



Homefield Church of England Primary School

Interim Head Teacher: Mrs Elaine Glendinning

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Headteacher's Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers

I am very pleased to be given the opportunity of working with you and your children alongside the staff team at Homefield Primary School. I have previous experience of headship at a school in Great Yarmouth and have recently finished an interim headship at a school in south Norfolk.

As you are aware, schools have been impacted by the restrictions and lockdowns imposed during the COVID-19 pandemic and children have missed out on the social aspect that schools normally provide. As we return after the summer break, we hope that your children will see that school is more or less back to how school was before coronavirus came into their lives. Children are no longer in 'bubbles' and are able to mix with children from other year groups. We have already seen how happy they are when they can talk to and play with older or younger children at breaks and lunchtimes. We are holding assemblies for half the school at a time in the school hall and this is helping children make a positive start to the school day. The classrooms look different too. Children no longer have to face the front and sit in rows in the classroom and again, we hope that children sitting in table groups will help with their social development as well as their academic development.

We are seeing positive changes in school but we are mindful that coronavirus is still prevalent in the community. It is important that children do not attend school if they have any symptoms of coronavirus and a PCR test should be arranged as soon as possible. The school will be following the guidance in the updated Compliance Code and will maintain cleaning, hygiene and ventilation regimes at all times. There may be some changes over the coming weeks and months if we have an 'outbreak' of cases in school and have been advised to implement some restrictions to prevent further spread. We will keep you informed throughout if things do change for any reason.

The children have settled back into school well and we look forward to welcoming the Reception and Nursery children as they begin their school journey with us. Attendance and Punctuality are still very important and, despite the COVID pandemic, our attendance expectations remain high and above the National Expectation (96%). This term, we will need everybody to be at school, and on time, every day. We have a breakfast club from 8:00am, which is a great 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 certain 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.

You will find information about the school on our school website. We will also start to use our Twitter and Facebook feeds once again so that you will get updates about what is happening in school. 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.

If you have any concerns or issues please discuss them with your child's teacher in the first instance but if this is not appropriate then telephone the school office to either speak to, or make an appointment to speak to, a member of the senior leadership or pastoral team. We would rather know about your concerns or issues (no matter how small they may seem) at the earliest opportunity so that they can be addressed before they escalate.

Thank you for your cooperation and I look forward to working with you and your children over the coming term.

Elaine Glendinning

