



## Homefield Church of England Primary School

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## TERMLY NEWSLETTER – SUMMER TERM

### Welcome Back!

I hope that you have all had a relaxing Easter break. I hope you, like us, are all looking forward to what successes and achievements the final term in this academic year can bring. Our Summer Events timetable went out just before the holidays, but it is available on our website too.

### SATs and Year 6 SATs Breakfasts

Year 6 and Year 2 pupils will be sitting their SATs this term. This is a fantastic opportunity to showcase what the pupils have learnt over the year. Year 1 pupils will also be sitting their Phonics Screening Check, later in June. We have spent key moments of our year preparing them for these tests and I have every faith each child will do their very best when the time comes. As a school tradition, we offer the Year 6 pupils SATs breakfasts each day before the tests begin. A more detailed letter about this and a nourishing menu will come out nearer the time. All dietary requirements will be catered for and I hope all pupils will attend to build our Homefield team spirit together before we tackle the tests head on. However, this is by no means compulsory. If your child does have a specific dietary requirement please let Miss. Battle know so that we can ensure they receive the correct foods.

### Playground and Reception Outdoor Areas

Over the Easter break, we have had several improvement works taking place. You have all seen by now the vibrant and engaging playground markings, which pupils of all ages can use during break times. There are also tools on there to use during lessons and some to support children emotionally, like friendship and feeling stops. Thanks must go to the PTA for dedicating the raised funds for these, and a huge thank you to you as parents for donating money at our fundraising events. Our Reception area also had a whole load of new upgrades. Seeing the Reception and Nursery children playing with the new improvements was so satisfying this week. Bravo!

### Generations' Project

Last term our Generations' Project for those families in receipt of Pupil Premium was a real success and we thank all those who joined in. We are going to be rewarding those pupils and their relatives who attended by taking them off to the Norfolk Children's Book Centre to spend their accumulated funds on lovely new books. We hope all future Pupil Premium projects will see even more eligible pupils in attendance.

### Parking

Parking is still proving to be an issue during term time and we do get complaints from our local neighbours when people park across driveways and block entrances. Once again, please ensure you show a greater concern for more conscientious parking and be courteous to their requests for you to park elsewhere more appropriately. As the weather is brightening and warming up, families could consider walking or cycling to school.



## Attendance and Punctuality

Attendance has marginally improved, but still further strides need to be made. In order for our attendance figures to recover and return to a stronger position, we will need everybody to be at school, and on time, as much as possible this term. We have a breakfast club from 8:00AM, which is a fabulous way to ensure your child is on time for school each day. 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. If we do not hear from you, our office staff will give you a courtesy call to find out where your child is. Lengthier absences through illness will require medical evidence. Letters regarding low attendance or persistent lateness will be sent home as a reminder to families about the importance of ensuring their child is in school. We have a duty to pass information to the Local Authority on all persistent absences, which could lead to further action from them.

## 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 Reception will be hosting their assembly on **Thursday 10th May** at 10.15am. In the second half of term, Year 5 will be doing theirs on **Thursday 21st June** at 10:15am. Reminders will be sent out nearer the time. The Year 6 Leavers' Assembly will be on the final day of term Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> July at 10:00am in St. Nicholas' Church.

## Walking Home

It has long been a tradition at Homefield that when a pupil reaches Year 6 they gain the privilege and school's approval to walk home alone at the end of the day provided the school receives written permission from parents. This gives them a real sense of increased independence and responsibility. In turn, this gives rise to them having access to a mobile phone in case of any emergencies. We must stress we feel Year 5 children walking home alone are still too young to do this and urge Year 5 parents to resist the clamour from their children to do so. There is only one more term to wait before they will be Year 6 children in their own right.

## PTA Events

Thank you to all of the parents and staff that helped with the Easter events. It was fantastic to see all Easter bonnets and the school egg raffle, again, raised some much-needed money. Well done everyone for the continued support.

The PTA is now deciding on the next improvement project to raise funds for, after our new playground markings. 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:

Midweek Movie – Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May (times to be confirmed)

Summer Disco – Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> June (times to be confirmed)

Fashion Show – Yet to be organised, but a genuine possibility. Stay tuned! Any parents with fashion business links, please contact the school office.

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



## **Independent Homework**

Recently, we have had open-ended History and Science homework projects to bring families together in producing some quality pieces of work. The exhibitions were marvellous and made us all very proud. After listening to parental feedback, we have decided to base current homework more around English and Maths, which can therefore challenge and support your child to improve within those subjects. We have already launched Hit the Button and we now have online access to SPAG.com for pupils to develop their understanding of grammar, spellings and punctuation. Teachers will set the homework on this system and can monitor clearly how well pupils have tackled the challenges. There will also be Ten in Ten challenges, as well as reading comprehension and mathematics tasks coming home regularly. Please speak to your class teacher if these are not received. However, our aim is to keep homework fresh, so future open-ended tasks will return.

## **Enrichment**

Sporting enrichment this term will be learning all about tennis. Children will get a chance to experience an unfamiliar sport using an array of different skills. Thank you Go Geronimo for enabling this. I hope we can unearth the next Andy Murray.

## **Gooseberry Planet**

To improve the pupils' understanding of E-safety we have purchased Gooseberry Planet. 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. We will be sending home a letter soon and holding some parental information sessions to explain the reasons and benefits of the system. We will be doing this in three sessions for Years 1 & 2, Years 3 & 4 and Years 5 & 6.

## **School Website**

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, and a way to communicate information to you, so please ensure you access them weekly.

## **Concerns and Issues**

May I 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 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. If I am ever unavailable, please also feel free to share concerns with other senior leaders in the school, particularly as all staff have an equal responsibility for safeguarding.

## **Visitors and Inspections - Parentview**

As we mentioned last term, we are expecting a single day Ofsted visit and we will be notified the day before. Last term, we ensured we were externally validated by several educational professionals to help and prepare us for such an inspection. We, like all school stakeholders, love Homefield and are eager to highlight all that is wonderful about our school. We often ask you to complete surveys about safeguarding, behaviour or simply your general impressions of the school, as they are valuable to help us improve, but it would be a constructive step if you could share your thoughts on Parentview, which is the Ofsted's parental review forum (link below). You will need to register with an email address in order to give your feedback to the questions posed.

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/login?destination=give-your-views%2Fsurvey%2F15763>



I hope you all have a good term,

Bradley Young - *Headteacher*

