



The John Hampden School Wendover



NEWSLETTER

1. MESSAGE FROM MRS BARNES

A very warm welcome to the new school year. Following such a difficult couple of academic years it has been truly lovely to watch all the children coming back into school in a more 'normal' way this week and to welcome all our new pupils and their families. I am extremely grateful to you for following the designated routes into school and for your patience whilst waiting in queues! We were so impressed to see the children entering their classrooms independently, as this reduces queuing time. Going forward we would ask that only one adult brings a child onto the school grounds so we minimize the number of adults on site. Sadly it is not possible to widen the pathways around school so we appreciate your efforts in queuing and moving in an appropriately distanced way. Please keep your children with you at all times whilst on the school grounds and move away promptly once you have dropped off/collected. Our experience tells us that after the first few days, once routines become familiar, the system becomes quicker especially if you time your arrival between 8.45a.m and 8.55a.m. Do try not to arrive too early as you will just find yourself waiting in a queue.

I am sending this first short newsletter as a paper copy to all our EYFS parents but in future we will continue to use the traditional paperless system. This means the fortnightly newsletters will be emailed to all parents using the email address you provided when your child was admitted to the school. If your email address has changed recently please do let the school office know. The newsletter can also be emailed to both parents if necessary, but please inform us if you require this to happen. Do look out for the next full newsletter which will be sent out on Friday 17th September.

We are very aware that you missed the opportunity to meet your child's class teacher, face-to-face prior to the beginning of term but I hope the friendly faces you have seen at the classroom doors in the mornings will give you reassurance that your child will be well cared for. On Friday 17th September, we will be uploading useful information from your child's class teacher about the curriculum, classroom routines and expectations etc. onto the class page of the school website. From Monday 13th September you will also be able to access weekly sheets informing you of the curriculum areas being covered so you are well informed about what your child is learning. You will see a staff member each day at the door but this is not the best time to try and speak to them in great detail about your child. Home School Diaries can be used as a communication tool but do tell the teacher you have written a note for them to see. If you do need to have a conversation with the teacher you can ring or email the school office and the teacher will get back to you as soon as possible. We are here to help and will always make time for you.

It is still very important to be vigilant in terms of judging whether children are well enough to be at school. It really depends on what the symptoms of any illness are. Obviously if your child has any of the coronavirus symptoms they should not attend school and they should be tested. Book a PCR test if you or your child has: a new, continuous cough; fever/high temperature (37.8C or greater); loss of, or change in, sense of taste or smell

A runny nose, blocked nose or a sore throat are not highlighted as symptoms that would require a test but if you are having to give Calpol etc. you need to decide whether your child is really well enough to attend school. Bouts of sickness and diarrhoea mean your child must remain off school for 48 hours after the last episode of illness.

Finally, we will be sending home a copy of the calendar of events for this academic year shortly. Whilst we have pencilled in some potential dates for Christmas performances etc. these are not set in stone. It will be dependent on whether circumstances allow such activities to take place. If not, wherever possible we will do our utmost to make alternative arrangements for some of the traditional events to ensure children do not miss out.

Thank you for your support.

3. THE SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM AT JHSW



Mrs Barnes

Head Teacher



Mrs Parkinson

Deputy Head Teacher & Leader of EYFS



Mrs Spencer

Senior Leader

New families to our school may not recognise our faces yet, so here we are! We have all worked in the school for many years and are all committed to providing the very best quality of support and guidance to our pupils and their families. Together with a fabulous team of staff we are passionate about creating an environment that enables children to become confident, independent and enthusiastic learners. We consider being part of a young child's learning journey to be an absolute privilege.

Whenever possible Mrs Parkinson and I will try to be outside as the children come into school so do come and speak to us if you need to. We are always happy to make appointments to speak to parents about any more serious concerns/issues at a mutually convenient time. This term we will continue to offer support to parents. Mrs Spencer will be available to communicate with any parents who would value support relating to non-urgent issues regarding school life. You may want advice about ways to engage your children in homework, or support in helping them to come into school independently etc. Mrs Spencer is a very caring and experienced teacher who will be able to support you in helping your child because we know it isn't always easy! Please ring the school office to arrange a telephone appointment with Mrs Spencer.

2. IMPORTANT MESSAGES

COATS

The children will be working outside at certain points throughout the day so it is important that they have a coat in school every day. Rain does not stop us going outside.

PE Kit

Please would you ensure that your child has the correct P.E. kit in school. Navy shorts and a white round necked T shirt are needed for Gym and Dance activities and plimsolls, sweat-shirt and tracksuit bottoms are needed for Games which takes place outside. Children with long hair should have it tied back on P.E. days and stud type earrings should be removed or covered with tape. Please provide the tape and ensure your child can cover their earrings independently. This is not applicable to children in the Early Years Class.

LUNCHBOXES & FOOD BROUGHT INTO SCHOOL

Thank you if you are providing your child with a packed lunch but please do not give them too much to eat. Children have about 25 minutes in the dining hall which should be plenty of time for them to eat what you provide. You do need to provide a drink for lunchtime too. During the day staff will provide water to drink so you do not need to give them a separate water bottle.

As we have a number of children in the school with allergies we are reminding parents **not to include any nuts** in your child's lunchbox. Sweets and fizzy drinks are also not encouraged.

This also serves as a reminder that we do not allow children to hand out sweets/cakes etc. to other pupils when it is their birthday.

Thank you for your co-operation.

MILK

If you have ordered milk your child will start receiving this from Monday 7th September.

READING BOOKS

If you still have any school reading books at home please would you return them as soon as possible. Children in Years 1 and 2 will all be given guidance about reading at home by the end of next week. We would encourage you to spend time practising the high frequency words printed in the front of these books too.

UNIFORM

If you still need to purchase any uniform you can download a uniform order form from the school website and email it to the school office or post it in the secure post box outside the school office. You can pay by cheque, cash or via bank transfer. If you opt for an online payment Mrs van der Lowen will provide you with the necessary details if you phone the school office.

Holiday/Leave of Absence Requests (PLEASE NOTE)

In conjunction with our Liaison Group we have agreed a consistent attendance policy. Leave of absence will not be granted during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Parents wishing to request leave of absence for their child must use the correct form which is available on our website or from the school office. This should be completed at least four weeks before the proposed absence.

Reminder

This is a polite reminder, in line with Bucks County Council guidelines, that no dogs should be brought onto the school campus and there should be no smoking on the school campus.

PUPIL PREMIUM FREE SCHOOL MEALS

**Did you knowjust registering your child for Free School
Meals means the school gets extra money?
Register now to make sure we don't miss out**

The Government gives money to schools to help children from lower income families do their very best. This funding is called a 'Pupil Premium'. For every child registered, The John Hampden School Wendover gets £1,345 this year to support that child.

How does it work?

1. First check if you qualify—it is not just if you are unemployed (see the list below)
2. Registering is really quick and easy—if you think you qualify, contact Mrs Mohammed in the school office who will help you register
3. The school will receive £1,345 to provide additional educational support or to subsidise educational costs for your child
4. Your child does not have to take advantage of the lunches that are provided, the school still gets £1,345 extra

Details and confidentiality are strictly maintained at all times so please talk to us about registering your child as soon as possible.

If you feel you are not currently eligible but your circumstances change in the future, please come in and see us.

Do you qualify?

You can register if you get any of these benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guarantee element of the State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit (regardless of income) and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue and Customs) that does not exceed £16,190
- Working Tax Credit 'run-on' - the payment someone may receive for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

