



Homefield Church of England Primary School

Headteacher: Mr. Bradley Young

Homefield Avenue, Bradwell, Great Yarmouth

Norfolk, NR31 8NS

Tel: 01493 661691 Fax 01493 444686

Email: office@homefield.norfolk.sch.uk

Website: www.homefield.norfolk.sch.uk

TERMLY NEWSLETTER – AUTUMN TERM 2020

Welcome Back...Finally!

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 who are joining us this year. I hope that the items in this newsletter will act as a good reminder for the term to come, particularly under the circumstances during the pandemic. All decisions made have been heavily influenced by the guidelines imposed upon the school by the Government's infection controls and as a result, what we have taken for granted at Homefield over the years is going to have to change for the time being. I fully understand that the many changes and adjustments that have had to happen may take some time to adapt to, but sadly we all must get used to them, in order to keep everyone safe. There is a lot of information here, so I apologise in advance.

Conduct

With all the changes we have had to make in order to ensure we can reopen safely, we appreciate there may be many things that do not seem as convenient as they once were, which can cause discontent. Often, we feel the same. Nevertheless, we expect all stakeholders to conduct themselves appropriately and politely when interacting with our staff either in person, via the telephone or through email. Any rudeness to staff will not be tolerated.

Christian Vision

At Homefield Church of England Primary School, we have a clear vision for the future, which we want you to absorb and remember. 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)

Staggered Drop-off and Collection Times

Whilst we appreciate this may be challenging for some working parents, our staggered timings have been established in order to reduce the number of contacts at any one time and to ensure we all remain as safe as possible. We urge our parents to speak to their employers asking them to be more flexible and understanding, because this system will be in place for the foreseeable future and we expect everyone to adhere to it. As a reminder, pupils with surnames beginning with A-L arrive at 8:30AM and depart at 3:00PM, whilst pupils with surnames beginning with M-Z arrive at 8:45AM and depart at 3:15PM. Please arrive no more than ten minutes before your time slots, because gates will not be opened until then. Remember to socially distance on our premises, whilst queuing at the class playground markers as well as on the pavement. Thank you for your cooperation with this.



Visitors

Rest assured that all visitors/contractors to the site will be attending pre-arranged visits and whilst here, they will adhere to the COVID expectations we have put in place. This will ensure we know they are COVID free, have clean and sanitized hands, keep socially distanced and are wearing PPE. 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, and this will undoubtedly continue.

Baseline Assessments

As the pupils have missed their routine schooling since the end of March combined with the fact there were no statutory tests for the end of Key Stage classes, the teaching staff will be setting gentle baseline assessments for Years 2-6 to ascertain the children's level of knowledge within their core subjects. This will give the school a solid starting point from which to re-build. Once our children are settled and our curriculum has begun to return to the strong levels it once was at, we aim to build on our previous positive achievements to push for strong pupil attainment and progress outcomes and do what we can to get back on our drive towards outstanding. Together we can do it. Our annual parental action plan housing our improvement targets will be made available later in the term.

The "5 Rs"

We have evolved our Growth Mindset into the "5 Rs" where each week we will focus on one of the following themes encouraging and expecting our pupils to evidence these in their conduct and attitudes to learning and a chosen child each week will be awarded a certificate for that theme. The "5 Rs" stand for Resilience, Responsibility, Resourcefulness, Readiness and Reflectiveness. There is more information about the "5 Rs" on our website. We begin the first week back with Resilience.

Self-Catering

Please remember our school is self-catering and we wish to encourage you again to allow your child to have a school prepared lunch at a very reasonable price. All Reception to Year 2 pupils are entitled to a free meal through the Government's scheme and the more children taking up a meal prepared by the school means more vital funding into our school budget. We therefore urge you to let your child have this. Due to the COVID guidelines and a lack of space, we are currently only able to offer hot meals to pupils from Nursery to Year 2, but we are still able to provide tasty school packed lunches for all age groups. We will look to reintroduce hot meals for our Junior year groups in time. Our cooks are highly skilled and conscientious about making the lunch experience a positive one for all. We have fabulous, local suppliers and we are determined to continue to be inclusive for all our pupils, particularly those with allergies. The current menu can be found on our website under the similarly-named tab found in Parents' Information. Please talk through this menu with your child and encourage them to have a nutritious school prepared meal. If you require further information about the food, please contact the school office/kitchen staff. All meals need to be paid for via our ParentMail system.

Parent and Teacher Meetings

Later in the term, we will still have parent and teacher meetings, but with a difference. Now, parents will be given the choice between a ten-minute telephone conversation or a ten-minute video meeting through Google Meet. These meetings will take place over a two-week period at agreed times beginning on Monday 12th October 2020. If a teacher feels a face-to-face meeting with parents is needed, then a COVID Secure meeting will be arranged to take place in school with the approval of the Headteacher. More information on how to book an appointment will be released nearer the time.

Breakfast and After-School Clubs

Recently, we have launched a new online booking system for our wrap around care provision, which we hope will enable our school to offer support to working parents. Both clubs can accommodate a maximum of twenty pupils and we are prioritising families where parents work for the NHS and where both parents are key workers. Bookings can only be made via this service and need to be done by Thursday of the week prior to that, which is in question. There can no longer be any late bookings accepted nor any taken on the day. Once booked in, the school will collate the results and contact parents to confirm their bookings. Please remember to pay for wrap around care using the ParentMail system. This can be paid for in advance too. If payments are not made then there is a risk that the service will be withdrawn until outstanding debts are cleared. There is also no 20p club anymore, so we expect all children booked into breakfast club to arrive promptly for an 8:00AM start. Please queue socially distanced by the fire exit door, where staff will accept the children allowing you to leave for work.



Our Curriculum

We have reviewed the content and the order we delivered our curriculum from last year. We have given our curriculum a new overarching theme of **DIVERSITY** and we endeavour to ensure all our subjects expose our pupils to and teach them to appreciate diversity. Small changes have been made and in doing so we have been able to keep it fresh and engaging. We have included a period of black history, as well as a mini local study, but one thing we are really looking forward to is a whole school approach to teaching art and design using an art specialist on staff. To accompany this latter element, we have created an art gallery for each class in order to share the pupils' creative efforts. 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. Some foundation subjects will still be taught 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.

Curriculum Celebration Events

Despite COVID, we still intend to continue to celebrate the learning from our curriculum each half-term with you virtually by sharing images of the pupils' efforts from each class in our new Class Gallery pages on our website. By doing this parents can still share in the pupils' learning from their foundation subjects but more safely.

New, Continuing and Evolving Initiatives

We will be implementing new initiatives and we will be continuing the effective ones that have 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 guide will be released regarding Phonics later this term.

The EYFS classes will be piloting their new curriculum and enjoying planning and preparing this for their new cohorts. We hope the pupils enjoy this new approach equally as much.

Each day classes will have access to Spelling and Grammar sessions within our English learning time to ensure our pupils leave Primary School with strengths in their writing and understanding of a wider range of vocabulary. Our no nonsense, 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. There will be new tool symbols for different grammar and punctuation elements to absorb and all years from 1 to 6 will be involved. Alongside this, the manner in which we teach writing has also been adapted to build the stamina and willingness to write within our pupils. Our aim is to provide them with more free writing opportunities allowing them to practise their writing across the curriculum. At the same time, we aim to give pupils a far greater scaffolding to know which elements are needed to achieve stronger pieces of writing. We also have added refreshed guided reading sessions for up to 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 all through the use of quality texts.

In Maths, we will be continuing to use Cooperative Learning, adapted to be more in line with COVID guidelines. This enables pupils to lead their own learning further and reinforce work more with peers. 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. Further information can be found through an information leaflet on our website, under Curriculum. There will continue to be the popular Ten in Ten sessions and the opportunity for all abilities of pupils to tackle the same task, achieved by adjusting our approach with differentiation so that access to learning comes through even greater modelling, more effective use of concrete/pictorial resources and/or the reassuring support of a class adult.

Daily Timetable

Our school timetable has been slightly altered, to accommodate the staggered start and finish times and to house all the adjustments that have been required to remain COVID secure. We also have staggered break times and lunchtimes. We will also be continuing with our Monday outdoor learning sessions in a slightly different way with Mr. Earle, our gymnastics with Mr. Carr and our swimming for Juniors from January 2021 at Great Yarmouth Charter Academy.



Statutory Assessments

At the moment, the Government have stipulated that all statutory assessments will remain and take place in Summer 2021. The EYFS GLD assessments in Reception, the Phonics Screening Check for Year 1 and Year 2 pupils, the KS1 SATs for Year 2, the multiplication tables check in Year 4 and the KS2 SATs in Year 6. Rest assured we will take all the necessary steps to prepare all our children for any testing. Please support us, by working on daily reading, times tables and the four mathematical operations, as well as handwriting and pencil grip at home (depending on the age of your child). We also have online tools such as, Times Tables Rock Stars and Hit the Button. Links for these can be found on our website.

Website, Texts and News App

Please ensure you keep abreast of letters and notices from our school website and our Ark Nursery website, which are in the process of being updated for the new academic year. As a school, we are trying to be more environmentally friendly and adhere to improved infection controls, so reducing the amount of paper we share and the costs of paper we incur are vitally important. We will use texts regularly to inform you about events and we also have a school news app that you can download on to your phone for any news messages that we upload to our website. See more about this on the following link: <https://www.homefieldprimary.co.uk/page/?title=News+%26amp%3B+Events+App&pid=39>

Premises and Litter

Our trim trail is awaiting repairs and these should be completed by 25th September. We ask that you keep your children off these at all times. 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 contact the school office if you are unsure about this or are having technical issues.

Uniform and Appearance

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: White polo shirts must be tucked in at all times. For increased hygiene reasons, there is no need at the moment for children to wear their tie. However, we still expect the correctly coloured uniform and black school shoes (not boots, not black trainers with white trim/soles or high-heeled shoes) to be worn. 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. For the time being, pupils only need a back pack with, a water bottle, a coat (if required) and a change of outdoor shoes in a carrier bag. EYFS children may need to bring with them a change of clothing in case of accidents. Sadly, all belongings must be brought to and taken home from school each and every day.

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 nor can we accept it under current COVID guidelines. If your child has lost any property, just ask the staff to take a look for the items, as it will most probably be found in the pupils' classroom.

Parking, Cycling and Scooting

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 times 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. Please note if you are cycling/scooting to school and wish to leave your bike in the bike shed, it would be much wiser and safer to use the Homefield Avenue entrance in order to access the bike sheds.



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.

Attendance and Illness

We have taken every step possible to keep your children safe and to reassure you about returning, so please ensure your child is in school each day and on time. If your child is late, you must bring them to the school office. If your child is ill, please notify the school office giving a specific reason for their absence. As we have children and staff with lower immune systems in the school, we must know if your child is suffering from a contagious illness so this information can be passed on to the relevant families. More information about illnesses can be found on our website. It is our duty to know where our pupils are, particularly if they are not in school. If you or your child develops COVID-like symptoms please do not come into school, but seek NHS guidance. 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. Currently, if you visit a country on the quarantine list for your holiday, you and your family must quarantine for fourteen days upon your return. As a result, please inform us where you are travelling to on your holiday forms. Please also remember that the school does not fine parents, as this is the responsibility of the County Council.

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. She can be reached each day this term, so if her pastoral support is required, please phone up the school office to book a telephone appointment or send her an email at mrsclarke@homefieldprimary.co.uk. She will get back to you as soon as she can. There may also be opportunity for video meetings at an arranged time, if she deems this necessary. She can offer support with behaviour, parental separation, bereavement, financial worries and many more. Help is there, you simply need to ask.

Homefield University

Under the current circumstances with our drastic reduction in club provision, we have decided to suspend Homefield University for the time being, until the situation is more conducive to it. We hope to restart this in the future.

Christmas Performances

Sadly, due to the guidelines, there will be no Christmas Nativity performances nor Carol Concert this Christmas. However, if we are able, we will endeavour to create something in classes as a Christmas treat, which we can share virtually with parents through our website or social media accounts.

Extra-Curricular School Clubs

The list of afterschool clubs will be coming out shortly with clubs starting in the week beginning Monday 14th September. Sadly, the provision has had to be reduced from the many clubs previously on offer, due to the fact we are now unable to mix classes. We have been fortunate enough to secure a new guitar and drumming teacher, as we say a fond farewell to Mr. Wooden, but please note that these two musical classes may need to begin in the week beginning 21st September. This half-term we have three clubs managed by Go Geronimo for Years 4, 5 and 6 based on Multi-Skills and Fitness. After half-term, we will offer a similar provision for Years 1, 2 and 3 respectively. Places are unlimited for the sports' clubs and cost £3.00 for the half-term. Payments for music tuition and Go Geronimo can be made on ParentMail. To book your child into a club, please complete the online booking system by Friday 11th September, which will be released to you this week. Once results have been collated, the school will contact you to confirm your child's place. We hope to be able to reintroduce other clubs in the future.

P.T.A

The P.T.A. is always looking for new members. Please show your interest to join and help make Homefield a better place for all with your suggestions for improvements. This year the P.T.A. will be working together to determine how they can adapt their fundraising ideas to be COVID Secure. You will be notified of the next virtual 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 Class 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 any class homework. 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 and Safeguarding

Each year we endeavour to do our very best and improve upon the previous year, but we do not always get it right. Please contact the school 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 contact 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. As a final note if you have any safeguarding issues, please contact the school to speak to a Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mr. Young, Mrs. Newman or Mrs. Clarke.

I hope you all have a great term.

Bradley Young
Headteacher

