



The John Hampden School Wendover



NEWSLETTER

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1. MESSAGE FROM MRS BARNES

As we head towards December and the end of the Autumn Term we are all looking forward to the enjoyable activities that are a feature of this time of year in an infant school. We are keeping our fingers crossed that everything will be able to go ahead as planned this year. This week the rehearsals for the Foundation Stage Nativity have stepped up a gear and rehearsals for the Year One and Year Two Christmas performances are being planned. (You should have received letters about costumes this week) The parties are being organised and preparations for the FJH Christmas Market are well underway. Very soon everywhere you look in the school there will be further signs that Christmas is approaching!

For the Christmas Performances space in the hall is at a premium as we are trying to ensure people are not too close together. Please note that you will be entering the hall up steps via a side route so please do not 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. **We would also advise that the audience wear face masks whilst in the building.**

The Friends of John Hampden Christmas Market is next weekend - Saturday 27th November, and I am sure that will really start to make us feel festive—my thanks to all the FJH committee for demonstrating, once again, their amazing organizational skills in the run up to this event. Also thanks to all the volunteers, governors and staff who will give up their time to run stalls—we hope to raise lots of money so do come along and support us. Last year fundraising opportunities were significantly curtailed for obvious reasons but we are hoping that any money raised by the FJH this year can be used to purchase new reading material for the children and to purchase and install new resources to improve the outside learning environment for our Year Two classes—this would make a huge difference to the opportunities we offer. We are incredibly lucky to have such an active PTA and we truly do appreciate the time and effort that so many volunteer committee members provide. Many of them are already very busy people and the staff, governors and pupils at the school would just like to say a really big THANK YOU for all their hard work.

Christmas parties are planned for **Thursday 16th December**. We invite the children to come to school wearing party clothes/Christmas jumpers and suitable footwear on that day (the children will be going outside at playtimes so clothing needs to be appropriate for colder weather). We will be asking you to provide your child with their own Christmas party packed lunch on this day rather than the hot meal option 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, some even contain particularly Christmassy items. (The FJH provide every child with a Christmas Cracker to enjoy at the party)

The Foundation Stage children eat together in the Octagon and the KS1 children join together to eat in the hall which is beautifully decorated by the Friends of John Hampden. If we are lucky, a very special visitor usually arrives carrying a big sack of presents while the children are eating!

2. GOVERNOR SECTION

Each autumn the children at John Hampden enjoy Health and Safety fortnight, two weeks packed full of exciting lessons that promote positive behaviours and reinforce the school values. Hopefully you will have already heard about some of these from your children, but every day there were activities specifically tailored to the different year groups. Activities included creating healthy meals, learning about fire safety, doing science experiments, practicing yoga, understanding online safety and a visit from a dentist (to name just a few of the many many things they did). It's difficult to really do justice to the amount of work that goes in to organising all of these, but the children clearly love taking part and it was a joy to see how engaged they were during my visit last week.

As well as being great fun, these weeks are a key aspect of the school's Development Plan and integral to its delivery of PSHE. For anyone not familiar with PSHE, it stands for Personal, Social, Health and Economic education and it's one of the most important parts of your child's learning. PSHE supports the development of physically, emotionally and socially healthy young people and I've been incredibly impressed by how John Hampden teaches this subject integrating it across the curriculum and throughout the year. Health and Safety fortnight is just one example of how the school is helping to remove barriers to learning, such as bullying or low self-esteem, and enabling pupils to develop the understanding and skills needed to really thrive.

On behalf of the governors, I'd like to thank all the staff for their hard work in preparing and delivering another successful Health and Safety fortnight. A special thanks should also go to all the parents and friends of the school that gave up their time to help, including pupils from Wendover Junior School who took part in an anti-bullying assembly and road safety session.

If you have any questions about PSHE or how its taught, please don't hesitate to get in touch.



Peter Hooper
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 them 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

CHRISTMAS CARDS

As we head towards December we find many pupils wish to send Christmas cards to their friends in the school. We accommodate this by installing two Christmas post boxes which will be in position from Wednesday 1st December. One is positioned in the Foundation Stage Octagon area and the other one, for Key Stage One pupils, is positioned near the school office. If your child would like to send some cards this year please would you check the envelopes to ensure the cards can be easily sorted and distributed.

Each envelope needs to have the name and class name of the recipient clearly written on it.

Unfortunately we are not able to provide parents with class lists, but I am sure your child will remember the names of their very close friends.

We will encourage all children who bring cards into school to post them in the post boxes because the children are always very excited when the Christmas Post arrives in their classroom. Regular deliveries are made in the days leading up to the end of term. **LAST POSTING DAY IS THURSDAY 16th DECEMBER** and final deliveries will be made on Friday 17th December.

The following information may help you with envelope writing!

Foundation Stage	Year 1	Year 2
Caterpillars - Miss Tiffin	Squirrels—Mrs Beattie	Firecrests - Mrs McNally/Mrs Tysoe
Ladybirds- Mrs Mills	Hedgehogs - Mrs King	Herons - Mrs Bowman
Honeybees—Miss Baker	Badgers—Mrs Shyvers	Red Kites - Mrs Spencer

Adverse Weather Conditions

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.bucksgov.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.

SPARE UNIFORM

If your child has been given any spare uniform from school please could it be returned as soon as possible please as our spare supplies are running low. Also if anyone has any spare tights or pants age 6/7 which they would be happy to donate to the school we would be very grateful for any donations. Thank you.

3. IMPORTANT MESSAGES (continued)



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 3pm 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 3pm 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.

We do have a few places in the Nursery Class to start in January 2022. To be eligible, your child must be born between 1st September 2017 and 31st August 2018



4. CURRICULUM

Over the half term I had the opportunity to reflect upon my own infant school days with my children and realised how much the teaching of Mathematics has evolved since then and even more so in recent times. I remember my Teacher standing at the front of the class demonstrating a number sentence (sum) on the blackboard and then asking the whole class to complete umpteen number sentences for the rest of the lesson.

Fast forward 30 something years later and the teaching of Mathematics in school has a much more hands on approach, encompassing variety and a range of equipment to excite and enthuse. The teaching and learning of Maths at John Hampden School exists both inside and outside the classroom with the aim to develop a range of skills, including logical thinking and reasoning through a naturally curious and investigative approach.

As Mathematics Co-ordinator for Year 2, I am very proud of how we have engendered a love of the subject through outdoor learning and how children already this year are participating outside with a growing sense of confidence and achievement. This is not only attributable to the commitment of staff and their positivity towards the subject; but also the range of opportunities afforded to the children through a variety of open ended, challenging child initiated tasks outside the classroom, which also compliments and builds upon their indoor learning environment too. Children in Year 2 really value the chance to participate in such activities in smaller groups, which gives them ownership over their learning and helps them to improve their fluency with regards to the fundamentals of Mathematics through frequent practice of basic skills. Outdoor learning also enables the school to offer a greater opportunity to match tasks to the needs of the individual or group, ensuring that learners make the most of their potential. Furthermore, smaller group sizes ensure that children receive high quality feedback to improve learning and offers opportunity to celebrate their achievements too.

In addition, outdoor learning has been proven to develop reflective and inquisitive thinking in children along with the ability to solve problems, which lends itself ideally to areas of the curriculum which require perseverance in seeking solutions to increasingly more complex Mathematical problems. Outdoor learning has allowed us to further explore the realms of Mathematical reasoning. In essence, the chance for children to explain how they know what they know or how they know if something is right or wrong without even working out a number sentence. For example, children can confidently apply their knowledge to be able to say that 45 cannot be in the two times table because it is not an even number and that it should end in a 2, 4, 6, 8 or 0. These kinds of discussions occur regularly outdoors as part of talk trios, and with teachers and support staff too, which in turn helps to nurture a child's self-esteem, their ability to collaborate and communicate. It develops their ability to ask questions, further ideas form arguments and back these up with proof using detailed Mathematical vocabulary, which is always a joy to experience.

Importantly, outdoor teaching provides positive health benefits – both physically and mentally, which as both a parent and educational practitioner I believe passionately about. By committing to an outdoor and indoor approach to Mathematics the school is able to teach children that learning happens everywhere, it enhances their understanding of what Maths actually is and that it doesn't only occur when they pick up a pencil or open a book, preparing them for their future. Here are some comments from some children in Year 2 about what they think of their outdoor Mathematical learning experience:

Herons:

Willa: I like the way I can collaborate with my friends to complete tasks, it makes the learning fun.

Stephanie: I like working in the smaller groups outside.

Georgie: I like using all the equipment to help me learn outside and the number card games are really fun.

Firecrests:

Phoebe: I enjoyed the dienes activities to do part, part, whole. Also Mrs King's activity helped us to do the Independent Learning Activities independently.

Finley: I like it when we use the clipboards and have to fill in the gaps on an activity sheet. I can work on my own or with a partner.

Red Kites:

Jack: I like playing maths games in the Tuff Spot because they are not a single person game—I get to learn maths with others in the class. Doing activities outside in Maths gives me the chance to practise what I have been taught by my teacher

Jaime: I like it when we find out the answers to the quizzes using Diennes, 100 squares and Numicon. I like working in a group with all my teachers because I will get help if I need it but I also get the chance to do maths on my own or with my friends.

Sarah Bowman
Mathematics Co-ordinator

4. CURRICULUM

Last week was Health Week

This special focus week enables staff to plan and deliver important elements of the health curriculum. We were delighted to welcome visitors into school to share vital messages about how to keep healthy. James Morgan from Halton tennis taught KS1 classes some skilful racquet & ball skills while the Year 2 classes set out obstacle courses for the FS children which were very well received! Mrs Gaglione delivered wonderful drama sessions, instilling confidence and creativity to classes across the school. Dr Clark shared valuable and reassuring information about health and what happens when we need to see a doctor. A local dentist and his assistant kindly spoke to FS children about taking care of our teeth. Many thanks to all of our visiting speakers for giving their time to support this special focus week. Thanks also to Peter Hooper, the PSHE Governor for coming in to look at the variety of lessons across the school. Classes were excited to take part in making a healthy snack (see the various recipes to try out at home) as well as to participate in a range of interesting and interactive activities using a variety of resources both inside and outside the classroom. Many fantastic stories were read in connection with themes taught.



Lessons included; the importance of a healthy lifestyle as well as super active PE lessons delivered by Premier Sport as well as sessions where both staff & pupils endeavoured to keep up with Joe Wickes, Oti Mabuse & DJ Raphi! Other lessons focused on how to look after ourselves, highlighting the importance of a good night's sleep and drinking plenty of water as well as dental health with the help of Dr Ranj. Mrs Shrimpton provided fun and informative activities about health during computing lessons.



Mental health was another feature of the week, including practical tips for calming down & relaxation with the wonderful support of our Yoga expert, Mr Hubbard. Learning about how to be more resilient was taught with the support of Mrs King and the children found out more about the WOW walk, cycle, scoot or park & stride to school initiative which was led by Mrs Beattie. Sharing worries was another important message shared.



At the end of the week, pupils were asked to reflect on all that they had learned, please see the pupil section for examples of comments provided and the miscellaneous section for the recipes for the healthy snacks.

Many thanks to everyone involved for making Health week so successful, I am sure that you will agree that the children acquired a lot of new skills and have generally improved their understanding about physical and mental health and its importance in day to day life.

Jo Spencer

5. PUPIL'S SECTION

Here are some comments from the children about what they have done and enjoyed during Health Week:

In Honeybees class, Nathaniel liked the drama. They were fireworks and they moved their bodies and exercised and Emily learnt how to keep healthy and she liked it when Dr Jenny came to see them.

In Ladybirds class, Naya really enjoyed making our fruit kebabs. She loves fruit but hadn't tried pineapple before—now it's her favourite and Beauden liked doing the obstacle course on the playground because it was his favourite.

In Caterpillars class, Shay enjoyed being active and pretending to be a firework during the dramarama workshop as he spun around just like a Catherine wheel and Sophie thought that Health Week was fantastic! She scooted to school one day to promote keeping fit and healthy. Her favourite part of the week was completing the assault course.

In Badgers class, Fox said about the fruity pick and mix making day that it was the best day ever and Erika learnt that medicines are healthy for you and make you feel better if you are sick but that your parent should always give it to you.

In Squirrels class, Amelia-Rose learnt how to make a fruit salad using lots of different fruit. They had to cut it up and then put it in our box. She had never had apricot before and she loved it and Milo learnt that our heart is a muscle and it has to beat fast by doing lots of exercise.

In Hedgehogs class, Florence liked chopping the fruit for the fruity pick and mix because she has never chopped by herself before and she really liked the mango and pineapple. Sam enjoyed making the healthy snack. He put grapes, raisins, clementines and dried apricots in his. He learnt that you shouldn't eat too much sugar because it can make you unhealthy.

In Herons class, Mary really enjoyed the drama because it gave her a lot of energy and made her feel positive and Zach said the yoga was fun with Mr Hubbard and he felt calm and relaxed.

In Firecrests class, Olive really enjoyed all the visitors who have told them different ways to stay healthy and Zachary really loved making their healthy Tutti Frutti with fruit and yogurt as it was fun.

In Red Kites class, Tate said it was really good to try different fruits when they made their Rainbow Tutti Frutti. They cut each piece up and put it in the bowl in layers. Ruby did a science experiment about what exercise does to our hearts. They checked their heart beat first by putting their fingers on their neck or wrist to find their pulse. Then they did some running and star jumps and then checked their heart rate again. They found out that goes faster after exercises.

6. THE FRIENDS OF JOHN HAMPDEN (FJH)



Saturday 27th November 2021 1pm to 4pm

The Friends of John Hampden invite you to our Christmas Market and Fair – a festive afternoon for the whole family! Come and enjoy a mulled wine and mince pie, visit our Santa's Grotto, try your luck on the tombola and games, start your Christmas shopping at our market stalls and listen to Christmas songs. But first **we need your help!**

BUY RAFFLE TICKETS:

This year you can buy Raffle Tickets online! Here's what you need to do!

Visit <https://go.rallyup.com/fjhraffle/Campaign/Details>

Select 'Buy Entries' (i.e. no. of tickets) Choose 5 for £5, 20 for £15 or 25 for £20

Select a TEAM to credit for your donation and choose your **CHILD's CLASS** – the class that sells the most will WIN a fun-packed Drama and Dance session with Dramarama

SHARE THE LINK WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO TAKE A PART!

We are looking for the following **DONATIONS** which can be brought to the school office anytime **w/c 22nd November** (except cakes etc which can be brought on the day)

BOTTLE TOMBOLA: From SHIRAZ to SHAMPOO ... we're asking you to 'BRING A BOTTLE' for the Bottle Tombola. In return for your kind donation, the kids can come to school in their own clothes on **FRIDAY 26th NOVEMBER** for **MUFTI-DAY!**

A PRESENT for the WRAP A PRESENT STALL: Please bring unwanted gifts and unused items that will make a lovely present for children to wrap for their adult. Please ensure items are of a good quality and something you'd be happy to receive.

BOOK STALL: Bring good quality used books looking for a new home

DECORATED JAM JAR: Decorate an old jam jar and fill with (wrapped) sweets or a little toy, to be sold on the stall. There's a prize for the best jam jar! **NO NUTS PLEASE.**

REFRESHMENTS: Any sweets treats (cakes, mince pies etc) for our refreshments stall will be gratefully received on the day- shop bought or homemade. **NO NUTS PLEASE.**

We are also looking for volunteers on the day. Keep an eye out on your class whatsapp groups next week for details on how to take part or message Danielle on 07921760038.



JOHN HAMPDEN SCHOOL
Christmas Market and Fair
Saturday 27th November
1pm to 4pm



Wharf Road, Wendover, HP22 6HF



MUFTI DAY

In return for bringing in something for the Christmas Fair, Friday 26th November will be a Mufti Day so children can come to school in their own clothes.

**THANK YOU EVERYONE FOR YOUR HELP & SUPPORT AND WE CAN'T
WAIT TO SEE YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES ON THE DAY!**

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	GOAL B: BEHAVIOUR AND ATTITUDES
<p>Each teacher in the school is required to take on a middle leader role by taking responsibility for at least one subject area. In this way we are attempting to ensure that every subject taught is valued and delivered in the most effective way. At John Hampden we strengthen this leadership role by matching a Governor to each subject too. Subject leaders and Governors communicate regularly so there is a shared understanding of developments and initiatives. Whenever possible Governors support by visiting the school to see their subject area in action and we are pleased that these face to face visits are starting to happen again after a year of virtual communication.</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> </div>	<p>We firmly believe that happy children will learn well but it is equally important that we have a happy and motivated team of adults in the school, especially in these challenging times. Support for staff includes individual job chats as part of the Performance Management Cycle, snap shot observations of staff at work and professional dialogue linked to well-being and work life balance.</p> <p>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.</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> </div>
GOAL C: PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT	GOAL D: LEADERSHIP &
<p>Recently Foundation Stage parents were asked their opinions about the transition arrangements we put in place this year via a survey which was sent to them. Traditionally we have always worked hard to ensure transition arrangements are strong and this year it was equally as challenging as the year before. It is important for us to reflect and evaluate how successful the arrangements this year have been. We have asked for feedback from staff, pupils and parents to ensure we hear the views of all concerned.</p> <p>Since returning to school after the half term break a number of extra-curricular clubs have been running at lunchtimes and after school for our KS1 pupils. The clubs are well attended and provide opportunities for pupils to develop or learn skills and enjoy a new or familiar activity. We are pleased to be able to offer these opportunities and we are delighted with the positive feedback.</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> </div>	<p>Last week the first Finance, Premises, Health & Safety Committee meeting of the school year took place. Austerity measures over the last few years were impacting positively on the school finances but unfortunately restrictions linked to COVID-19 meant we lost a significant amount of self-generated income during periods of school closure. It is encouraging to note that these income generation streams are now up and running again and the timescale of our deficit reduction plan is now back on track once again.</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> </div>

8. MISCELLANEOUS

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

Recipe for Rainbow Tutti Frutti



- 1 bowl, 1 cup, 1 spoon
1 safety knife, 1 chopping board

Ingredients:

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

Instructions for child:

- Ladle fruit with a spoon onto the chopping board
Chop the fruit carefully
Layer the different fruits in the cup between spoons of yoghurt
- Enjoy!