



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 2018 can bring.

Parking

Thank you for observing our pupil campaign to improve the parking during peak times. I was impressed that there seemed to be a greater concern for more conscientious parking. It was also great to see so many walking to school too. Nobody parked on the yellow zig-zags throughout the entire time we were present, so I have every faith this can be continued when we are not present.

SATs Boosting Club

Year 6 pupils will be offered the chance to improve their Maths knowledge and the chance to prepare better for their Maths tests, beginning on Wednesday 31st January 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.

Outdoor Learning

Our pupils are lucky enough to not only have a ready-made outdoor learning area, but also a Chair of Governors dedicated to delivering sessions on key outdoor skills. Up until now, every class was getting an hourly session with Mr. Earle every four weeks, however we have evolved this to allow each class to have Mr. Earle's expertise for a whole half-term at a time. Pupils will also have a key skills booklet each, which they can tick off once a key skill has been learnt and demonstrated.

Generations' Project

Last year 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 worthy project.

Trees

The large trees on and around our site have recently undergone a management survey and safety works will be carried out very soon now that we have received the report.



Attendance and Punctuality

As many of you are aware, there were a lot of absences in the weeks leading up to Christmas. Mainly from illnesses, but also due to a large influx of holidays. These, together, knocked our overall school attendance. In order for our attendance figures to recover and return to a strong position, 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 may 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.

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 1 will be hosting their assembly on **Thursday 1st February** at 10.15am. In the second half of term, Year 2 will be doing theirs. 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 6th February (times to be confirmed)

Fashion Show – Yet to be organised, but a genuine possibility. Stay tuned!

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

Swimming

For the rest of the academic year, all KS2 classes will take it in turns to spend a half-term practising their swimming skills. A letter for Year 5 parents will be coming out this week, as the lessons for this class begin on **Monday 8th January**. If you have not received this letter, please ask at the school office. Other year groups will be notified nearer their half-term of lessons.

Independent Homework Projects

Last term we introduced more open-ended subject based investigations, evolving our approach to homework further and keeping the notion of it fresher and more alive. The Victorian Exhibition was a real treat to end the year and the pupils completed some fantastic contributions for it. This half-term we are asking your child to prepare a Science Project, which they will need to be able to explain to other school stakeholders as they tour round and take a look at our Science Fayre. Our aim is to enhance our pupils' skills for scientific enquiry and for working scientifically. The letter for this will be coming out this week. The top three science projects will be rewarded from each class and once more, I am sure the whole experience will be extremely varied and enjoyable.



RE and Science Quality Marks

This year we are aiming to achieve a Bronze Quality Mark for Science and we are aiming to go for Gold in RE. Our RE and Science Coordinators are busily raising the profiles of the subjects 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 Science club being organised.

He's behind you!

On **Wednesday 10th January** we will be hosting our annual pantomime in the school hall. M&M Productions will be putting on their version of Peter Pan 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 curling. Children will get a chance to experience an unfamiliar sport using an array of different skills. Thank you Go Geronimo for enabling this.

House Shout

We will be repeating our annual House Shout competition, which promoted our singing talents so well last year. This will take place on the last day of this half-term, **Friday 9th February**. We are aiming to persuade some guest judges to attend.

Gooseberry Planet

To improve the pupils' understanding of E-safety we have purchased Gooseberry Planet. 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. We will be sending home a letter soon and holding some parental information sessions to explain the reasons and benefits of the system.

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, 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.

Visitors and Inspections

We regularly have people from different professions visiting the school to ensure we are continuing to provide the best possible education we can and to check our school is moving in the right direction. It has been three years since our last Ofsted inspection, so we are all preparing ourselves for a similar visit and an increase of external visitors is important in supporting us with our preparations. As we are a 'Good' school and following Ofsted's latest framework, we should only receive a day visit in the first instance ensuring our behaviour, safeguarding and quality of education have remained strong. As with all other schools, we will only receive notification of any planned inspection the day before. Once we know, you, as parents, will be notified.

I hope you all have a good term,

Bradley Young - *Headteacher*

