

# Headlines

Spring Term  
11<sup>th</sup> March 2022



“The quality of the pupils’ academic and other achievements is excellent.”

ISI inspection report December 2021

## Letter from the Headmaster

### Dear Parents

Thinking of events in the wider world and on those closer to home:

I’m sure we have all been reflecting on the tragic events in Ukraine. We have, in our own small way, taken action already. Last week the staff, supported by our contacts in the Polish community, resourced a whole van full of essential supplies including thermal clothing and medical supplies. We have liaised with a local charity to deliver them to the Ukraine border. I thank colleagues for their real generosity. For the boys, given what’s appropriate for their respective age groups, we’ve been sharing some time and resource during Form and Assembly time to recognise and reflect on this conflict and its impact.

Next Thursday the boys have decided to help, and we will segue our ‘Children in Need’ appeal with support for Ukraine.

More locally, and thinking on helping our families on pastoral matters we have an online seminar coming up on the 17th March, which we hope will engage and enlighten parents. We will look at our work in School on personal and social education and explore language around choice and managing our emotions. Some tips here that might help with both schooling and perhaps a few ‘quick wins’ to take away regarding parenting, when managing challenging behaviour from your children.

Here is the TEAMS link for the parent [Pastoral and E-Safety Inset for parents](#)

Elsewhere, a quick appeal: we are always keen on maintaining and extending our minibus routes. To do so we need a fleet of buses, but more so a band of reliable and trustworthy drivers. If you do have any family members or friends that may be looking for some part time work with children, then please do direct them our way as we are keen to recruit.

Have a good weekend.

**John Towers**  
Headmaster

## Lower School: Reception, Years 1 and 2

### Reception

This week in Reception, we have had very interesting discussions about the different armour on herbivore dinosaurs and how they protected themselves against carnivores.

The children have been busy using weighing scales in the classroom and making excellent weight predictions using 'heavier than' and 'lighter than' vocabulary. The boys have carried out some fantastic writing in their letters to the STEAM 'Leaders Award' judges, where they described what makes their vehicle design special.



During Wellbeing Wednesday, Reception have been encouraged to be mindful and think of others' emotions. They were challenged to think of a range of vocabulary to describe their own feelings.

### Years 1 and 2

This week, Years 1 and 2 have been extremely busy! Year 1 have been exploring materials and investigating which materials keep us warm.

In Year 2, the boys have been reading atlases and identifying continents and oceans, this has led to great discussions about where we would like to visit and why.



## Homefield Heroes

### Tigers

**Charlie** for excellent focus in Phonics and fantastic progress in writing.  
**Logan** for always following school rules and having outstanding manners.

### Monkeys

**Lavann** for excellent work in Phonics and helping his friends in their learning.  
**Angus** for super contributions to class discussions especially during our Dinosaurs topic.

**1H Rahul** for super science work explaining his predictions and  
**Aldous** for a wonderful class presentation.

**2H Rayyan** for fantastic contributions and enthusiasm when learning about capital cities in Europe and **Ralph** for a brilliant understanding and explanation of how to use an apostrophe for possession.

**2S Arjun** for fantastic shape data sorting and **Kenon** for fantastic contributions in Geography.

## Other Awards in Years 1 and 2

We celebrate kindness, resilience, and organisation with the following awards:

- **Kindness: Kangaroo award**
- **Courageous: Koala award**
- **Helping Hands award**

### Kindness (Kangaroo award)

**1H. Aldous** for sharing well with others and **Mikael** for sharing well with his partner in English.

**2H Ved** for always offering to play with others and looking out for his friends and **Hussain** for demonstrating positive actions and attitudes towards his friends.

**2S Arjun** for helping Reception children find their way around the school and **Ayaan** for showing kindness and compassion to his friends.

### Resilience (Courageous: Koala award)

**1H. Kiran** for tackling some tricky maths and **Kaan** for working enthusiastically on your word problems in maths.

**2H Axel** for always being brave and singing his heart out in music lessons and **Yusuf** for demonstrating bravery when picking up a spider and releasing it outside.

**2S Shunta** for persevering throughout challenging moments and **Anirudh** for always standing up for himself and his friends.



### Organisation (Helping Hands award)

**1H Harin** for being a super cloakroom monitor and **Ryan** being organised around the classroom.

**2H Charles** for setting the right examples to the class and helping others with organisation and **Rayyan** for being so efficient when tidying up.

**2S Anirudh** for always offering to help around the classroom and **Shunta** for helping his classmates when they were stuck.





## Science News

### The 3S Choc Cycle!

Year 3 have been learning about the stages of the rock cycle through the medium of chocolate. This is how to model it.

**Stage 1:** Grate some dark chocolate to represent rock being weathered and broken up into little bits and deposited as a layer of sediment on the ocean floor.



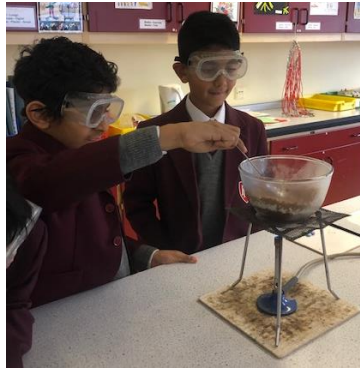
**Stage 2:** Grate some white chocolate to show a different type of rock being deposited as sediment.



**Stage 3:** Grate a third layer of rock using milk chocolate!



**Stage 4:** Heat the layers of sediment with a Bunsen burner to represent the heat from under the Earth's crust that melts the rock. Use a spoon to create pressure like that pushing down on the layers of sedimentary rock. This forms metamorphic rock.



**Stage 5:** Continue to heat the 'metamorphic rock' to form liquid rock known as magma.



**Stage 6:** Let the magma cool to form igneous rock. Igneous rock can form under the Earth's surface (intrusive) or on top of the Earth's surface after coming out of a volcano (extrusive). Igneous rock can contain crystals and bubbles as represented by the chocolate here. If you are lucky, you may then get to taste test some of the 'rocks'!

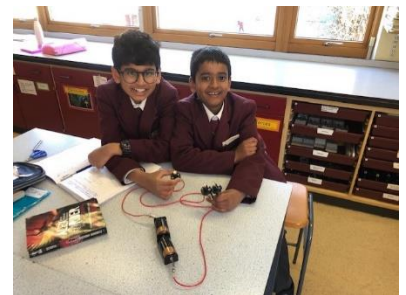


### Year 3

Year 3 have been investigating different types of rocks by carrying out some observation work and experiments to identify rocks from an ID flow chart.



### Year 6



Year 6 are currently enjoying getting to grips with building electrical circuits. This week they have learnt the difference between series and parallel circuits.

### Science Week

Next week, Homefield will be celebrating all things 'Science', where the topic is 'growth'. Boys will be participating in lessons across the school which revolve around this theme. Boys are also reminded to check the Science Week Teams tile which will go live next week and look out for details of activities and competitions to undertake.



## Pastoral

### Senior Department

The following boys receive special recognition as Homefield Heroes:

#### Years 3 and 4

**3P Eric** for some very thoughtful and creative writing.

**4S Hei** for working really well in Design Technology, despite not having any experience.

#### Years 5 and 6

Congratulations to the following boys for their positive attitudes to learning:

#### Year 5

**5H Jamie** and Lewis

**5P Sachin** and William

**5S Sheldon** and Zinedine

## PSHE Ruler and E-Safety Talk

Following on from the summer term's virtual pastoral meeting for parents, we would like to E-welcome you to what we hope will be a really useful seminar on Thursday 17th March. We plan to share some of the great work going on in the school and we hope some of this can further help support positive behaviours and attitudes from your boys at home!

This will comprise of the following topics:  
**5.30pm**

Welcome

Introduction on further developing character, values and resilience  
Including responses to critical and current events

*(Mr Towers and Mr Siva)*

**5.40pm**

PSHE overview

Overview of what is being covered and conversations/support that can be continued at home

*(Heads of Year)*

**5.55pm**

RULER presentation

The power of language and its progression throughout the school

*(Mrs O'Reilly)*

### Year 6

**6H Magsud** and Krish

**6P Ismail** and Malachi

**6S Muhammad** and Aamir

### Years 7 and 8

For an excellent result in a recent Classics test and for creating an amazing population game for Geography using Scratch: **Hanlin 7MJM**

For standing out in recent STEAM, English and DT lessons: **Alex L (7MJM)**

For a superb approach to the Year 8 Mock Exams week, working very hard and being positive throughout: **William and Jacob (8CS)**

For standing out in recent music and maths lessons: **Rory and Zain M (8LC)**

### 6.10pm

E-safety

Overview and steps forward as a community

*(Mrs Mach)*

Please use the link to attend:

[Pastoral and E-Safety Inset for parents](#)

If you do have any questions ahead of the inset on PSHE or E-safety matters, that you feel may benefit all parents please kindly send these through to Mr Siva by Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March and so they can be incorporated into the presentation.

[zsiva@homefieldprep.school](mailto:zsiva@homefieldprep.school)



## Drama News

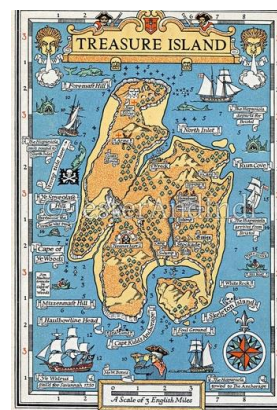
### Treasure Island Update

Rehearsals are in full swing, me hearties! Captain G and First Mate Crook have been very impressed with the boys' dedication and hard work: although it's early days, Year 6 are breathing new life into Robert Louis Stevenson's classic tale of adventure on the high seas.

There have been some interesting deliveries at Homefield as of late: parrot wings, crutches and strings of pearls are making their way to the backstage area, whilst Captain G spent most of the weekend dipping pieces of paper in tea and then blasting them with a hair dryer to make 'spare' treasure maps...

The most important thing is that the boys are having fun and working together as a community, to entertain audiences in the summer term. We are very excited to offer Year 6 the opportunity to showcase the dramatic skills that they have been developing in their English lessons.

Anchors Aweigh!



## Mathematics News

A huge congratulations to Hanlin, Andrew and Ansh (Year 7), Zain M, Rishabh and Ronak (Year 8), who participated in the very difficult Intermediate Maths Challenge in February.

Certificates and prizes have been given out today, with the following boys taking the podium:

Hanlin – 1<sup>st</sup> place

Zain M – 2<sup>nd</sup> place

Ansh – 3<sup>rd</sup> place

The boys who received a certificate will now be competing in the Cayley Mathematical Olympiad. Keep your eyes posted for the results of these!



## Book Week

As usual, our boys engaged with a broad range of activities from author workshops to reading for pleasure across the week. Thanks to all of the Year 7 librarians and Noah, Calum, Charlie and Henry for their reading skills and help with the Book Fair. Thank you too for your generosity in donations for St Raphael's Hospice.

Lower School kicked off Book Week with a bang! They had an assembly with Miss Sharrad focussing on what inspired her to write her book 'Rufaro's Walk', and the process from writing to publishing! Each class then had a workshop with Miss Sharrad where they created their own character profiles. The boys used all sorts of literary techniques in their writing such as similes and expanded noun phrases. After that, each class created a class book with their profiles, and these are now housed in the LRC.

We welcomed a Book Fair which saw astonishing results: we sold nearly £1,150 worth of books which in turn will give the school a healthy commission to spend on more titles for the LRC!

Friday saw the boys and staff arrive in an amazing assortment of costumes. It has been great to return to book character costumes in person and I think we have outdone ourselves this year.

The costume competition winners are:

Tigers	Philip P
Monkeys	Angus
1H	Xander
2H	Gianluca
2S	Jeff
3H	Ethan C
3P	Elijah
3S	Zachariah
4H	Baden
4S	Josh
5H	Damon
5P	Austin
5S	Felix
6H	Mikey
6P	Malachi
6S	Shiven
7MMC	Boris
7MJM	Ryan
8LC	Faizaan
8CS	James

The Shelfie winners are:

**Lower School:** Charlie C

**Seniors:** Alexander H

The senior boys were treated to an audience with the author and comedian, James Campbell, who recounted stories, read extracts of his books and even gave a taster of his latest volume. The day ended with James selling signed copies of his books to eager boys. A wonderful Homefield day!

Here is a selection of the boys' comments on the day:

*James Campbell is funny and extremely good at making jokes. He also writes very good books. He's a comedian and author and as far as I know, he writes the best books in the world.*  
Dakarayi 3P

*I think James Campbell was really funny: that's why he's a comedian and his books are funny.*  
Arjun 3P

*James Campbell introduced his newest books. He was funny about what you should do if you see a teacher reading his book... The Funny Life of Teachers.*  
Max 3P

*"T'was Fab"*  
Hanlin 7MJM

*Mr Campbell was wonderful and hilarious - definitely recommend.*  
Hunzah Yr 7

*James Campbell is the funniest author. I learnt that sharks are in DANGER.*  
Tobi 6H

*He was funny, his books were funny. I liked that he came to school.*  
Raveesh 3H

*James Campbell was funny, exciting, and energetic. He showed us his books and spoke about how he became an author. I found him very nice.*  
Rowan 3H

## Charities

**Red Nose Day:** The School Council will be setting up a stall at the end of the day on Thursday 17th March, to sell Red Noses for £2 each. Merchandise will also be available on Friday at breaktimes and at lunchtime.



**Balham White Eagles:** The School Council have chosen to support the Balham White Eagles who are raising donations to support those adversely affected by the conflicts in Ukraine. They will also have a collection bucket for this charity at dismissal on Thursday 17th March.

Should you wish to make a donation electronically to the Polish White Eagle fundraising appeal, please visit: <https://gofund.me/592beae4>



## Music

<https://mmf.org.uk/magic/>

Sebastian H (Year 6), is a member of the Youth Music Council at Merton Music. The members have designed everything for performances including music inclusion, advertising, and booking venues, deciding where to spend their limited budget! Young entrepreneurs and impresarios in the making!



## Sport

### Hockey

On Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February, Year 5 undertook Homefield's first ever hockey fixture against Weston Green School. The fabulous astro turf pitch led to some wonderful hockey. The 'A' team started brightly with a goal from Arthur; great work in defence led to a pass and switch move from Finn and Matthew and the first goal was scored. Weston Green compete in National hockey competitions and their quality began to show as Homefield went 3-1 down. In the second half, tireless work from Zinedine and Olivier allowed Noah to score. Alexander and Atharva worked hard in defence and Nathan played very well in goal. The game was very competitive and ended 6-3 to the hosts. The 'B' team were beaten, but not without a great goal from Owais after some super passing from Adam and Charlie. Gbemi and Cedric played well in midfield and Sheldon made some great tackles. The 'C' team won the game 6-3. A hat-trick of goals from Ewan, two goals for Arjun and captain for the day, Arvind, scored the goal of the game which can be seen on Homefield sports Twitter! The 'D' team also had an impressive win 6-0. Raghav scored three goals and was fantastic up front. Vihaan, Jonathan RM and Aadit, all added to the total as Homefield dominated the game. A great afternoon of hockey – well done to all boys!

On Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March, the U13 'C' team played hockey away against Kingswood House. The game was literally end-to-end with Zain IA captain for the day constantly being a threat to the host's goal and setting up Jonas who scored two great goals.

The score was 3-3 with two minutes to go and Kingswood made a break away from their own half and scored to win the game 4-3. Despite the loss, it was a wonderful game to play and to watch!  
Well done, boys!

### U13 Hockey v Kingswood House

In the spring sunshine on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March, all our Year 7 and 8 boys played their first hockey fixture of the season away at Kingswood House School. Our 1st team got off to a great start when Ziyad opened the scoring after quick thinking by Cass, but they were soon pegged back by a Kingswood House goal. Homefield continued to attack with Oliver M moving possession forwards quickly. Before half time, Homefield scored four more goals - Ziyad with his second and Ronak scored a hat trick with some lovely first-time finishes. In the second half, Jake sealed a brilliant team performance by adding another goal to make the final score 6-1 to Homefield. Jacob's performance in goal was outstanding - he made many crucial saves and was always alert to danger. Faizaan battled hard in midfield and captain Robert was a solid defender.

Afterwards, our 2<sup>nd</sup> Team played and also earned a deserved victory. Captain James has written the following match report:

*'Rory started the game with a goal which was rapidly followed by another from James and Rory. Kingswood House suddenly scored but Homefield's extraordinary defence prevented further goals before half time was called. In the second half, no goals were scored but there was a good chance for Rory to complete his hat trick. Both goalkeepers played unbelievably well, and the match ended 3-1 to Homefield. The Man of the Match was voted as James for being the top tackler'.*

## Parents' and Friends Association

With COVID restrictions now lifted, we can now start to plan more in-person events!

The Homefield Association would therefore like to invite you all to a coffee morning in March. We have had quite a few new joiners to the school so this will be a great opportunity to meet other parents and the Homefield Prep Senior Management Team.

We will initially split the events by Upper/Lower school parents and will aim to have another combined coffee morning in the summer.

**Parents Charity Coffee Morning for Lower School (Reception, Years 1 & 2) - Thursday 17th March at 8:20am – 9:30am.** Any donations of nut free cakes / goodies would be very welcome. Please just bring on the day.

**Parents Charity Coffee Morning for Upper School (Years 3-8) - Friday 25th March at 8:20am – 9:30am.** Any donations of nut free cakes/goodies would be very welcome. Please just bring on the day.

All proceeds are to support St Raphael's Hospice, our boys' chosen charity for the year.

*And finally... it's back!!!*

**The Homefield Easter Egg Hunt Wednesday 30th March at 3:45pm- 5.00pm (£2 per child)**

Solve the clues and claim your Egg!!

We look forward to seeing you all again, and to meeting lots of new faces.

### Tweet of the Week



## Well-Being

This half term's theme is 'Mindfulness' for Wellbeing Wednesdays and what better season to think about this than Spring. Many boys have adopted mindfulness strategies to support managing emotions and also to stop and take notice of the world we live in. A top tip often shared is the benefit of mindfulness breathing before sleep to help relax the body and mind resulting in a deeper, more fulfilling rest. Please do look on Teams for our Wellbeing Challenges for this half term which will run until we return from the Easter break.

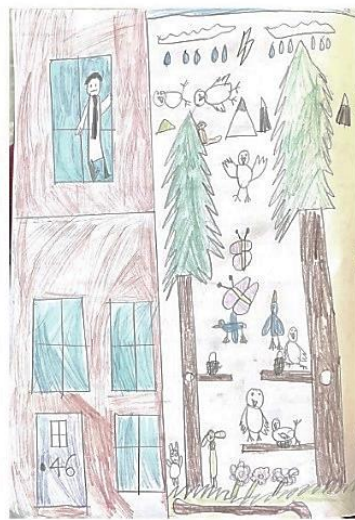
In the Year 3 ACE Enrichment sessions, we have been reflecting on the world and thinking about the land and sea, the present and the future. Louis Armstrong's 'Wonderful World' has been the stimulus alongside our continued use of Oliver Jeffers's book 'Here We Are'. Here are some examples of our versions of 'Wonderful World':

*I hear birds chirping,  
Red roses blooming,  
Water splashing, singing sun,  
Fishing swimming in the lake,  
For me and you.  
And I think to myself  
What a wonderful World.*

*I see mountain peaks and  
Oceans shining in the sun.  
The sky is sapphire blue,  
the grass has bloomed and is bright green.  
And I think to myself,  
What a wonderful world.  
Dakarayi, 3P*

Ethan (3S) used Louis Armstrong's song as inspiration to write his own poem with a fantastic illustration of how he sees the world when he looks out the window:

*Wonderful world, I hear your chips from your feathered friends.  
Wonderful world, I see your busy friends buzzing around the flowers!  
I can feel your lush plants dancing in the breeze.  
I see your orange friend run up a tree finding nuts like an explorer.  
I see trees as hard as concrete.  
I see sky blue as the ocean.  
I hear howls like sirens crying too loud.  
This is our Wonderful World.*



Keep abreast with Homefield news as it happens....



## Homefield Art Gallery



Zayn K, 3S - Spring flowers

## Energy Kidz

**Get your kids engaged with our NEW Energy Kidz Holiday Club this April for an Easter extravaganza full of fun-packed play & activity!**

Put a spring in your child's step this Easter with our NEW Energy Kidz Holiday Club running this April for a club full of engaging play and activities! Children will enjoy their daily whole of child activity programme that caters for a wide range of interests. Activity categories include: Express Yourself, Learning to Thrive, Learn through Play, Wellness, Let's get Moving and Skills for Sports! With fun and adventure around every corner, they'll also be hosting a range of inclusive Easter themed activities delivered by their team of activity eggs-perts this coming school holiday!

With so many families already securing their child/ren's spots - ensure your child doesn't miss out on all the activities this Easter by securing their spot with our **10% Early Bird Discount!**

**Use code: EBEASTERCAMP22 to claim your discount!**

Find further information about the exciting Easter holidays ahead and confirm your booking now at: <https://www.energy-kidz.co.uk/holiday-club/>

If you have any further queries, please don't hesitate to call our friendly bookings team on 0333 577 1533 or drop us an email at [info@energy-kidz.co.uk](mailto:info@energy-kidz.co.uk).