



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*

At Harwell School, we focus on teaching your child to become a 21st Century learner, with a strong foundation in literacy and numeracy, whilst also 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 link together IT, maths and culture, design and hands-on skills.

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”



## Outdoor physical time

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

Our two playgrounds have both been rebuilt with new equipment in the past two years 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. Children need to be engaged and given a sense of ownership, enabling them to make things happen in their school.



We're fortunate to 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*

## 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 our ever popular kitchen garden. The garden is managed by our very supportive parents with the produce going into the school kitchen whenever possible. Freshly cooked meals are prepared daily in our on-site kitchen with all dietary needs catered for including coeliac and vegetarian.

We make our own compost which is used in the garden and also in our new sensory area which has been planted with wildflowers and herbs with the help of parents on one of our 'Go Green' evenings.

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## International School

Locally, we work closely with other schools as part of the Dicot Area Partnership but we are also proud holders of The British Council 'International School Award'.

Each year, we host a student teacher from the University of Zaragoza for their international placement. Whilst with us, each class receives support and all classes in Key Stage 2 have Spanish lessons.

We are also involved in an international project funded by ERASMUS with schools in Spain and Portugal.



## A sense of community

Being a community school is an important part of our identity. We have many local links such as The British Legion, St Matthew's Church, Cherry Tree Court and Orchard House residential homes, to name a few. The children take part in the Harwell Feast float parade and the school hosts community events such as the annual produce show and Scout's firework display.

We have a committed network of volunteers who support reading throughout the school and other class and whole school activities. All these events provide an opportunity for the children to see our school values of respect, resourcefulness, responsibility and resilience in action as well as the British values of tolerance and appreciation of diversity.



## 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 netball, chess, football, 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. 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. Every day and every situation is an opportunity to learn and most importantly, everyone has bags of FUN!

*The residential weeks are a highlight for the children*

# Take part

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

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, Little Pippins.

- **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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- **The Barn After** **3:15pm -6:00pm**  
**School Club**

# Communication is an important part of our commitment to you

If you have any questions come and visit Jane, Kristal and Lauren 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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