



# The John Hampden School Wendover



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## NEWSLETTER

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### SEPTEMBER

27th September—Curriculum evening for Parents—Reading 7.00-8.00 pm

27th September—FJH Welcome to Foundation Stage Parents—drinks at the Shoulder of Mutton from 8.00 pm

28th September—FJH Cake Sale

30th September—FJH Fun Run & Bike Ride

#### OCTOBER

4th October—Foundation Stage Harvest Festival at 9.30am

5th October—Key Stage One

Harvest Festival at 9.30am (Y1 parents invited)

10th October—Open Morning for prospective parents

12th October—FJH Quiz Night

## 1. MESSAGE FROM MRS BARNES

It has been good to see many parents attending the class induction meetings that have taken place over the past fortnight, we hope you found them useful. I do understand that the timing is not convenient for everyone, so class teachers will be putting details of the information covered under their class section of the school website.

[www.johnhampdenwendover.co.uk](http://www.johnhampdenwendover.co.uk)

Mrs Parkinson or I have attended each meeting to welcome parents and to provide some extra information. In addition to this, please note:

Emergency Contact Details—please do remember to inform the school if any of your emergency contact details have changed recently. It is vital that we hold the most up to date information for you.

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 termly payment requests may reflect this.

We are delighted that so many parents are keen to encourage their child's learning at home and we would like to offer some support in helping you to do this. We will be holding a Curriculum Evening for parents on Thursday 27th September from 7.00pm - 8.00pm. The meeting is intended to give help and guidance to parents in terms of how best to support reading at home. You should have received a letter about this in your child's book bag. Please return your request for seats by Monday 24th September.

Thank you for supporting the Dahlicious dress-up event today—the children look amazing. We will put some photos on the website.

## 2. GOVERNOR SECTION

A huge welcome to everyone, both parents and children, whether you are returning to Year One and Two, or as a new recruit to the Foundation Stage. I trust everyone had an enjoyable summer and were able to re-charge batteries in readiness for the new school year. It's going to be an exciting and challenging term, packed full of exciting cake sales, fun runs (and new for 2018... biking), harvest festivals, parent evenings, ice-cream days (what!? – I never got those back in 1981), a Christmas Fayre, nativity plays and not forgetting lots of engaging lessons by all our wonderful teachers and teaching assistants.

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 and, yes, the odd action from the summer term to mop up. We are also looking forward to meeting some new faces as we are currently in the process of recruiting two Parent Governors. A Parent Governor is a fully functioning member of the Governing Board who is elected by, and is here to represent you, 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. The nomination forms went out in book bags a couple of weeks ago and the deadline for submission is today! So if you are quick there is still time to hot-foot it down to the school office and deliver your form!

On a more serious note, whilst on my journey down to drop our two boys at school I came across a pupil of one of the other schools on campus who had been knocked off his bike. Thankfully the child was shaken and perhaps a little bruised but no more. The driver was in no way to blame, as the boy had ridden across a road without stopping or looking. Indeed it was probably only because the driver was going very slowly, aware it is a busy time with lots of children around, that the incident wasn't more serious. Can I urge everyone to take extra care on the roads around the campus and be considerate to all road users (this includes not driving on to the school campus at school start and finish times please). If your child enjoys the benefit of scooting or biking to school, can I also urge you to ensure they wear a helmet – as this week has shown accidents DO happen and a helmet really can save your child from serious injury. Remember to ask your children about the Scooter lessons and road awareness sessions that the school will be providing as part of Safety Week later in the term. There will also be a cycling road awareness course in the Summer Term.

That's it from me, for now. The Governors will, as always be present at all the school events, 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. You can also contact me on at the address below. And don't forget, there is still time to send in that nomination form....



Kind regards

James Edley (Chair of Governors)

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, James Edley, on [jedley@johnhampdenwendover.co.uk](mailto:jedley@johnhampdenwendover.co.uk) if you would like to raise a matter for discussion.

### 3. IMPORTANT MESSAGES

#### **School Times & Behaviour**

- This is a reminder that pupils should not arrive in school before 8.45a.m each morning when the classroom doors will be opened . We have noticed a number of children who are at school significantly earlier than this. Pupils may arrive at anytime between 8.45 and 8.55a.m and we hope this slightly staggered start will ease congestion at one of the busiest times of the day. We would also remind parents/carers that they should be at school at 3.15pm to collect their child. We obviously understand if there are unforeseen circumstances that mean you may be late on rare occasions and we will always supervise children if they have to wait. However, we would ask you to make alternative childcare arrangements if late collection is a regular occurrence.
- Also please could we ask you to reinforce our clear message to the children that they should not attempt to play/climb on any of the equipment/ramps or railings outside their classrooms as they arrive or leave school. These areas are not supervised by school staff at these times and we obviously don't want children to be hurt or equipment to be damaged.

Thank you in anticipation of your support with this.

#### **Milk**

It is still possible for parents to register their child for the 'Cool Milk' scheme. You can collect a form from the school office or you can register online at [www.coolmilk.com](http://www.coolmilk.com).



#### **School Building Society**

School Building Society runs every Wednesday outside Mrs Barnes' office.

Children can pay in as much or as little as they like, a great way to start learning the importance of saving and watching their pocket money grow.

You can open a Young Savers account in the Wendover branch (in Back Street), you will need a birth certificate or passport along with proof of address, the parent signing the application forms driving licence is ideal as this will also cover the signature ID.

Alternatively, you can visit our lucky dip stall (all proceeds go to the school) at the Christmas Fayre on 1st December and sign up there, as long as the signing parent has a driving licence on them, the school will then verify the child's details.

All new Young Savers will receive a Harpenden piggy bank. For more details, contact the branch on 01296 623595.

#### **Water Bottles**

We do encourage children in Year One and Year Two to bring a water bottle to school each day. This is in addition to their lunchtime drink. Your child will have easy access to their water bottle throughout the day. Children are reminded to take their water bottles home each night to be refilled. Please do not put squash or juice in these bottles as it is less healthy and can also be very sticky! Foundation Stage children have access to water all day so should not bring a water bottle to school.

Thank you

#### **Food Tasting**

You will shortly receive a slip in your child's book bag. At various times throughout the year we do food tasting activities and we need to be sure that we are aware of any allergies. Please complete the slip and return it to school as soon as possible and remember to keep us updated of any changes. Returning the slip will mean we don't have to ask for the information each time a food tasting activity is planned. Please note, we only need to know about specific allergies, not details about food that your child doesn't like!!

#### **Nuts**

We do have several children in the school with a severe allergy to nuts. We would be grateful if you would refrain from providing nuts in lunchboxes to reduce the risk of allergic reactions. We would also ask that children DO NOT bring in sweets/treats for their classmates when it is their birthday. Thank you

We would like to make you aware that one of the new pupils in Foundation Stage has a form of auto-immune disease so we would ask that any children who are suffering from very heavy colds or other infectious illnesses are kept off school for the necessary length of time to recover fully thus avoiding infections being spread. Children with sickness or diarrhoea should be kept off school for 48 hours after the last bout of illness.

#### **Dogs on Campus**

Please be reminded not to bring dogs onto campus. We have had a few incidents recently where dogs have been left tied up at the entrance to the campus and children walking past have been scared by them.

#### **Boys pants**

We urgently need boys pants so if anyone is able to supply us with some we would be very grateful. Thank you.

### **Safety on the Campus**

We have been contacted by staff from the John Colet School who have observed parents of children from John Hampden driving onto the campus and then parking so they block the barrier route for the new coach park. Please refrain from making any attempt to drive onto the campus— there are no assigned parking areas for John Hampden parents and additional vehicles that are not authorised to enter the campus are a danger and cause disruption for others. Thank you

### **Naming Belongings**

After the first few P.E lessons/ clubs, 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.

### **Book Bags**

Please could children refrain from hanging numerous keyrings/toys from the handles of their book bags. One 'flat' keyring is acceptable for identification purposes.

## **SCHOOL TRAVEL**

We will shortly be starting up our Living Streets—Walk to school campaign for this next academic year.

Join us, thousands of schools and around one million pupils across the UK to make walking to school the natural choice and part of every child's daily routine. Children can walk, scoot or ride their bikes to school as part of this scheme.

Children who participate in this scheme at least three times every week are rewarded with a monthly badge. Each year there are 11 badges to collect and the children love being rewarded with these and seeing their collection grow!

### **A reminder to all children that bike and scoot to school**

For safety reasons please do not ride your scooter or bike on any of the school paths. Once you reach the school gate get off your bike or scooter and wheel it to the parking area. At the end of the day please also walk your bike or scooter to the gate before you start to ride. Thank you.

Heather Beattie

School Travel Co-ordinator



## 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 we currently have 253 pupils on roll. There are still a number of places to be filled in Foundation Stage and Year Two. The number on roll increases in the Spring Term when our Early Years class starts.

Being an infant school, our pupils are fortunate to have the opportunity to take on roles of responsibility earlier than in some combined schools. This year we have chosen to focus on providing as many opportunities as possible for our oldest pupils to nurture and support the younger children in the school. This started on the very first day of term when we selected a number of Year Two pupils to support the Foundation Stage pupils as they stayed for lunch at school for the first time.

They were encouraged to offer their assistance in the dining hall, supporting the Foundation Stage classes in different ways. These included; accompanying them back to their cloakroom to fetch coats, putting lunchboxes away, reminding them of where to find the toilets and directing them to the playground. They also offered a helping hand to those in search of a friend.

They did a marvellous job and we are very proud of the school values they demonstrated while performing this role.

This is what the Year Two lunchtime monitors said;

*I like being a monitor because I like helping the Foundation Stage children. Finlay*

*I like being a monitor because I like to help people who are feeling a bit sad. Jessica*

*I like being a monitor because I like helping people when they don't know where to go. Alia*

*I like being a monitor because I can help the little ones and the Year Ones to put their coats on. Eva*

*I like being a monitor because I like being helpful. Meredith*

*I like helping the new people in Foundation Stage because I can show them where to go. Betsy*

*I like being a monitor because I get to help tidy the books in the corridors. Harrison*

*I like being a monitor because I like helping children. Lucy*

The lunchtime supervisors were also pleased with their efforts and commented;

*"They have gone above and beyond in their role."*

*"Year Two helpers have been exceptional."*

All staff have been impressed with their willingness to help others, they have demonstrated a mature and caring attitude towards their peers. This clearly reflects our ethos as a school; valuing the culture of kindness and mutual respect.

## 5. CURRICULUM

This year, as a result of feedback from the children and staff, we are continuing with our weekly Merit Assembly followed by Golden Time. The 'Scroll of Honour' will, once again, provide opportunities for children to be spotted for doing something special. We have seven Golden Rules that underpin our Behaviour Policy. Children who consistently follow the Golden Rules will be rewarded each Friday afternoon with approximately 45 minutes of 'Golden Time'. This term each teacher has planned a different exciting activity, and during the term each class will rotate through the different activities. Activities include: visiting the Octagon, art and craft activities, multi-media, construction and music. Children who have lost some minutes of their Golden Time will spend this time with Mrs Barnes. We hope that these appealing activities will be a real incentive to encourage everyone to follow the Golden Rules.

Within each class we also include a 'Thinking Mat' which, if necessary, children are asked to sit on to reflect on their behaviour.

All pupils are following a carefully designed 'transition timetable' 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.

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.

### HARVEST FESTIVAL



Staff and children are beginning to prepare for the upcoming harvest celebrations.

**Foundation Stage** children will be celebrating Harvest Festival on Thursday **4<sup>th</sup> October at 9.30am** and their parents are welcome to attend. A Harvest Festival for **Year One and Year Two** children will be held at 9.30am on **Friday 5th October**. Year One parents are warmly invited to attend. Year Two parents will be invited to share our May Day celebrations later in the year.

As usual we are asking the children to provide food/flower donations which are used to form a beautiful backdrop to the harvest celebrations. We welcome any flowers, fruit, vegetables or tinned goods

Donations should be taken to the classroom on the morning of October 3rd , 4th or 5th and will be displayed in the hall. The donations are then sent to 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.

## 6. THE FRIENDS OF JOHN HAMPDEN

### Friends of John Hampden (PTA) Newsletter September 21st

**WELCOME BACK EVERYONE!!**

#### Class Reps

The following parents have volunteered to be your class reps this year. If you need their contact details, please get in touch via email to Emma Child [emmachild71@gmail.com](mailto:emmachild71@gmail.com) – hopefully they should have all made contact with you now to start compiling class lists and organising class drinks – huge thanks to all who have volunteered!

|                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Caterpillars</b> | Suzy Williams         |
|                     |                       |
| <b>Honeybees</b>    | Sophie Hughes         |
|                     |                       |
| <b>Ladybirds</b>    | Hollie Richards       |
|                     |                       |
|                     |                       |
|                     |                       |
| <b>Badgers</b>      | Pete Hooper           |
|                     |                       |
| <b>Hedgehogs</b>    | Rebecca Sackman-Smith |
|                     |                       |
| <b>Squirrels</b>    | Michelle Atkins       |
|                     | Rachael Sturgeon      |
|                     |                       |
|                     |                       |
| <b>Firecrests</b>   | Lucy Johnston         |
|                     | Emma Child            |
|                     |                       |
| <b>Hérons</b>       | Jo Currell            |
|                     | Kate Miles            |
|                     |                       |
| <b>Red Kites</b>    | Caroline Benson       |
|                     | Laura Croker          |



**It's a busy week for the PTA coming up – please do come and show your support whether helping out as a volunteer at an event, baking or buying a cake...or even cycling 20km – or just having a glass of wine in the pub!!**

**Foundation Stage 'Parents Drinks' Thurs 27<sup>th</sup> September**



Please pop down to the Shoulder of Mutton after the curriculum evening to meet new parents from FS 8pm.

**Autumn Bake Sale Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September**



Get your children's bakes in for 9am judging – prizes will be awarded and then support the school by purchasing after school – outside the gates! More info email Caroline on [caroline.benson2@gmail.com](mailto:caroline.benson2@gmail.com)

**Christmas cards** - before September 28th

It may only be September but our children are busily beaver away producing Christmas cards ready to print and purchase later in the term with all profits going to the PTA. If you have any siblings who would also like to do one please pick up a template from the office and return by Friday 28th September - only one design per child!

**JHS/WJS Fun Run and Bike Ride – Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> September**

Whether you want push yourself over 5, 10 or 20 k or whether you prefer running or biking we have covered all aspects of fitness – as requested in last years' feedback form – please come and support the school – even if it's only for the kids Fun Run – it's a really family friendly event and the kids really enjoy earning a medal presented by Mrs Barnes or one of the staff! It all kicks off at 8.45am but the fun run is at 11am – pre-registration is essential! Details from Lula [lulakirby@hotmail.com](mailto:lulakirby@hotmail.com) (running) or Chrissie on [Christina edley@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Christina_edley@yahoo.co.uk) (biking)





### Quiz Night 12th October

Don't forget to book your table – teams will be allocated on a first come first served basis. If you don't have a full table – your class rep may be able to help get a team together or the FJH will place you in a team. £13 – includes Fish and Chip supper – bar will be available of course!



### Secondhand Uniform

Thank you to all those parents that have donated uniform to help launch our second hand uniform supplies! Watch this space for how to make donations in the future. Anything **nearly new, stain free** and washed readily accepted.

We will have a stand at all school events including parents evening, the Christmas Fayre Keep an eye on the JHS Parents Facebook page for further info (if you are a new parent just ask to join the page and we will approve). Watch this space and look out for our stand.

### Urgent - Rocket Fund -Monday 24th

Are you ready to join the **JHS Digital Revolution!** 90% of jobs today require digital skills and we need to familiarise our children with varying forms of technology from a young age. JHS wants to bring in new technology in enough quantities to meet the needs of each class and each individual. Thus, we are launching our Rocket Fund project to raise money to purchase some new items for our Technology Toolkit. Keep an eye on the JHS Facebook page on **Monday, September 24th** for more details on the project and how to support it.

### Ice Cream Days

Please remember to complete & return the ice-cream slip –even if your child isn't having an ice-cream – this way we know that we've not accidentally missed a child – helps to avoid unnecessary tears. Payments will be via Parentpay this year



### JHS Parents Facebook page

Don't forget to sign up to our 'closed' FB page – essential for keeping up with school meeting times/ fancy dress days and lost items.



### Easyfundraising

Finally, remember to download the 'Easyfundraising app' – earn money for the school while costing you nothing –an essential with on-line Christmas shopping, weekly supermarket shops and booking next year's summer holiday! All major (and a lot of minor) on-line retailers donate – just post Friends of John Hampden school, Wendover' as your 'cause' We have **185 supporters and have gained an extra 2 this month!!** Was it you??

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/fjhwendover/>



Your cause has raised

**£2,675.62**

£117.81 in the last 30 days



## 7. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

As the new academic year begins we are embarking on actions linked to our new School Development Plan 2018-2019 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, feedback from other outside agencies, data analysis, Government policy etc.

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

However, during the summer holiday and over the next weeks/month, works to develop and improve the school environment are on-going:

During the holiday:

- The wall between the two small Foundation Stage classrooms was knocked down to create one large new room for Ladybirds class.
- A new doorway was created so Caterpillars class can access the Octagon easily
- A new finance office, SLT office and Group Room were created
- The top playground was extended to provide more play space
- Our new Year 1 class was furnished and set up for the Squirrels Class to use
- Scaffolding was removed and tarmac was used to create a passageway to Foundation Stage classes
- The new Foundation Stage Class and the new Nursery building were completed externally
- Deep cleaning took place
- Two skips were filled!

In the coming weeks:

- Tarmac will be poured onto the area at the front of the school ready for installation of new outside learning equipment.
- The new pathway to reach the Foundation Stage classrooms will be completed
- New line markings will be painted onto the playground
- New fencing will be erected around parts of the playground
- The school garden will be re-created in a new position
- The internal work to finish the new buildings at the front of the school will be completed
- The Foundation Stage outside learning areas will be finished
- New fencing will be erected to indicate the school boundary at the front
- A new waiting shelter and scooter racks will be installed
- All snagging will be finished
- The builders will be off site by the end of the October half term break



## 8. MISCELLANEOUS

We have a large fridge available free of charge! **Not good for food storage as it doesn't get cold enough** but would be good as a drinks fridge in a garage or shed.

**Collection only, first come first served basis.**

Contact Sharon on 07506 195166 for more details.

### Wasps nests

There has been a report of a wasp nest on the campus. Please take extra care when walking past the trees and bushes on campus.

### **PARKING ON CAMPUS!!**

**FOLLOWING AN INCIDENT YESTERDAY AFTERNOON AT PICK-UP TIME WE WOULD LIKE TO REMIND ALL PARENTS THAT THEY MUST NOT ATTEMPT TO DRIVE ONTO OR PARK ON THE CAMPUS OR IN THE LAYBY BY THE MEMORIAL HALL.**

**YESTERDAY AFTERNOON A CAR WAS PARKED IN THIS LAYBY AND WAS PREVENTING A COACH FROM BEING ABLE TO EXIT THE SITE THUS BLOCKING THE WHOLE CAMPUS. UNFORTUNATELY ONE OF THE SITE CARETAKERS WAS ABUSED BY THE OWNER OF THIS CAR WHEN POLITELY ASKING HER TO MOVE. THE OWNER OF THIS CAR SWORE AT THE CARETAKER AND APPEARED TO RUN HIM OVER.**

**THIS INCIDENT WAS WITNESSED BY SEVERAL PEOPLE AND HAS BEEN REPORTED TO THE AUTHORITIES. THIS BEHAVIOUR IS NOT ACCEPTABLE AND ANY FURTHER INCIDENTS OF THIS NATURE WILL ALSO BE REPORTED TO THE AUTHORITIES.**



## 8. MISCELLANEOUS



# Show your true colours for your Hospice!

**COLOUR RUSH**

Florence Nightingale  
HOSPICE CHARITY

**Sunday 7th October**  
At Green Park, Aston Clinton HP22 5NE

**5k**  
run or walk  
+ Mini-Rush  
for little ones.

Find out more at [fnhospice.org.uk/colour-rush](http://fnhospice.org.uk/colour-rush)  
Charity No. 1119499

# COLOUR RUSH

## Perform workshops

Popular children's drama and dance school is offering a Free Trial Session and a special introductory discount of £40 for members of this school if you sign up by October half term.

Parents should quote NEWS30/10/18 when they book their free trial session by going to [www.perform.org.uk](http://www.perform.org.uk) or calling 020 7255 9120.

Your nearest class is at The Wendover Memorial Hall

Tuesdays - 4pm suitable for children aged 4-7  
and 5pm is for suitable for children aged 7-12

Our website is [www.perform.org.uk](http://www.perform.org.uk) and we'd love to see some of your children at our classes soon.