



## Homefield Church of England Primary School

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## TERMLY NEWSLETTER – AUTUMN TERM 2019

### Welcome Back!

I hope you all had a relaxing and 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.

### Christian Vision

At Homefield Church of England Primary School we have a clear vision for the future, which we want you absorb. It is our vision that Homefield will continue to be a nurturing environment underpinned by strong Christian and British values strongly promoting two core elements of **FAMILY** and **FRIENDSHIP**. Embedded throughout our school from our logo to our playground, we are a family community where each child is treated as an individual, and outstanding teaching helps them to discover and develop their unique talents and abilities. We have a strapline supporting our vision: **We are family that is together; one that cares for, values and encourages all**. Most of all, we are a family that provides every child with enriching opportunities to shine. Our vision is also deeply rooted in theology with two biblical quotes emanating family and friendship.

Psalm 133:1

“Oh how wonderful, how pleasing it is when all God’s people come together as one.” (Family & Friendship)

John 4:21

“And He has given us this command: anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.” (Family & Friendship)

### 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. In June, we had a SIAMS appraisal visit and performed well, using the advice to make further improvements. It has been five years since our last SIAMS inspection, so we are all preparing ourselves for a similar visit this term. The SIAMS inspection framework has dramatically changed and there are now seven areas being scrutinised compared to the four under the previous framework, when we were graded ‘Outstanding.’ It is now much harder to achieve Outstanding, but we will aim high and look to showcase all that we do here at Homefield. As with all other schools, we will receive notification of any planned inspection five days before. Once we know, you, as parents, will be notified. Therefore, please remember our Christian Vision of Family and Friendship. A guide for these inspections is also on our website under the SIAMS tab.

### 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.

### Self-Catering

As we informed you at the end of last term, our school is now self-catering and we wish to encourage you again to allow your child to have a school prepared lunch at a very reasonable price. Our cooks are highly skilled and conscientious about making the lunch experience a positive one for all. We have new suppliers, who share our vision and we are far more determined to be inclusive to improve what is on offer for all our pupils, particularly those with allergies. We have already had positive feedback from many regarding the taste and menu options available. Menus can be found on our website under the relevant tab. If you require further information about the food, please contact the school office/kitchen staff.



## School Finances

As you must all be aware, schools across England and Wales have been at the mercy of the Government's failure to adequately support the finances needed by the education system. Recent promises have been made of a future injection of capital, but until then schools have had to take drastic measures to continue to operate effectively and to ensure a future of financial stability. This has manifested itself in different counties with schools reducing their week to four days, to cutting staffing numbers or simply closing altogether. To the best of our ability we have strived to remain as least affected as possible, but we, too, have had to lose valuable members of our support staff. Our budget, like all other schools, is not what it once was, but of course we will endeavour to ensure the school continues to run as well as it can.

## Curriculum Celebration Events

We intend to host curriculum celebration events each half-term to invite parents into share in the pupils' learning from their foundation subjects. These could take the form of galleries, museums or laboratories. We wish these to be pupil-led and provide real opportunities for parents to discuss the fantastic work their children have completed.

## Our Curriculum

We have reviewed the content and the order we delivered our curriculum from last year. Small changes have been made and 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 celebration events each half-term. 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 and Evolving Initiatives - Cooperative Learning, Storytime Phonics and SPAG and Reading Sessions

We will be continuing the effective initiatives launched last year, which we found had a successful impact. We will also be adjusting others to make them even more effective and to increase the progress our pupils make. Storytime Phonics will be continued 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>. A parental information session will be held regarding Phonics this term.

Each day we will still be using a session of twenty minutes Spelling and Grammar 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 the afternoons, we also have added a daily reading skills session for thirty minutes to instruct our pupils on the skills needed to read well, to understand what they are reading better and to increase their passion for reading.

In Maths, mainly in the Junior classes, we will be continuing 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.

## Daily Timetable

Our school timetable has been slightly altered, in order to maximise the learning all our children do. Firstly, we have stopped the afternoon break for Key Stage One pupils, as we found this interrupted what the children were doing by breaking their positive chain of thought. The Key Stage One classes are still able to take a break should the staff feel it necessary, but it will no longer be timetabled. We also have added a daily reading skills session for thirty minutes in the afternoons. We will also be continuing with our Monday outdoor learning sessions with Mr. Earle, our gymnastics with Mr. Carr and our swimming for Juniors from January 2020 at Great Yarmouth Charter Academy.



### **New Statutory Multiplication Assessment for Year 4 Pupils**

The multiplication tables check is now statutory. Our Year pupils will undertake this online test in June 2020. Rest assured we will make all the necessary steps to prepare all our children for learning their multiplication tables, particularly those in Years 3 and 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. We also have online tools such as, Times Tables Rock Stars and Hit the Button. Links for these can be found on our website. We will be re-launching the Times Table Rock Stars tool with pupils in classes, encouraging them to take on their teachers, other schools and each other to improve their own mental recall speed and make fabulous personal progress.

### **Website**

Please ensure you keep abreast of letters and notices from our school website, which is in the process of being updated for the new academic year. As a school, we are trying to be more environmentally friendly, so reducing the amount of paper we use and the costs of paper we incur are vitally important.

### **Premises and Litter**

Over the Summer holidays the school has had two new gateways installed to enable the entire EYFS outdoor area to be fully enclosed. The desired outcome is to enable stronger and more regular collaboration between our Nursery and Reception children, so that transition is easier and that learning from one another can be enhanced. Please also assist us to keep our site tidy, by ensuring all litter is placed in the waste bins, even if the rubbish does not belong to you.

### **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. 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 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 respect the safety procedures of the school, because 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, or simply walk.

### **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 or standing right outside the school gate, 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/vaping 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. I hope all eligible pupils will decide to take part in it.

### **Attendance**

Please ensure your child is in school each day and on time. If your child is ill, please notify the school office giving a reason for their absence. It is our duty to know where our pupils are, particularly if they are not in school. Similarly for holidays, please be honest, 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 extenuating 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. 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 also remember to cancel any bookings you no longer require.

### **Homefield University**

As you are aware, I made the new Homefield University passports available during the holidays on our website, so you could use this time 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 correctly will be accepted. Booklets can still be printed from the website or they can be obtained from the school office when required.

### **Extra-Curricular School Clubs**

The list of afterschool clubs will be coming out shortly with clubs starting in the week beginning Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September. Remember that the places can be popular so book in at the right times 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 and Cricket, Netball and Football with Go Geronimo.



## **P.T.A**

The P.T.A. is always looking for new members. Come and join and help make Homefield a better place for all with your suggestions for improvements. This year the P.T.A. will be organising the regular 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? You will be notified of the next meeting where any newcomers will be warmly welcomed. More information can also be found on the Homefield PTA Facebook page.

## **Governors**

We are always keen to look for new Governors to expand and co-opt on to our existing 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.

## **Homework and Blogs**

All classes are continuing their weekly blogs on our website, 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 set class homework. Our homework will continue to support the areas our pupils need further practice in. 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 expectations to learn weekly spellings, to read daily and to practise times tables 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.

## **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**

