



Homefield Church of England Primary School

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TERMLY NEWSLETTER – SPRING TERM

Happy New Year and Welcome to a New Decade!

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 2020 can bring.

Post-SIAMS Inspection

Thank you for your valuable contributions to our SIAMS Inspection, to which we were judged as Excellent. It was lovely to see former pupils, former parents and current parents speaking so highly of the school. Some comments were really emotive. We are all very pleased and can now work on the areas for improvement suggested before they return in five years' time. Our attention continues to be focused on exposing our pupils more to difference and to enhancing the use of a shared vocabulary around spirituality. Throughout all our drive towards improvements, we never fail to highlight all that is great about our Homefield family and the strength of its Christian character and distinctiveness.

Parking

I have been impressed that there seems to be a greater concern for a more conscientious approach to parking at peak times around school, particularly for our neighbours' properties. It is also great to see so many walking to school too. I urge you all to keep this up to maintain the safety of our stakeholders.

SATs Boosting Club

All Year 6 pupils will be offered the chance to improve their Maths knowledge and the chance to prepare better for their Maths SATS tests, beginning after half-term 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.

Spelling Bee

Three years ago, we took part in an Inter-House Spelling Bee and it was a highly successful occasion, so as a result we are going to repeat it to see how well our children can spell. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed it before and I am sure they will again. A final date is to be confirmed.

Generations' Project

For the past three years, our Generations' Project for those families in receipt of Pupil Premium has been 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 eligible will participate in an extremely worthwhile project.



Attendance, Punctuality and Illness.

As many of you are aware, there was an increase in absences in the weeks leading up to Christmas. Mainly from illnesses, but also due to a large influx of holidays. Our school attendance team has increased their responsibilities in addressing pupils with low attendance each half-term. Several gentle reminder letters to parents regarding attendance were issued prior to the Christmas break and we are sure this will be sufficient in ensuring attendance figures improve. Therefore in order for our attendance figures to remain strong (96% National Average), 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 will 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. If you are taking your child on holiday, the school must be informed and a holiday request form needs to be completed by you for our records.

Times Tables Rockstars & Hit the Button

With the statutory multiplication tests for Year 4 pupils taking place this year, we are encouraging all pupils to practise their multiplication skills at home. To aid this, we have, for our Junior classes, access to the Times Tables Rockstars online resource. This is proving popular amongst pupils and staff, as they challenge themselves to improve their times. Similarly, our younger pupils in Year 2 should endeavour to practise their skills on Hit the Button online resource too, which aids speed and fluency. Both can be accessed from our school website using the links for children under the Parents' Information tab. We are planning on re-launching TTRS this half-term, so watch this space.

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 5 will be hosting their assembly on Wednesday 12th February at 9.00am. In the second half of term, Year 2 will be doing theirs on Wednesday 25th March. Text 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 4th February (times to be confirmed)

Musical Ensemble – Friday 14th February (TBC)

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

Swimming, Outdoor Learning and Gymnastics

Swimming will soon be beginning for our Junior classes, alongside our weekly sessions of outdoor learning and gymnastics. All the junior classes get to enjoy swimming lessons. Notices will be coming out regarding when classes are swimming. We begin with Year 6 on Monday 6th January 2020. Each class will have six consecutive sessions.

Our outdoor learning, with Mr. Earle's Back to Basics, teaches valuable life skills, and I am pleased our



school is already ahead of the game when it comes to teaching our pupils first aid. Particularly, as this has been in the media as a future Government proposal for primary pupils in 2020. Our pupils really enjoy these sessions and this year we are aiming to achieve an award for our outdoor learning provision.

In Gymnastics, Mr. Carr has been busily enhancing the skills of our pupils for one of their PE sessions and his instruction will enable our pupils once again to enter inter-school competitions. He also offers a club after-school, which will be open to Years 3 and 4 pupils this term. This club will be offered to years 5 and 6 pupils in the Summer Term.

Curriculum Quality Marks

Homefield was successful in achieving the Science Quality Mark from last year's efforts and praise must go to the Science Coordinators for this accolade. The plaque is already up on the wall near our trophy display promoting the success, so please take the time to look at this when you are next in school. This year we are aiming to achieve a Quality Mark in PE, as well as one for RE. However, all our Subject Coordinators have been extremely busy over the past year raising the profile of their subjects to ensure we meet the standards required. I will keep you posted with how things progress.

Oh Yes He Did! Oh No He Didn't!

On **Wednesday 15th January** we will be hosting our annual pantomime in the school hall. M&M Productions will be putting on their version of Jack and The Beanstalk 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. This is open to Nursery pupils also, but please be aware that there will be loud music, flashing lights and audience participation elements by costumed cast members.

Enrichment

Sporting enrichment this term will be learning all about musical theatre. Children will get a chance to experience an unfamiliar session using an array of different skills. Thank you Go Geronimo for enabling this.

Musical Ensemble Take Two (TBC)

Once again, we will be considering organising a celebration of the musical abilities of the children who are in the choir or undertake peripatetic lessons inside or outside of school. We are aiming for this to take place on the last day of this half-term, **Friday 14th February**. As this would be the second year for this event and as some of the pupils will have been learning an instrument for the first time, we are keeping it relaxed and informal and hoping to combine it with some cakes and hot beverages offered by the PTA for the parents of those children involved.

Gooseberry Planet

To improve the pupils' understanding of E-safety we are continuing with our Gooseberry Planet sessions with the pupils. 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.



Tapestry & Paper Copies)

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, to be informed of up-and-coming events or to see what learning is on the horizon so please ensure you access them. We are trying to save paper and reduce costs, so letters will not always be sent home but can be accessed under our Letters Home tab on our school website.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Our school offers a lot of free, extra-curricular clubs to our pupils and part of our PE Quality Mark drive is to get more pupils involved from each year group. Please take a good look at the Spring Term Clubs' Booklet and encourage your child to participate in something new. Club Sign-Up will be Friday 10th January. Please ensure you read the booklet to know who to sign up with.

Concerns and Issues

Can we 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 simply ask that you address school staff respectfully and in a manner befitting a school setting. 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.

I hope you all have a good term,

Bradley Young - *Headteacher*

