



Starting School



Inspiring Children to shine

'We SHINE when we are Ready, Respectful and Safe'



Dear Parent/Carer,

I am absolutely delighted that you have chosen Hardwicke Parochial Primary Academy as the school for your child. This is the start of a new and exciting journey!

It is hoped that this brochure will answer any questions that you may have about Hardwicke's approach to your child's first year at school.

I encourage you to send a photo of a walk during the holidays or write a letter about your family and what you are doing at home. It will then be shared with the rest of the class when the children start school.

Please ensure that you look on the 'New Parents' section on the school website and the Twitter page (HardwickePrima1) and the school Facebook page (Hardwicke Parochial Primary Academy) to get an insight into the school day. During the course of a child's first year, it is wonderful to see how they grow into confident and inquisitive young people, where each and every day are filled with moments of 'Awe and Wonder.'

I firmly believe that anything is possible! And working together, everything is within reach. At Hardwicke, we inspire our children to SHINE!

I look forward to sharing and celebrating your child's successes here at Hardwicke Primary Academy.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Wendy D'Arcy'.

Wendy D'Arcy
Headteacher





Our School Vision

At Hardwicke Parochial Primary School, we strive to equip every child to attain their best in all aspects of life.

We foster Christian principles and values so that children learn respect and empathy; they are happy and valued, healthy and safe.

‘We SHINE when we are Ready, Respectful and Safe’

We are committed to providing the highest possible standards of education and to enthusing pupils with a love of learning. Through creative, broad and balanced experiences we inspire confidence and celebrate the uniqueness and success of all.

‘Walk as children of light’

(Ephesians 5:8)

Reception at Hardwicke Parochial Primary School

Every child deserves the best possible start in life and the support that enables them to fulfil their true potential. The Early Years Foundation Stage (**EYFS**) sets the standards that all early years providers must meet to ensure that children learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe. At Hardwicke, we follow the four guiding principles that shape our practice. These are:

- every child is a unique child, who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured
- children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships
- children learn and develop well in enabling environments, in which their experiences respond to their individual needs

and there is a strong partnership between teachers/adults and parents and/or carers

- children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates.

There are **seven** areas of learning and development in EYFS and all areas are important and inter-connected. Three areas are crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive. These three areas, **the prime areas**, are:

- communication and language
- physical development
- personal, social and emotional development

The **three** primary areas are strengthened and applied through the **specific areas**:

- literacy
- mathematics
- understanding of the world
- expressive arts and design

A typical day at school

- **Drop off:** School starts at **8:55am**. Please drop your child off at the EYFS foyer doors where doors open at **8:45am** and close at **8:55am**. Your child's class teacher will be ready to greet your child at the gate in the morning.
- On your child's **first day** please bring your child into school to help them find their peg and their classroom.
- After this please leave your child at the EYFS foyer door where your child's teacher will help them to their class.
- **Pick up:** Please pick your child up from the **playground** at **3:00pm**. Children will exit school via their class rainbow gate. Children will line up in class and will exit from their classroom door.
- Please make yourself known if you see your child at the front of the line by giving staff a wave.





- Children will only be allowed to be picked up by people who we have authorisation for. We understand that at times there can be circumstances that other people may need to pick up your child. Please telephone the school office and inform them before the end of the school day.

Reception timetable

- 8:45am – EYFS main foyer door opens
- 8:55am – EYFS main foyer door closes
- 9:00am – Registration
- 9:05am – Phonics
- 9:30am – Lesson one
- 10.20am – Milk and snack time
- 10:30-10:45am – Playtime
- 10.45am - Whole school /Class worship
- 11:05am – Lesson two
- 12:00-1:00pm – Lunchtime
- 1:00pm – Lesson three
- 2:00-2:10pm – Playtime
- 2:10pm – Lesson four
- 3:00pm – Home time

We use a class visual timetable to show children what they are doing throughout the day. We do this in the morning up until lunchtime. After lunch we change it and go through with the children so they are aware what they are learning in the afternoon.

Similar to the one below:



Limitless Kids: Limitless Kids provide a breakfast club and after school club at Hardwicke Parochial Primary Academy. Please contact them on **07741 470076 or info@limitlesskids.co.uk** for more information.

What do I do if my child is ill?

If your child is absent, please let the school know by telephoning the school office. We will not accept a message left on an answer machine so please ensure that you speak to a member of the office team. **Tel: 01452 720538**

The school does not authorise holidays during term time. However, there are exceptional circumstances in which this **could** be granted so please contact Mrs D'Arcy to discuss your situation.

If your child has any allergies this must be reported on the pupil registration forms sent home. Equally, if your child has any medical issues, including asthma, you must inform the school and provide an inhaler which is clearly named and given to your child's class teacher.

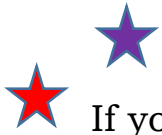
School Meals

Free School Meals (FSM) Universal Free School Meals (UFSM) All Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children are offered a hot meal each day (no charge). Further details will follow together with your login details on your child's first day.

A menu will be sent home with your child during their first day at school. There are several choices for a hot meal and also a daily choice of sandwiches, rolls or baguettes too. School meals are available to order through our cashless system that enables you to pre-book your child's meal. Please note school meals must be ordered before 8.00a.m. on that day.

All parents need to complete an application to receive both FSM or UFSM school meals. The application form can be accessed via the following link: **<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-transport-and-free-school-meals/apply-for-free-school-meals/>**





If your child does not want a school meal, you need to provide a healthy and balanced packed lunch. Please make sure that your child has a range of healthy foods to eat and a drink. It is also important to remember not to give them too much to try to eat at lunchtime.

No nuts, or nut based products, fizzy drinks or chocolate is permitted.

ALL children need a water bottle that is **clearly** labelled with their name.

Milk & Snacks

Each child is offered a free piece of fruit each day so please do not send additional 'snacks' with your child.

Milk can be ordered through Cool Milk:

<https://www.coolmilk.com>

All children are eligible for free milk until the term of their 5th birthday. You will still **need to apply** for free milk and then once your child reaches their 5th birthday you will need to pay for your child's milk. Please note that it takes **two weeks** to show in school that your child is registered for milk.

If your child needs soya, oat or rice milk please can this be supplied and it will be stored in a fridge at school.

Further information about this will be sent out in due course.

What can I do to prepare my child for school?

We celebrate all of our children as unique individuals and therefore, all children develop at different rates and are at different stages within their development.

In order to support your child starting school, please support them in developing a sense of independence. This includes encouraging them to get dressed and undressed without your help. Getting changed into their PE kit and dressing back into their uniform. Ensure they can put their coat, hat and gloves on and hang them up. Go to the toilet independently, flush the toilet and wash their hands using soap.

In terms of developing their fine motor skills, encourage them to draw and make marks with pens/pencils, use scissors correctly and cutlery accurately.

Please look at links below which have some helpful hints for parents.

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/schoolsnet/school-office/school-readiness/>

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/getting-ready-for-school/>

How can I get involved in my child's first year at school?

Working in partnership with us is very important. There are numerous opportunities for you to come into school and celebrate your child's learning. If you could offer a small amount of your time to support with any of the activities below, we would really appreciate your support. You do not have to be qualified! We will provide some basic training

- Listening to children read
- Help to prepare teaching resources
- Help with gardening
- Assist with Forest School
- Help with school trips

If you are able to spare an hour or two to help within school, please visit or contact the school office.

How can I support at home?

At Hardwicke, we aspire to work in close partnership with you so that working together, anything is possible. This is achieved through effective communication, as well as transparency. We need you to support your child's learning at home which will include:

- Reading
- Practising high frequency and tricky words
- Phonics practise which will be sent home on a **Friday** and will be due back into school on **Wednesday**.





- Homework grid which is sent home at the start of every half term. Children pick four things off the grid to do throughout the half term. This is brought back to school at the end of every half term and celebrated in class.
- Practising counting and ordering numbers.
- Completing 'WOW' vouchers to share your child's achievements at home.

HPSA

We have a wonderful team of parents who make up our PTSA. They play a key part in fundraising for a wide variety of different things that your child will benefit from. Please do get involved in school life! **YOUR SCHOOL NEEDS YOU!**

Uniform

We pride ourselves on all belonging to the Hardwicke family. Equally, we expect ALL children to wear the correct uniform at all times. You will be approached by a member of staff if the school policy on uniform is not adhered to. Uniform is available from the **Uniform Shop, 99 Northgate Street in Gloucester. 01452 413339.**

Boys	Girls
Winter Uniform	Winter uniform
Grey trousers	Grey skirt/pinafore
White polo shirt	White polo shirt
Royal blue school jumper	Royal blue cardigan
School tie	School tie
Grey/black socks	Grey socks or grey tights
Black shoes (no trainers)	Black shoes (no trainers or boots)
Summer Uniform	Summer uniform
Grey shorts	Small blue check dress

Polo t-shirt	White socks
Royal blue school jumper	Royal blue cardigan
Grey/black socks	White socks
Black shoes (no trainers)	Black shoes (no trainers, boots or sandals)

Winter Uniform



Summer Uniform



Jewellery, including rings, bracelets and necklaces, should not be worn because of the risk of accidents. Tiny ear studs may be worn, provided the child can remove them or, tape them over for PE.

All hair that can be tied up, should be tied back at all times.

Decorative hair bands and or clips/slides are NOT permitted.

PLEASE NAME AND LABEL EVERYTHING!

If an item of clothing is lost, then please come in and check. Lost property is stored in the main school reception but if everything is labelled, it is easier to find!





As some children find laces difficult, please ensure that your child has buckles or velcro when they start school or until they can do up their own laces.

Your child does not need to bring a backpack, as well as their book bags.

Transition Information

The EYFS team have already started to make contact with nurseries and childminders. You and your child will have several opportunities to come into school prior to when they start in September.

Transition- Summer Term

Wednesday 23 rd & 30 th June (one session TBC)	Story session (Half an hour p.m.). Parents are welcome to stay for a cup of tea or coffee.
Wednesday 7 th & 14 th July (one session TBC)	Stay and play (Hour and a half). Parents drop off and pick up.

You are warmly invited to two transition sessions, in the summer term (one story session p.m. and one play session a.m.), where the children will have the opportunities to meet their teachers, teaching assistants and their peers.

New Parents Meeting

We will be holding a new parents meeting in the school hall where you will meet Mrs D'Arcy, our Headteacher along with our fabulous EYFS team. You will be given some information about your child's first year at school and a great opportunity to meet other parents, as well as ask any questions! Once we have confirmed a date, we will let you know!

Individual Parent Meetings (September 2021)

From Thursday 2nd, (afternoon) until Friday 10th (afternoon) you will be invited into school to have an individual meeting with your child's class teacher. You are welcome to bring your child to this meeting. This gives us an opportunity to discuss them on a 1:1

basis. You will be able allocated a day and time slot which will be provided in your information packs at the **New Parents Meeting**. Dates for this will be confirmed via email.

What happens when my child starts school?

We want the start to your child's schooling to be as positive as possible! Therefore, we introduce them into different aspects of school life carefully, so as to not overwhelm them. Your child will be put into either group A or B.

Monday 6th – Wednesday 8th	Group A in until midday
Wednesday 8th - Friday 10th	Group B in until midday
Monday 13th - Wednesday 15th	Group A in and stay for lunch
Wednesday 15th – Friday 17th	Group B in and stay for lunch
Monday 20th – Wednesday 22nd	Group A in all day
Wednesday 22nd – Friday 24th	Group B in all day
Week Beginning 27th September	All children in all day

*Some children may not be quiet ready to start full-time so will continue with part-time until settled.

We treat all children as individuals and where necessary, the transition timetable can be adapted. Please talk to your child's class teacher about this.

All children are unique and will react differently to starting school. Please share any concerns or worries with us-we want to support you and work together. What is certain, is that your child will become tired so please make sure that they get plenty of sleep!

Day 1

On your child's **first day**, please drop them at the EYFS foyer door opens at **8:45am** and close at **8:55am**. Please bring your child into school to help them find their coat peg and settle them into their classroom. Parents are asked kindly to leave promptly at 8:55am so we can start our school day. After that, please leave your child at the EYFS foyer door where your child will make their own way into class with support from their class teacher.



★ It is intended that every Wednesday morning 8:45am to 9:15am
★ parents are welcome to stay and play with their child in their
class. This will continue up until October half term only.
Obviously we will continue to follow the government guidelines
and confirm this in September.

Finally

Try not to worry! Starting school is an exciting and daunting time for you and your child. We are here to help so please, do not struggle on your own but talk to us!

You can contact us through:

email: eyfs@hardwicke.gloucs.sch.uk

Telephone: 01452 720538

Or by a pre-booked appointment to see your child's class teacher!

'Let us remember: one book, one pen, one child, and one teacher can change the world.' Malala Yousafzai

