



# The John Hampden School Wendover



## NEWSLETTER

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### UPCOMING EVENTS:

19th December School closes at 1.30pm	6-1-20 INSET DAY 7-1-20 Start of the Spring Term
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### 1. MESSAGE FROM MRS BARNES



I am sorry to start this newsletter with sad news but I need to inform you that Mrs Lesley Morrall died peacefully on the morning of Friday 13th December. Lesley worked in our school for fifteen years as a Teaching Assistant and before that we knew her as a parent of a child who attended the school. She made the decision to leave her role in September 2019 when her health deteriorated. She had fought a long and courageous battle with cancer and we will all remember the strength and positivity with which she faced her illness. Lesley was the perfect teaching assistant—she was a stalwart in our team—a kind and caring professional who will be sadly missed and very fondly remembered by us all. Our thoughts are with her family at this very difficult time.

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

My thanks to the Friends of John Hampden for their support this term. We are also grateful to all who have given their time voluntarily to help the school. We have a dedicated team of people who fulfil a range of roles e.g. hearing readers, supporting on school trips, helping out at FJH events. We wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and thank you for your work with us.

Reminder that the school reopens on

**Tuesday 7th January 2020**

## 2. GOVERNOR SECTION

It's the most wonderful time of the ... term?! From the success of the Christmas Fayre (bravo to the Friends of John Hampden for organising, and to all of you for coming to support) to the delights of the different Christmas performances in the school, it's definitely a joyous end to the first term of the year.

My two children are both at John Hampden right now - for one year only! - with the youngest in the Crickets pre-reception class, and the eldest in Year 2. My own working life has kept me away a lot this term, including over the weeks of the Christmas performances, but I've seen the highlights! Away in the real world, I work for a music education organisation, one whose mission is "to inspire musical achievement" and with a particular passion for genuine progression in music learning. I was thinking about this when considering the Christmas events at school. They are such memorable touchpoints in the school year, and I can clearly remember my son's starring role as Shepherd #2 in "Shake Up Shepherds" in a previous year. I can still sing the chorus if you really want...

Having seen the highlights of his Year 2 performances, I was completely struck by the all-round progression that has taken place amongst the children over these years. And when set alongside the Crickets class's own joyful singing, the contrast in personal development is brought home. These opportunities to perform are so valuable and I know that we all as parents thank the staff for all the extra commitment and head-space that goes into them every year.

But the real underlying point is that - beyond these highly visible moments each year - our children's progression is being nurtured and supported at all times, in all subjects and areas of personal development. Becoming a governor has certainly given me more of an insight behind the scenes to see what is actually done, and with our school there's an awful lot going on!

So, it now remains to thank the staff once more for making Christmas such a special time in school for our kids, and also to thank you for all the support you've shown to these events. As a musician, I can tell you that performing to a full house is very special, and the children have enjoyed that so much!

And finally, on behalf of the governors, I'd like to wish all of the children, parents and staff of the school a very happy Christmas, and a peaceful new year.

"Peaceful"? Sure...



David Smith  
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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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.

#### **READING CHALLENGE**

This Christmas holiday we have collected in reading scheme books. Instead we have set a Christmas Reading Challenge and on Monday we 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



### 3. IMPORTANT MESSAGES (continued)

The Christmas Performances this year have been very successful. They began at the beginning of December with Crickets Class performing to their parents/carers. They sang songs and played percussion instruments to tell the story of the first Christmas.

Foundation Stage classes followed with their wonderful production of 'Wriggly Nativity' which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who watched or took part.



Last week there were four performances of the KS1 play 'Gnome Alone'. Every child took part and, without exception, they sang, danced and spoke their lines beautifully.



Finally we are proud to announce that we were winners of CribFest 2019. This event, run by Wendover Free Church, gave groups and individuals the opportunity to enter a nativity scene to the competition. Apparently our entry received more than half of the votes from the visitors to CribFest and we were delighted to welcome Revd. Remco van den Heuvel to our Merit Assembly on Friday where he presented us with a silver cup.

**WELL DONE EVERYONE!**

## 4. CURRICULUM

The Foundation Stage Team can hardly believe that Christmas is upon us. The first few days in September seem a distant memory, mainly because when we look at the children in The Early Years and The Foundation Stage, we can see how beautifully they have settled into John Hampden School.

In each year group throughout our school, the first half term is a 'transition' phase where children get used to their new classes, new teachers and teaching assistants and new challenges. For the children in The Early Years and The Foundation Stage, they are also adapting to a new environment and a longer day. It never ceases to amaze me how versatile young children are. Already we can see children displaying a love of learning and a desire to develop knowledge and skills. But most of all, we can see happy children who are secure and content in their new environment, ready to take on new challenges and develop their independence. We have valued your feedback from our transition questionnaire and have already fed back to our local preschools and nurseries so that we can continue to work together to make the process of transition seamless. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support throughout transition. We know what a big step it is, for you as parents as well as for your children. We strive to keep you as parents/ guardians well informed about how your children are taught and have collected information from you about the curriculum areas that you would like to hear more about. We look forward to sharing this with you in January.

Throughout the term, the children have enjoyed many experiences. We always ask the children for their feedback and they are always very honest. Please see 'The Pupils Section' for the full list of responses. Here are a selection:

We asked the children about transition. "I made new friends." "My teachers made me happy before I started."

We asked the children what they remembered most of all about their first term and responses ranged from singing 'Big Red Combine Harvester' during Harvest, playing with Beebots, cooking, painting, dressing up for Roald Dahl Day, the Christmas play, having visitors, reading books and learning to write.

We asked the children what was the most WOWY and they said Merit Award, WOW stars and Golden Time the Christmas Play and hoola hooping!

When we asked what would be even better the children couldn't think of many things except for: A big Christmas tree in the octagon and pumpkins for Halloween!

We look forward to see what the next two terms may bring!

## 5. PUPIL'S SECTION

### Pupil Section

What do you remember about when you visited John Hampden? (transition)

Cricket	Honeybees	Ladybirds	Caterpillars
The toys Seeing my friends Seeing new friends Making things	We looked around. I found a new best friend. I did arts and crafts. I was a bit nervous but the visits helped.	I played in the home corner. I played in the classroom. I liked being with new children. I met new people. The teachers made me happy before I started.	I made new friends. I played with the toys in the octagon. I met my teacher and my teaching assistant.

What have you remembered most this term?

Cricket	Honeybees	Ladybirds	Caterpillars
The Sports Coaches playing games with us outside The marble run The home corner The shop The bikes The climbing frame Reading stories Happy Land Golden Time	Painting Playing bingo Bee bots Reading books Phonics Writing my name the John Hampden way Practising handwriting, letters and numbers Making Christmas biscuits Having hot meals Helicopter stories Singing 'The Greatest Show' Dressing up for Roald Dahl Day	The Christmas Fayre Watching Little Acorns Play Learning to write Building with the blocks Handwriting Bee bots Reading stories singing 'Big Red Combine Harvester' The Christmas Play Cooking Having visitors	Nice teachers Small world toys Making area Book Corner Mummy and daddy looking at my books drawing Bee bots Learning to write The Scrap Shack The MUGA Reading books Playing Hide and Seek Mildred - the counting witch

What has been the most WOWY?

Cricket	Honeybees	Ladybirds	Caterpillars
The Poetry Basket Helicopter Stories	The Merit Award Wriggly Nativity	The Christmas play was the best day ever!  Wow stars	Golden Time Hoola hooping

