

# HCIS NEWS



## HEADTEACHER

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**Fresh Start, our new provider of hot school meals** has been working here at HCJS for two weeks now, and the partnership is already proving to be a big success. Numbers this week are higher than last and early indications are that the freshly cooked food and wide variety of choice on offer are proving very popular with the children. If your child hasn't taken the plunge yet, have a look at our [website](#) (and follow the links) to learn more. We can now offer a multi-course meal featuring a choice of **four main courses**, a **deli bar** with fresh salads, and even homemade bread, followed by dessert or fruit.

There are many benefits to choosing a school meal over a packed lunch that go beyond just filling hungry tummies. The meals at HCJS are nutritionally balanced and can help pupils stay focused and engaged throughout the afternoon. More generally, school lunches also offer a valuable opportunity for children to develop social skills, build routine, and try a wider variety of foods, it can be a real time-saver for you too, —offering convenience, value, and peace of mind knowing your child is eating well during the

school day. Please don't hesitate to get in touch via the office if you have any questions.

## Smartphone free childhood

On Monday, around 20 HCJS parents attended an event led by the Thame 'Smartphone Free Childhood' group, which is made up of parents from across the Thame Partnership area. The meeting here was led by parents from Barley Hill and John Hampden schools. Both Mrs McNeil (HCIS) and I were in attendance and found the session interesting and informative.

The Smartphone Free Childhood movement in the UK aims to **delay children's access** to smartphones, encouraging families, schools, and communities to work together to postpone smartphone use until children are older—typically around age 14. The initiative is rooted in concerns about the effects of smartphones on children's **mental health, safety, social development, and exposure to online risks**. By fostering collective action, the movement helps reduce peer pressure and supports parents in setting age-appropriate boundaries around digital technology.

A key message is, if you are not sure about providing your Primary School age child with a smartphone — **you are not alone!**

Look out for more news, if and when an HCJS working group is formed.

## School Uniform

Please could we respectfully ask that you remind yourself of our school uniform requirements by visiting our website: <https://www.haddenhamjun.co.uk/web/uniform/249756>

Please can we draw your attention to the guidelines relating to Jewellery / earrings and long hair please. These relate as much to health and safety as they do simple 'appearance'

Please can you also ensure than when wearing school uniform rather than PE kit, your child's footwear is plain black – we have seen a significant increase in brightly coloured (expensive!) trainers.

Thank you for your support with this.

## OFSTED UPDATE

You may remember from a [previous newsletter](#) that we said we would share our progress on the key development points identified in our 2024 Ofsted inspection with you. This time: **Curriculum**

**We were asked to:** Refine our curriculum thinking and ensure that the content of all foundation subjects is coherently planned.

**We have:**

Selected and implemented 'Kapow Primary' as our chosen curriculum scheme (for all foundation subjects except PSHE and PE) The transition to Kapow has supported a stronger focus on knowledge retention, incorporating retrieval and recall practices at the start of each lesson. Kapow has facilitated a move towards 'discrete' subject teaching and away from 'topic' lessons consisting of a termly mix of national curriculum subjects planned together

You can learn all about the content of each subject at each year group and term, via the [curriculum section](#) of our school website – each individual subject page has a 'Curriculum overview' document that you can download to find out more.

## HCJS BAKE OFF FINAL

For those of you who didn't catch the Weduc write-up - The Bake Off final was a fabulous event. Chef Adam from Le Manoir was wonderful. He was incredibly impressed by all our finalists; commitment and skills blew him away. As I have said before, they are all winners in our eyes. I was so proud of their support for each other, their preparation and their ideas. All the cakes were amazing and it was a really hard job for chef Adam.

Adam kindly brought with him some goody bags for all our finalists, including a lovely book on baking, an apron and a beeswax candle from Le Manoir. They were very spoilt and I was very jealous!

The winner was announced on Friday and it was - Aoife Walker 5A. She received her trophy and an invitation to the Manoir to attend a Birds of Prey event. She will also get to go to the Thame Food Festival in September.

Thank you again to all parents who supported their children throughout the Bake Off, I can only imagine the stress and mess you have all been through.

Congratulations to everyone who took part.

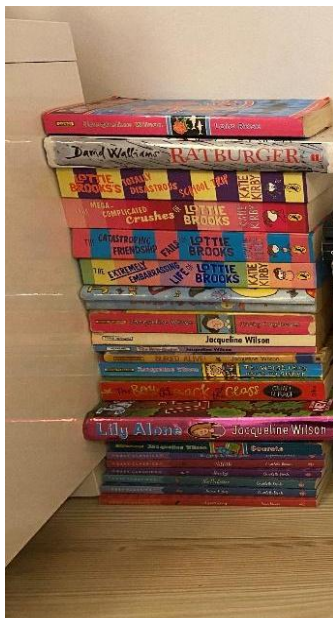
Thank you for being wonderful.

Mrs Duncan

## PSHE IN THE SUMMER TERM

This term in school children will be learning about Relationships (Spring 1) and Changing Me (Spring 2). Relationships and Health Education is compulsory in all primary schools in England. At Haddenham our PSHE scheme of learning is Jigsaw PSHE, which has a strong focus on emotional and mental health and wellbeing. Changing Me will include lessons on health, including puberty. It also includes (in Upper Key Stage 2 only) lessons that we have identified as sex education. Miss McMahon sent out further information about these lessons in a Weduc message on the 4th April. There will also be a drop in session with Miss McMahon at school on Monday 12th May if you have any further questions or concerns





## Achievements and 'shout outs'

Congratulations to Sophia H (5CH) who has read an incredible 24 books so far in 2025, and 6 in the Easter Holidays alone. (See picture).

In assembly this week, we were discussing our School's Value of the Month (for April) 'Creativity' and how reading widely for pleasure can really help to spark that important quality.

## ...And Finally.

We had a wonderful time commemorating the 80th Anniversary of VE day yesterday. Thank you for all the cakes!



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## Upcoming dates:

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May : Year 6 SATS week

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May : Secondary Transfer Parent Information Evening 6pm-7pm (**YEAR 5 parents only**)

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May : INSET Day

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June : Open Books 3.30-4pm

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June : Year 6 Residential trip

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June: School Games Day. (Y3&4 morning Y5&6 afternoon)

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July : Bucks Transition day

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July : Open Books

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July : Reports out to parents

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July : Year 6 Leavers assembly

