



# Welcome to Harwell Primary School

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*Happy to learn*

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# Welcome to Harwell Primary School

I am Bryn Gibson, the Headteacher.

At Harwell School our vision for your child is to help them to develop a love of learning, along with the skills and the ways of thinking to excel at whatever they choose to do in the future.

We help them to become caring and respectful members of the local and global communities to which they belong; encouraging them to value themselves and each other. We teach our children to face a range of situations developing resilience and the thinking skills to be ready for the next challenge.



[www.harwellprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.harwellprimaryschool.co.uk)



## *Happy to learn and ready for the next challenge*

Approaches to education have changed a good deal in recent years. At Harwell School we focus on teaching your child to become a 21st Century learner, with a strong foundation in English and maths, whilst at the same time ensuring they have broader abilities to apply to an ever-changing world. We plan a varied curriculum using specific themes such as space, transport or the environment to explore and bring together a range of subjects such as technology, maths, humanities and design.

We want your child's time here at Harwell School to be memorable and purposeful, from the subjects that they learn to the friendships that they make, giving them a strong, secure foundation for the next stage of their lives.

## High expectations

We offer the opportunity for every child to achieve their absolute best. To do this we make sure that the foundations, such as reading, writing and maths, are in place early on.

This means that the children can build on these skills, step-by-step, as they go through the school. We want them to aim high academically, and will support them all the way, through a wide range of subjects including foreign languages, science and technology, to give breadth of learning.



# "We aim to equip your child with the skills they need for an ever changing world"

## Year 1 Topic: Shoes

The children thought about:

- How shoes are designed **art & design**
- Colours and materials **science**
- How to measure shoe size **maths**
- What is it like to walk in Cinderella's shoes **literacy**
- The purpose of different shoes **thinking**



## Year 6 Topic: Shipwrecked on an island

The children:

- Agreed their new society's values and developed a government **politics**
- Debated new laws and held elections
- Composed an anthem **music**
- Developed national dishes **cooking**

- Learnt some phrases in Spanish **languages**
- Built topographical models of the island **art & design**
- Thought about their economy and how to trade with others **maths**, **economics**, **statistics**



## Outdoor physical time

We believe that children need regular outdoor time during the school day. The Foundation Class has recently had it's outdoor space redesigned and enclosed to make it an extension of the classroom, offering a safe space for children to learn and play.

The Key Stage 1 (KS1) playground has also recently been rebuilt with new equipment to encourage collaborative play and self-expression, as well as physical challenges such as climbing and balancing. This allows the children to take managed risks in a safe way. The children have been fully involved in this development, through the school council. We feel the children need to be engaged and given a sense of ownership, enabling them to make things happen in their school.



We have a floodlit artificial grass pitch (AGP) and our own heated indoor swimming pool. Our aim is for every child to leave the school able to swim and to enjoy it. All classes have weekly swimming lessons with qualified instructors during the summer months. We offer the pool, AGP and hall for hire to local groups after school and during the holidays.

We also have a 'forest school' space where children can investigate wildlife and nature, and a kitchen garden where they can experiment with growing their own flowers and food.

*We believe that children need regular outdoor time*

## An Eco-School

An important part of our school ethos is helping the children to recognise the importance of looking after their world. We encourage them to care for their environment, to reduce, reuse and recycle where possible as well as growing their own food in the ever-popular kitchen garden. We make our own compost and are developing a sensory garden for the children to enjoy.

This principle of looking after the environment extends to other areas including school lunches where locally-sourced raw ingredients are used in our on-site kitchen to prepare freshly cooked meals every day. All dietary needs are catered for including coeliac and vegetarian.



*Locally-sourced raw ingredients  
are used in our on-site kitchen*



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## Extra-curricular activities

A dedicated team of staff and parents run the numerous extra-curricular activity clubs offered by the school. Currently our clubs include golf, rounders, football, tech club, Singwell choir, ukulele, Japanese, seasonal craft clubs and country dancing to name but a few.

The residential weeks, in Year 4 to High Ash Farm in Derbyshire and Year 6 to Yenworthy Lodge outdoor adventure centre on Exmoor, are a highlight for the children. These weeks away help the children to discover that every situation is an opportunity to learn and it can happen every day. Being away from home helps them to develop resilience and independence. The activities, which include surfing, rock climbing and moorland walks, help them to take managed risks, develop interpersonal skills and build teamwork. But most importantly, everyone has bags of FUN!



*The residential  
weeks are  
a highlight for  
the children*



## A sense of community

We are a community school and that's important to our identity. We have links with the local church, British Legion and Cherry Tree Court residential home. The children take part in the Harwell Feast float parade and the school hosts local events including the annual produce show and Scout's fireworks display. We have a committed network of volunteers who support reading throughout the school, help to organise star-gazing sleepovers for Year 5 and come on trips to provide adult supervision and a much-needed extra pair of hands. All these events provide the opportunity for the children to see our British value of tolerance, respect and appreciation of diversity in action.

## Take part

The school is supported by the Harwell School Association who actively fundraise which enables us to take on projects such as the new playground.

We also have a very skilled board of governors who have supported the change and development programmes put in place in recent years to ensure the school is providing the very best education for your child.

If you would like to be part of either of these bodies please come and have a chat with me or at the school office.

## Extended day

We offer your child full wrap-around care in partnership with the village Pre-School and After School Club.

- **Breakfast club**                      **from 8am**  
*with walking bus*                      *at Little Pippins Pre-School*  
*up to school*

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- **School open**                              **8:40am – 3:15pm**

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- **After School Club**                      **3:15pm – 6pm**

## Communication is an important part of our commitment to you

If you have any questions come and visit Jane and Kristal in the office. They are always happy to help.

Do sign up for the weekly school newsletter.

Parents and carers are always welcome at our regular outcome presentations, plays and performances.



For additional information such as: policies, school uniform, term dates, visit our website

[www.harwellprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.harwellprimaryschool.co.uk)

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