

HARDWICK GREEN PRIMARY ACADEMY

Welcome to Reception

Parent's Guide

SEPTEMBER 2020





A warm welcome...

We would like to welcome you and your child to Hardwick Green Primary Academy. We are delighted to have you here and look forward to supporting you and your child through this exciting journey!

You may already be familiar with our school community through older siblings or your child may already attend our Nursery. We welcome all families and hope that you feel prepared, excited and supported ahead of September 2020.

Your child's education and well-being is of paramount importance to us and we recognise that no-one knows your child better than you. We can learn a great deal from you and that will enable us to provide a learning environment that is tailored to the interests and needs of your child.

We look forward to a strong partnership between our staff and parents, where you are highly involved in your child's learning and your views are valued.

This booklet will provide all the information you will need ahead of September and illustrates our expectations of the children and your important role as parents/carers.

"The greatest gifts we can give our children are the roots of responsibility and the wings of independence."

MARIA MONTESSORI

Meet the staff...



Hello! I am Mr Matthews, EYFS Leader and Reception teacher at Hardwick Green. I love travelling, music and football. My favourite team is the mighty Boro! My favourite things to do in school are outdoor learning and reading funny stories!



Hi! I am Miss Harris and I am very excited to be starting a teaching apprenticeship in Reception this year as it is something I have been wanting to do for a long time. I enjoy reading and keeping fit! In school I love to read with children and take part in imaginative play!



Hello! My name is Miss Pruden and I am a Teaching Assistant in Reception. I love to visit new places and go out walking - especially up mountains! My favourite things to do in school are phonics and arts & crafts.



Mr Story - Principal



Mr Jones - Assistant Principal



Mrs White - SENDCo

To view our full school staff list please visit our website:
<https://hardwickgreenacademy.org>

Our Core Values...

At Hardwick Green we encourage each other to follow our five core values. These values underpin our sense of community, high expectations and positive attitude to life at Hardwick Green.

Hardwick Green Academy

Core Values

S

Success

Children's resilience and hunger for learning leads to celebrating success.

M

Motivation

Children are motivated to meet high expectations and overcome challenges in learning through dynamic engagement.

A

Ambition

We have the highest expectations of ourselves and others and foster self-belief and pride in our community.

R

Respect

We are polite, kind and tolerant of others and show empathy for all members of the community.

T

Trust

The Hardwick Green family work as a team with honesty, respect, loyalty and effective communication.

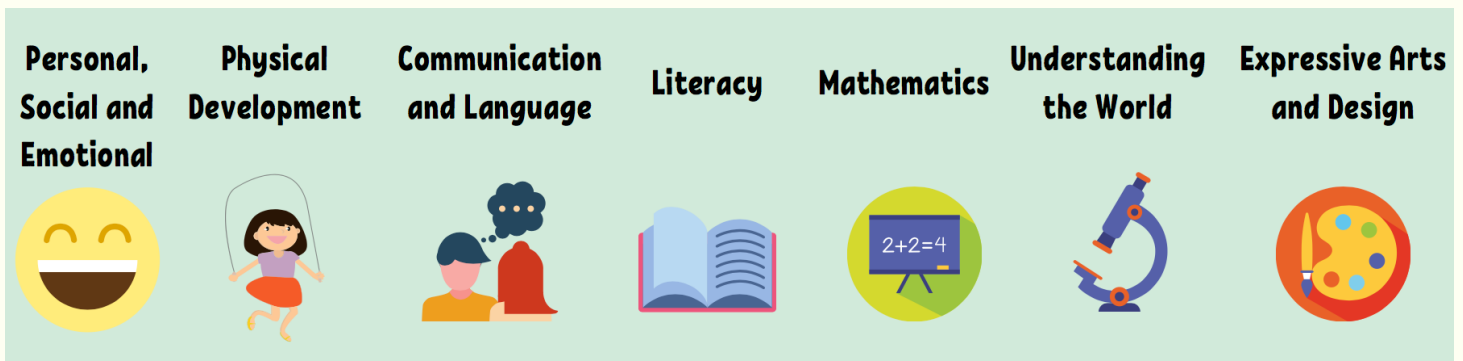
We celebrate our values with a weekly awards assembly. Children who have demonstrated a particular value are chosen each week to pick up a certificate and prize! We always encourage parents/carers to join us in celebrating children's hard work and achievements.



Attendance winners enjoying juice and biscuits!

What is it like to be in Reception?

Children will continue their progress through the Early Years Framework. Documents such as 'Development Matters' and 'What to Expect, When' set out the typical levels of development and progress expected of children across the seven areas of learning:



At Hardwick Green we believe in a holistic, nurturing approach to early education. Children will be encouraged to grow and learn at a pace that is right for them.

We strongly encourage children to be independent, confident and resilient from the moment they join us in school. Children will be taught how to look after their own things, manage their feelings and build/maintain positive relationships with those around them.

We believe that children are only held down by the limits we set for them!

Children learn through play because:

- They develop confidence, independence and resilience.
- They learn important social skills, build relationships and resolve conflicts.
- They develop vital communication skills and can talk about their thoughts and ideas in a safe environment.
- They are free to be creative, to try things out, solve problems and manage risks.
- They are able to apply what they think and know in contexts that are relevant, fun and meaningful to them.

Our experienced staff team support children to learn through a mix of child-led play and adult-led activities. Staff work to create an environment that is suited to the needs of our pupils. We teach explicit knowledge and skills alongside engaging in play with children, following their interests, questioning and extending their learning through daily observation and assessment.



A day in the life...

Reception children enter school through the EYFS gate on Tithe Barn Rd. Here are the school hours: for Reception children:

Morning: 8:40am to 11:30am

Lunchtime: 11:30am to 12:15pm

Afternoon: 12:15pm to 3:00pm

We expect children to be dropped off at school when the gates open at 8:40am and no later than 8:55am. Children arriving after 8:55am need to be taken to the office and registered in as late.

**Please note: our transition timetable for September will differ from normal school hours. This will be shared and agreed with parents prior to September.*

*** Due to COVID-19 guidance we may have to make changes to our entrance and exit procedures. These will be made clear to all parents prior to September.*

We expect all Reception children to attend school every day and on-time. Please make sure your child is going to bed early, waking up on time and having a healthy breakfast each day before school.

A typical day in Reception involves:

- Adult-led phonics, maths and literacy sessions with follow up activities.
- 1 to 1 and group reading with the class teacher and teaching assistants.
- Lots of time for children to choose and work/play in areas that they are interested in. Adults will engage with children in their play and extend their learning through focused questioning and support. Children will have daily access to:
 - construction (blocks, bricks, loose parts)
 - small world (imaginative play, castles, fairies etc)
 - role play (dressing up, cardboard boxes, dens etc)
 - sand & water
 - arts and crafts (paint, glue, recycled materials etc)
 - malleable materials (play dough, foam, seeds etc)
 - reading areas
 - high quality outdoor provision in all weathers!



- Snack time! We enjoy a healthy snack each day and regularly make our own snacks (please let us know if your child has any dietary requirements prior to them starting in September).
- Lunchtime! Children can bring a healthy packed lunch or have a school dinner. They are supported in the hall by the EYFS staff team and lunchtime supervisors.
- Outdoor learning happens daily so children will need to wear suitable clothing each day. Our school uniform and clothing information is listed later in this document.
- Stories, music and circle time activities.



Important Information...

School Uniform

Reception children are expected to come to school in correct uniform each day.

Boys:

- Black school shoes
- Grey/black trousers or shorts
- White/Yellow polo shirt
- Green jumper



Girls:

- Black school shoes
- Grey/black trousers/skirt/dress
- Grey/black tights/leggings
- White/Yellow polo shirt
- Green cardigan
- Green/Yellow gingham dress



We take part in outdoor learning every day... unless there is a monsoon we will be out there! We provide children with waterproof overalls but they will still need to bring:

- A pair of wellies
- Hat, coat, gloves for cold weather.
- Book bag for home reading books and homework.

****ALL UNIFORM MUST BE CLEARLY LABELLED WITH NAMES.**



PE Kit

- Plain white T shirt (please no football shirts)
- Black shorts
- Black plimsolls/trainers

Reception children must bring their PE kit in a bag and keep it in school throughout the week. We encourage the children to get changed in/out of their PE kits in school to help them develop their independence!

School Lunches

All children in EYFS and KS1 are eligible for free school meals. You will have received a data collection pack from school that includes information on eligibility for free school meals. If you are unsure please let us know.

Our school lunches are delicious! The children are given help to select their lunch choice from a rotating menu each week.

Packed Lunches

You may wish to provide a packed lunch for your child. If you do, please ensure that they bring a healthy, balanced meal each day. Hot foods, fizzy drinks, sweets and chocolate are not permitted as part of a packed lunch meal.

Fruit and Snacks

Children receive fruit each day as a healthy snack and will be regularly offered milk/juice as a treat.

Homework, Reading and Your Role as Parents

We strongly encourage all parents to engage with us and work as partners in supporting the development of your children.

Parents have a responsibility to:

- Read with their child at least 3 times a week and fill in their reading journals with them.
- Engage in support meetings held regularly throughout the year by the EY team.
- Engage in sharing and celebrating your child's learning through our online apps and in-school events.
- Communicate with us frequently and let us know if you have any issues or concerns.

Please remember that staff may not always be able to chat at pick up/drop off times but are always happy to make appointments before/after school.

Parent Consultation Evenings take place throughout the year.

**Please review our official parent code of conduct which has been sent to you in our data packs and attached to this document.*

Reading

Reading is a vital skill that has a huge impact on children's success later in life. We place a huge focus on developing children's early reading from the moment they join us at Hardwick Green. We will read with and to your child everyday and expect parents to support their children by reading with them and modelling a love of reading at home.

We will be hosting parent information sessions about phonics and early reading in the Autumn term.

Breakfast Club

We hope to be able to run a breakfast club this September. This will depend on social distancing guidance at the time. Further information on this will be confirmed with parents in due course.

Sickness/Absence

If your child is not well enough to come to school you need to call the office to let us know that they will not be attending school. Please note that sickness/diarrhoea requires children to be kept at home until they are clear of any symptoms for 48 hours.

If your child is going to be absent for any reason you must speak to school about it and have the absence permitted by the school office.

If you need to pick your child up early or will be sending somebody else to pick your child up you must let us know.

Medical Needs

If your child has any medical needs/allergies/dietary requirements you must let us know prior to September so that we can make any necessary arrangements.

Mr Matthews, Mrs Wood & Miss Pruden are all qualified in paediatric first aid.

Water

Children will have water bottles/cups provided for them in school. They do not need to bring their own drinks each day.

School Trips and Visits

We love to take the children on school trips and encourage parents to join us wherever possible. Due to school funding, we often ask parents for a small, voluntary contribution to aid the cost of trips. Where we are not able to raise enough money for a trip we would unfortunately have to cancel it.



Riding the Saltburn Tram Lift!

Outdoor Classroom Day at Wynyard Woodland Park!



Health and Safety...

Pick-up and drop-offs

Reception children should be dropped off at the classroom door via the EY entrance on Tithe Barn Rd. We would like to kindly ask parents to greet their children each day with a smile and not with a mobile phone!

Dogs are not permitted on school grounds.

**Please note that due to social distancing rules we may have to change our pick-up and drop-off procedures. This will be communicated with you prior to September.*

Smoking

Smoking is not permitted on or around the school grounds. This applies to staff, parents and visitors. If parents join us on school trips smoking is not permitted at any time during the trip. Children are taught about the dangers and risks of smoking as part of our science curriculum.

Car Parking

The school car park is for staff and visitors only. Please do not enter the school car park without permission. We encourage all children and families to walk to school wherever possible.

Abusive and Offensive Language

We pride ourselves on the excellent relationships that we build with our families. We insist that all parents and children speak and act with respect for one another at all times. We are all part of the same community!

Coronavirus

At the time of writing (July 2020), we anticipate that all children will be required to attend school in September 2020. We have not yet received any guidance from the government regarding this but rest assured we will make school a safe place for your child and will be in regular communication with you regarding our health and safety procedures.

We anticipate that the procedure for anyone with symptoms of the virus will continue to be: isolate with household for at least 7 days & get a test.

Safeguarding

Our number one priority is keeping children and families safe. We will always act with honesty, integrity and in the best interests of the child when it comes to keeping children safe. We ask that all parents communicate with us about any issues or concerns that they are having. We are always here to support you.

Our Safeguarding Team consists of:

Mr Story - Principal and Designated Safeguarding Lead (*pictured*)

Miss Howarth - Specialist Safeguarding Officer

Mrs Ricketts - Education Welfare Officer

Mr Jones - Assistant Principal and Safeguarding Support

Mrs White - SENDCo and Safeguarding Support

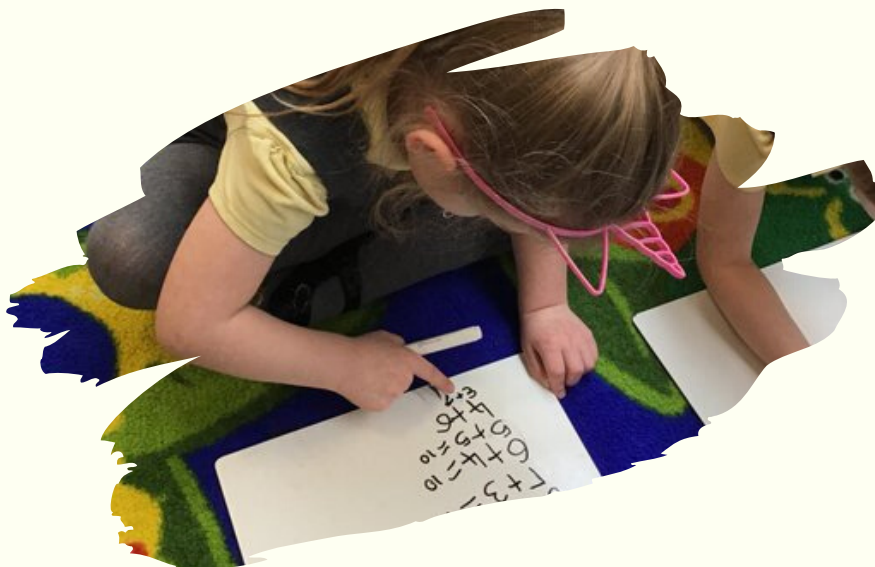


September Transition..

Be prepared for some changes in your child. He/she is likely to be more tired and possibly anxious or very excited. School makes all sorts of demands on children's emotional and physical energy. Even if they settle in well your child may become more emotional later in the term when the excitement begins to wear off. These feelings are all very normal and you can help by being extra patient with your child, making sure they have lots of time to rest and talking about their feelings.

Our initial transition will start on **Thursday 3rd September**. We will ask that children make a phased start to full-time school to help them adjust and settle to the long days and hard work! The specific transition process will be confirmed with you in due course.

September is a time when we focus heavily on getting to know your child, finding out their interests and personalities and how best we can support them to progress. Please support your child by communicating with us regularly about how they are doing and being patient with them as they take this big step towards growing up!



Keeping in touch...



Class Dojo is a free app that we use to communicate with all parents and families. Children receive Dojo points each week with prizes for the most points! We will support you to get set up on Class Dojo so that you can keep up-to-date with everything that is happening in school!



www.hardwickgreenacademy.org/early-years-foundation-stage



@MrMHardwickG
@MrsGormanHGPA
@HardwickMrS
@hardwickgreenpa



Hardwick Green Primary Academy
Tithe Barn Rd
Stockton-on-Tees
TS19 8WF
01642 677968