

## Headlines

Autumn Term  
12th October 2018

"The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils is excellent."

ISI inspection report

### Letter from the Headmaster

#### Dear Parents

Today, Year 6 make a foray over the Channel to support their French studies – we make a dash whilst the borders remain open... allons-y! I'm sure they will have a wonderful and memorable experience to inspire their learning of language and culture.

On depth and purpose in education, I noted the head of OfSTED (the school's inspectorate) announcing less value being placed on grade chasing exam results and more emphasis on the actual quality and depth of learning. Good news for the country... for Homefield this is the course we have held for many, many decades, whatever the politicians might have to say.

This week, I represented, as I have for the last few years, all 400-odd IAPS schools at the school exam board. We set the Common Entrance (CE) exam papers for the next year and really challenged the exam writers to consider depth, range and quality across core subjects and into the humanities. Whilst many schools appear to have narrowed focus to simply grind through English and Maths, we want to keep matters broad and deep.

All the boys here pursue the wide CE syllabus and it informs our direction right through to the Senior Department (and not just for those who sit CE in Year 8). In recent years the perceived 'stress' of sitting an exam at 13 has been significantly lessened as most senior independent schools around London now view CE simply as a leavers' certificate, a gold standard denoting great learning and teaching.

However, we now see an increasing pressure on boys expected to sit exams at only 11 years old and for many this doesn't suit. (PS boys, there is really no point asking me what is coming up on exam papers: I arrange for my memory to be wiped and my draft papers to be shredded... integrity is everything!)

A final word on assessment, we send out senior grade cards next week. They provide a summative view from teachers on progress and attitude across the half term. Do look to praise and do talk about 'personal best'. It is not about ranking the boys, it is not about who is doing best, it is a tool to encourage reflection and appreciation.

Finally, thanks to all parents from Early Years and Juniors who have come in for a face-to-face update from teachers this week.

Enjoy your weekend.

**John Towers**  
Headmaster



## Early Years Department

Reception were invited to the whole school Harvest assembly this week, they got a huge round of applause after singing their song, 'Big Red Combine Harvester', in front of the whole school. Thank you to all the boys who brought in things for Harvest, your goods will be very gratefully received.

Thank you also for coming to meet with your son's class teacher at Parents' Evening this week. It was lovely to see you all and show you how hard the boys have been working this half term.

We only have a week to go before our two-week half term. I think the boys are in need of a little R&R! This half term has been very busy and the next one is even busier with our run up to Christmas!

### Big Red Combine Harvester



**Our Special Award this week goes to:**

**Ryan** in Elephants for being very kind and helpful towards his friends.

Our Students of the Week are:  
**Faiz** in Tigers for interacting so nicely with his grandparents during our 'Grandparents Afternoon'.

**Zachariah** in Monkeys for excellent work in phonics and for always joining in.

## Junior Department

It was lovely to meet with parents this week and give feedback on all the progress that the boys are making.

We all enjoyed the Harvest Festival on Tuesday morning and the Junior Department boys confidently sang a song to the rest of the school. Thank you for all the contributions of food for Sutton Foodbank.

In Science, the Year 1 boys have been observing a tree in the school grounds and they will be noting the seasonal changes during the year.

They have also been classifying animals into different groups and looking at different baby animals.

Last Friday afternoon, Sabir's parents and new baby sister, Samara, visited Year 1. Samara behaved herself beautifully and the boys were keen to ask many questions.

In Year 2, the boys are really enjoying their project all about Explorers. This week, they have been learning about the journey of Christopher Columbus and his discovery of the 'New World'.

## Homefield Heroes

**1H Jasper** for being such a good friend at playtime.

**1S Akesh** for his lovely joined up writing and for always being helpful. Well done, Akesh!

**2H Saaketh** for always working hard and always trying his best.

**2S Nathan** for a big improvement in his concentration.

**3H Joshua** for excellent work in maths this half term.

**3S Denis** for his optimistic attitude. Keep it up!

## Learning Technologies

All boys in Years 1-6 have had their individual Purple Mash accounts created and their log on cards have been issued to them via their Form Tutors (along with a parent help sheet). This is a really good resource for the boys to use in and out of school. Purple Mash can be used to complete homework, projects, improve Maths and English skills, as well as the boys accessing a variety of computer science games and touch-typing. It may be a welcoming tool to use over the half term holiday or on a rainy day!





## Parents' Association

On Friday 9th November, we will be holding our annual **Fireworks Night!** This is one of our biggest events of the year and we are looking forward to another spectacular display from 'Classic Fireworks'. Buy your **tickets online** on Classlist.com before Monday 5th November for the early bird rate of £4 per child and £6 per adult (on the door tickets: £6/child and £8/adult). Food, drinks and glow toys will be on sale from 6.00pm and the display will start at 7.30pm. If you are able to help on a stall, please contact Lizby Sharpe on Classlist.

### Upcoming events:

Fireworks Night - Friday 9th November (doors open at 6.00pm for 7.30pm display)

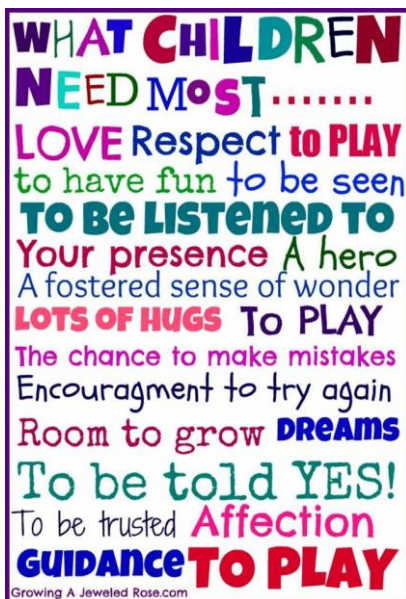
Christmas Coffee Morning - Friday 30th November 8.30am

Christmas Fair - Friday 7th December 3.45pm - 5.45pm



## Thought of the Week

Following on from Mrs Burgess's reflections in a recent edition of Headlines, I began to think about what children need most and came across this wonderful poster:



The poster really made me think about the mannerisms I have with my own children; as a parent of four, life at home can be very busy!

When I arrive home from work, my children usually greet me with love and enthusiasm, but as the evening quickly passes, there is an overwhelming pressure to get things done for them: dinner, bathing, completing homework and dare I say it, getting them into bed.

These parental tasks, at the best of times, feel robotic and leave little time for genuine 'fun' interaction with my children. It's so very important to make children feel valued and loved which in turn is brought about through spending time with them through play, encouraging them or even genuinely asking how they are.

I am challenging myself to 20 minutes of 'fun' time every evening when I get home from school, which won't be easy! My hope is that you may take some inspiration from the poster as well and apply it to your own children's lives.

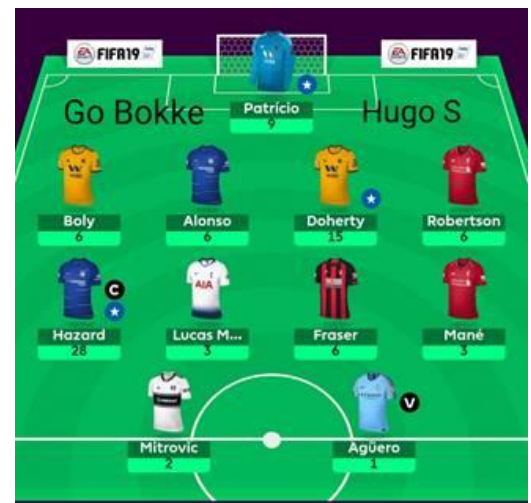
Have a wonderful weekend with your children.

Mrs M. Mach - Head of Year 5

## Fantasy Football League

Congratulations to our Gameweek 8 winners! Fantasy Football will return next weekend, after the International break.

League	Most Pts	Team	Manager
Pupils, Parents & Staff	87	Emery's Boys	Sanjay G
Year 7 & 8	78	The Champions	James S
Year 6	85	Go Bokke	Hugo S
Year 5	80	Jaiman's All-Stars	Jaiman S
Year 4	70	Zak United	Zak A
Junior	78	Krish's Champions	Krish G
Parents	70	Here we go again!	Chris Sharpe
Staff	61	Smith's Super-Subs	Mr Smith



## Clubs

### Table Tennis

There are still some spaces available on the Friday afternoon Year 6 to Year 8 table tennis club. Please email or speak to the School Office for further details.



## Classical Studies

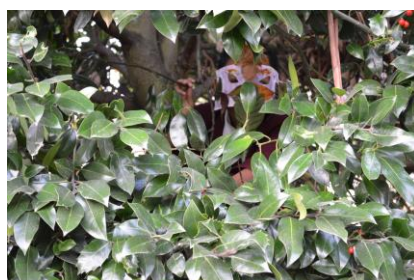
Once again, this year the Department of Classical Studies will be conducting the biannual trip for boys in **Years 4-8**, to Rome and the Bay of Naples for the duration of 14<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> July 2019. This is always a great experience for the students involved, and evaluation of previous visits has demonstrated that the boys' knowledge and understanding of classics is significantly enhanced by this undertaking, in addition to it being a valuable life experience. Flying to Rome, we shall be visiting sites such as the Colosseum, Forum, Pantheon, Ostia Antica and Villa Adriana, before making the journey south to the Bay of Naples. There we shall visit sites including Pompeii, Herculaneum, Mount Vesuvius, Cumae and Oplontis. All details for the trip, including cost and dates for application, are on the letter attached to this newsletter. I hope you will find the prospect of this unique experience desirable for your son's continuing educational development, and if there are further queries about the trip please do not hesitate to contact me. [mmccaffery@homefieldprep.school](mailto:mmccaffery@homefieldprep.school)



*Homefield boys visit to Rome and the Bay of Naples during the Summer of 2017*

## English Department

This term, the Year 7 boys have been reading 'Lord of the Flies' and this week they were exploring nature by collecting materials from the foliage around the playing field to create their own masks based on the novel!



## Music

### Music Timetable

Please check the timetable very carefully for next week as many lessons have swapped days to accommodate the Year 5 residential trip. If your son does not have a lesson scheduled due to the trip, you will not be charged for next week - there are plenty of weeks in this term so all boys should get their 10 lessons regardless of trips. However, it may be necessary for a few boys to have two lessons in a week to catch up.

### Dulwich College Orchestral Workshop

Six Year 6 boys attended the Dulwich music workshop on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October. They rehearsed in a massed orchestra with seven other schools, sang as a choir and gave a rousing performance as a samba band. There was a concert for parents at the end of the day with performances of 'Can You Feel the Love Tonight' and 'Pomp and Circumstance' from the orchestra and 'Going Loco' and 'Turn Me Around' from the choir. The boys were excellent ambassadors for the school as they played expertly and behaved impeccably!



### Brass Academy

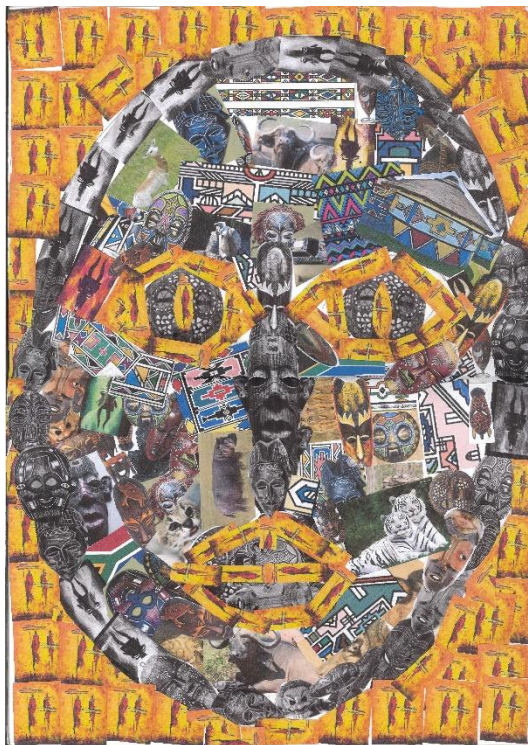
The Brass Academy is running holiday courses again this year. A few Homefield boys have attended these courses in the past and they found them very instructive and good fun.

One day course	6 <sup>th</sup> January at The Purcell School
Easter	8 – 12 <sup>th</sup> April at The Purcell School
Summer 1	5 – 9 <sup>th</sup> August at St John's School, Leatherhead
Summer 2	19 <sup>th</sup> – 23 <sup>rd</sup> August at The Purcell School

Full details [www.brass-academy.co.uk](http://www.brass-academy.co.uk)



## Homefield Art Gallery



African Mask Collage - Hugo S, Y6

## Events for next week:

**Monday:** Year 5 Outdoor Activity Trip to Conover Hall  
Departs 8.30am  
U13 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Football v Kingswood House (a) Chessington & Hook FC, KT9 2NF  
Start 2.30pm Finish 3.30pm Return 4.00pm

**Tuesday:** U8 House Football at School 11.15am – 12.15pm

**Wednesday:** U11 'A' and 'C' teams Football v Hazelwood (a) @ Hazelwood School, Limpsfield RH8 0QU  
Start 2.15pm Finish 3.15pm Return 4.00pm  
U11 'B', 'D' & 'E' teams Football v Hazelwood (h) at School  
Start 2.15pm Finish 3.15pm  
Year 5 Outdoor Activity Trip returns 4.30pm (*approx.*)

**Thursday:** Year 6 Transport for London talk 9.15 – 10.45am  
U9 House Football at School, 2.45 – 3.45pm  
Years 4 – 7 Senior Tutor Evening (Pastoral) 4.30 – 7.30pm

**Friday: Half Term break**  
**School ends at normal time for all Departments**

## Tweet of the Week



Homefield Prep School @HomefieldSchool · 19h

Thank you to all of our parents who kindly donated for our #HarvestFestival



## Social Media

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



'Homefield Sp0rt' has its own Twitter page.  
Follow us for all the latest sports news, fixtures and information at Homefield!



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