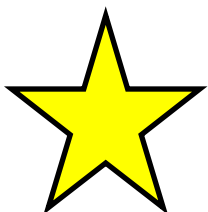
On behalf of all the staff, governors and pupils we would like to pass on our huge thanks to Ashley Highmore for writing and organising our recent, and very successful, Rocket Fund bid.

Thank you

'Rocket Fund'

We would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks to all of the generous donors who supported our Rocket Fund pitch. In particular, we would like to send a huge thank you to our biggest donor, Alison Baxter of Baxter and Baxter Ltd, Wendover. Raising over £2000 in one month was a tremendous result and we are so grateful to have such a supportive group of parents. We are placing the order for the new products as we speak and we can't wait to see them in action!

Many thanks!



5. THE FRIENDS OF JOHN HAMPDEN



Christmas Cards

Many thanks to Chrissie, Kate and Rebecca for taking on the mammoth task of sorting all the Christmas cards orders out – with minimal errors this year. Orders went in this week – products should be returned in 2 weeks time – we will let you know when to expect them in book bags.

Mufti day

On Friday 30th November the children can wear either mufti clothes to school or their Christmas jumpers (if they have one please don't buy one especially) in return for a donation for the Christmas Fayre. Thank you.



Christmas Fayre - Saturday 1st December 12 – 3pm

I can feel the excitement mounting – the big event of the year is nearly here and the PTA are working hard behind the scenes...If you have never been before – we fill the school with craft activities, game stalls, external stalls, refreshments – our infamous 'chilli and nachos' or hotdogs options – all with meat and veggie options – with amazing cake, biscuits and tuck. Pick a present and pocket money stalls – and not forgetting Father Christmas and his elves have been notified – make sure you book your timed slot – tickets available on the day!

Volunteers Letters will be out in book bags shortly requesting volunteers to help on stalls – all stalls have a lead already but we desperately need as many parent helpers as possible to share the work – even 30mins can be really helpful.

Donations reminder of requested donations will also be in your book bags with the volunteer slip. If you need a jam jar to decorate and fill – help yourself to one from reception – please note no spice/curry /vinegar based jars! Ensure all sweets are wrapped and NO NUTS please!!

'Wrap a Present' this is a huge draw for the children where they choose a gift from a selection for a family member and wrap it up for Christmas. The teachers have great fun running this stall and the children love the secret surprise! To make it happen we need to ask you to donate a brand new gift – and just a note, we are often short of men's presents, so don't forget something for Dad, Grandfathers, etc.!

Raffle - A big thank you for the many generous donations from parents and local businesses for this year's raffle. The value of the prizes so far donated is incredible, with more prizes still being confirmed. Historically the vast majority of ticket sales have been sold by our families ahead of the Fayre itself. Please make the hard work of our prize collectors worthwhile by selling as many tickets as you can. Please look out for two books of tickets in your children's book bags in the next 2 weeks along with a letter detailing the fabulous prizes and their donors. If you need more tickets they are available from the office. Please return all sold and unsold tickets along with any money raised to the office by Friday 30th November. We are still collecting prizes, so if you have anything you can donate, please contact Sarah on sarah@tobyworks.co.uk

Preloved Uniform – If anyone needs any uniform extras we will also be selling these preloved items at the Fayre.

Thank you in advance for your help as these sales make a tremendous difference to the success of the whole Fayre.



Ice cream Day

Apologies for any confusion around ice cream day. We have transitioned payment to ParentPay for the first time and we had a few teething problems - any extra payments will be refunded over the next week. We aim to review the payments made for the next ice cream days and we will simplify the payments next year. Thanks for your patience; the children do really enjoy it and it does raise much valued funds for the school



Rocket Fund:

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Easyfundraising

A HUGE THANKYOU—Imagine if all 193 supporters raised £100, every penny counts. Sadly we've had no new supporters this month - If you've not signed up yet, please click on to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk> before you start ordering **Christmas presents** – it's simple and **costs you nothing**. Ensure you activate the donation reminder and off you go...shop to your hearts' content or just order your online grocery delivery!



Your cause has raised

£2,760.47

£53.99 in the last 30 days

Save the Dates

Children's Christmas Party with Father Christmas (– not a fundraiser!)
 Next PTA Meeting
 Children's New Year Disco
 JHS Bingo and Curry night
 Ice-Cream Day

Tuesday 18th December
 Tuesday 8th January
 Friday 18th January
 Friday 8th February
 Friday 15th February

6. CURRICULUM

For the last two weeks at school the children have been learning about issues relating to Health and Safety. Mrs Spencer has done a fantastic job of organising a whole host of wonderful visitors to enhance the learning. Each year the fortnight evolves further and the children are now being asked to think about scenarios which enable them to consider risk and challenge. There have been numerous opportunities for role play, re-enactment of situations using miniature figures, consideration of dilemmas as well as activities to assist pupils in learning how to be resilient. Health and safety P4C discussions have also been a big feature.

We are extremely grateful to all these visitors who have enhanced the children's learning with their interesting, enjoyable and often very entertaining presentations. There is a growing album of photographs and comments from the children linked to the Health & Safety weeks on the school website (johnhampdenwendover.co.uk)—so do take a look.

We thought you might like to read some of the feedback from our H&S visitors:

It was a pleasure to give a talk to the children—they were a delight and I was very impressed with how they engaged and the answers they gave. They were beautifully behaved and well mannered.

All of the classes engaged fully and listened really well. They were well behaved and keen to answer questions when asked.

I thought the pupils and staff who helped were very polite and helpful. All the children joined in and loved being able to chop their own food. The children were keen to keep coming back for more fruit.

The children clearly listened to some really important messages this Health week. They asked fantastic questions and were interested in everything.

The fruit face on a plate was an excellent idea enabling the children to be creative and try new fruit. The children had good manners.

Health Week Recipes

As part of Health Week Mrs Spencer and a fabulous team of parent helpers helped all our Foundation Stage pupils to make a fruit kebab which they enjoyed eating on the day. Our KS1 pupils had the opportunity to make a Face on a Plate or a Fruity Pick and Mix. These proved to be very popular and so we thought we would share the recipes with you in case you would like to try them with your child at home.

Recipe for Fruit Kebab



1 kebab stick (pointy end removed)

1 safety knife

1 chopping board

Ingredients:

Banana, mango pieces, pineapple rings, grapes, dried apricots, raisins, clementine halved for children to peel and segment, other fruit as preferred

Instructions for child:

1. Chop the fruit on the chopping board
 2. Feed the fruit onto the stick and the kebab is ready to eat
- Enjoy!

Recipe for Fruity Pick & Mix



1 bowl or tub

1 safety knife

1 chopping board

1 spoon

Ingredients:

Banana, mango pieces, pineapple rings, grapes, dried apricots, raisins, clementine halved for children to peel and segment or other fruit as preferred

Instructions for child:

1. Chop the fruit on the chopping board
 2. Place the fruit in your bowl or tub
- Enjoy!

Recipe for Fruity face on a plate



1 bowl or tub

1 safety knife

1 chopping board

1 spoon

Ingredients:

Banana, mango pieces, pineapple rings, grapes, dried apricots, raisins, clementine halved for children to peel and segment or other fruit as preferred plus spiralized courgette, carrot or cucumber for hair & eyebrows.

Instructions for child:

1. Chop the fruit/veg on the chopping board
 2. Arrange the fruit and vegetable shapes onto a plate to make a face
- Enjoy!

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: 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. James Edley continues as 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

GOAL C: PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, BEHAVIOUR & WELFARE

We recently held our annual Open Morning for parents of prospective new pupils. We held two sessions where visitors were given a brief presentation about the school before being taken on a guided tour by some of our Year 2 pupils. The feedback from the event was overwhelmingly positive and our Year 2 ambassadors were complete stars!

Many of our Key Stage 1 pupils are taking monitor roles during lunchtimes. These children are proving themselves to be very reliable and responsible.

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: TEACHING, LEARNING & ASSESSMENT

By the end of the Autumn Term learning environments will have been monitored, lessons observed, pupil's work assessed and their views about the lessons will be listened to.



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 fortnight of work linked to Health and Safety has been enhanced by having so many local visitors to talk about their jobs and how they help to keep us safe and healthy. 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.

GOAL D: PUPIL OUTCOMES

"Help us grow into our Dreams..."



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. Year group and whole school moderation then takes place to ensure the judgements are consistent. 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. You will have heard about the observations that have been made regarding your child's strengths and areas for development at the recent consultation meetings. We hope we also gave you an indication of how you can support learning at home.

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 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 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

'YOGIE BEARS CLUBS' - INSPIRING HARMONY IN CHILDREN THROUGH YOGA

Yoga Classes for Children aged 5-11



Benefits of 'Yogie Bears' for Children

Your children will **HAVE FUN** learning yoga postures, relaxation techniques, breathing and meditating exercises, through the interaction of yoga stories, games, music and songs.

First session FREE & BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL

- Improves brainpower
- Increases concentration
- Improves focus, and memory
- Helps improve attention span
- Supports social & emotional learning
- Increases flexibility, balance and co-ordination
- Promotes respect towards others
- Improves general well-being
- Boosts self-esteem and confidence
- Sense of calmness and relaxation improves
- Feel healthier, happier & good about themselves

1

INFO ON SESSIONS:

At Weston Turville
Village Hall
Thursdays

(Term Time Only)

Year 1-2: 4:00-4:30pm

Year 3-6: 4:45-5:30pm

2

COST TO PARENTS:

10 week course
(1st session is a Free
taster)

Total £60 per child

10% discount for
siblings

3

BOOKING CONTACT:

Teacher:

Samantha Grimsdell

07958 078562

email:

sam@yogiebears.com



Samantha is a
certified children's Yoga
teacher with:

Rainbow Kids Yoga &
Yotism, "Inspiring harmony
in autism through yoga"

Having great success with
clubs currently at :
John Hampden Sch
Chesham Prep
Wendover Jr Sch

She is an outstanding
class teacher -Specialist
SEND Teacher -10 yrs
teaching - 5 yrs with PRU's
as Behaviour Specialist
SEND /ADHD/ASD-
Language &
Communication

Public Liability Insured
Enhanced DBS
Child Safeguarding
And professionally
Registered with:



Request

Do you have any unwanted canvas pictures?

If so please could we have them in school for the children to paint over. Thank you.



Diwali assembly

Year 1 & Year 2 enjoyed acting out the story of Rama & Sita during an assembly about Diwali yesterday.

