



Homefield C of E Primary School



Newsletter Autumn Term 2 2022

Headteacher Update

It has been great to see so many parents in the school over the past couple of weeks! Thank you to all of the parents that joined us for Family Cafes and parents evening, and to those who completed our parent questionnaire.

Thank you for your support with the changes to how children come into school in the mornings; the children are enjoying being welcomed at the classroom door by an adult. The corridors are a lot less congested and the children have responded well to the calm music playing as they enter their classrooms. Please be aware that the doors will open at 8:35am and there is an adult from every classroom available on the playground should you need to talk to somebody.

Congratulations to Miss Everett: from the 1st January 2022 Miss Everett will become the Special Educational Needs Coordinator for Homefield C of E Primary School. Miss Everett is a qualified SENDco and she will be doing this role alongside teaching her current year 2 class. Mr Cole will be working closely with Miss Everett to ensure that the children in year 2 continue to receive the highest quality education during her SENDco release time. Miss Studley has decided to focus on her role as PE coordinator and Year 5 class teacher. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Miss Studley for all of her hard work as Homefield's SENDco; she has made a significant difference to the lives of many children and we appreciate all that she has achieved!

A final congratulations to Miss Randell who begins her maternity leave on 14th November 2022. We look forward to seeing you and the baby in the new year.

Thank you for your continued support
Miss Read

Behaviour Culture

We are currently finalising our new restorative approach to behaviour and our updated policy will be on our website before the end of term. The approach is designed to facilitate positive support for high standards of achievement and behaviour combined with clear responses and consequences for inappropriate behaviour. Children are held responsible for their behaviour, and we have a stepped approach to sanctions which staff will always deliver calmly and with care.

The following steps are displayed in every room for reference by adults and children.



EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS

Don't miss out on the education you deserve.



Our attendance target	95%
Our attendance from Sept 2022	90.1%
Number of unauthorised days absence this term	249 days

There are **190** school days within the year; please ensure that you book your family holidays in the other **175** days. Term time holidays will not be agreed unless there are clear **exceptional circumstances**.

Improving Lunchtime Play

We have been thinking creatively about how to improve the children's lunch time experiences and we have come up with two spaces that we would like to develop. The first space is the area where the trim trail used to be and I am pleased to share that we now have a wonderful new sand pit that the children will be invited to use at lunchtimes. The School Council is currently consulting with all classes as to what equipment they would like to use in the sand pit.

The Gazebo area is the second space that we would like to transform into a music/role-play space. Our aim is for the Gazebo to be repaired and we are currently waiting for the work to begin. Once repaired, we will use this area as a place where children can access dressing up clothes, hats, scarves and bags etc. We also aim to have a portable speaker where music will play for the children and staff to enjoy.

Please could your child have a spare waterproof jacket and a pair of wellies that they can leave at school each day. We want the children to experience outdoor learning as much as possible but they will need the right clothing and we would really appreciate your support with this. Please note that only children with wellie boots will be allowed to access the sand pit.



Reading at Home

This year, our reading records have gone online. Hopefully you have all received your parent login and downloaded the **BoomReader** Parents App. It is really easy to use and there is parent crib sheet (see link) <https://go-read.co.uk/downloads/parent-guide-mobile.pdf> and a helpful video (see link) <https://vimeo.com/531349764>

Our expectation is that children will read/share books at least 4 times per week and these are the percentages of children in each class who have done so.

YR - 23%

Y1 - 12%

Y2 - 10%

Y3 - 27%

Y4 - 23%

Y5 - 38%

Y6 - 25%

These percentages are disappointing and we do not feel they reflect the enjoyment of reading we see from our children every day. If you are listening to or reading with your child at home, please remember to use the app to log it. Let's see which class will log the most reading next week.

PTA

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the PTA for all of their time and commitment towards organising events for the children and raising money for the school. In September 2022 the PTA kindly funded a complete redesign of the Nursery classroom and the Year 1 classroom. This included many new and exciting resources to support the children's learning.



Thank you to all of our fantastic volunteers in the PTA who are working their socks off to organise and run events for the children and community to enjoy whilst raising much needed funds for school. Currently, we are raising funds to develop the school library into a relaxing and engaging space, filled with books to excite and enthral children of all ages, whatever their interests.

The recent discos and movie night were a huge success and we have the Christmas Fair to look forward to later this term. If you are able to help out at any of the events or want to get more involved in the PTA, please get in touch or join us at our next meeting on Monday 21st November straight after school in year 2.

Save the Date: Christmas Fair on Saturday 26th November 11am - 3pm

Safeguarding

Mobile Phones

Mobile phone use is limited to the locations of offices and the staff room for adults during the school day. This includes parent visitors to cafes etc. If you are in school and need to take an urgent call, please talk to a member of staff who can accompany you to a space where you will be able to do so.

Mobile phone use is prohibited to all students during the school day. If your child needs to bring a mobile to school, please remind them that they need to hand it into the office before school and collect it at the end of the day. Thank you.

A gentle reminder from our attendance policy, which follows the Norfolk model policy and can be found on the school website:

Reporting Absence

A reminder that if a child is unavoidably absent from school, parents are expected to contact school by telephone call on the morning of the first day of absence and on each subsequent day.

Late Arrival

All pupils arriving after registration time of 8:45am are required to report to the main office with their parents who will be expected to sign the late book. If their arrival is before 9:10am it will be recorded as late - L code (Late before the close of register). The school register will officially close at 9:10am. All pupils arriving at or after this time will be marked as having an unauthorised absence for the morning session - U code (Late after the close of register). This is categorised as an unauthorised absence for the session.

Learning Round up

Nursery

We have been very lucky to receive more new resources in Nursery. The wooden blocks of all shapes and sizes, provide many opportunities for imaginative play due to their open-ended nature. We have seen the children build creations including bridges, gymnastic beams, space rockets and a castle!

It was so good to welcome our families into class this week for our Family Cafe. Thank you for your support.

We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did!

Stories we have enjoyed so far this half term include 'Whatever Next' and 'Peace At Last'. The cardboard box 'space rocket' lasted well over a week before hammers and screwdrivers were used to repurpose the box!

We are becoming familiar with our wooden '5 frames' and our subitising (knowing how many objects are in a set without counting) skills are developing well.



The children love our new 'Welcome' song which we sing at the start of each session. The 'Boa-constrictor' song is also a firm favourite.

We are enjoying our pallets, crates and planks during outdoor play so thank you very much for your donations. We will be outside experiencing the delights of a British autumn/winter so please send warm coats, gloves and wellies. As always, thank you for your continued support.....dare I mention that 'Father Christmas' is featuring regularly during role play this week!

- Also, if anyone has any old wellies they would be willing to donate to the Nursery, we are in need of sizes 7,8 and 9. Many thanks ☺

Reception

It has been a very busy start to the Reception year and the children have settled amazingly. We have begun our phonics teaching and the children are sharing their learning at home with reading books and practising using their phonic cards.

In our number work we have been focusing on secure knowledge of the numbers to 5 and finding out which numbers together make 5. We made some cakes with 5 chocolate chips on top, we used two colours to show how the number 5 can be separated into two amounts. All of the ingredients were weighed against an egg and we had lots of lovely discussion about needing more or less to make it balance. We enjoy cooking in

Reception and treated our parents to some yummy Reception made biscuits at our family Cafe, I'm sure they were very much enjoyed. It was great to have so many parents join us and share a phonics session and activities.

We have had lots of generous donations from local people and businesses to help us improve our outdoor area and the equipment we use in it. With our new planks and crates we have had many adventures in

trains, boats and cars and visited places such as dragon world and fairy land. We are also developing our outdoor classroom to be a space for large scale art, building and sand and water play.



Year 1

Year 1 loved welcoming their families into our first Family Cafe of the year. It was wonderful for you to see our classroom environment and all of the fantastic learning we do.

In English we are writing stories inspired by the book *The Train Ride*. We are trying hard to use lots of description in our writing and use our Phonic knowledge to help us spell words.

In Maths we are adding and subtracting. We are using lots of different resources to help us solve calculations and mathematical problems.

Our Science topic is celebrations. We will be learning about light and sound. We will also make our own musical instruments and some tasty celebratory dishes from other cultures. Here we are exploring light and shadow.



In Geography we are learning about our local area. We are developing our map skills and discussing geographical features. Here we are making our own maps.



Learning Challenges! Every week we challenge Year 1 to complete 4 independent learning challenges. The children are managing this well and it helps them to develop their use of time and independent learning.

Year 2

We are learning lots this half term already! We received a letter from the RSPB asking us to make and write instructions for making bird feeders to help the wildlife in our environment this winter and we have done just that! It was wonderful watching our parents and their children making the bird feeders together at our family cafe.

In Maths, we have been adding and subtracting, learning a new method to help us - the column method! We draw the tens and ones in a tens and ones grid to help us and I have been blown away with how well the children have grasped it!

In History, we have had a mystery box appear in our classroom each week, with items belonging to a new explorer each time! Ask your children about these explorers, when they explored, where and how! We are Game Testers in Computing, working out the rules and controls of games on Scratch. We have been analysing the things that work well and the things that could be improved in these games.





The Materials Monster has made an appearance in our classroom too, helping us learn all about materials and their different properties and uses in Science! Christmas started early in Year 2 as we are exploring why Christmas matters to Christians. We reenacted the Nativity story and have thought about why Jesus is special. We will be thinking about advent as it approaches and how we and others can prepare for Christmas.

In DT we have been looking at how to build sturdy structures and have been tasked with a challenge

to build a stable chair for our resident sloth, Slothster using just paper!

In PE we are enjoying gymnastics with Mr King, practising different rolls and jumps and then combining them together to create a small routine.



Year 3

Year 3 have had a great half term. We have been identifying features of non-fiction texts and using them in our independent writing about a pangolin. We have used information gathered at our family cafe to help us with our writing and really enjoyed collaging a giant pangolin. Thank you for all of your support, it was lovely to be able to share our learning with you.

In maths, we have started learning about multiplication and division. The children have been using counters to make arrays and share into groups to solve problems.

In Science, our latest topic is 'How does your garden grow?' where children have been learning about the different parts of a plant and how each of these function to help a plant grow. We really enjoyed conducting an experiment using food colouring to show how water is transported through celery. The children were fantastic scientists and enjoyed using magnifying glasses to inspect the celery and talk about our results.



In Geography, we have started learning about our local area and thinking about what it is like to live on the coast. We will be moving on to talk about how our local area has changed, taking a close look at coastal erosion.

Year 4

We have been very busy in Year 4. We are using writing skills to write a persuasive letter to David Walliams about reading for enjoyment. We had to find out all about David Walliams and why reading is important. In maths we have finished our Addition and Subtraction unit, and finished our area unit. We will begin the multiplication unit. In Science, we have been partaking in various simple enquiries to explore 'States of Matter'. The children especially enjoyed learning about turning solids into liquids.

We had a visitor from Great Yarmouth power station who helped us understand energy and sustainability.

A big thank you to all the grown ups who visited Year 4 for the family cafe.

There is a lot of festive joy in Year 4, we have been learning various Christmas songs.

We also had the opportunity to go to Cinema City, where we watched Rotten Romans. The children really enjoyed this experience, they made many links to previous learning and learnt some new facts.



Year 5

We have been very busy in Year 5. In English we are underway with our non-fiction writing unit where we are focussing on the skills needed to write a biography. We have been finding out about Sir David Attenborough and Jane Goodall. We have even written a letter to David Attenborough to tell him about our work and we are hopeful he will reply and answer some of our questions.

In maths we have just finished a practical unit on measuring and calculating perimeter. Those of you who came to the parent cafe would have seen it in action. We have just started a unit on multiplication and division. Please support your child to get ahead by looking through the knowledge organiser sent home.



In Geography, we have started to learn about how volcanoes affect the lives of people on Hiemaey (the Westman Islands off the coast of Iceland). I was pleasantly surprised at how much the children had retained from their volcano topic with Miss Clark in Year 3.

We are doing DT this half term (as opposed to art). We are learning about bridges/structures and how to increase their strength. We will be making model bridges from a range of materials including card, spaghetti and wood! So far it is great fun.

In PE we are getting fit by trying lots of sportshall athletics activities. There is a competition coming up at the end of November where some children will be invited to compete against other schools, so it is good to have a real purpose to aim for.

Mr Cole is leading the science. His topic is called 'Amazing Changes.' Ask the children all about it. Mrs Duffield is leading music and French. We are busy preparing our songs for the Christmas Carol services. In French, the subject is celebrations.

Year 6

We have learnt so much this half term already! I would like to start by saying a big 'thank you!' to all of the grown ups who attended our family cafe; it was wonderful having you back in school. Thank you for supporting the children to make their beautiful Remembrance Day stain glass windows. They looked beautiful around Bradwell cenotaph.

In maths we have started our fractions learning. We are all now super confident on what a fraction is, how to simplify, order and compare them. Next we move on to calculating with them. The more confident children are with their multiplication the easier they will find this.



Thank you to all those who have been logging their reads on Boom Reader! If your child needs their login details again please ask.

Mrs Clarke

It's so lovely to be working with the children again, this term I have been helping support the children with emotional needs and mental health. I recently completed my mental health first aid training course and its lovely to use my new skills to help the children.

This time of year can be really tricky and I am able to help with guidance towards food banks or if you need help with behavioural or emotional support too. I also recommend looking at

<https://www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk/> for lots of advice and support. If you wish to speak to me anytime please call or email the office to arrange an appointment.

Extra Curricular Clubs

We are pleased to have our after school clubs up and running now. The initial offer currently involves football, netball and basketball. There are still some spaces if you would like to sign up.

Our current timetable is as follows:

Wednesday 3:15-4pm Choir for Yr1 – Yr 6

Monday Y4/5/6 boys football and Y4/5/6 mixed netball

Friday Y3/4/5/6 mixed basketball and Y3/4/5/6 girls football.

We are working to develop new club offers throughout the year. We are pleased to announce that we will be offering a dance club (mixed girls/boys) in Years 1 and 2 starting in January. The clubs above will continue with the exception of basketball. A new club will be running on Friday in that slot and we are asking the children what they would like to see on offer. We have a Y5/6 basketball competition coming up on 6th December. This will then trigger a coaching session in school with a signpost for children to attend a locally run basketball club. We will keep you updated with details. We have had lots of requests for football in Years 1 and 2 so we are currently putting that in place for January, but once again please look out for more details.

Can we remind all parents to ensure their children are coming to school on PE days dressed in our PE uniform. At this time of year it is cooler so a tracksuit is advisable. Our school polo t-shirts are sky blue, tracksuits need to be plain navy blue or black. Please avoid heavily branded or patterned sportswear and no leggings. We are currently in the process of investigating the cost of a Homefield school hoodie. We will keep you updated with any progress.

Diary Dates

Date	Event	Year Group
9 th & 16 th November	Reception Open Sessions 2023/24	Nursery
16 th November	PTA Midweek Movie	Year 1 - Year 6
18 th November	Children in Need Fancy Dress day	Nursery – Year 6
Saturday 26 th November	Christmas Fair	Whole school community
5 th December	PTA Wreath making	tbc
7 th Dec 9-9:40am & 2:30 – 3:10pm	Christmas Carol Concert	Year 1, 2 &3
7 th Dec 10-11am	EYFS Christmas family cafe	Nursery & Reception
8 th Dec 9-9:40am & 5:30-6:10pm	Christmas Carol Concert	Year 4, 5 & 6
14 th Dec	Christmas Jumper/Christmas dress up Christmas Dinner	Nursery – Yr 6
16 th December	End of Term	Whole School Community
4 th January	Start of the Spring Term	Whole School Community