

# Hardwick Green Primary Academy

Tithe Barn Road, Stockton-on-Tees, TS19 8WF

**Tel:** 01642 677968

**Website:** [www.hardwickgreenacademy.org](http://www.hardwickgreenacademy.org)

**Principal:** Mr C. Story

**Deputy Principal:** Mr J. Adams

**Assistant Principal:** Miss M. Carr



**24 April 2026**

## **EBSA HORIZONS CHAMPIONS SCHOOL STATUS**

Dear parents and carers,

Our school has become the first school in Stockton to achieve EBSA Horizons Champion school status.



EBSA means **Emotionally Based School Avoidance**. This is when a child finds it hard to come to school because of worries, fears, or strong emotions. EBSA Horizons is a package of support designed to help schools and families with children who show signs of EBSA.

Our Champion report from EBSA Horizons stated:

*We have strong leadership in this area. Our Principal has completed advanced training, and our inclusion team has also built their skills. This means we have a good plan in place and the right people to help children and families.*

***We have trained our staff** so they know what EBSA looks like and how to help early. Most staff have completed training, and some have had extra, more in-depth training. This has helped staff feel more confident and clear about what to do if a child is struggling.*

*Our school is **very child-centred**. This means we listen carefully to children and take their feelings seriously. Children are given chances to share their worries and say what helps them feel safe. We use **key adults** so children have someone they trust in school.*



We also teach wellbeing and emotional skills as part of school life. We use approaches that are known to help children feel calmer, safer, and more confident. Overall, our aim is to make sure children feel **understood, supported, and ready to learn.**

We know every child's journey with school is unique. For some children, attending school can feel overwhelming, leading to worry, distress or difficulty coming in. As a parent, this can feel isolating and concerning. As a school we are here to help you.

We also have access to a resource called **Family Horizons** to support you. This free online resource helps you:

- Make sense of your child's experiences
- Find ways to support their wellbeing
- Work together with school
- Connect with strategies that other families have found helpful

Join other parents accessing support through: [Family Horizons](#)

Please do speak to your child's class teacher, or Ally Montgomery (our Education Welfare officer) or Marlise Carr (our SENCO) if you need any support with attendance.

Best wishes,



Chris Story

Principal

