



Hardwick Green Primary Academy

Newsletter

January 2024

Message from the Principal

Hello parents, carers and family members,

Christmas and New Year already seem like a distant memory as the Spring term kicks into action!

The children have returned from their break ready to go, and as I've walked around the school these past few weeks I have seen the super progress that children are making in their learning.

Directors from the Enquire Learning Trust, our multi-academy trust, have also visited this term and have been so impressed with school, particularly the excellent behaviour of the children. Well done, everyone!

I hope you are finding these new-look Newsletters useful. Please do let me know if you feel that we are missing something so that I can add it in to future editions.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please do some and see your child's class teacher or myself, or some of the other key members of staff whose details are on page 3 of this Newsletter. Thank you!

Chris Story

Principal



Attendance Update

MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.

Our school attendance for this term is currently...

Year Group	Attendance
Reception	92.5%
Year 1	91.5%
Year 2	91.0%
Year 3	95.5%
Year 4	92.0%
Year 5	94.8%
Year 6	91.0%
TOTAL	92.6%

This term is looking a lot better than last term, so thank you for your support! Please see further in this newsletter for more information regarding attendance.

EVERY day in school is important – ensure your child in school every day unless it is unavoidable.

Please remember to phone the school office on 01642 677968 if your child is going to absent.

Don't forget to speak to Michelle, our Education Welfare Officer, if you need any support with attendance.



Remember that we have lots of key information about school, such as term dates and uniform information, on our website. Give the QR code a scan to visit!

www.hardwickgreenacademy.org.uk

What's happening at Hardwick?



Philosophy 4 Children (P4C):

Chess:

After our Chess Grant from the Department for Education, Year 5 have started to learn chess each week on a Tuesday with Mr Marsh and Mrs Lloyd from CSC – Chess In Schools and Communities. They are learning about the rules of each piece systematically, ready to put their learning into practice with full games later in the term. We hope to be entering competitions by the summer!



This term we have introduced a new lesson each fortnight for children – Philosophy! This isn't about learning about the likes of Plato or Socrates from Ancient Greece. Instead, children get the opportunity to engage with a stimulus and then create and discuss their own philosophical questions that develop their own opinions and views, and their oracy skills.

Give it a try! Have a quick discussion with your children – should we have magic wands for everyone? Would it be a good thing or a bad thing? Why?



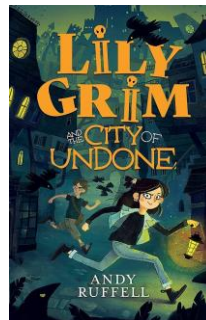
Guitars:

Mr Adams and Mrs Newton's class continue to learn the guitar each Friday with Mr Dorian from Tees Valley Music. They are progressing really well and are currently working on The Shape Of You by Ed Sheeran. After half term, Mr Laing's class will start with their guitar lessons.



What is everyone reading?

We are really fortunate that Andy visited our book club to discuss the novel with the children and to sign their copies of the book. What a great experience!



Year 5 and Year 6 book club have been reading 'Lily Grim and the city of undone' by Andy Ruffell.



UPCOMING KEY DATES

- 6th February – Safer Internet Day
- 19th – 23rd February – Half Term
- 7th March – World Book Day
- 11th – 13th March – Year 5 Residential Trip

Remember, all key dates are on the website under the 'events' section and are in the 'calendar' section. You can subscribe to the calendar on your smartphone, so you are always up-to-date with what's going on.



Remember you can see on Class Dojo's Class Story and on X (formerly known as Twitter!) what's going on in each class! There are lots of exciting learning opportunities each day. The updates from X are also shared on our website too.

@HardwickGreenPA – School's X

@HardwickMrS – Mr Story's X

Information and reminders...



Key staff:

If you'd like to speak to anyone in school, just give us a call or Dojo message. Some people you might want to speak to are:



Miss Howarth

Safeguarding
Officer



Miss Featherstone

SENDCO



Mrs Rankin

Education welfare
Officer

You can contact any member of staff by phoning the office on 01642 677968.

Attendance:

School attendance nationally is a significant focus, and a focus at Hardwick Green. Our school attendance for the year is currently 91.8%, which is significantly below the national average, which is around 94.8%. This average itself is significantly down on pre-pandemic levels.

Data shows that around just 40% of children who are persistently absent (i.e. have attendance less than 90%) achieve the age-related expectations in English and maths by the end of KS2. For those with good attendance, 84% achieve the expected standard.

More than this, regular non-attendance means that children miss out on exciting opportunities such as music lessons and school trips, and they also miss out on socialising with their friends.

We know some families face significant barriers to attendance, and we are here to work with you and support you. We know some absence is completely unavoidable. However, it is so important that children do not have avoidable absence – that is the odd day off here and there that ultimately is preventable. This accumulates over time and ultimately, children miss out. Please continue to work with us to ensure children are in school as much as possible.

Thank you for your support!

**MOMENTS
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Did you know?

ALL CHILDREN in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to free school meals!

We have our own school catering team that make delicious school lunches each day. Our menu is seasonal and after February half term will be having a refresh for Spring. We will be bringing in Pasta King as a fun new vegetarian alternative each day also. Please speak to us if you would like your child to make the switch to school dinners! More information and full menus are available on our website.

