



The John Hampden School Wendover



NEWSLETTER

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

Friday 3rd December—INSET DAY	16th December Christmas Parties for the classes
6th December—Assessment week	17th December School closes at 1.30pm
9th December 9.30am Year 1 Performance 11.00am Year 2 Performance	4-1-22 INSET DAY 5-1-22 Start of the Spring Term
10th December 9.30am Year 2 Performance	

1. MESSAGE FROM MRS BARNES

I wanted to start this newsletter by thanking the Friends of John Hampden for their support this term. They have worked tirelessly to restart events and each one has been carefully planned and thoughtfully executed. The Halloween trail and cake sale proved to be very popular and it was wonderful to watch those who took part having such fun. The recent Christmas Fayre and Market was testament to the amazing organisational skills of the FJH Committee and their ability to provide an event which was brilliantly supported by our school community. We raised almost £5000 during the afternoon so huge thanks to all who came along to this traditional annual fundraiser. This total has been added to the other fundraising events this Autumn Term—the hard work has already raised a considerable sum of money this academic year. The money will be spent on improving the outside learning environment for the Year 2 classes as well as purchasing some new reading material for the children. Please remember that tomorrow, Friday 3rd December, is an INSET day so the school will be closed to pupils.

This week we have enjoyed watching the Christmas performances from the Early Years Class and the Foundation Stage classes—the children did a brilliant job of entertaining their audience of parents/carers and I am grateful for your support in coming along and adhering to our request that you wear face masks whilst in the building. We are looking forward to the Year 1 and Year 2 performances next week. We currently still have a few cases of Covid-19 in pupils but I am pleased to say all staff have now returned and we are looking forward to welcoming back those children who are still self-isolating in due course. Please can I remind you that we would prefer you to contact us first if your child receives a positive lateral flow or PCR test result rather than communicating with others before we know the situation.

On Thursday 16th December, the children will join in the fun and games with the parties that have been organised, and we hope they will demonstrate their impeccable manners when a very special guest arrives!! Please remember there will be **no hot lunches** on this day and parents are asked to provide a special Christmas packed lunch. Children should come to school in Christmas party clothes (suitable to go out to play in) — no uniform on this day.

CHRISTMAS TREE

We are extremely grateful to Chiltern View Nursery for donating a magnificent Christmas Tree for our school hall. I am sure you will be impressed when you see it twinkling during the Christmas Performances.

Reminder that the school reopens after Christmas on

Wednesday 5th January 2022

2. GOVERNOR SECTION

Keep Safe Online

A few months back I got an email from my bank telling me they were transferring money to a person in Africa as I'd requested. This was news to me. It's got to be some sort of scam I thought. The email looked really genuine though so I called up the bank's fraud department who asked me to forward it over. "Yep", said the guy on the phone, "definitely a phishing email but a good one. Give me some time to look into it and I'll call you back." An hour later he called with the news that the email was, in fact, genuine! It had been caused by a bank employee mixing up my account number with someone else's. They quickly gave me my money back.

The interesting thing is that not even the professionals can tell the difference between real and fake messages all the time and sadly phishing scams are very much on the increase. Earlier this year a single phishing email triggered a ransom-ware attack on 48 primary and secondary schools in London.

07000123456

HSBC

We've noticed some dodgy activity. Please click here to secure your account:

bit.ly/3bZRixc

At our school we continually train staff and governors on some of the warning signs to look out for. For example, text messages that start with a phone number, like the one to the left.

That number is easy to fake and most banks will never include a phone number in a text message. It's much more difficult to send a text message that doesn't start with a number but even then, it's important to be wary of following any

links.

Messages like this are such a big problem that the banks and phone companies have recently got together to offer the 159 service. Call 159 from any phone and you'll get recorded options to connect you directly with the bank of your choice. You don't even need to know their number.

It's a small but useful step in the battle against cyber-crime. There's lots of other really good advice and tips available here: <https://www.getsafeonline.org/> which is well worth a browse.

At the end of the day no-one's completely immune from scammers but we don't have to make it easy for them.



Toby Short
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, Ben Gattlin, Chair@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

MOVING UP TO JUNIOR SCHOOL OR STARTING SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2022

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 **3rd November 2021** and the deadline for online applications is **midnight on 15th January 2022**.

If you, or someone you know, has a child who is eligible to start school in September 2022, 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 **3rd November 2021** and the deadline for online applications is **midnight on 15th January 2022**. 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>

STARTING IN THE NURSERY CLASS AT JHSW IN SEPTEMBER 2022

If you have a child who was born between 1st September 2018 and 31st August 2019 they are eligible for a place in our wonderful Nursery Class from September 2022. To register your interest please download an application form from the school website or email or phone the school office.

On 18th April 2022 (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.

Home School Diaries

Your child will receive a new Home School Diary at the beginning of the Spring Term. Please would you make sure you sign the diaries every time you hear your child read and encourage them to draw the faces each day so we can gauge how they are feeling at school.

Important Reminder

For the Christmas Performances, please note that you will be entering the hall up steps via a side route so please do not even attempt to bring pushchairs into the school. Our pupils and staff work very hard to put on these performances and we would ask you, on this occasion, to make alternative arrangements for all younger siblings as they can find it difficult to sit still and quietly and can spoil the enjoyment for others. Your co-operation would be greatly appreciated.

Christmas Parties

These are planned for **Thursday 16th December**. We invite the children to come to school wearing party clothes and suitable footwear on that day (the children will be going outside at playtimes so clothing needs to be appropriate for colder weather). We have already asked if you would like to provide your child with their own Christmas party lunch and, as this is a special occasion, we are happy for them to have any food which you consider to be appropriate e.g. sweets, chocolate etc. Each year we are amazed by the wonderful lunches that are provided. Lunchboxes are often specially decorated, or other Christmassy items included. **The FJH will be providing each child with a Christmas cracker at the party.**

4. CURRICULUM

As Equality and Diversity Co-ordinator, one of my responsibilities is to promote cultural and diversity awareness through a rich range of experiences both in and beyond the school. To do this, we like to ask different visitors from the local community to come into our school at different times during the school year, and talk to the children about different faiths and celebrations, as well as learning about different roles or experiences our visitors can share with us.

Currently we are well under way with our Nativity plays, which we are so thrilled to be able to put on again this year for parents to come and watch. Children have been learning about Advent and as part of this lead up to the Christmas period, we were very lucky last week to have the Vicars, Sally and Nadine from St. Mary's Church, Wendover, come and visit both the children in Foundation Stage and KS1 to talk about Christingle.

Christingle means 'Christ Light' and is used to teach children about the birth of Jesus Christ and celebrate him as the light of the world. The children enjoyed learning about what the different elements of the Christingle represented, from the orange symbolising the world, the red ribbon - the love of God, the 4 sticks - the four seasons of the year and the sweets - God's gifts. Many of the children then chose to create their own Christingles in their child initiated time.



Sally and Nadine also brought with them the Wendover Posada, which will be travelling around the 10 classes over the next two weeks. Posada is a Mexican Advent celebration, whereby 2 young children dress up as Mary and Joseph and travel around the local community telling the story of the birth of Baby Jesus. The Posada, travelling around The John Hampden School Wendover, includes knitted characters of Mary, Joseph and the Donkey, an Advent Candle and the story of the first Christmas. Each class will be making a special place for the characters to rest and using it as a discussion stimulus. The Posada began its journey in Ladybirds class where the children were keen to discuss why they thought Mary had to travel by donkey and not a camel, cart or car!

As well as the beginning of Advent in the Christian calendar, it is also an important time of year in the Jewish calendar, with the celebration of Chanukah from 28th November to 6th December. Chanukah (Hannukah) is the Jewish eight-day, wintertime festival of lights, celebrated with a nightly menorah lighting, special prayers and fried foods.

Again we have been very fortunate to have Carmel Harrison, one of our parents, come into school this week and talk to all the children across the Foundation Stage and KS1 about the importance of Chanukah and the meaning behind the festival. Children had the opportunity to see the menorah being lit and learn about the different traditions, foods and games associated with the celebration.

We are always pleased to welcome visitors into the school to give talks to the children to develop their understanding and learning about both our local and wider community and about different faiths and cultures, jobs roles, achievements or experiences. Please get in touch if you feel this is something you could contribute to.

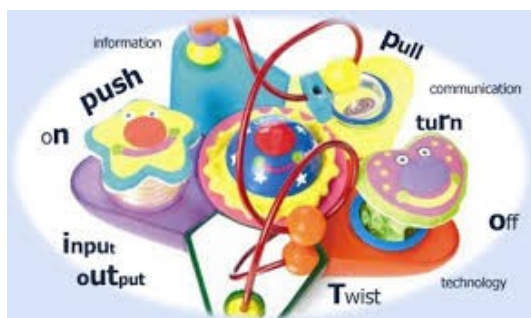
Wishing you a happy Chanukah and a Merry Christmas

Mrs Jo Mills (Equality and Diversity Co-Ordinator)

5. PUPIL'S SECTION

This time of the year provides us with a perfect opportunity to develop and enhance performance skills. Tweaks to the timing for the EYFS and KS1 performances have helped us to ensure that every child in the school, from the youngest to the oldest, is given a moment to shine. It is clear that some children have real strengths in terms of their ability to speak, sing or perform a dance in front of an audience but every child is given the opportunity to collaborate and take part. It has been wonderful to watch the rehearsals going on and to see the progress that is made as well as the enjoyment and commitment that so many children demonstrate as they prepare for the performances.

E-Safety



In the last newsletter we highlighted the safeguards we have in place to allow children to have controlled access to the internet whilst at school. We have effective web filtering in place and we closely monitor how children are using the ICT in school to keep them as safe as possible whilst they work.

However, we recognise that even our very youngest pupils are increasingly using a range of different, internet-connected technology at home. As the Christmas shopping season begins, many parents will be considering buying this type of gift for their children.

To support you, we thought it may be helpful to highlight some potential risks attached to items on the list for Santa. Some of the toys/devices you are thinking of buying will have cameras and microphones recording the environment and the child's play. The Information Commissioner recently published an article looking at the risks of using smart toys and it is well-worth taking note of the 12 steps they advocate:

1. Research the security of a product before buying

Doing your homework before buying a connected device should allow you to recognise those with poor security. Research online reviews and manufacturers' websites for information on privacy notices and policies. You should also look to see how a product will be updated in the future if a security issue is identified.

2. Take care when shopping online

At this time of year, when online shopping is nearing its peak, scammers may be more likely to try to access your personal information such as bank account or credit card details. Only use secure sites when shopping online – secure sites usually carry the padlock symbol

3. Take your time

Don't wait until Christmas Day, when excited children will want to just turn on a new toy or device and skip as much of the set-up process as they can. Take the time beforehand to read the manual and familiarise yourself with the security and privacy options available to you.

4. Change passwords and usernames from default

Default passwords and usernames for many devices are freely available on the web. You should always change the defaults immediately and choose a [suitably strong password](#). Use a different password for each account and device. If a device doesn't allow you to change the default password, you should strongly consider whether it is worth keeping it.

5. Is your router secure?

Your router is the first line of defence on the perimeter of your home network. If you have devices connected to your network, the default settings of your router might be exposing them to the internet and therefore everyone else. Create a strong password and look out for and install security updates.

6. If there's a two-step identification option – use it

Two-factor authentication offers you an additional layer of security when logging in to an online service. While few devices will offer this capability, the website you use to view its data might.

7. Be camera aware – you never know who's watching

Some toys and devices are fitted with web cameras. The ability to view footage remotely is both their biggest selling point and, if not set up correctly, potentially their biggest weakness, as the baby monitor hacking issue of a few years ago demonstrated. If you have no intention of viewing footage over the internet, then turn the remote viewing option off in the device's settings, or else use strong, non-default passwords.

8. Location, location, location

One of the main selling points of children's smart watches is the ability for parents to know where their children are at all times. However, if this isn't done securely, then others might have access to this data as well. Immediately get rid of default location tracking and GPS settings and set strong, unique passwords.

9. Bluetooth ache

It is not just potentially insecure web connections that can put children's online safety at risk. Some toys and devices have been found to have unencrypted WiFi connections or unsecured Bluetooth connections which can be easily accessed by strangers. If there is no option to secure these in the device's settings, consider whether using the device is worth the risk. If there is an option to protect them with either a password or a PIN ensure you choose a strong one.

10. Children have information rights too

Have age-appropriate conversations with children about their online safety, and model the correct way to do this. Children's information and privacy rights are a key area of concern and new legislation coming next year will also strengthen children's legal rights.

11. If in doubt, don't splash out

If you aren't convinced a smart toy or connected device will keep your children's personal information safe, then don't buy it. If consumers reject products that don't protect them, then developers and retailers should soon get the message. If you've purchased a device that you've since discovered is insecure, complain to the manufacturer or retailer and see if you can return it.

12. Have a secure Christmas

By taking some time and care beforehand and following our advice, you can still see a child's face light up when they open their new, web-connected Christmas present, safe in the knowledge that you are keeping them secure as well as happy.

6. MISCELLANEOUS

JOB VACANCY AT THE JOHN HAMPDEN SCHOOL WENDOVER

Mid day Meals Supervisor

We have a vacancy from January 2022 for a mid day meals supervisor for two days a week with a possibility of more days on an adhoc basis.

The salary will be within Bucks Pay Range 1A (currently £17,190 per annum pro rata) and the closing date for applications is Monday 13th December 2021.

If you are interested in this post and would like more information, please call the John Hampden School office on 01296 622629 or email office@jhampden.bucks.sch.uk

Poppy Appeal 2021

We raised a fantastic £338.89 for the 2021 Poppy Appeal

