



# The John Hampden School Wendover



## NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE:	UPCOMING EVENTS:	
Message from Mrs. Barnes 1		14th February—Assessment week and Discovery week
Governor Section 2	Foundation Stage Reading Meetings	17th February—School closes for half term at 3.15 pm
Important Messages 3	Ladybirds	
Curriculum 4	Honeybees	
Pupil's Section 5	8th, 9th, 10th February	18th February— INSET Day—no pupils in school
Friends of John Hampden 6	Parents' Evenings—further info to follow	
School Improvement 7		
Miscellaneous 8		

### 1. MESSAGE FROM MRS BARNES

In this first newsletter of 2022, I would like to start by wishing you a belated Happy New Year. Having walked around myself and observed all the children in the school in the first days of the new term, it is clear that they are eager and ready for the challenges that the new year will bring. The Curriculum Section of this newsletter gives further details of some of the activities that will be covered this term.

May I remind parents that if you wish to take your child out of school during term time you must request a leave of absence form from the school office or download one from the school website. Wherever possible you must give at least one month's notice of the proposed absence. We follow a locally agreed policy regarding leave of absence and it is important that parents think carefully before taking their children out of school. The disrupted nature of education over the last two years as well as absence linked to self-isolation has undoubtedly impacted our pupils and I am sure you will appreciate that it is difficult for me to authorise absence if your child's attendance percentage is below the expected level of 95%.



**Voluntary Contributions**—the time has come to request another voluntary termly contribution for each pupil. In a similar approach to last term each year group will be sending home an itemised list of activities with a cost against each one. Parents are asked to pay for the activities using the Parentpay website. No child will

be disadvantaged if their parents/carers choose not to pay but it may be necessary to cancel activities if not enough contributions are received. We will be sending regular reminders about these voluntary payments to ensure everyone who wishes to pay is reminded to do so.

Thank you

#### Nurture Support

For several years we have employed Mrs Lainey Morgan to provide nurture support for children from Service families and others in need in the school. Mrs Morgan is pregnant and will begin her maternity leave towards the end of January so we all want to wish her well and thank her for all her hard work. To replace Mrs Morgan, we have recently appointed Mrs Sian Evans and we welcome her to our school. Mrs Evans began her new job yesterday and she will shadow Mrs Morgan to ensure a smooth handover of her role with service children and others who may require a little additional nurture support from time to time. Please note, if you ever feel your child would benefit from a little extra nurture support for one reason or another please speak to the class teacher and we will organise for Mrs Evans to see them.



#### Christmas Reading Challenge

Well done to all who participated in the various reading challenges that were set over the Christmas break—regular reading practice makes so much difference to progress and attainment at school.



#### SMART DEVICES

This is a reminder that children should not bring any SMART devices into school—this includes SMART watches. I hope you appreciate that these can be very distracting for the child and those around them—they are also expensive items that we would not wish to be lost or damaged at school. Thank you

## 2. GOVERNOR SECTION

At the first Full Governing Board Meeting of the Spring Term, we were delighted to appoint two new parent governors, following a nomination process last term.

The two new governors have a four year term of office and they provided the following information about themselves to share with you:

### **From Puneet Kapoor**

I am Pavani (Badgers) and Parv's (Crickets) Dad. An Electronics Engineer by profession running my own engineering business locally for the last couple of years. As a person I highly value education and the lifelong impact it has on the pupils. I am an engineering gold medallist and experienced how education has transformed my life. I am a hard working, quality oriented, passionate person who takes every task seriously and tries to deliver with best for every opportunity provided.

Working for myself gives me some flexibility to get involved with other activities. Getting an opportunity to work along with other parents, teachers and governors for the continuous improvement needed for children is something I am really keen on.

I am really hoping to make a positive contribution to our school community.

### **From Ashley McKenna**

I am an RAF Officer within the Air Ops (Systems) specialisation. My current appointment is as a Flight Commander on Recruit Training Squadron, based at RAF Halton.

I attended Ridgeway School, Plymouth, before joining the RAF through the ranks in Nov 2006 as an Aircraft Maintenance Mechanic. Qualifying as an Aircraft Technician (Avionics) I worked on Tristar and Typhoon Aircraft.

In Aug 2013, I married Samantha in Back Bourton, Oxfordshire.

Commissioning in Sep 2015, I went immediately to phase 2 training at RAF Shawbury, completing the Flight Operations Training course in early 2016. It was at this time my son Flynn, who is in Badgers class was born.

Having moved as a family, we have recently returned from 3 years living in Gibraltar.

I am a keen footballer but also enjoy golf, motor sport and walking our Cockapoo, Milo.

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, Ben Gattlin, [Chair@johnhampdenwendover.co.uk](mailto:Chair@johnhampdenwendover.co.uk) if you would like to raise a matter for discussion

### 3. IMPORTANT MESSAGES

#### **Adverse Weather Conditions**

Another reminder that if we need to close the school this winter due to adverse weather conditions the following procedures will be used to inform parents.

1. A decision will be made about the school closure by 7.30am. This decision will be based on health and safety grounds, which may include not having enough staff at school to supervise our pupils.
2. By 7.45a.m the school website home page will be updated with closure details. Greatest Hits radio will have been contacted and should announce our school closure at regular intervals throughout the morning. The Council's website will also list our school closure: [www.buckscs.gov.uk](http://www.buckscs.gov.uk)
3. If the notices listed above have not been implemented then you are to assume the school will remain open.
4. With these three methods of communication in place, there should be no need for you to telephone the school asking whether we will be open or closed.
5. Should the school open but need to close earlier than 3.15p.m, we will contact you via text or telephone.

**Please be assured that school closure will always be a last resort.**

**It is entirely the responsibility of the parent/carer to decide whether it is safe to travel to and from school in inclement weather and we respect the choices you make. As usual please inform the school by telephone or in writing if your child will be absent from school.**

#### **Coats, Hats, Gloves and Boots**

At this time of year, please would you ensure your child comes to school wearing appropriate clothes and footwear. We will be going outside as long as the playground remains ice free. All hats, coats, gloves and boots must be named and it would be really helpful if you could show your child where their name is written on each item of clothing, so they know where to look!

#### **Medicines**

**Please note:**

**Medicines should only be brought into school for administration when essential; that is where it would be detrimental to a child's health if the medicine were not administered during the school day. Should a prescribed medicine be required to be taken three times a day or less, the school will not administer the medicine during the school day as we have been advised that medicines that need to be taken three times a day can be taken in the morning, after school hours and at bedtime.**

#### **Home School Diaries**

Please remember to tell your child to inform us if you have written a specific message in their Home School Diary. Staff do not routinely check diaries every day and we would not wish to miss anything of importance. We do ask you to support regular reading at home and we request that you sign the diary when you have heard your child read— signatures are not apparent in every diary at the moment!

#### **Nuts**

This is a polite reminder that children bringing their own packed lunch to school should not have any nuts included in their meal. This is because we have a number of children with severe nut allergies and the children are eating together in the dining room so there is a risk of contamination.

#### **Scooting to School**

We do encourage children to walk, scoot or cycle to school but we would ask that parents are vigilant when supervising their children on scooters— Thank you for your support in ensuring scooters are used safely.

#### **Keyrings on book bags**

Please could parents ensure that their children only have one small keyring on their book bags please as children still need to be able to put their bags in their classroom drawers. Thank you.

#### **Dropping Items Off During the School Day**

If you need to bring in any forgotten items for your child during the school day, please take them to the school office and we will make sure they are passed on. Do not attempt to access the classrooms during the school day when exit doors may be open for ventilation purposes.

Thank you

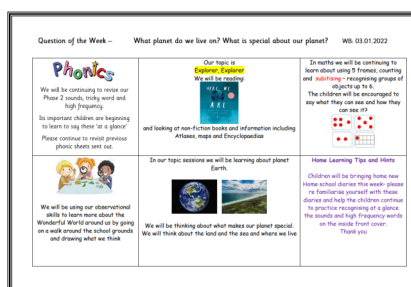
#### **Long hair**

Where possible, please could girls with long hair wear it tied back for school and/or have hair ties for during PE lessons.

## 4. CURRICULUM



As the new year and the new term begins each year group has embarked on a new topic. Each week you can find out what your child is learning by visiting the school website [www.johnhampdenwendover.co.uk](http://www.johnhampdenwendover.co.uk). Clicking on the 'Classes' tab will allow you to select your child's class where a weekly 'What we are learning' sheet is available. We hope this will help to give you an outline of what the children will be learning and ideas of how you can support this learning at home, if you would like to.



This term:-

Early Years have a topic linked to 'Winter'

Foundation Stage have a topic called 'Explorer, Explorer'

Year One have a topic title of 'Materials Then & Now'

And Year Two have a topic title of ‘London’s Burning’

Each term we try to enrich the taught curriculum with other special days and weeks which allow us to introduce further interesting and thought-provoking activities. During the Spring Term there will be a 'Discovery Week' which will include Maths, P4C and Science tasks. There will also be an 'Arts Week' with a focus on art and music. These weeks will take place either side of the half term break.



### P4C—A discussion stimulus

Would you rather .....

Rake leaves into a huge pile or shovel snow into a big heap?

Why? Because .....

I would love to hear your decisions and reasons—Mrs King (P4C Co-ordinator)

## 5. PUPIL'S SECTION

The Monday assembly theme this half term is 'Going for Goals' and we thought you might be interested to read some of the resolutions our pupils have set for themselves this year:

In Crickets class, Penny is going to try riding her bike more, eating more dinner and playing with Mummy and Daddy more and Sienna is going to try her new bike and try not to fall off and sleep more for her Mummy and Daddy.

In Caterpillars class, Mia really enjoys writing and wants to be able to write lots of words by the end of Foundation Stage and Kalina is aiming to be able to independently fasten her buttons so that she can get changed speedily for P.E.

In Honeybees class, Aidan can't do skateboarding yet but he wants to learn and Ariella wants to get better at diving into the swimming pool.

In Ladybirds class, Lily wants to learn to ride her bike without stabilisers and Scarlett wants to learn how to cook spaghetti and meatballs because it's her favourite meal.

In Badgers class, Martha wants to get better at tennis and swimming to be healthy and Jude wants to get better at football and ballet.

In Hedgehogs class, Ethan is going to work hard at his martial arts and his pendulum kick and Florence is going to learn to do her shoe laces by herself.

In Squirrels class, Henley's goal is to get better at steering his two wheel scooter so that he doesn't crash and hurt himself and Jessica's goal is to get better at riding her bike with two wheels so that she can ride it to school.

In Firecrests class, Olive would like to aim to do 20,000 steps a day or more to get fitter and stay healthy and Noah is going to try and play less on electronic gadgets and play more games and get outside more.

In Herons class, Willa's resolution is to read some of her Harry Potter book each day because she wants to eventually read all of the Harry Potter books and Xander's resolution is to cut down on waste and use more recyclable products.

In Red Kites class, Jack wants to persevere more with doing something challenging and April wants to improve her cheer-leading skills to learn harder routines.

## 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: QUALITY OF EDUCATION

Tracking pupil progress is an important aspect of our work and, at the end of the Autumn Term, assessment activities were completed which allowed KS1 staff to give a summative assessment level for each pupil in reading, writing and mathematics. In Early Years Foundation Stage interim assessments were made against all seventeen areas of learning. This information is used to track progress from one term to the next. It is then possible for us to identify those children who are making below, expected or above expected progress. For any child that has not made expected progress, teachers are required to identify actions they will take to address any concerns. This careful tracking of pupil progress helps us to maintain the high standards of achievement we have come to expect at John Hampden.



### GOAL B: BEHAVIOUR AND ATTITUDES

Behaviour monitoring for pupils continues and we are working hard to spot the triggers for particular behaviours and to plan strategies and interventions that meet the needs of all. At our INSET day at the start of January we spent time reviewing the changes we made to our Behaviour & Self-Regulation Policy at the beginning of this academic year. Further tweaks have been made and associated ideas from the School Council will be implemented.



Attendance and Punctuality monitoring has also been completed for the Autumn Term and parents will be contacted individually if there are significant concerns

### GOAL C: PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Towards the end of the Autumn Term a Class Council Circle Time was held where all classes gave their feedback to a range of questions linked to our revised Behaviour & Self-Regulation policy. Feedback from these sessions was collated and key issues were then passed on for discussion to the School Council.

The first School Council Meeting, led by Mrs Spencer, allowed our class representatives to focus their discussions around our new weekly 'Over & Above' Assembly and 'M.O.V.E' Time' which replaced the previous 'Golden Time'. Their feedback has been shared with the Senior Leadership Team and the teaching staff and we will be implementing some of their ideas from next week.



### GOAL D: LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT

We are working very hard to try and reduce our deficit position, made worse by the loss of self generated income during periods of lockdown. During the Autumn Term continued austerity measures, successful fundraising and our thriving OOSC provision helped our situation and also allowed us to continue to maintain high standards. With healthy pupil numbers we hope for an even more prosperous new year!

