



Homefield Church of England Primary School

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TERMLY NEWSLETTER – AUTUMN TERM 2018

Welcome Back!

Wow! The past six weeks have simply flown by. I hope you all had a refreshing Summer. 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.

Premises and Grounds Maintenance

Last year, I began with an apology about the tired state of the grounds and over the course of the year I had a turbulent time with our previous grounds company. Happily, I have placed the care of our grounds in the hands of a new company and am pleased to say there have already been swift improvements, with more still to come (if the sunnier weather returns). During the Summer holidays, our school also went through a thorough deep clean of the exterior with fresh coats of paint on the walls, railings, doors and windows. Inside, some classes have had a much-needed lick of paint also. We hope you will agree it looks a lot brighter and we therefore wish that together we can keep it looking this way for as long as possible.

Daily Timetable

Our school timetable has been slightly altered. We will have registration in the mornings as normal and then collective worship will follow directly after it at 9:00AM. This will allow for our new whole-school Attack Read/Spell initiative to fit in smoothly. A trial of this was organised at the tail end of the last academic year and worked well.

Our Curriculum

We have revised some of the content and the way we deliver our curriculum. In doing so, we have kept it fresh and engaging. We have divided our terms into areas of study, where three/four afternoons each week are dedicated to providing strong progress across the curriculum via a breadth of knowledge as well as outstanding and challenging teaching. We feel immersing the pupils in this way will enable greater progress and learning from all. Better links between subjects can also be made. Moreover, our curriculum allows for pupils to be given a real purpose for their learning and a challenging outcome enhancing necessary life skills. Our improvements will also mean greater opportunities to celebrate what our pupils have achieved by inviting in their parents. For some foundation subjects, we will still teach them through discreet weekly lessons as this may be dependent on specialists teaching them. To download the timetable, please access 'Our Curriculum' page on our school website and scroll down to find the attachments.

New Initiatives - Cooperative Learning, Storytime Phonics and Attack Read/Spell

We will be launching some new initiatives to further improve our teaching provision and to increase the progress our pupils make. Storytime Phonics will be used to enhance the quality of Phonics being taught through our EYFS and KS1 classes up to Year 2. Please use this link for further information on it. <https://www.tts-group.co.uk/StoryTime+Phonics.html>

Each day we will be using a short (20 minutes) Attack Read/Spell session to ensure our pupils leave Primary School with strengths in their writing and understanding of a wider range of vocabulary. Our new strategy will have the desired impact of improving spellings across the school, as well as phonic ability, word recognition, reading, handwriting, grammar and punctuation, sentence structure, word definition, etymology, and dictionary use. This will involve Years 2 to Year 6 and enables differentiation across the school to personalise our pupils' learning experience further.



In Maths, mainly in the Junior classes, we will be utilising several teaching techniques, but a specific approach will be to use Cooperative Learning which enables pupils to lead their own learning further and reinforce work more closely together. Knowledge and skills are modelled by the teacher and then learners are able to practise these skills in a series of structured activities. These structured activities are called CLIPS. CLIPS means Cooperative Learning Interactive Pattern. Each CLIP is designed to encourage certain elements of listening, speaking, questioning and response. The teacher will use the CLIP they feel best supports the learning of the groups of learners in their class. Cooperative Learning is very interactive with pupils moving around the class, speaking to each other and answering questions. Further information can be found through an information leaflet on our website, under Curriculum.

ParentMail

Remember our school is cashless, so please set up an online account with ParentMail or download the ParentMail App if you do not already have one. Feel free to pop into the school office if you are unsure about this or are having technical issues.

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/soles or high-heeled shoes). Cardigans and jumpers should be navy blue. PE shirts should be pale/sky blue. 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, huge bows/clasps and extreme styles unsuitable. Finger nails should not be painted, nor should stick-on tattoos be visible. Class teachers will speak to parents if there is an issue with a pupils' appearance. If any family needs assistance with uniform, please speak to the School Office.

Unwanted Uniform and Lost Property

We are grateful for the offers of old uniforms, but sadly we must decline as we simply do not have the space to house it all. If we have any lost property, this can now be located in the School Office. Just ask the staff to take a look for lost clothing if it cannot be found in the pupils' classroom.

Safety and Security

The safety of our pupils, staff and visitors is one of our daily priorities. We pride ourselves on being an extremely safe school. We regularly instruct our pupils about staying safe and secure whilst in school, outside of school or online. As a polite reminder, please remember that all visitors must sign in at the School Office and read our fire and safeguarding protocols before entry. If you wish to speak to a member of staff, please either catch them on the playground in the mornings or visit the School Office to arrange an appointment. It may be that the staff member will come to meet you straight away or they will make arrangements for an alternative time. We are very grateful to all parents for continuing to drop off their children at the magnetic door for breakfast club with our staff. It really helps us to keep everyone safe. Please also remember to use the pedestrianised footpath when entering or leaving our premises and not the vehicle drive for your own safety.

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 Generations' 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.

New Statutory Multiplication Assessment for Year 4 Pupils

The multiplication tables check was announced as part of the government's response to its primary assessment consultation last year. In February 2018 a trial in a select group of schools took place ahead of the national voluntary roll out of the multiplication tables check for all Year 4 pupils from June 2019, before it becomes mandatory in June 2020. Again, we will make the necessary steps to prepare all our children for learning their multiplication tables, particularly those in Year 4. Please support us, by working on these with your pupils at home. Several different methods of learning them can be used, such as audio CDs, rote learning and/or the look-cover-write-check method.

End of Year Data

You will be happy to know that our end of year data was pleasing. We managed to make improvements in many areas and many of our results were in line with or above national averages, which is fantastic. This year we aim to build on our positive achievements to push for even stronger pupil attainment and progress outcomes and drive towards outstanding. Together we can do it. Our yearly parental action plan will be made available later in the term.

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. Similarly for holidays, please fill out holiday request forms to inform us that your child will be absent. Remember that 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. Mrs. Clarke offers a wealth of support for children and families. Please feel free to pop in or phone up the school office to book an appointment 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 cashless. We offer care from 8.00am with breakfast provided, through till 5.45pm with a light and healthy tea. We also still have the **20p** breakfasts from 8.30am in the school hall! As with all of our clubs, perfect behaviour is expected. We would love to see more children staying for tea, so please feel free to arrange this when booking your child into the after-school club. Please remember to cancel any bookings you no longer require.

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. Please remember that only books signed, dated and completed will be accepted.

Extra-Curricular School Clubs

The list of afterschool clubs will be coming out shortly 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. We have new clubs available with specialist coaches, such as Gymnastics with Mr. Donald Carr.



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. We would love to host a fashion show, so if you have links to a fashion brand, please speak to the School Office.

Governors

We are always keen to look for new Governors to expand and co-opt on to our Governing Body, particularly those who can bring their important career skills from the finance and business worlds. If you are interested in becoming a Governor, please give your details either to the school office or speak to the Chair of Governors directly, Mr. Jonathan Earle.

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, after some improvements in order to get even more enjoyment from them.

Homework Practice and Blogs

All classes are going to utilise their class blogs on our website regularly, 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. They also have important information, contain reminders and will be a tool for teachers to upload class homework. Following parental requests, we have decided this year to make our homework more supportive in the areas our pupils need further practice with. Parents will be able to download this supportive material and help their child grasp more strongly what they have been working on in class. There will still be weekly spellings, daily Superstar reading and times tables to practice throughout the year as usual. Teachers will also be creating Knowledge Organisers about different themes covered in class, which contain key vocabulary, important dates, significant people and other useful facts that will aid your child's learning.

Visitors and Inspections

We regularly have people from different agencies 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 over three years since our last Ofsted inspection, so we are all preparing ourselves for a similar visit. 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.

Communication

Each year we endeavour to do our very best and improve upon the previous 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. In the first instance, please speak to your class teacher, but if you feel the issue is more serious it may require a more senior leader or myself to resolve the issue.

I hope you all have a great term.

Bradley Young
Headteacher

