



Homefield Primary School and SSC

February 2024 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our February Newsletter! We began this half term by holding an upper school and lower school joint Inset Day. This gave the teaching staff an opportunity to work together on looking at the curriculum for the new school. Subject leaders have begun to work together to design the Homefield curriculum!

Logo

Thank you to everyone who sent in, and designed, a logo. The Governors have considered them all and have been investigating 3 of the designs. The new logo will appear on any branded uniform we have, letter heads and on other items ie Book Bags, website etc. It therefore needs to be of a certain quality and we are developing this over the next few weeks. Hopefully we will have news of the logo by the next Newsletter.

Uniform

A very big thank you to all the parent/carers, governors and staff who made up the Uniform Committee. The group worked really hard to agree a uniform that is smart, comfortable and that follows the government guidelines. They also took on board feedback from the questionnaire and the feedback from the parent engagement sessions. Their findings were presented to the Governors last week and once we have agreed a logo, the school's finance team will begin the procurement process for a supplier for the branded items. When we have some mock-ups we will share these with you.

Governor news from Mr Parkin

The Temporary Governing body (TGB) is announcing that our Chair, Kevin Jenkins has taken the decision to step down. This is for personal reasons. We would like to thank Kevin for his involvement during the first critical months of establishing the foundations of the new Homefield school, appointing the new Head Teacher and in the key decision of choosing a new name for the school.

The Temporary Governing Body, at their meeting on Thursday 22nd February, elected Andy Parkin, the Vice Chair to the position of Chair of Governors of the TGB, with Lee Boddy to the Vice Chair position. Please bear in mind that the TGB will only exist up until Autumn 2024 when it will be replaced by a permanent governing body for Homefield Primary School and SSC.

Andy Parkin writes,

"I'm delighted to take over as Chair of the Temporary Governing Body and pleased to report that the TGB is operating well. Although formed of separate groups of governors from Lyndhurst and Chesswood schools, together with independent governors, the TGB is established as a cohesive body, intent on doing its very best to ensure Homefield becomes an outstanding primary school. Various working groups have been formed to lead on particular aspects of the work required.

We would particularly like to thank parents /carers who contributed to the workshops and those that volunteered to join the logo working group and the uniform working group to provide a parental perspective. Equally, thank you to all parents/carers who contributed to the various surveys commissioned by the TGB.

The new school name has now been decided and work is well underway to choose a new logo and uniform for Homefield. Other working groups have oversight of the capital works necessary to establish Homefield on the Chesswood road site. Further groups have just been formed to establish new policies for Homefield's operation and for establishment of the permanent Homefield Governing Body. Please note that Parent governor elections for the parent governor vacancies for the new governing body will be held in the Autumn term 2024.

A range of success criteria has been established for each element of Homefield's operations and these criteria are being monitored and reviewed at each meeting of the TGB.

Members of the TGB know that issues related to school amalgamations are stressful for families involved and I would like to reassure you that the TGB is committed to working in conjunction with our new Head Teacher Di South, towards a smooth transfer from the existing two schools to Homefield Primary School in Autumn 2024."

Vision and Values

Both schools have been reviewing and considering our Vision and Values for Homefield Primary and SSC. All staff have been contributing to this via workshops and staff meetings across the school sites. Pupils have also been contributing by telling us what they think is important for their new school and what qualities a Homefield learner should exhibit. I have also worked this week with some parents who offered to share their views – a really big thank you to the parents who gave up their time. This is a large piece of work which we hope will be finalised before the Spring break.

Building Work

This is the piece of work I have the least to report on and I can only apologise. The beginning of all building projects is slow, as the architect and feasibility team work on the best solution to expanding the Chesswood road site. We are hoping to meet with the West Sussex team at the beginning of March so hopefully after this meeting we will have more to report.



Di South

Homefield Primary School and SSC

Head Teacher Designate