

Together We Love, Live and Learn April Newsletter 2025

The value of this term is Perseverance.

'Let us not grow weary in doing good, for in due season we will reap if we do not give up.' Galatians 6:9

I am delighted to introduce myself as the EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) Lead here at Hardwicke. It has been a pleasure meeting some of you already, and I'm excited to continue getting to know more of our wonderful school community over the coming weeks.

For the past five years, I have had the privilege of working as a Year 6 teacher within the trust, and I am thrilled to now take on the responsibility of leading our Early Years provision. In this role, I am committed to overseeing and improving the quality of early years education at Hardwicke, ensuring that our youngest learners receive the very best start to their educational journey. It is my belief that the foundation years are some of the most important in a child's education, and I am excited to help nurture and support the growth of our youngest learners. Together, we will ensure that each child's unique needs are met and that they feel valued and motivated as they begin their learning journey.

I am working closely with our dedicated EYFS team to maintain high standards of teaching and learning, and to ensure that every child's welfare and development are supported. I also bring my experience from working across both KS1 and KS2 to help enhance learning at Hardwicke and provide every child with the opportunity to flourish in a loving environment.

I wouldn't be EYFS Lead if I didn't encourage you to take a moment to appreciate this season. The days are noticeably longer, and the air carries warmth. Nature is responding with a burst of activity, with trees and gardens beginning to unfurl their leaves and flowers, painting the landscape in vibrant hues of green, yellow, and pink. From the chirping of birds in the trees to the buzzing of bees amongst the blossoms, the signs of spring are everywhere, reminding us of the joy of renewal and the beauty of the natural world. Let's make the most of this beautiful season by exploring our local parks, enjoying the outdoors, and celebrating the arrival of warmer days.

If you have any questions or would like to chat, please don't hesitate to reach out—I look forward to connecting with you all.

Wishing you all a lovely Easter break.

Miss Haughton
EYFS Lead



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E-Safety: Keeping Our Children Safe Online

As we embrace the benefits of technology in our classrooms and homes, it's important to be aware of the potential risks that come with increased screen time and the use of social media. Excessive screen time can affect our children's physical and mental health, leading to issues like eye strain, disrupted sleep, and reduced physical activity. Additionally, while social media offers great opportunities for communication, it can expose children to risks such as inappropriate content, cyberbullying, and online predators.

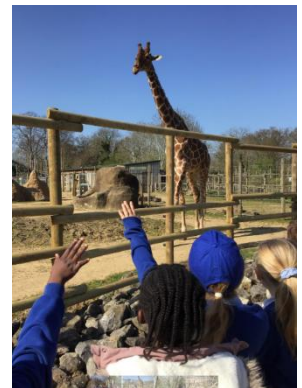
As parents, there are several ways you can help make the online world safer for your child:

- Set time limits on screen use to encourage a healthy balance with offline activities.
- Monitor social media use: Familiarise yourself with the platforms your child is using and ensure their privacy settings are adjusted to keep them safe.
- Talk openly about online experiences: Encourage your child to come to you if something makes them uncomfortable, and remind them never to share personal information online.
- Use parental controls: Many devices and apps offer built-in tools to help you monitor and limit your child's online activities.

By staying informed and involved, we can work together to ensure that children enjoy the benefits of technology in a safe and healthy way.

Year 2 trip to Bristol Zoo

Year 2 had an amazing day visiting Bristol Zoo as part of their learning on Africa! The sunny weather made the trip even more enjoyable, and the children's behaviour was excellent throughout the day. Although some animals, like the bears and giraffes, were a little reluctant to come out, the children were still able to spot some wonderful creatures, including zebras, lemurs, and meerkats—definitely a highlight of the visit! It was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate all the learning they've done about African animals, and the children impressed the zoo guides with their extensive knowledge, particularly during the meerkat feeding talk. It was a day full of both learning and fun, and the children returned to school with many new experiences to share!



Governors Corner

It is with great pleasure that the governors have welcomed Paul Dawe as our new parent governor. Our parent governors would love to hear from you to ensure your voice is heard in our governor meetings.

Carole O'Donnell - Chair of Governors

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Hardwicke Farewells

As many of you may know, Miss Burnham will be embarking on maternity leave shortly. She has been a valued member of the Hardwicke team and has supported children across a variety of year groups with dedication and care. Her contributions to our school community have been truly appreciated, and we are so grateful for all her hard work.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish her all the best as she prepares for this exciting new chapter. We hope she enjoys every moment of this special time, and we look forward to welcoming her back in the future.

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the departure of Mrs McPherson from Hardwicke. We want to take this opportunity to thank her for all the time and dedication she has given to our school community. Her contributions have been greatly valued, and she will be missed by both staff and students alike. We wish Mrs. McPherson all the best in her future endeavours and hope she finds much happiness and success in the next chapter of her journey.

And finally, we're also sad to announce that Mrs Berriman, our cleaner, will be leaving us on 16th April 2025 to pursue new opportunities. She has been a fantastic member of the team and we're incredibly grateful for her hard work and dedication to school. We wish her all the very best in her future endeavours.

Reminder to Parents: Healthy Snacks at Break Time

We kindly remind all families to provide healthy snacks for their children at break time. Please avoid sending chocolate, sweets, or other sugary treats, as they can negatively impact your child's energy levels, concentration, and overall well-being during school hours.

A healthy snack is essential as it helps:

- Provide steady energy throughout the day
- Support focus and concentration in class
- Promote better long-term health and development

Ideal snack options include fresh fruit, yogurt, whole grain crackers, or vegetable sticks. Thank you for helping us encourage healthy habits!

Please do not send any food or snacks that contain nuts as we are a nut free school.