

HEADLINES

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Autumn Term 2011 – September (1)

A brief administrative newsletter to begin an exciting new year!

Start of term

Thanks and congratulations to all parents and boys for a fine and orderly start to the new year. All boys are now safely installed in their new tutor groups and subject areas and academic studies are securely under way.

School calendar

A draft copy of the Autumn Term calendar was sent home with the newsletter at the end of last term. Please refer to it closely for the term's major events. A hard back final version will be sent home next Friday. Please reserve it a spot on the fridge.

Senior Department Pupil Induction Days – Thames Young Mariners

Boys throughout the Senior Department will have the opportunity to take part in the pupil induction days at Thames Young Mariners. This will take place on Friday 23rd September, for boys in Bomfords and Ellis House; and on Friday 30th September for boys in Grays and Walfords. Final administrative details will be coming home next week. **Please ensure that any outstanding consent slips are returned to school on Monday.**

House Diaries

Boys in the Senior Department have now been issued with their House Diaries. These contain essential information such as individual timetables, house point records and the school conduct code. It also serves as a source of important information between home and school. The boys will bring their House diary home each evening. **Please ensure that it is kept up to date, and signed off by parents at the end of each week.**

Newsletters

A weekly "**Headlines**" newsletter, and a **Bulletin** of the next week's activities, is produced by the school each Friday. For ecological reasons, these are posted on the school website and emailed directly to those parents, who request it. Should you wish to elect to receive information by email and have not

previously stipulated this service, please send your request to administration@homefield.sutton.sch.uk in order to be added to our database. Additional hard copies are available in the school office.

From the Headmaster

Occasional letters from the Headmaster will also be published with the newsletter and sent home, as hard copy, directly to parents.

Homefield Association AGM

Welcome back after the summer break and an especially warm welcome to all those new to Homefield this year. The Homefield Association is a group of volunteer parents from the Homefield community who organise social events for the boys and parents, and assist with fundraising for the school. The group welcomes new members. The Homefield Association AGM takes place on 15th September at 7.00pm in the School Hall and all are warmly welcome to attend.

The Association has a notice board in the main hall (complete with photos of members and contacts) on which forthcoming events and information is displayed.

There is also a notice board just inside the entrance of EYU for event information. The Homefield Association members will also be available to talk to at Open Day on Saturday 25th September, between 10.00 - 1.00 pm.

Health and Safety

Data Collection Sheets

All parents are required to check and return an individual data collection sheet for their son. **Please amend any contact information or medical details as necessary and return to the school office, by return.**

School Absence

If your child is absent from school through illness, **please ensure that the school office is notified promptly between 8.30 and 9.00am. Messages can be left on the nominated absence line – Option 1.**

If your child suffers vomiting or diarrhoea he should not attend school until 24 hours have elapsed since the last occurrence of the symptoms or 48 hours in the event of multiple occurrences of sickness. Such cases should be treated appropriately at home in order to minimise the risk of infection to others.

Medication

If your child requires medication to be administered during the school day, please ensure that it comes **in to school in the original packaging, as dispensed by the pharmacist**, and is accompanied by a completed Medication Treatment Form, copies of which can be obtained from the school office. **All medicines should be handed to the office for safe keeping upon arrival at school.**

If your child is asthmatic he should keep one labelled inhaler with him in his pocket throughout the day. A second must be lodged, correctly labelled, with the school office for emergency use.

Photograph Publication

Homefield School wishes to celebrate its pupils' achievements through the more widespread use of photography in a variety of media. Some of these photographs may be used on the Homefield website, displays, newsletters and the school magazine. **If you have any objection to your son's image being used on any publicity/publication material please inform the school, in writing.**

Arrangements for arrival and dismissal

The safety of the boys is of paramount importance and we would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone of our systems for arrival and dismissal.

Start of day

Parents are encouraged to park in the vicinity and to walk with their children to school.

'Stop and Drop' is also acceptable in the morning provided that parents follow the designated entrance and exit routes.

End of day

Parents are not able to use the front drive for collection at the end of the day.

Junior and Senior Department parents must collect their sons from the Assembly Hall.

Please do not ask your son to meet you by the roadside.

Parking Permits

For those parents with children under 5 years old, you can apply for a London Borough of Sutton Parents' Priority Parking Permit. To be eligible for the permit you must live three-quarters of a mile or more from the school and own or use a passenger vehicle.

We particularly urge parents not to obstruct residents' driveways in the roads adjacent to the school or to park or dwell in the driveway, on the single yellow lines or in the residential parking bays in the roadway opposite the school. The school has been advised that traffic wardens will be vigorously enforcing the traffic regulations this term.

Bulletin and Clubs

Next week, the school begins the launch of this term's lunchtime and after school clubs and activities. A hard copy of these activities will be coming home with this newsletter. Boys are encouraged to discuss these activities with their parents and tutors. **Please be patient in the event of double-bookings or disappointments and raise any clashes with your son's class teacher or tutor.**

Homework

A copy of the Senior Department timetable is attached to this Newsletter. Boys will make a record of homework given in their diaries each day.

Each homework should be set for approximately 45 minutes. Should the homework take significantly less or more than their expected time, please let the subject teacher know. Unless specified otherwise, the homework set will be expected to be handed in the following day.

Open Day

The school is hosting its Open Day on **Saturday 24th September** between 10.00 am and 1.00pm. A rota of boys and activities will be formalised in order to show off the school. Further details will follow in due course.

I wish everyone a happy and productive New Year!

Shakespeare Festival

Julius Caesar

This is to let you know well in advance that there will be a cast workshop at the Leatherhead Theatre on Friday 23rd September, finishing at 4.00pm so your son may not return until after 5.00pm on that day. I will be sending letters home shortly.

There will also be play rehearsals between 4.00pm and 5.00pm on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. As this will be for specific scenes, your son may not always be required to attend. Please check that he knows his lines! Many thanks.

Mr Michael Brett

Music

Instrumental lessons

Music lessons will start for continuing pupils next week, apart from Mrs Blunden (the new violin teacher) who will start the following week due to her previously organized honeymoon!

This week's timetable is just a skeleton arrangement – boys will be allotted suitable lesson days that will continue for the term by week three when all of the new beginners have been accommodated.

Pupils wishing to start new instruments

There is an application form attached to this newsletter, with all the relevant information for boys in Years 2 – U6th who would like to start a new instrument. Please hand in the slips as soon as possible as it can be difficult to accommodate new pupils once the teacher's timetables are set up for the year.

Guitar and Percussion

There may not be any vacancies for these lessons – however, please still request lessons for guitar or percussion as occasionally pupils on the waiting lists drop out and of course, if you request lessons now, you will be at the top of the waiting list for next year.

Year 1 Pupils

Year 1 pupils have been given a separate letter outlining the system for free group lessons for violin or cello. A copy of this is also attached to the newsletter.

Ensembles

The list of players for school ensembles is attached. Rehearsals will commence next week. New players' names are highlighted in bold on the list.

Cycling Club

Cycle club restarts on the 12th September for 6 weeks. There will be two sessions every Monday after school up to the half term:

- 3.15 – 4.00pm Aimed at Year 2/beginner riders, but others welcome (10 places only)
- 4.00 – 4.45pm Aimed at Lower 4/pupils who can already ride (10 places only)

Pupils should aim to bring their own bike, if possible, plus helmet. The cost will be £35 per pupil to cover all sessions up to half term. Cheques should be made payable to T M Lenthall and should be handed into either Mr Lenthall or the school office in a sealed envelope marked with your son's name.

Should you require any further advice, please email Mr Lenthall at trevor.lenthall@btinternet.com or phone on 01737 370411.

Cycles and Scooters

Bicycles and scooters are an increasingly popular means of transport for boys and we encourage cycling and scooting as a healthy alternative mode of travel to and from school.

We would remind parents, however, that they are responsible for their children's safety when riding to school and that bicycles and scooters remain the responsibility of parents and must be roadworthy. Parents should also ensure that boys wear a properly fitted helmet and encourage boys to wear a high visibility safety vest.

Boys must dismount from cycles and scooters at the school entrance.

We recommend that cycles and scooters are clearly marked or post-coded and that all equipment is named.

The school provides a designated cycle shed for the storage of cycles. Scooters should be taken home each day. **For safety reasons, they should not be left anywhere else in or around the school.**

Speech and Drama

Speech and Drama classes will take place at the following times next term:

Monday 1.10 – 1.40	Lower 4 th S & Drama	£41.00 per term
Monday 1.40 – 2.05	Lower 4 th S & Drama	£41.00 per term
Monday 1.10 – 1.40	5 th & L6 th S & Drama	£43.00 per term
Monday 4.00 – 4.30	Year 3 S & Drama	£41.00 per term
Monday 4.30 – 5.00	Upper 4 th S & Drama	£41.00 per term
Monday 4.30 – 5.00	Upper 6 th S & Drama	£43.00 per term

These lessons will encourage confidence in expressing oneself fluently in speech and, over the course of the year, cover clarity in speech; telling a story through improvisation; character study; interview technique; reading aloud; bringing text to life; and voice projection.