



The John Hampden School Wendover



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NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

30th September—Y2 Harvest Festival 9.30a.m, Y1 Harvest Festival 11.00am

1st October—Foundation Stage Harvest Festival 9.30am

Week commencing 11th October—Parents' Evenings

1. MESSAGE FROM MRS BARNES

Well, we have reached the end of the second full week of the Autumn Term and things are settling down well. Tiredness in many children is certainly apparent each Friday, but that is the result of their hard work and the effort that has gone into learning lots of new routines and getting used to school expectations once more.

I am sure you are interested in what your children are getting up to each day (I know that some are very reluctant to share what they do!) so a copy of your child's class timetable has been uploaded to the relevant class page of the school website www.johnhampdenwendover.co.uk. Each week we will also be uploading a sheet so you can keep up to date with what your child is learning in school. Today further information has also been added in the form of a Powerpoint presentation from the class teacher. Hopefully this will provide you with lots more information about the class, so do take a look. I am sure you are keen to find out how your child has settled in. For this reason we are bringing forward the traditional timing for the Autumn Term Parents' evening to the week beginning 11th October. Further on in this newsletter you will find more details about how you will be able to book an appointment with the class teacher. The appointment booking site will open on Friday 24th September.



HARVEST FESTIVAL

Unfortunately, last year, we were unable to allow parents in to watch our Harvest Celebration but this year, with some capacity restrictions in place, we hope the children will be able to perform in front of an audience once more. The Harvest Festival for Year Two and Year One is due to take place on Thursday 30th September (9.30am for Y2, 11.00am for Y1) and Foundation Stage will perform on Friday 1st October at 9.30am. There will be no Harvest Festival for the children in our Nursery. On the day one parent/carer for each child will be directed via the side entrance to the school hall. All visitors are asked to wear a face covering and the performance should last for approximately 20 minutes. The audience will be able to take photographs or video for their own personal use and we always ask that no images of other peoples children or the staff are put on any social networking sites. As usual we are asking families to provide donations. We welcome any flowers, fruit, vegetables or tinned goods. Children can bring donations to the classroom on the morning of their festival or there will be a table outside the main entrance where any contributions can be left. The donations will then be collected by representatives from the Women's Refuge in Aylesbury and they are always very gratefully received as they rely on donations to run successfully. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

2. GOVERNOR SECTION

Dear Parents and Carers,

A warm welcome to everyone, whether returning to Years One or Two, or as a new recruit to our Nursery or Foundation Stage. I trust everyone had a good summer, whether you enjoyed a few nights camping in the back garden or a more adventurous trip to Devon, Cardiganshire or Peeblesshire, and the children are ready for the new school year.

Starting a new school or class is a big change and can be tricky for pupils of any age. The school dedicates a huge amount of time and resources to the transition process (i.e. moving to a new school, or moving up to a new school year), both at the end of the Summer Term and in September. As a result of this, hopefully, by now, everyone is starting to settle into their new classes, getting used to their new routines and making lots of new friends. Promoting *happiness* and well-being is one of our key priorities at John Hampden, as this has continually been shown to maximise the progress and encourage their love of learning. If your child is experiencing on-going worries, it is therefore important to let your class teacher know, so these can be resolved promptly. The Autumn term is a busy one for the Governors, with a new School Development Plan to consider, our own objectives for the year to set, school visits and meetings coming thick and fast. As the 'new norm' returns to everyday life we are hoping we will be allowed back into the school on a more regular basis, to carry out our various committee meetings and visits. We have all really missed this close contact with the school over the last 18 months and are very much looking forward to the coming months.

Two of our Governor colleagues stepped down at the end of the Summer Term, as their four year terms had come to an end and their children moved on to pastures new. We therefore have room for a couple of Parent Governors, who would be prepared to support (and challenge if necessary!) the school with its continued progress and development. A Parent Governor is a fully functioning member of the Governing Board who is elected by, and is here to represent, the parent body. The only requirements are that you have a child currently at the school and you are able to offer up the necessary time to attend meetings (and a little bit of homework now and then...). If you'd like to know more about the role of a Governor, please get in touch with myself or Mrs Barnes.

To support the school and teachers in their efforts to provide some stability, we would kindly request that everyone follows the school's Covid-19 guidance, particularly those relating to preventing the spread of any new cases. These simple rules (as highlighted within Mrs Barnes welcome letter) should ensure future impact is minimized.

Finally, we'd like to highlight the amazing work that the PTA does for the school. Whilst their regular schedule was necessarily hampered by Covid over the last 18 months, so many parents and carers continued to put a great deal of effort into raising funds for the school. No doubt the PTA will be recruiting new faces in the coming weeks to replace those whose children left the school at the end of the summer term. It really is a case of 'many hands many light work' when it comes to PTA events, so I would encourage you to get involved in any of the events that should come back in 2021-22. Whilst these are always a lot of fun, they also raise a significant amount of money for the school, which gets ploughed straight back into enhancing your child's learning environment.

That's it from me, for now. The Governors will be present at the school events that should hopefully be allowed to happen this year, so come and say hello if you have any questions about the school or the role the Governors play in the strategic leadership of the school.



James Edley

Chair of Governors until 16th September 2021

The Governing Board is always willing to listen to parental queries and to explain in more detail what the Governing Board 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, on bgattlin@johnhampdenwendover.co.uk if you would like to raise a matter for discussion.

3. IMPORTANT MESSAGES

Voluntary Contributions

Arrangements for Voluntary Contributions— Each parent will soon receive a letter which includes an itemized list of the cost of activities which the teachers are planning for the term. Parents can then sign in to their Parentpay account to make the payment. This is a voluntary contribution and there is no obligation involved but unfortunately we may have to cancel activities if not enough parents opt to pay. We try to arrange as many activities as possible in school to avoid the additional cost of coaches but from time to time we will take the children slightly further a field so future termly payment requests may reflect this.



Water Bottles

Children in Year 1 and Year 2 may now bring their own named water bottle into school each day. These will be positioned close to where they are working so they can access them whenever they need a drink. We would ask that you only provide water because juice and squash can be very sticky and water is the healthiest option. Children in Early Years and Foundation Stage do not need to bring a water bottle as they have regular access to the 'Hydration Station' in their learning environments.



Morning Snack

Fruit/vegetable deliveries have resumed at school so there is a range of fruit/veg available and we do encourage the children to have some. Often watching others enjoying eating it can be a real incentive to those who are reluctant to try (or say they don't like it!)

Also, it is still possible for parents to register their child for the 'Cool Milk' scheme. You can register online at www.coolmilk.com.

HOT MEALS

Our meal provider, Chartwells, provides free hot lunches to all Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 children in the school. You have been sent the details of how to order lunches so if you do wish to place an order you need to log in and select your choice by midnight on a Tuesday for lunches to start the following Monday. If you do not place an order you need to provide a packed lunch each day, as there are no spare hot meals to offer.

Nuts

We do have several children in the school with a severe allergy to nuts and sesame seeds. We would be grateful if you would refrain from providing nuts or foods containing nuts/sesame seeds in lunchboxes to reduce the risk of allergic reactions. We also ask that there are no sweets or fizzy drinks in lunchboxes. We would also ask that children DO NOT bring in sweets/treats for their classmates when it is their birthday. Thank you

Naming Belongings

After the first few P.E lessons, it is clear that many children have clothing that is not named and this is causing real difficulties for staff. Please would you ensure all belongings are named and that children are aware of where the name is on their things. It is obvious that some children would really benefit from having some extra practise when dressing/undressing independently and keeping their clothing in neat piles, socks in shoes etc. We would really appreciate your support with this.



Coats

We take the children outside in all weathers so please make sure they bring a coat to school every day.

OOSC—Please remember to inform the OOSC provision if your child will not be attending for any reason.

For safety reasons, parents of children who attend our OOSC provision should never use the staff car park when bringing or collecting their child.

PARENTS' EVENINGS—12th, 13th and 14th October 2021 3.30pm –5.30pm

The Autumn Term parents evenings will be held from Tuesday 12th to Thursday 14th October. Our EYFS and new pupils have been given a letter with a login and password for you to access the e-schools platform which will enable you to book a slot to speak to your child's class teacher. For pupils who were in the school last year, you already have the login details but if you have forgotten them please contact the school office. If you have more than one child at the school, the oldest child's login and password will allow you to access both/all your children's parents evenings appointments. The appointments will be for 10 minutes per child and we ask that only one parent in each household books the appointment. The booking system will open at 9.30 am on Friday 24th September and will close at 3.00 pm on Monday 4th October. The system will confirm your appointment/s date and time. We will not be issuing paper appointment letters or confirmation of appointment slots.

LOOKING FOR A NURSERY/ RECEPTION PLACE FOR SEPTEMBER 2022?



THE JOHN HAMPDEN SCHOOL WENDOVER

OPEN MORNING - EARLY YEARS (NURSERY) & RECEPTION PLACES

The John Hampden School Wendover is a large infant school for children aged between four and seven years. We also have a thriving 26 place Early Years Provision for 3-4 year olds and offer the 30 hours flexible free entitlement for pupils in this class. We are justifiably proud of our excellent reputation in the local community and we work hard to provide children with an outstanding start to their school life.

'Staff at The John Hampden School have created a delightful learning environment in which all pupils can thrive and flourish.' Ofsted

We will shortly be sharing details of how to book an appointment to visit the school during October 2021.

4. PUPIL'S SECTION

The pupils have now been at school for two and a half weeks and I can report that for the Autumn Term all Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 places have been allocated so there is no capacity for further children in these year groups. If you are interested in a place in our Nursery Class please contact the school office.

We thought you might like to hear from some of our children about what they are enjoying in their new classes.

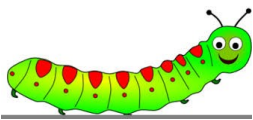


Isla has liked playing with the blocks and George has liked going in the Story Nook—he likes the stories.



Skye likes being in Ladybirds because she likes making things. They have made Elmer!

Max loves being a Ladybird as he loves playing in the role play area—in the kitchen—there is so much to do



Evelyn enjoys doing the cutting. She likes using scissors and creating pictures with the cuttings. Huey likes it when they do yoga and when they play games. He likes the shark game.



Edith has enjoyed making friends, playing with Frankie and playing with all her friends the most and Alexander has enjoyed playing in the home corner because he likes playing with the puppy. He also enjoys having lunch at school because it is so yummy.



Elin likes playing with the equipment at playtime. She likes throwing and catching and says it is fun being on the playground with all the Year 1 children. Elliot says it is fun in Hedgehogs because there's lots of things to help him learn. He likes being in the classroom—it's different to Foundation Stage but it is good.



Abigail has loved using the new playground equipment especially the pom poms and ribbons and Eddie has liked using the outdoor area especially the building area.



Isabella has enjoyed playing with her friends and making a caterpillar and James has enjoyed colouring and describing and writing about mini beasts and making a caterpillar.



Alice has really enjoyed the Art linked to the stories as there was lots of fun things to choose and Arthur is really enjoying the helicopter stories because he really loves acting them out.



Harriett has really enjoyed doing English and Maths in class and outside and Kerim has enjoyed doing handwriting and making things in Art—we made penguins—it was fun



Beatrix has liked the new learning in Firecrests class such as the poetry in English this week and the lion and penguin art lessons. She can't wait to learn about Florence Nightingale and the Great Fire of London. Frankie has enjoyed using the LearnPads and Purple Mash in computing and going on the class laptops for phonics and maths games.

5. CURRICULUM

With the easing back of restrictions within school we are delighted to be able to hold assemblies in the hall again where the whole school community can join together.

Every Monday, Mrs Barnes leads a KS1 assembly which focuses on the Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL). Mrs Parkinson leads an assembly on Tuesday with the School Values as her theme. Mrs Spencer leads a Cultural Assembly on Wednesday and Mrs King leads the Thursday assembly which is all about developing a Growth Mindset. Every Friday the whole school join together for our new 'Over & Above' Assembly where children from each class are awarded special certificates and then given the opportunity to share the assembly from a special starry chair. Certificates are awarded to children who have done something over and above what is expected. The 'Scroll of Honour' is also read out at this assembly and it contains the names of children who have been spotted for doing something special. We also award a 'Class of the Week' cup and certificates and stickers for children nominated by the Midday Supervisors.

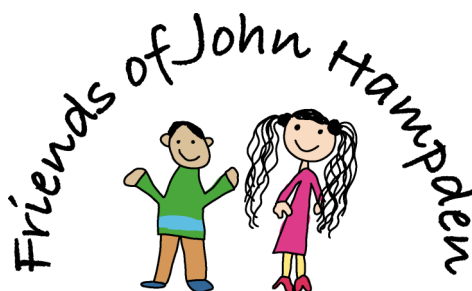
We have seven Values and seven behaviour expectations that underpin our Behaviour & Self-Regulation Policy. Following the Over & Above Assembly the children take part in M.O.V.E. Time (**M**astering **O**ur **V**alues & **E**xpectations) where they are given the opportunity to practice the values and the behaviour expectations in a fun and enjoyable way.

All pupils are currently following a carefully designed 'Transition Curriculum' for the first half of the Autumn Term. We hope that a timetable which allows time for staff to ensure children are settled and getting used to the regular routines and expectations, will be beneficial for all. There is a big focus on Personal, Social, Emotional and Health education in these first weeks and regular reinforcement of the school values.

Philosophy sessions/activities continue to be a regular feature. This may sound rather ambitious but children are naturally curious and educational research suggests that encouraging children to ask questions and to listen to other people's ideas helps them to understand their thoughts and how they affect their lives.

It is fascinating to hear the children's thoughts and we find that from one starting point many more questions are posed. The only thing to remember with philosophy is that there are no right or wrong answers— just the opportunity to hear, develop and value different viewpoints.

6. THE FRIENDS OF JOHN HAMPDEN



The Friends of John Hampden (FJH), would like to offer you a warm welcome to John Hampden School. We're the school's dedicated Parent/Teacher Association (PTA) made up of parents and teachers who work together to raise funds for the school and develop the school community through socials, events and communication.

As parents or carers of a child at John Hampden Infant School, **you are automatically a part of the FJH.** But we invite you to get involved as much as you can to help our organisation to be as successful as it can be. Whether you choose to take on a lead role in organising our events or are happy to be called upon on an adhoc basis, there is a role for everyone at FJH.

Funds

Our funds are used to buy new equipment that our children can use at school to enhance their learning experiences. In the last 2 years we have raised almost £20,000 which has bought interactive whiteboards, play-ground equipment and new materials for Early Years (and much more!). This year we have a target of £13,000 to raise

Joining together

Our warm, supportive school community is one of the things that makes John Hampden so special. Our **Facebook Group, JHS Parents**, is an easy way to connect to the wider school community. Visit

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/263833573776169/> or

search JHS Parents. You can also join our WhatsApp group to keep up to date with PTA news and shout outs
<https://chat.whatsapp.com/E8BmDdWcSMkJUKO9oIsy37>

Happenings

The FJH events are always warmly received and strongly supported and after such a long break from our usual activities and events, we are looking forward to starting this term with some events we think the children will love. We are always looking at creative ways that we can raise funds and boost our school community during these challenging times and are keen to welcome new ideas!

The FJH have 3 focuses:

There are lots of things you can do to help FJH!

Join in with our organised events! Even if you can't volunteer, the people who support our events are just as important. Buy a raffle ticket, enter a competition, like a Facebook Post – it all helps
Can you support with any of our upcoming events?

Event	About	Date
Spooky Halloween Trail and Bake Sale	Fri 22nd October	Join us straight after school for a spooky trail! Please bring your Halloween themed bakes into school that day to be sold after
Christmas Fayre and Market	Sat 27th November	Our traditional fayre, with a
New Year Disco	Friday 14th January	After school/ early evening disco with Children's entertainment, music, tuck shop and chill out zone.

Volunteer to be a class contact. While not everyone can or wants to be 'hands on,' it's really helpful for us to have the details of at least one person in each class, so they can help us publicise events. Join the WhatsApp group or email FJHVolunteers@gmail.com so we can stay in touch.

Use Easyfundraising Online - If you're buying anything online, click on www.easyfundraising.org.uk and over 2,700 retailers will donate a percentage of the order to the school. **You don't pay anything extra.** We have about 200 members so far who have helped to raise nearly **£4000** – which has cost them nothing!!

Buy a weekly £1 ticket for the Aylesbury Vale Lottery which donates 50p to FJH and you could win!
<https://www.valelottery.co.uk/support/friends-of-john-hampden-school>

Sponsorship – selling your home with Christopher Pallet? Tell them you have a child at our school, and they will donate £100 to the school for every completed sale.

Join us

As an officially registered charity, FJH have a full committee. We are...

Chair Person: Sophie Hughes, mum to Will in Caterpillars
Secretary: Danielle Gaglione, mum to Xander in Herons
Treasurer: Rebecca Sackman-Smith, mum to Romilly in Hedgehogs

Plus a lot of regular faces 😊

If you would like to **find out more** about what we do, how you can **help**, or give us your **suggestions**, why not come along to one of **our meetings**?

Our next meet up is Tuesday 5th October at 8pm at The Red Lion, Wendover.

Thank you in advance for all your support. Let's make 2021-22 a brilliant year for John Hampden School and the Friends of John Hampden!

7. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

As the new academic year begins we are embarking on actions linked to our new School Development Plan 2021-2022 which aims to guide improvements to the school over this time. In deciding the areas to focus on we took into consideration many factors e.g. stakeholder views expressed in questionnaires and comments, learning from the lockdown/ re-opening situation, feedback from other outside agencies, data analysis, Government policy etc.

In the next newsletter I will share a summary of the new priorities for the school plan so you can see what we are aiming to achieve.

However, during the summer holiday this is just some of the work that was completed to improve the school: (big thanks to Mr Richardson for all his hard work!)

- Brick ramp in the courtyard was repaired
- Water leaks were dealt with
- Octagon walls/doors prepared and painted
- Walls in some classrooms painted
- Lights replaced in main reception and in two classrooms
- Modification of wooden pallets for use in the Nursery
- New taps fitted
- Gutters cleared
- Jet washing outside learning areas
- General grounds maintenance
- Making and putting up shelves
- A skip was filled!

8. MISCELLANEOUS

Year 2 parents

Please keep an eye out for information from Wendover Junior School regarding upcoming parent tours and presentations for the Year 3 intake for September 2022.

Car parking on campus

Please do not park in the parking bays in front of Wendover Junior School as these are for staff parking currently as they have given over a section of their car park to the John Colet School building project.

Please do not drive onto campus unless authorised to do so.

