



Homefield Church of England Primary School

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TERMLY NEWSLETTER – AUTUMN TERM 2017

Welcome Back!

I would like to welcome you all back to another year at Homefield, with an additional warm welcome for any new families that are joining us this year. I hope that the items in this newsletter will act as a good reminder for the term to come.

Grounds Maintenance

I wish to begin with an apology, because I am unhappy with the untidy state of weed growth, which our grounds company has failed to deal with. I will ensure this is rectified as soon as possible to keep our school looking smart and inviting.

Parentmail

Our school is now cashless, except for tuck shop. You can now pay for services, such as dinners, after-school and breakfast clubs, sports' clubs and trips on ParentMail. If you could provide the school with your email address (if we do not already have it) and download the Homefield CE ParentMail app to your phone or tablet, then you will be ready to pay for things online swiftly. Hopefully, the majority of teething issues we had are mostly resolved, but please come in and speak to the Office if you are still having troubles.

Uniform and Appearance

In assembly, the children have all had a reminder about uniform and appearance and I must say that they have come back looking smart, wonderful and eager to go. To maintain our high standards, please ensure that ALL uniform is named and that our following uniform code is adhered to: Shirts must be tucked in at all times. All children need to wear their tie every day, along with the correctly coloured uniform and black school shoes (not boots, not black trainers with white trim or high-heeled shoes). Any earrings should be small, plain studs (not hoops) and no other jewellery should be worn. All skirts should be no higher than knee length. Hair should be suitable for school, so we consider changes in colour, shaved patterns and extreme styles unsuitable. Finger nails should not be painted, nor should stick-on tattoos be visible. If any family needs assistance with uniform, please speak to the School Office.

Security Gates

Our Security Gates are awaiting repair, which I am pleased to say will be occurring very soon, ensuring we continue to keep your children safe. This is due to the fact that they were left idle for such a long time. Please remember to use the pedestrianised footpath when entering our premises and not the vehicle drive for your own safety, particularly when dropping off for breakfast club.



Parking

Please do not park on the zig-zag lines at any point nor block the driveways of houses near the school. The police will be doing regular sweeps of the area around drop off and pick up time looking to move people on where needed. I know that it gets very busy on the roads outside school, but please show consideration towards others. Alternatively, you could consider going green and select another method of getting to school other than a car.

Pets and Smoking

Can I reiterate that no pets, particularly dogs, are allowed on site (except registered guide dogs), as this poses a serious health and safety risk. Anyone bringing a dog on to the site will be asked to remove it; this includes tying a dog to our railings, which is also not permitted. Please keep in mind that some children at our school have genuine phobias of dogs. Similarly, can I remind you that smoking on site or just outside the school gates are also not allowed, as it is something we do not wish to be promoted to children.

Pupil Premium Project

If your child is in receipt of pupil premium funding, there will be another chance to take part in the Generations' Project later in the year. Last year's project was a real success and a highly enjoyable and diverse experience for the families involved. Keep your eyes peeled for further information.

Curriculum

We are making improvements to our curriculum. Firstly, we have decided for many subjects to block them over the term. We have trialled it previously and the impact produced better progress from the children. This will mean rather than having one lesson a week on something, we will spend longer on each area immersing the pupils fully in the curriculum subjects. Another enhancement this year is going to promote Reading and Writing further. To enhance the passion for reading we are launching Super Readers across the school, whereby children need to read a minimum of five times a week to an adult in order to earn points for their class. Reading records must be signed each time as proof of this. We will also be focusing on improving our whole school spelling approach, adapting and extending the rainbow words style that has proved so very popular with the younger children.

Outdoor Classroom

The outdoor classroom has been an underused building for far too long. Soon, it will be utilised properly by all the EYFS children, as it is being overhauled and organised. It may also be used to house potential drumming lessons in the future, once plans have been finalised, so watch this space!

End of year Data

In a year of many assessment changes, you will be pleased to know that our end of year data was very pleasing. We managed to make improvements in many areas and the majority of our results were above national averages, which is fantastic. This year we aim to build on our positive achievements to push for outstanding and our yearly action plan will be made available soon.

Attendance

Please ensure your child is in school each day and on time. If your child is ill, please be courteous and notify the school office and give a reason for their absence. Holidays during term time will not be authorised, but exceptions may be made in extreme circumstances.

Pastoral Support

I am sure that many of you already know that we are very lucky to have a pastoral support worker at our school, every day except on Mondays. Mrs. Clarke offers a wealth of support for children and families. Please feel free to pop in or phone up the school office if you would like help of any kind. She can offer support with behaviour, parental separation, bereavement, financial worries and many more. Help is there, you simply need to ask.



Breakfast and Afterschool clubs

Please remember that you can book your child in to our breakfast and afterschool provision via the school office. Sessions must be paid for via ParentMail, as the school is now cashless. We offer care from 8.00am with breakfast provided, through till 5.45pm with a light tea. We also still have the **20p** breakfasts from 8.30am in the school hall!

Homefield University

As you are aware, I sent home the new Homefield University passports before the holidays, so you could use the six weeks of Summer to begin to collect your signatures. Achieving your graduation is fantastic and shows such dedication, so keep on attending those clubs and developing those new skills and talents.

Extra-Curricular School Clubs

The list of afterschool clubs will be coming out today, with clubs starting next week. Remember that the places go very quickly so book in fast to avoid disappointment, this can be done at the school office for certain clubs but if it states in the club booklet to book directly with the teacher leading the club on sign-up day, please do so. Some clubs with limited places are offering a rotation each half-term to accommodate the amount of popularity they may generate.

P.T.A

The P.T.A. is always looking for new members. Come and join us and help make Homefield a better place for all. This year the P.T.A. will be organising events such as the Easter bake sale and raffle, the Christmas fayre, the summer fayre, discos and leavers' events. Why not come along and help with these events and more. You will be notified of the next meeting where any newcomers will be warmly welcomed.

Read, Share and Review Days

Last year, our RSR days proved very popular and allowed several opportunities for parents to share and discuss the fantastic work their children had completed. This year we will continue with them and we hope you get even more enjoyment from them.

From Newsletters to Blogs

We are going to move away from paper newsletters at the start of each half-term and instead all classes are going to utilise their class blogs on our website far more regularly this year, in order to relay how each week has gone and to celebrate what the pupils have been learning. Please make sure you read them to stay abreast of what your children have been doing or what may be coming up. Blogs may contain a buzzword, as a little incentive for the pupils to read them. Can you read the blog together, identify the buzzword and then come into class to tell the teacher?

Communication

We endeavour to do our very best throughout the year, but we do not always get it right. Please come in and see us if you realise an error or oversight has occurred or you are simply unhappy about something. We will always aim to resolve issues as quickly and as painlessly as possible. However, we cannot do this if we do not know about it.

I hope you all have a great term,

Bradley Young
Headteacher

