



Homefield Church of England Primary School

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TERMLY NEWSLETTER – SPRING TERM

Happy New Year!

I hope that you have all had a great Christmas and New Year. Thank you so much to all of the children and families that gave me gifts and cards – they were all very well received. Welcome back and I hope you, like us, are all looking forward to what successes and achievements 2019 can bring.

Post-Ofsted & SIAMS Inspection

Thank you for your valuable contributions to our Ofsted Section 8 Inspection, to which we were judged as continuing to be a good school. It was lovely to see that every single ParentView survey completed would recommend our school to another parent. We are all very pleased and can now work on the areas for improvement suggested before they return in the future. Our attention also is focused on our future SIAMS inspection, as we are a Church of England school. The inspection framework has now changed since we had our last inspection and guidance regarding this will come out later in the year for you. The process is now more robust and expectations have been heightened. As always, we will endeavour to highlight all that is great about Homefield and the strength of its Christian character and distinctiveness.

Parking

I have been impressed that there seems to be a greater concern for a more conscientious approach to parking at peak times around school, particularly for our neighbours' properties. It is also great to see so many walking to school too.

SATs Boosting Club

All Year 6 pupils will be offered the chance to improve their Maths knowledge and the chance to prepare better for their Maths SATS tests, beginning on Wednesday 27th February and continuing until the week before SATS in May. Attendance is not compulsory, but strongly advised. Mr. Young, Mrs. Newman and Miss. Battle will support those pupils who attend. Miss. Battle will also be beginning boosting herself this half-term for a select group of pupils to enable more concrete understanding of the different mathematical themes.

Spelling Bee

Two years ago, we took part in an Inter-House Spelling Bee and it was a highly successful occasion. With our revised approach to teaching spellings this year, we are going to repeat it to see how well our children can spell. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed it before and I am sure they will again.



Generations' Project

For the past two years our Generations' Project for those families in receipt of Pupil Premium was a real success. We are going to be undertaking this again in the second half of the Spring Term, with the aim of raising the aspirations of our Pupil Premium pupils and enhancing the relationships between home and school. Further information will be sent home nearer the time. I hope all will participate in an extremely worthwhile project.

Attendance and Punctuality

As many of you are aware, there was an increase in absences in the weeks leading up to Christmas. Mainly from illnesses, but also due to a large influx of holidays. In order for our attendance figures to remain strong (96% National Average), we will need everybody to be at school, and on time, as much as possible this term. Please remember, if your child is ill, you must ring the school to inform us. If the absence is going to be longer than the appropriate quarantine period for the more contagious illnesses, you will need to phone in again to inform us. Lengthier absences through illness will require medical evidence. If we do not hear from you, our office staff will give you a courtesy call to find out where your child is. If you are taking your child on holiday, the school must be informed and a holiday request form needs to be completed by you for our records.

Times Tables Rockstars & Hit the Button

With the implementation of statutory multiplication tests for Year 4 pupils from 2020 and pilot tests from June 2019, we are encouraging all pupils to practise their multiplication skills at home. To aid this, we have purchased for our Junior classes access to the Times Tables Rockstars online resource. This is proving popular amongst pupils and staff, as they challenge themselves to improve their times. Similarly, our younger pupils in Year 2 should endeavour to practise their skills on Hit the Button online resource too, which aids speed and fluency. Both can be accessed from our school website using the links for children under the Parents' Information tab.

Class Collective Worship

It continues to be fantastic to see so many parents and grandparents attend our class collective worships in the hall. It is also lovely for the parents to see what happens during such an occasion, especially as this time is such an important part of our day. This half term Year 5 will be hosting their assembly on Wednesday 6th February at 9.00am. In the second half of term, Year 2 will be doing theirs on Wednesday 28th March. Reminders will be sent out nearer the time.

PTA Events

Thank you to all of the parents and staff that helped with the Christmas events. It was fantastic to see the school so busy and so much money being raised. Well done everyone for the continued support.

The PTA is now deciding on the next improvement project to raise funds for. If you have some suggestions, please drop your suitable ideas off at the school office or speak to a member of the PTA.

The PTA have planned the following events this half term:

Valentine's Disco – Tuesday 5th February (times to be confirmed)

Fashion Show – Plans are in motion. Stay tuned!

Please contact the school office if you would like further information on any of the events listed above.



Swimming, Outdoor Learning and Gymnastics

All year we will be offering swimming, gymnastics and outdoor learning to our pupils. All the junior classes get to enjoy swimming lessons and in the Summer term, Year 2 will get the chance to swim for a few sessions also. For the next three Mondays, Year 6 will complete their sessions when Year 3 begin their sessions on Monday 28th January 2019 and continue until the rest of the term.

Our outdoor learning, with Mr. Earle's Back to Basics, teaches valuable life skills, and I am pleased our school is already ahead of the game when it comes to teaching our pupils first aid. Particularly, as this has been in the media as a future Government proposal for primary pupils in 2020. Our pupils really enjoy these sessions.

In Gymnastics, Mr. Carr has been busily enhancing the skills of our pupils for one of their PE sessions and his instruction will enable our pupils once again to enter inter-school competitions. He also offers a club after-school, which after next week will be open to Years 3 and 4 pupils.

Science Quality Mark

This year we are aiming to achieve a Bronze Quality Mark for Science. Our Science Coordinators have been extremely busy over the past year raising the profile of the subject and ensuring we meet the standards required. I will keep you posted with how things progress. Look out for the clubs leaflet coming out this week, as there may be a new STEM club being organised, after the success of the Science Clubs.

He's behind you!

On **Wednesday 9th January** we will be hosting our annual pantomime in the school hall. M&M Productions will be putting on their version of Aladdin this year for all of the children to enjoy. This event is free of charge and all classes will be coming along to join in the fun.

Enrichment

Sporting enrichment this term will be learning all about parkour. Children will get a chance to experience an unfamiliar sport using an array of different skills. Thank you Go Geronimo for enabling this.

Musical Ensemble

This year, we will be organising a celebration of the musical abilities of the children who are in the choir or undertake peripatetic lessons at school. We are aiming for this to take place on the last day of this half-term, **Friday 15th February**. As this is the debut year for this event and as some of the pupils are learning an instrument for the first time, we are keeping it relaxed and informal and hoping to combine it with some cakes and hot beverages offered by the PTA for the parents of those children involved.

Gooseberry Planet

To improve the pupils' understanding of E-safety we are continuing with our Gooseberry Planet sessions with the pupils. This will be a group of sessions taught through a gaming style to the children at school and comes with an online access portal to the learning outside of school. Parents can also access their child's learning through an app.

School Website

Please keep abreast of all information about the school with our school website. We also use Twitter and Facebook accounts to broaden the reach Homefield has with the wider community. Our class blogs are a fantastic way to see what pupils have been doing that week or to see what learning is coming up, so please ensure you access them.



Concerns and Issues

Can I remind you that if you have any concerns or issues with any area of the school we cannot help, if we do not know about them, so please come and speak to us. We will not always get it right, but my staff and I do our very best to ensure we do. My door is always open and I will endeavour to the best of my ability to alleviate any concerns you may have.

I hope you all have a good term,

Bradley Young - *Headteacher*

