



# 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. This week the rehearsals for the FS Nativity have stepped up a gear and rehearsals for the KS1 Christmas performances are being planned. The parties are being organised and preparations for the Christmas Fayre are well underway. Very soon everywhere you look in the school there will be further signs that Christmas is approaching!

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.

The Friends of John Hampden Christmas Fayre is next weekend - Saturday 1st December, 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 much of the money raised by the FJH was used to purchase and install new Interactive Boards across the school. This time the funds generated will be used to further improve the outside learning environment so we can provide high quality education inside and out in all year groups. 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 **Tuesday 18th 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 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 Christmas crackers or other Christmassy items.

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!

**PLEASE REMEMBER FRIDAY 7th DECEMBER IS AN INSET DAY**

## 2. GOVERNOR SECTION

I've now been a Parent Governor at our lovely school for just over a year, and when I was asked to write a piece for the school newsletter I thought that I would take the opportunity to reflect on this time. If I'm honest, I'm not really sure that I knew what I was letting myself in for when I heard that the Governing Body was on the hunt for new Governors, and I stuck my hand up and said, "I'll do it, if you'll have me!"

The first few meetings were a bit baffling and overwhelming; everyone else seemed to know what they were talking about (which I took to be a good thing!) and I started to wonder if I was seriously out of my depth, and whether I was actually adding anything to the team. I agreed to be the subject link for Music (my favourite subject when I was at school) at that first Full Governing Body Meeting which I attended, and started to try to get my head around it all...

There are three committees which sit underneath the Full Governing Body, and when I became a Parent Governor I was asked to attend a meeting for each in order to see how they operate and decide where I would best fit. After joining the Personnel & Pay Review Committee and the Teaching & Learning Committee, again I heard myself saying "I'll do it!" later in the year when we were searching for a new Chair for the Teaching and Learning Committee.

Fast forward back to now, just over a year after becoming a Parent Governor. I'm still the Governor link for Music, and feel very lucky to have this role. I meet with Mrs Collins at least once a term, and I love her passion to try to embed music throughout as many areas of school life as she can. It also means that I try my best to attend as many school performances as I can, and am always struck by the confidence in our children and their apparent enjoyment in performing. I'm very much looking forward to the upcoming Christmas shows!

I'm also now the Governor link for Literacy, and attended the Curriculum evening for Parents about Reading in September. This was a really useful, well attended event which reminded all of us parents about the importance of reading, and gave some great suggestions about how to make reading at home with your children easier and more fun. After a presentation for everyone, we were invited to join the teachers for each year group who expanded further on ways to engage in reading with our children, and invited to view some lovely displays of books and resources that were age appropriate. What struck me again at that event was the passion and commitment that all of the teachers have in doing their very best for our children.

For me, the best thing about being a Parent Governor at such a great school is actually being able to appreciate the work that everyone does. I'm much more aware of the standards that the teachers are required to reach, and the amount of work that goes into each and every day at school. Aware of the passion and commitment about the teaching and environment for our children, from all the staff and the Governors. Becoming a Governor has involved a steep learning curve, but I am so glad that I put myself forward and was accepted to join the team.



Angie Daly  
Parent Governor

The Governing Body are 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, James Edley, [jedley@johnhampdenwendover.co.uk](mailto:jedley@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 PLAY TICKETS**

Today you will be receiving your allocation of **two** tickets for the Christmas Performances, if you have requested them. From Monday 26th November we will begin allocating further tickets and you will be able to log on to ParentPay to purchase any further tickets you may require. We allocate two tickets initially to make sure every family can attend. We will issue any further tickets you order via your child's book bag by 30th November.

#### **CHRISTMAS CARDS**

At this time of the year 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 Monday 3rd 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 delivered by our Year 2 postmen.

**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.

The following information may help you with envelope writing!

| Foundation Stage             | Year 1                | Year 2                             |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Caterpillars - Mrs Parkinson | Squirrels—Mrs Beattie | Firecrests - Mrs McNally/Mrs Tysoe |
| Ladybirds- Mrs Mills         | Hedgehogs - Mrs King  | Hérons - Mrs Bowman                |
| Honeybees—Mrs Shrimpton      | Badgers—Mrs Shyvers   | Red Kites - Mrs Spencer            |

#### **FUNDRAISING**

Many thanks for supporting all the recent charity fundraising . Pupils at John Hampden managed to raise £256.15 for Children in Need, £314.96 for the Poppy appeal, £238.00 for Sport Relief and £145.61 for Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity.

#### **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. MIX 96 will have been contacted and should announce our school closure at regular intervals throughout the morning. The County Council's website will also list our school closure:  
[www.buckscc.gov.uk](http://www.buckscc.gov.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.**

#### **SICKNESS & DIARRHOEA**

Sadly we have had a number of children suffering with sickness in the last week. Please remember that children should not return to school until 48 hours after the last bout of illness. This way we can be sure that your children will not pass on their germs to others. Please ensure we have up to date contact numbers for you and any other emergency contacts as poorly children need to be collected as soon as possible.

#### **P.E. Kit**

Please remember to provide some named tracksuit bottoms and a sweatshirt for your child to wear if they do P.E. outside.

#### **UNIFORM**

As the weather has now turned colder we advise that boys wear long trousers to school instead of shorts because we have noticed, following playing outside at break and lunchtime for up to an hour, they appear very cold. .

## 4. CURRICULUM

E-safety is obviously of paramount importance to us and Mrs Shrimpton, our Computing Co-ordinator, spent time during Safety Week teaching the children about the need to use the internet safely. Following this session we sent home our Pupil Acceptable Use Policy. We would be grateful if you would remember to send back your signed copy of this document—it came to you on blue paper!

For your information our internet rules are displayed next to each computer workstation in the classrooms and in the ICT teaching area. The rules were discussed with the children and look like this:



### John Hampden School Wendover Internet Rules

|   |   |
|---|---|
|  | We only use websites our teacher/teaching assistant have shown us.  |
|  | We only click on buttons and links when we know what they do.   |
|  | We only use search engines our teachers have chosen and when an adult is with us.   |
|  | We always say when we get lost on the Internet. If we see anything that upsets us we will tell an adult. We immediately close websites we don't like. |
|  | We only send and open emails when an adult is with us. We never include our home address or our telephone number.                                     |
|  | We only send polite and friendly emails to people we know or when we have been asked to.  |

## 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 FS 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 on the stage. 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.

Last week our Year 2 children went on a walk into Wendover.

Abigail in Herons said—We walked over the bridge that went over the bypass. It was really scary! We also went past the Wendover Arm—it was a surprise to hear that it was man-made! We saw the windmill which stored flour. Then we went down a small alley—it was so tiny. It was fun walking down Mill Mead. I loved my walk around Wendover.

Zac in Firecrests enjoyed the walk through Wendover Market and Harrison in Firecrests liked looking at the human and physical features during the walk.

Oscar S in Red Kites said they looked for human and physical features on the walk around Wendover.

Jenson in Red Kites said the canal was a human feature because it was made by people.

### **Clubs**

Mrs Shyvers and Mrs Beattie are planning an exciting new knitting club for Year 2 children to start in the Spring Term. If you happen to have any spare unwanted wool at home that you don't mind donating to our club, we would really appreciate it. A further letter will be sent out to parents in due course.

## 6. THE FRIENDS OF JOHN HAMPDEN

### Christmas Cards

All cards and paper goods should be out in book bags today – some of the more exciting orders – teddies, coasters, mugs etc are on their way and will be dispatched to book bags asap! A huge thanks to Chrissie, Rebecca and Kate for all the admin - checking and double checking orders! We raised a fantastic £330 from all your orders – THANKYOU!



### Christmas Fayre - Saturday 1st December 12 – 3pm

DON'T FORGET IT IS MUFTI DAY ON FRIDAY 30TH NOVEMBER IN RETURN FOR DONATIONS BELOW

\* Volunteers - I can feel the excitement mounting – the big event of the year is nearly here and the PTA are working hard behind the scenes, chilli and sausages are being prepped and Father Christmas has been notified! – all stalls have a lead already but we desperately need as many parent helpers as possible to share the work. We have 10 volunteers so far but we need nearer 60 – even 30minutes can be really helpful. Please return your volunteer slips asap. Thank you.

\* Donations requested

o Jam jars – best decorated jars will win a competition – just remember to name your jar – no NUTS and wrapped sweets or goodies only!

o Preloved teddies and books in excellent condition only

o Gifts for wrap a present - see below

o Cakes and baked goods for the refreshment stall

o Bottle for the tombola – remember that alcohol and cleaning products go in the adult tombola – everything else in the kids one!

o reminder of requested donations will also be in your book bags next week. If you need a jam jar to decorate and fill – help yourself to one from reception – please note no spice/curry /vinegar based jars! Ensure all sweets are wrapped and NO NUTS please!!

\* 'Wrap a Present' this is a huge draw for the children where they choose a gift from a selection for a family member and wrap it up for Christmas. The teachers have great fun running this stall and the children love the secret surprise! To make it happen we need to ask you to donate a brand new gift – and just a note, we are often short of men's presents, so don't forget something for Dad, Grandfathers, etc.!

\* Raffle - A big thank you for the many generous donations from parents and local businesses for this year's raffle. The value of the prizes so far donated is incredible, with more prizes still being confirmed. Historically the vast majority of ticket sales have been sold by our families ahead of the Fayre itself. Please make the hard work of our prize collectors worthwhile, by selling as many tickets as you can. Please look out for two books of tickets in your children's book bags this week along with a letter detailing the fabulous prizes and their donors. If you need more tickets they are available from the office. Please return all sold and unsold tickets along with any money raised to the office by Friday 30th November. We are still collecting prizes, so if you have anything you can donate, please contact Sarah on [sarah@tobyworks.co.uk](mailto:sarah@tobyworks.co.uk). Thank you in advance for your help as these sales makes a tremendous difference to the success of the whole Fayre.

## **Easyfundraising**

A HUGE THANKYOU - we have recruited 3 parents in the last 30days – that is huge –Imagine if all 195 supporters raised £100, every penny counts. If you've not signed up yet, please click on to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk> before you start ordering Christmas presents– it's simple and costs you nothing. Ensure you activate the donation reminder OR CLICK THROUGH THE BROWSER for all your Christmas treats!!



## **Save the Dates**

|  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| Children's Christmas Party with Father Christmas (– not a fundraiser!) | Tuesday 18th December |
| Next PTA Meeting   | Tuesday 8th January   |
| Children's New Year Disco  | Friday 18th January   |
| Ice-Cream Day  | Friday 15th February  |



## 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: LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT

The Leadership Team are continuing to work even more collaboratively with other local primary schools. Mrs Parkinson and Mrs Spencer are both supporting teachers in other schools as part of a 'Side by Side' project linked to school improvement. Local Head Teachers are working together on a joint project which aims to improve outcomes in mathematics. Our Governing Boards are also continuing their joint working party for mutual support and development.

The building project is now finished and the buildings have been handed over to us albeit with a long snagging list! We shared a celebratory assembly with all external partners who helped with the project last week.



### GOAL B: TEACHING, LEARNING & ASSESSMENT

Subject leaders responsible for the core subjects of English and Maths are required to complete regular monitoring and evaluation activities. Last week our Maths, English and Presentation Co-ordinators, completed their termly work scrutiny of a selection of children's books. This enables us to ensure consistency in terms of presentation, marking & feedback, differentiation and planning across the year groups. The findings will be disseminated to staff and strengths and areas for further development will be shared and discussed.

To ensure consistency of assessments across the local area our staff recently attended Liaison Group moderation sessions where writing from each key stage was shared and agreement was reached on the age related expectations



### GOAL C: PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, BEHAVIOUR & WELFARE

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. We are currently looking closely at the data we gained from the annual staff well-being survey and planning actions to address the lowest scoring areas. These actions include individual job chats, snap shot observations of staff at work and professional dialogue linked to well-being and worklife balance. We continue to build regular links with Wendover Junior School and there is a determination from the leadership teams in both schools for us to continue in this way. For the pupils it means that there are opportunities to visit one another in our respective schools and an example of this is the sharing of the KS1 and Year 3 Christmas Performances which will take place in the next weeks.

### GOAL D: PUPIL OUTCOMES

Last week we received our report from the Government which compares the performance of our school to that of other schools nationally. We have spent time analysing this data and comparing it to previous years and other annual attainment and progress measures. We are delighted to be able to report that the results data from statutory assessments for 2017–2018 has been judged to be well above national figures in all areas—Reading, Writing and Maths. Our Phonics data showed a further improvement and a significantly large number of our pupils achieved a good level of development during their time in Foundation Stage.





## **8. MISCELLANEOUS**

### **JOB VACANCY AT THE JOHN HAMPDEN SCHOOL WENDOVER**

#### **MID DAY MEALS SUPERVISOR**

**We have a vacancy for a mid day meals supervisor. This is a permanent position, ideally for five days per week but we will consider a job-share for the right candidates.**

**If you are interested please contact the school office on 01296 622629 or email us at [office@jhampden.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@jhampden.bucks.sch.uk)**

**The closing date for applications is Thursday 6th December 2018.**

#### **JAM JARS**

**Our after school club are in need of empty jam jars if you have any spares at home that you would like to donate to us, please bring them into the school office. Thank you.**

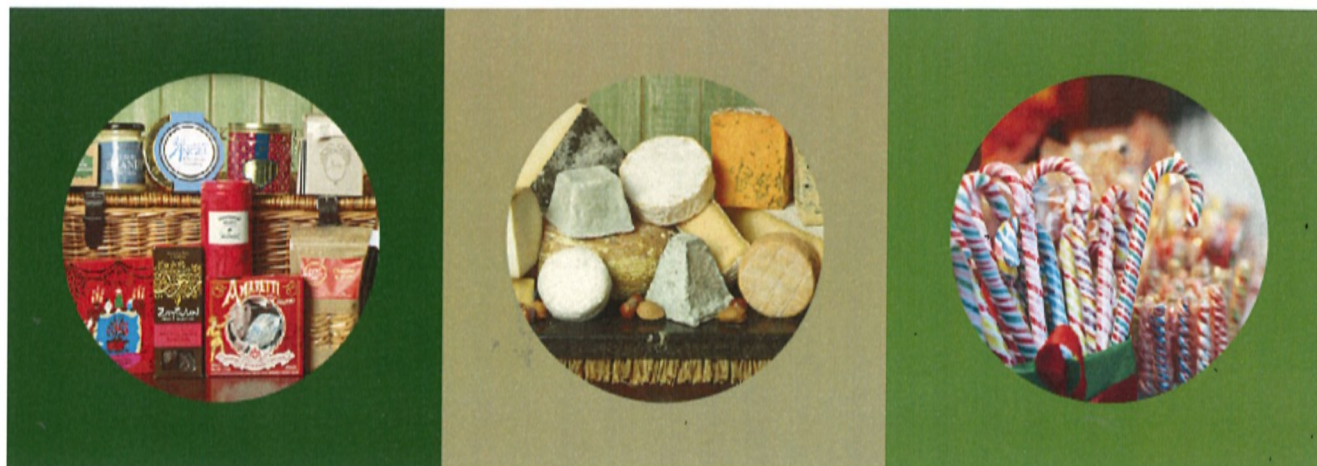


*Friday 23rd November 2018 4-9.30pm*

Join us for our Christmas  
artisan food and craft market  
On Manor Waste, High St, Wendover

Event created by No2 Pound Street, Wendover.

For more information call 01296 585022 or visit [2poundstreet.com](http://2poundstreet.com)



## Music and Piano Teacher

Experienced school music teacher and piano teacher living in Wendover has a few vacancies for children of all ages and levels from complete beginner to post Grade 8.

The emphasis is on making learning fun in a relaxed atmosphere.

If you are interested, please phone or text me, Denise Erlandsen

on 07767 372049

or email me at [derlandsen@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:derlandsen@yahoo.co.uk).

