



7th September 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you have all had a great summer break and were pleased to welcome everyone back on Tuesday. A very warm welcome to our new reception children who have started to settle into the new school routine already. We also would like to welcome Miss Fox and Miss Jamieson to our team.

This school year will yet again be a busy one but one that hopefully will be more settled than the previous three years. Our curriculum is jam packed with fun learning experiences that the children will enjoy and hopefully tell you all about. A curriculum information letter will be sent out via Marvelous Me by the end of the week. We would also like to invite you to a curriculum evening to find out all that is planned this year and how you can best support your child to make great progress. These will take place on Thursday 15th September 2022 at 3pm and repeated at 3.45pm for those that have 2 or more children in school. A recorded presentation will be available on the website for anyone who can't attend.

This year the government are putting a bigger emphasis on pupil attendance after the disrupted Covid years. Many children across the country are still missing too many days of education and this is affecting their attainment and progress. Attendance at Harden Primary is good and has been for several years, however, we have seen a decline in attendance figures since the pandemic and would like to raise this back to pre-pandemic figures. (Please note that any school missed due to Covid related illnesses or isolation have not been counted in attendance figures in academic years 2019 - 2022)

We have been asked by the DFE to re write our attendance policy and put specific things in place to ensure attendance and punctuality is as good as it can be for all children. We are continuing to ask parents and Carers to fill in holiday request forms for all holidays. Unfortunately, we are unable to authorise any holidays from now on and parents will be fined if they take their children out of school for a holiday. We



are also asking that doctors and dentist appointments are made out of school time if possible.

School starts at 8.45am but children can come into school from 8.30am. In this extra ¼ hour, children are provided with learning opportunities to support their academic progress and so is extremely beneficial for all children. It also ensures that children are settled and ready for formal teaching from 8.45am. We are therefore asking children to enter school using their classroom door at 8.30am each morning to take advantage of this extra learning time and to be settled for the start of the school day. School gates and classroom doors will be closed promptly at 8.45am so if you arrive after this time, please enter school via the main office and sign your child in using the electronic sign in system.

If your child is too ill to attend school, then please let the school office know by emailing parents@hardenprimaryacademy.co.uk or telephoning school by 9.00am. If your child is not in school and we haven't had any notification then we are obliged, as a safeguarding procedure, to contact you to find out the reason for their absence.

We will continue to monitor attendance and punctuality and discuss this with you if needed. Please find attached the School attendance and punctuality policy.

Thank you very much for your support.

Yours sincerely

Kirsty Hutchinson
Executive Headteacher

Leanne Ruddock
Head of School