



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

Starting School

September 2024



Inspiring children to shine

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am so pleased that you have chosen Hardwicke Parochial Primary School. This is the start of a new and exciting journey for us all!

I look forward to meeting you all on **Thursday 20th June** and working in partnership with you over the coming years. These positive partnerships will ensure that your child enjoys their time with us and can achieve their best.

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.

Please ensure that you look at the 'Parents/New Parent Information September 2024' section on the school website <http://www.hardwicke.gloucs.sch.uk/web/> which will give you an insight into the school day. During a child's first year, it is wonderful to see how they grow into confident and inquisitive young people, where every day is filled with moments of 'Awe and Wonder.'

I am very excited about the future and meeting all the new and present families at school.

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

Yours sincerely

S.Cale

Miss Sharon Cale
Headteacher





Our School Vision

At Hardwicke Parochial Primary Academy, 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 Academy

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 8:50 am. Please drop your child off at the EYFS entrance where doors open at **8:40 am** and close at **8:50 am**. 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 entrance where your child's teacher will greet them and help them to their class.
- **Pick up:** Please pick your child up from the EYFS entrance at **3:15 pm**.
- Please make yourself known if you see your child at the front of the line by giving staff a wave.
- Children should only be collected by those adults whom we have authorisation. We understand that there may be





circumstances where other people will need to pick up your child. Please telephone the office and inform them before the end of the school day.

Reception timetable (a typical day)

- 8:40am – EYFS main entrance opens
- 8:50 am – EYFS main entrance closes
- 8:55 am – Registration/Morning prayer/Dough Disco
- 9:05 am – Phonics
- 9:30 am – Phonic groups activity
- 9:45 am – Adults immersed in children’s play
- 10.15 am – Whole school /Class Worship
- 10:30 -10:45am – Playtime
- 10:45 am – Literacy groups
- 11.30 am – Phonics Review
- 11.40 am – Story/Singing/Lunchtime prayer (Grace)
- 12:00 -1:00 pm – Lunchtime
- 1:00 pm – Mathematic groups
- 1.50 pm – PSED/RE/Music
- 2.20 pm – Celebration of learning/Key skill focus linked to a specific area of the framework
- 2.40 pm - Story/Singing/Home time prayer
- 3:15 pm – Home time

A snack station is available throughout the morning where the children can collect a piece of fruit. A pre-ordered cup of milk is provided mid-morning.

We use a class visual timetable to show the children what they will be learning over the day. We discuss this in the morning and again after lunch so that the children are always aware of what they will be learning.

Similar to the one below:



What do I do if my child is ill?

If your child is absent, please speak to a member of the office team by telephoning the school office on **Tel: 01452 720538**. If the office is closed please leave a **clear** voicemail message.

The school does not authorise holidays during term time. If you need to request a leave of absence for your child, please complete an absence request form available from the school office. Where possible medical and dental appointments should be made outside of school hours.

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. Parents may be asked to complete a healthcare plan/asthma plan or medication form for their child. Your class teacher will support you with this during the home school visit in September. Please note if your child receives a diagnosis later in the year you must inform your class teacher and the school office so the pupil record can be updated.

School Meals

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to receive Universal Free School Meals (UFSM). Further details will follow together with your personal Parent Pay login details, once your child attends their first day.

A menu will be sent home with your child following their first day at school (and will also be available on our school website, follow the parent tab and click school meals). 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





Parent Pay cashless system that enables you to pre-book your child's meal. Please note school meals must be ordered **by midnight on the previous day**.

All parents must complete an application to receive both FSM or UIFSM school meals. The application form can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/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.

We are a nut-free school. No nuts, or nut based products, fizzy drinks or chocolate is permitted.

All children will need a **clearly** named water bottle in school every day. Water bottles are sent home daily for you to wash and refill.

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 an alternative milk, please provide this and we will store it in the fridge at school. Please clearly name the carton.

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 the link below which has some helpful hints for parents.

<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. If you could offer a small amount of your time to support with any of the activities below, we would really appreciate your support. Please note parent helpers support in all classes but **not** in their own child's class. 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
- Learning the harder-to-read and spell words (HRS words).
- Phonics activities which will be sent home on a **Friday** and will be due back into school on the following **Wednesday**.
- A home learning menu which will be sent home at the start of every half term. Children pick four activities from the menu to complete over the half term. This is brought back to school at the end of every half-term and celebrated in class.
- Activities involving 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 PTA. 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 uniform expectations are not adhered to.

School uniform and PE kit are available from **Bateman Sports** (2 Kendrick Street, Stroud GL51AB).

Boys	Girls	PE Kit (All)
Winter Uniform	Winter Uniform	House coloured t-shirt (houses will be issued when your child starts school) Oak - Red Beech - Green Chestnut - Blue Elm - Yellow
Grey trousers	Grey skirt/pinafore	Black/royal blue shorts
White polo shirt	White polo shirt	Indoor plimsolls
Royal blue school jumper	Royal blue school cardigan	Hardwicke PE hoodies can be purchased from Batemans Hardwicke - Primary Schools - Schools & Colleges (batemanssports.co.uk)
School tie (elastic)	School tie (elastic)	
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	
White polo shirt		
Royal blue school jumper	Royal blue school cardigan	
Grey/black socks	White socks	
Black shoes (no trainers or sandals)	Black shoes (no trainers, boots or sandals)	

You can order school uniform and PE kit online at:

<https://www.batemanssports.co.uk/schools-colleges/primary-schools/hardwicke>



Winter Uniform

Summer Uniform

Inspiring children to shine





Jewellery should **not** be worn. 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. Small hair clips and hair slides are permitted (these should reflect the school uniform colours).

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 hall but if everything is clearly 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 will need to bring a school book bag which will be kept in your child's own drawer where it can be easily accessed.

Please note rucksacks are permitted for the later years in school but **not** required in reception.

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 to school prior to when they start in September.

Transition- Summer Term

Thursday 20th June 2.25 – 3.00 p.m.	Story session (30 minutes). Parents are welcome to stay on-site for a cup of tea or coffee.
Thursday 11th July 9.30-11.00 a.m.	Stay and play (Hour and a half). Parents drop off and pick up.

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

New Parents Meeting Thursday 20th June 2024 6.00 p.m.

We will be holding a new parents meeting in the school hall where you will meet the 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!

Home Visit September 2024

During the first week in September, your child's class teacher and teaching assistant will conduct a short home visit. This will give them an opportunity to discuss your child on a 1:1 basis. The home visit is really all about getting to know your child a little, telling you a bit more about the school set-up and giving you an opportunity to speak confidentially about your child's needs and development.

You will be allocated a day and time slot which will be provided in your information packs at the **New Parents Meeting**.

If you would prefer to come into school for this appointment, we can arrange this too.

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**.

Mon 2 nd September	INSET DAY
Tues 3 rd – 6 th September	Teacher & TA home visits <small>(see parent/carer home visit app letter issued on new parents evening)</small>
Thurs 5 th September (a.m. home visits)	Group A in 1.00 p.m. – 3.15 p.m.
Fri 6 th September (a.m. home visits)	Group B in 1.00 p.m. – 3.15 p.m.
Monday 9 th – Wednesday 11 th September	Group A 8.40 a.m. until 12.00
Wednesday 11 th - Friday 13 th September	Group B 8.40 a.m. until 12.00
Monday 16 th - Wednesday 18 th September	Group A 8.40 a.m. – 3.15 p.m.
Wednesday 18 th – Friday 20 th September	Group B 8.40 a.m. - 3.15 p.m.
Week Beginning 23 rd September	All children in all day *

*Some children may not be quite ready to start full-time so will continue 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 full day**, please come through the EYFS foyer door which opens at **8:40 am**. 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 8:50 am so we can start our school day. After that, please leave your child at the EYFS gate where your child will make their own way into class with support from their class teacher.

Once the children have settled in parents will be offered the opportunity to stay and play with their child in class. More information to follow in the autumn term.

Finally

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

