



Homefield Church of England Primary School

Headteacher: Mr. Bradley Young
Homefield Avenue, Bradwell, Great Yarmouth
Norfolk, NR31 8NS
Tel: 01493 661691
Email: office@homefield.norfolk.sch.uk

Dear Parents/Carers,

28th January 2021

The Prime Minister has confirmed schools and colleges will not return to full face-to-face education after the February half-term and that the current attendance restrictions will remain in place until 8th March at the earliest. This means we will continue with quality remote education until this time. We hope that this is a date that does not alter and infection rates in society fall enabling us all to be freed from this latest form of lockdown.

The Government has also announced that schools will close to all pupils, as they normally would, for February half-term, continuing afterwards only for those pupils of critical worker or vulnerable families. As the target date 8th March gets closer, we hope that there will be further guidance on a possible re-opening, which we will communicate to you in due course.

Having already arranged for supermarket vouchers to be sent to our eligible families in receipt of the FSM benefit at the beginning of the half-term, we received notification yesterday from the DfE that schools do not need to provide lunch parcels or vouchers during the February half-term. There is wider government support in place to support families and children outside of term-time through the [Covid Winter Grant Scheme](#). The £170 million scheme is being run by local authorities in England, with at least 80% of the funding earmarked to support with food and essential utility costs and will cover the period to the end of March 2021. It will allow local authorities to directly help the hardest-hit families and individuals over the winter period. Local authorities have local ties and knowledge, making them best placed to identify and help those children and families most in need. Nevertheless, the school will not cancel the order placed for vouchers, but this may be done automatically by the Local Authority if they are operating a different project.

Schools continue to play an important role in contact tracing for those pupils and staff who continue to attend their school. We recognise the challenges of this responsibility during holidays. Given limited numbers on-site, we expect contact tracing activity to be reduced but this remains vitally important in the continued national effort to limit the spread of the virus. Where pupils or staff still attending their school test positive for coronavirus during the holidays, having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, schools are not required to take any action. Staff, parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace. However, where pupils or staff still attending their school test positive having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, the school is asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school. Parents of pupils developing symptoms within 48 hours of being in school must contact the school on the email address office@homefield.norfolk.sch.uk to allow staff to trace possible contacts of the symptomatic individual. If a child develops symptoms 48 hours after having been in school, parents do not need to contact the school, unless to inform the school the pupil has tested positive for COVID-19 for our records.

As an extra measure of safety, please know that school staff are undertaking LFD (lateral flow device) testing twice weekly.

Stay home and stay safe.

Yours faithfully,

Bradley Young
Headteacher

Jonathan Earle
Chair of Governors

