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Friday 22nd January 2021

From Mrs D'Arcy

Happy New Year to you all! And what a start to 2021 it has been! Christmas feels like a distant memory now as we are at the end of our third week of Spring Term 1. I'm sure that you will agree, this really wasn't the start to the new year that we were expecting and I think many of us are still in shock, from the Prime Minister's announcement to close schools. Of course we know that schools are very much still open for our vulnerable and critical worker's children and it is very important that as a school, we play our part to enable critical workers to fulfil their role. However, we see the daily deaths as a result of this new variant continue to rise and this in itself, will cause anxiety within our community. We currently have 140+ children in school each day with some year groups with more than 20 children in the class. This in turn will increase the risk of the new variant being passed on as well as put additional pressure on staff in school. Therefore, I am appealing to you, on behalf of our team here, to only send your child/ren to school when it is absolutely critical for you to do so. Thank you for your support with this.

In terms of the remote teaching and current offer of education, I must say that I am exceptionally proud of our team. The feedback from parents/carers and our children, has been fantastic! I know that the 'chat' function has been raised as something that needed addressing, and we have done just that— your feedback is very much appreciated. As parents, not only are you facilitating learning for your children, but trying to do your day job too. I would like to say a heart felt thank you to you all! I know, from my own experience, how difficult it is! Equally, I would like to thank all of the team here; admin, cleaners, teachers, TA's, midday supervisors and pastoral team for their hard work. The first week back was such a shock for us all but every body here, has taken it in their stride and made the necessary adaptations to yet again, another new norm. I cannot thank you enough for the lovely messages that we have received—they really have kept us all motivated during this difficult time.

As we continue to work in this way, we will review and take on board your feedback. This on-going improvement is very important to us. I continue to keep up to date with current research and our remote learning offer, is very much based on this. For your information, our remote learning offer is on the school website http://www.hardwicke.gloucs.sch.uk/web/remote_learning_plan_/512473

As many more children are working online and have access to the internet, please be extra vigilant to ensure that you have the appropriate filters at home, that your child/ren are where possible, in the family room and that you check in with them. For further information on keeping your children safe on line, please follow this link <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>

Although we are working in this new way, often referred to as blended learning, we continue to strive towards making Hardwicke the school that **SHINES**. I was fortunate enough to meet with some of our children remotely, in order to gather pupils' voice about what they want our school to be about. Staff, governors, parents and now children have very much contributed towards developing our school vision. This is an exciting piece of work that we will continue to develop and will share this with you, once we have completed it. Many of you have already met Miss Jen Thomas. Miss Thomas is our newly appointed deputy Headteacher who has already made such a positive contribution to the team. I'm sure that you will welcome her into our Hardwicke family!

As I am sure you have read in the media, school staff can now opt into lateral flow testing. This is a good step forward as it will help to reduce the transmission of the COVID virus. However, this could potentially impact on staffing in school and ultimately, on bubbles closing. We will continue to work alongside public Health England and follow all of the advice to ensure that the staff and children's safety and welfare are at the forefront of all that we do. Please do continue to keep us all safe, by wearing your mask when collecting or dropping off the children and picking up paper packs of work from school. Thank you for your continued support and have a lovely weekend!

Starting School September 2021?

At this time of year, we would normally be opening our doors to prospective parents. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we are unable to hold open days and evenings. *Please share our virtual tour* which can be found in the following link - http://www.hardwicke.gloucs.sch.uk/web/school_virtual_tour



Diary Dates 2021

February

12th - end of term 3

23rd - term 4 begins

March

1st—secondary school allocation

April

1st-end of term 4

16th - Primary School allocation day

19th - term 5 begins

May

3rd—bank holiday

4th-INSET day

18th -end of term 5

June

7th —term 6 begins

July

22nd —end of term 6



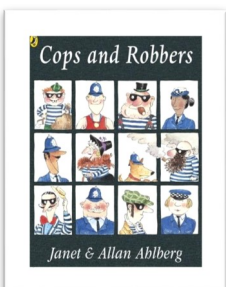
In our thoughts and prayers

We pray for all who are struggling during this difficult time. May God bring them strength and courage to ask for help and for those around them, to provide support and care



Reading Recommendations!

Reading is THE most important skill-it opens the doors to all other learning! For each newsletter, the team here will be sharing their book recommendations with you!

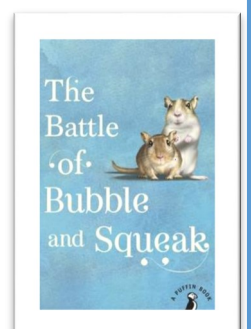


Key Stage 1

Cops and Robbers by Janet & Allen Alberg

Key Stage 2

The Battle of Bubble and Squeak by Philipa Pierce



Congratulations to the following children for shining brightly

YRA	Laurie Sutcliffe & Lucas Still	Lexie Hergest & Isla Collings	Rodrigo Soares- Braddock & Isabel Knight
YRB	Lizzie Clapton & Tommy	Alfie Brown & Evie Flook	Chester Harmon & Dae Williams
Y1S	Takodah Watkins & Ceejay Douglas	Rylee-Jay Ryan & Leya Jakutyte	Ffion Lewarne-Shortman & Barnaby Hayward
Y1R	Jack Townsend & William	Tommy Berry & Oliver Lettington	Cody Chadwick & Maja Zbanyszek
Y2K	To all my class and parents for shining through these	Amileigh Booth & Matthew Dowle	Macie Whitehead & Harrison Rymer
2H	To all 2H children and par-	Amelia Simmonds & Orlah Corbally	River Sparrow & Caia Cook
Y3W		Darcey Hitchman, Maisey Williams Olivia Rymer	Elizabeth Price & Sophia Mulcahy
Y3M/R	Michael Stennett & Ethan	Lewis Arthur & Harrison Brown	Avery White & Sophia Barnes
Y4C	Alfie Berry & Jorja	Koby Douglas & Daniel Mulrain	Joe Batten & Issy Brown
Y4G	All the class	Maddie partridge & Ava Cook	Ellie Smithers, & Joshua Gonez
Y4W	All the class	Maya Gallop & Ava Mae Corbally	Evie Carter & Zachary Allen
Y5H	All children and parents for	Olivia Potter & Archie Geeves	Rubi Harmon & Preia Challenger
Y5P	Whole class as everyone has had to work hard and cope with lots this week	Esther Hewins & Emily Carne	Noah Knight & Lola Callinan
Y6W	All at home and at school: special shout out to Mrs Smith - Mia's mum, for being my	Tegan Smart & Joe Cruise	Chloe Stower Connor Harron
Y6H/J	All at home and school	Charlie Birch and Olivia Miller	Chloe Gorrett & Shannon Pillinger

COVID SYMPTOMS

Procedures at Hardwicke

If a child displays:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature (37.8°C) - they will feel hot on their head and back
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)



We will contact parent/carer. Please come and collect your child and siblings as soon as you can.

Next Steps

- Whole household should isolate
- Book a test for the child with symptoms
- If Positive-the child needs to isolate for **10 days**
- If negative-please return all children to school assuming they are fit and well.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT WITH THIS