



# The John Hampden School Wendover

## NEWSLETTER

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### UPCOMING EVENTS:

	Friday 29th November—Mufti day—bring a donation for the Fayre
Wednesday 13th November Parents' Evenings 4.00pm-7.00pm	Sat 30th November—FJH Christmas Fayre
Wednesday 14th November Parents' Evenings 4.00pm-7.00pm	2nd December—Crickets Class Nativity 4th & 5th December—FS Nativity
Friday 15th November—BBC Children in Need	Friday 6th December—INSET DAY

## 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 has taken place this 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.

Next week we hope to welcome as many of you as possible to the Consultation Evenings. We usually have excellent attendance by parents/carers at these meetings and I hope you will be able to come along and find out about what your child has been learning since the start of the academic year. It was great to see so many of you at the recent Nurturing Minds evening. Feedback on the night was very positive and the presentation Sue Howson gave is saved under the October News section of the website.

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.

During the half term break the outstanding snagging items for our recent building project were completed and the project has officially come to an end. This work was fully funded by Bucks County Council in preparation for us taking an additional class into Foundation Stage when numbers support this. 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.

Even though this large project is now over, other work on the school building continues—again funded by Bucks County Council. A flat roof, and the skylights within it, is being replaced, Herons classroom has a new ceiling and lots of electrical work has been completed—there always appears to be something that needs doing!!

It is with real sadness that we must say goodbye to Mrs Helen Brettell. Helen has secured a new job and will leave her role with us next week. For the past seven years Helen has supported children from Service families and others who have required a little nurture support from time to time. We wish Helen well in her new job and I will keep you updated as we look to recruit someone just as special to take on her valuable role.



**CHILDREN IN NEED** - the children may come to school in their own clothes (something spotty or a Superhero costume if they like) on Friday 15th November in return for a minimum donation of £1 (any coin denominations) which will be sent to the BBC Appeal.

## 2. GOVERNOR SECTION

### Memorable Learning Experiences

During the two years I have been a Parent Governor, I have learned a lot. I already knew, simply by being a parent of children who attend The John Hampden School Wendover, that the teachers and other staff at the school not only teach our children but look after them and care for them, and do their absolute best. Being a Governor has given me a further understanding of how hard the teachers and other staff work though; I now have some understanding about the requirements of the National Curriculum (but don't ask me questions, as I am no expert!) and I have begun to realise how much effort the teaching staff put into making the learning fun and engaging. I recently heard the term 'Memorable Learning Experiences' at some governors' meeting or another, and this term really resonated with me. Memorable Learning Experiences are something out of the ordinary, of teaching in such a way that the children remember what was taught because of the way in which it was taught. School trips are clearly one way to do this. As adults, many of our school days, not to mention weeks, months and possibly even years merge together and as we get older there are less and less stand out moments that we remember. But we do remember the trip to the zoo, the museum or the farm, going on a coach or walking there and what we saw or did when we got there. We remember this because it was an event which was different from the norm. It's not realistic to organise trip after trip – finances are tight for both schools and families, for one thing. For another, if our children are out of school too often that may become the norm and therefore less memorable. But there are other ways in which to deliver Memorable Learning Experiences and I have realised that this is just one of the areas where the staff at our lovely school work so hard and excel. Great examples of this are the Health and Safety Weeks. The week before half term was Health Week, and Safety Week is concluding today. Mrs Spencer co-ordinates these weeks, with the class teachers and other teaching staff working hard to support these two weeks of extraordinary teaching. Visitors are invited in to share their knowledge; I was lucky enough to be invited in to speak to Foundation Stage, Years One and Two about fire safety (I work in the Community Safety department for Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service) and I know that the children have also had visits from other professionals such as a Police Community Support Officer (also Safety Week) and a Dentist (Health Week). The children are also encouraged to take the opportunity to experience new things; I came into school as a parent helper during health week to assist the Year Two pupils in making a healthy snack. As part of the activity, children were encouraged to try new fruits which they may never have eaten before, such as mango or blueberries, and cut them up using safety knives under close supervision. In addition to Health and Safety Weeks each year, there is World Week, Harvest celebrations and May Day celebrations, Christmas festivities, topics and projects... the list really is endless. And each one of them is given special attention in an attempt to teach the children in such a way that they will retain the information. I now completely understand why my daughters come home talking about things such as Roald Dahl books, Kenya, Mexico, and the Great Fire of London with the interest and the passion that they do. And why, when my youngest daughter – in Year Two – is talking about the activities she is taking part in during Health and Safety Weeks, or other things she has learned during World Week, or dancing around the Maypole, my older daughter – now in Year Four at Wendover Junior School – says "we did that when I was in Year Two". It's because a Memorable Learning Experience was created for her. She remembers.



Angie Daly  
Parent 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](mailto: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 2020

**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 **4th November 2019** and the deadline for online applications is **3pm on 15th January 2020**.



Parents should use the following website to make their application:

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



#### STARTING SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2020

If you, or someone you know, has a child who is eligible to start school in September 2020, 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 **4th November 2019** and the deadline for online applications is **3pm on 15th January 2020**. 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 may admit 4 classes of 30 children to our Foundation Stage in September 2020 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.

#### Christmas Play Tickets

Please ensure you check your child's book bag as there is a letter regarding how to apply for and pay for the Christmas play tickets. Tickets are payable through parent pay but you must return the ticket order form to the school office. Full details of all performances, dates and times are on our website on the calendar.

## 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 loved learning the Zumba dance with Mrs Nelson because we did lots of poses. It got our hearts beating fast. It's good exercise. Amelia

I liked doing the A-life activities. We got to do puzzles, a teeth and water station game, we learnt a lot. Edward

I loved the visitors from the John Colet School because they showed us how to burn off a packet of Haribos with exercise for 1 minute. Jake

I tried Pineapple in Nursery but I didn't like it, now I do. Sam

I learnt about healthy food. If you don't eat healthily your body will get tired. Ruby

I liked running and making a fruit salad. George

I've learned that you need 6-8 cups of water every day. You need 5-7 bits of fruit/vegetables to keep you healthy. The dentist showed us that when we put eggshells in coke and apple juice they went brown and in water they don't. I learnt that you need to clean your teeth to get the sugar off so they don't go brown and rotten. Ellie

I liked making a healthy snack (fruit kebab) with Mrs Spencer. I liked eating it. Ralph

I've enjoyed doing lots of different exercises. Evie

I enjoyed learning about bike safety because I now know how to look after myself on a bike. Kit

I liked the 'learning to wash our hands activity'. We pretended the glitter was germs and shook hands to see how the germs travelled. Then we learnt how to wash our hands properly. Seb

I learnt that you need to find a safe place to cross away from parked cars and never cross a road without an adult. Josh

I enjoyed the water safety talk. I learnt that red flags mean do not go in the water. Jessica

We mustn't play with fireworks because they could burn your skin. Shirley

We did scooter training with Mrs Beattie and had to stop when the whistle blew. It was fun! If you are scooting you need to stop before you cross a road. Minnie

Don't run around the edge of a swimming pool in case you slip and bang your head. Nate

I liked it when Mrs Mills put the fire boots and helmet on in the fire safety talk. They wear special clothes to stop the fire getting on them. Harry

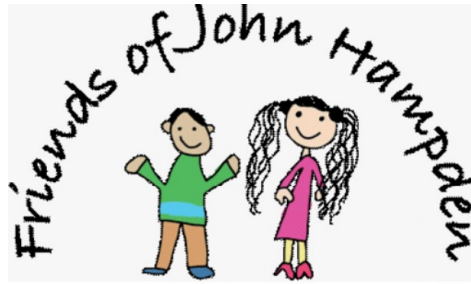
Don't go near smoke otherwise you might suffocate. If you fall in water, lie on your back and make a starfish, then call for help. Megan

I liked the visit from the policemen. They brought in a police car and set the siren going—it was loud! Thomas





## 5. THE FRIENDS OF JOHN HAMPDEN



### **Friends of John Hampden School Event Calendar:**

Christmas Fayre - Saturday 30th November 12-3pm

Class Christmas Parties – Wednesday 18th December (in school)

Children's New Year Disco – Friday 24th January 2020

### **Recent Events:**

#### ***Trick or Treat Trail & Cake Sale***



A huge thank you to everyone who attended the Halloween event....we raised over **£400** for the school! Thank you to Sarah, Laura, Helen and Danielle for selling cakes and to Sarah Short and her team (Collette, Lorraine, Darina, Emma, Hannah, Zoe, Helen, Jo, Claire and Lula) who created a spectacular spooky trail, it was really fantastic.

Congratulations to Hugo H in Badgers who won the best decorated cake competition. A prize is on it's way to you!

#### ***Community Jam Jar Decorating Project***



The Friends of John Hampden School have built two wonderful new relationships with care homes in Wendover following the launch of 'Project Jam Jar'! Sarah Short has organised three Saturday afternoon craft sessions in October/ November at Cherry Tree House and Leonard Pulham Home. Both children and parents have enjoyed a lovely afternoon decorating jam jars and getting to know the staff and residents – we now have over 100 extra jam jars ready to sell at the Christmas Fayre! We have been invited back to visit again due to the success of these afternoons, more details to follow.

## *Christmas Fayre and Raffle*

Save the date! Saturday 30th November 12—3 pm



**Saturday 30th November  
12-3pm**

Letters asking for volunteers will be in book bags shortly.

Some wonderful donations are coming in from local businesses for the Christmas raffle – look out on the JHS Parents Facebook page for more information on what your raffle tickets might win. Tickets will be in bookbags to purchase.

Do you have any items suitable for a hamper for our raffle? If so, please can you place them in the box in reception, for collection each Friday, or contact Lorraine Hodgkinson (Mum to Hugo, Badgers). Lorraine will be making hampers from your kind donations.

### ***Easyfundraising:***

Are you signed up to Easyfundraising? This is a fantastic way to raise money for the school without costing you a penny. Look out for an email with further details. So far we have raised a fantastic **£3,480** from Easyfundraising cashback!

Click here to sign up and download the app <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/fjhwendover/>

### ***Amazon Smile:***

Do you shop on Amazon? Did you know that if you shop via the Amazon Smile homepage, Amazon will donate a percentage of cashback to your school? Simply save the following link to your favourites, select 'The Friends of John Hampden School, Wendover' the first time you shop and order as normal.

Click here to get set up – remember to save this webpage to your favourites <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/>

### ***Vale Lottery:***

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.

Click here to buy your tickets [www.valelottery.co.uk/support/friends-of-john-hampden-school](http://www.valelottery.co.uk/support/friends-of-john-hampden-school)

**If you would like to contact the Friends of John Hampden School, please email the Chair, Sophie Hughes, [jhsvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:jhsvolunteers@gmail.com).**

## 6. CURRICULUM

### Health & Safety fortnight 2019

As PSHE (Personal, Social & Health Education) lead it is my role to ensure that all pupils gain an understanding about these areas of the curriculum and our annual focus fortnight gives staff the perfect opportunity to teach their classes about what it means to be healthy and how to keep safe in an interactive and engaging way. This year has been no exception and pupils have listened to a wide range of talks from visiting speakers and teachers from the local community and beyond.

During Health week, A-life set out a range of activities designed to enable pupils to learn important messages about diet, exercise, teeth, hygiene and sleep in an exciting way. Parent volunteers and Year 6 pupils from WJS kindly supported these sessions, helping groups to access the resources, the day was thoroughly enjoyed by all! The children heard important and exciting talks by a visiting doctor and a dentist and students from The John Colet led a super activity for Year 2 classes about health and how to burn off a bag of Haribos!



Mrs Beattie shared the important message about the WOW Travel tracker initiative and hosted a bike-it breakfast which was a great success. All classes (including Crickets) made a healthy snack, it was delightful to see some children try a new fruit or one that they had been previously unsure about, there were many cries of 'yum!' and 'best day ever!' which was great to hear. The message that fitness is fun was delivered by Jodie & Hugo Digby who held a pre-school exercise session for parents and pupils. Everyball Tennis delivered fantastic sessions for Foundation Stage classes, there were also brilliant Zumba and Yoga sessions, the latter was led by Mrs Grimsdell. Teachers also taught lessons about mental health and relaxation, important aspects of modern life. Premier Sport talked about healthy lifestyles and the children enjoyed participating in games to make their hearts beat faster.

During Safety week, Mrs Shrimpton shared important messages about e-safety, visiting speakers also came in to deliver important messages about fire and water safety. WJS Junior Road Safety Officers shared a presentation about road safety. Pupils also received important advice about how to stay safe and how to deal with unkindness and bullying led by Mrs Barnes and Mrs Parkinson as well as a fantastic presentation by anti-bullying ambassadors from WJS. The Police visited and spoke about their job and what to do if we get lost, the children were thrilled to have a look at their Police car! Mrs Beattie delivered scooter training to Year 1 and a bike trainer spoke to Year 2 about safety when cycling. There were a wide range of follow up activities in class including; medicines, risk and danger, P4C linked to good decision making and the importance of rules. They also learnt about firework safety.



Our visitors were super impressed with the pupils listening skills, this was evidenced by the thoughtful questions and answers that they gave. One speaker commented 'I thought they all listened beautifully and gave some great answers!'

Our PSHE Governor, Peter Hooper came into school to see related activities in action and said that he was impressed by the level of organisation and planning by staff and at how well behaved and engaged that the children were.

At the end of each week, pupils were asked to reflect on all of the life skills that they had learnt, all hopefully serving to make them all better equipped for their future.

A huge thank you to all staff, parents and visitors involved—you gave our pupils a terrific fortnight. I couldn't have done it without you!



## **Health Week Recipes**

As part of Health Week Mrs Spencer and a fabulous team of parent helpers helped our Early Years Class to make a fruit y face on a plate and 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 Fruity Pick and Mix or Fruity Ice Lolly. 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!

### **Recipe for Fruity Lollies**



- 1 lolly mould
- 1 safety knife
- 1 plastic plate for chopping

#### **Ingredients:**

Banana, mango pieces, pineapple rings, blueberries or other fruit that will easily freeze, fruit juice or fizzy water

#### **Instructions for child:**

1. Chop the fruit on the plastic plate
2. Layer the fruit into the lolly mould and fill with juice/water
3. Freeze for 4-6 hours  
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: QUALITY OF EDUCATION

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

By now Early Years & 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 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 be hearing about the observations that have been made regarding your child's strengths and areas for development at the upcoming consultation meetings. We hope we will also give you an indication of how you can support learning at home.



### GOAL C: PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

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.

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: BEHAVIOUR & ATTITUDES

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.

We have also introduced our Year of Kindness initiative. The first activity was for the classes to buddy up. Half of each class visited their partner class and shared information about themselves. The children then spent time drawing a picture of themselves with their new friend from a different class. We hope to spread the message of being kind to everyone in the school.



### GOAL D: 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**

## 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](http://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](http://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



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