

Headlines

Spring Term
13th February 2020

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

ISI inspection report

Letter from the Headmaster

Dear Parents

Our boys ended the half term well: For the first time in a few years we enabled every single boy in the seniors to play competitive fixtures in rugby. Win, lose or draw, it is always a magic experience to play with the team and enjoy the camaraderie and the challenge. Elsewhere, many of our young musicians played out the half term with some élan at the Epsom Strings Day. News was received earlier this week of the success of Qasim, Vinicius, Samuel, Kwame and Vansh who have all qualified for the second round of the prestigious Townsend Warner History Prize. All came in the top 250 entrants of the National Competition.

To follow on our work on ‘finding the brave’, we focused attention on a ‘safer internet’ week. As I joked to Mrs Mach, our Head of Computing, surely the safest thing is to just turn it off, before it turns into Skynet* and destroys us? (*pop culture reference to the first Terminator Film, for those unfamiliar with 1980s cinema). But, fortunately, Mrs Mach and the team have more constructive ways forward for the boys’ education.

We are trying to develop the boys’ resilience. If you think about it, a lot of technology and certainly social media ‘plays’ or even uses the person. Sadly, it’s not the other way around.

We are helping the boys get wise to, as well as identify, the more dangerous aspects of the internet.

The NSPCC provide useful resources for parents:
www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/

Whilst I’m on this subject, it’s worth reflecting on a safe life balance with technology.

Many a parent sits with me for a senior school transfer consultation. They often aim for the fanciest and prestigious of senior schools. They may ask how to edge through the dizzyingly pressured admissions hoops. ‘But how many hours’, I ask, ‘does your boy enjoy free reading per week?’ I sometimes get a sheepish look on that and certainly when we reflect on weekly ‘screen’ time hours. We can make (some) screen time count, it can be constructive and indeed, when IT is used well, it can be a transformational learning tool. But, without appetite for reading and without comprehension skills, you can forget about being able to answer complex maths exam word problems, the same for science and for so much else.

I will leave you with an inspiring metric, as a call to action:

Boys that muster around 20 minutes of free reading a day tend to:

- Add 60 hours of reading per year
- Crunch an additional 1,800,000 words per year
- Score at 90% and above within standardised reading assessments.

So I would do the math and highly recommend you encourage your boy to pick up a book for at least half an hour a day. Put the gaming and social media where it belongs and that’s way down the line for young, highly plastic and impressionable minds.

Have a good half term.

John Towers
Headmaster



Pre-Prep

Pre-Prep have had a very busy half term and the boys have enjoyed learning about different types of transport. This week the boys have been making boats using different materials then testing their durability! We are looking forward to beginning our new topic and a lovely introduction to it by visiting Bocketts Farm!

We have spoken a lot this week about being safe on the internet. In a hands-up poll we could see that every child has use of a tablet, computer or phone at home. During assembly the boys listened to a story about a chicken who makes the wrong choice on the internet and we discussed what we should do if we come across something online that we are not sure about. Ask the boys to see how much they have remembered.

Stop and drop will now be held in the Reception classrooms as we are transforming our current 'Wet Room' into a STEAM station. By engaging boys around the subjects of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths, STEAM aims to spark an interest and lifelong love of the arts and sciences in children from an early age, preparing them to become future innovators.

Junior Department

We recently had a visit from Rick at Sutton Schoolwork who took an assembly about taking time to relax and reflect, even on a busy day. The boys enjoyed joining in with an action song. 3S led a great assembly about Chinese New Year and shared a wealth of information with us. The boys enjoyed finding out which zodiac animal corresponds to the year in which they were born.

Mrs Hilton came to talk to the boys about our Guide Dog collection and she gave us a 'pup-date' about Alfie, our sponsored puppy.

This week, our Tuesday assembly centred on Safer Internet Day 2020. The boys have been doing some special projects connected to this in their ICT lessons.

A little reminder to parents, if you are dropping your son off in the morning please could you walk him in to the school building and not leave him outside. A member of Pre-Prep will take him from you once you walk through the door.

Have a lovely half term.

Dates for your diary:

Friday 14th – Friday 21st February
Half Term

26th February
Pre-Prep trip to Bocketts Farm

Thursday 5th March
Book Character Day

Tuesday 10th March
Open Afternoon for all Pre-Prep parents to view boys work

Thursday 20th March
Homefield Association Quiz Night at 7.00pm

Wednesday 25th March
Homefield Association Easter Egg Hunt at 3.45pm

All the Junior Department boys have enjoyed a shared PHSE session with Senior Department boys where they discussed Global Citizenship and participated in a group activity. It was wonderful to see the boys' collaboration across the age ranges.

Parents will have received information about our Parents' Evenings on 11th and 12th March.

Finally, a reminder to Year 3 parents that the balance for the Hindleap Warren trip in May is due by 28th February.

Our Special Awards go to:

Zien in Elephants for good listening to, and following of all instructions.

Our Students of the Week are:

Isaac in Tigers for his amazing knowledge of maths.

Jeff in Tigers for his excellent work when writing sentences.

Henry in Monkeys for working hard during maths to identify odd and even numbers.

Sachin in Monkeys for independently writing his own sentences during Literacy.

Homefield Heroes

1H Dakarayi for an excellent piece of written work. Well done, Dakarayi!

1S Raveesh for working really hard on his joined-up writing with great success. Well done, Raveesh!

2H Aurin for excellent participation and contributions in science this week.

2S Shomik for participating so well in paired and group activities and always working extremely hard.

3H Arthav for being a hard worker in his lessons.

3S Ewan for outstanding rugby performances. Ewan has been a real team player and demonstrates superb rugby skills every match.

WOW!

WOW is back! After a short break, we are once again participating in the 'Living Streets' venture: 'Walking Once a Week'.

In order to achieve (and receive) a new badge each month, all that is required is a 5 minute walk, either to or from school! The boys can enjoy an extra 5 minutes to chat with their mum or dad, or perhaps meet a friend en-route. And, lest the bus boys feel excluded, do remember the 5 minutes can be from home to your pick up point.

The calendar for February is on display in form rooms and let's hope lots of boys earn a badge this month!

Parents' Association

Tickets are now available on Classlist for the Senior Disco and Quiz Night!

The Senior Disco is incredibly popular with the boys at Homefield and girls at Sutton High School and Seaton House. Please buy your tickets via Classlist. Price is £6 per child. The deadline for getting tickets is Monday 2nd March. We do need some **volunteers** to supervise and assist at this event. Please sign up on the 'Disco Event' page of Classlist if you can spare some time. Without volunteers these events would not be possible.

The Quiz Night for parents and teachers is a fun evening out. Questions are varied: topics have included general knowledge, music, sport, anagrams, picture rounds and even questions from the Homefield 'Headlines'!



Come, enjoy, relax. It's nice to have a year group at the same table - this can be with couples or Dads only, for example. It's a great social event and food is provided.

We hope that you all have a lovely half term break.

Dates for your diary:

HA Meeting:

Friday 28th February

Senior Department Disco:

Friday 6th March

Quiz Night:

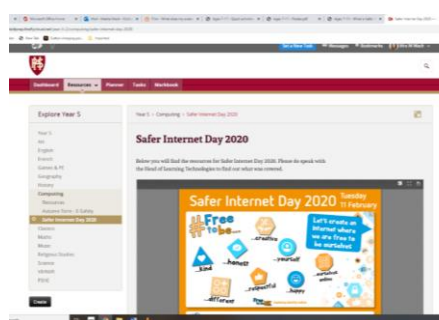
Friday 20th March

Easter Egg Hunt:

Wednesday 25th March

Safer Internet Day

On Tuesday 11th February, 5H launched Homefield's 3rd **Safer Internet Day** with their assembly based on the theme 'Free to be me: exploring identity online'. Throughout the week, all boys from Pre-Prep through to Year 8 have had a special e-safety lesson. If you would like to know more about what was covered in their class, then please talk with your son or log onto Firefly where all the materials have been uploaded within the **resources section** and the relevant year group and the computing subject page.



Science News

Science Quiz Club

On the 29th January, four Year 5 boys and four Year 6 boys attended the Inter Schools Science Quiz at the Science Museum. Our teams came 10th and 15th respectively out of 37 and we have just learnt that both teams performed well enough to reach the National finals in June, which is exciting.

Robin Hood Junior School often join us for science sessions and this year we sponsored their involvement in the quiz.



Theology, Philosophy and Religion

Philosophers of the Week

Can our identity change and why?

Hanlin 5S

How does your identity affect your daily life?

Elliot 5S

PHILOSOPHY MATTERS

Philosophical Reading and Inquiry

Philosophy Book Review.	
Book review by: <u>Sheriff</u>	Would you recommend the book? Why?
Title: <u>The Squares who squabbled</u>	Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>
Author: <u>Ladislav Bright and Jim Fall</u>	Why? <u>The teacher was when in the computer at the school.</u>
Non fiction <input type="checkbox"/> Fiction <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rating: ★★★★★
What is the book about?	
<u>The squares played over the garden and then a bird squabbled and squabbled the bird then they played and they did some with a nothing at.</u>	
Write a question for the main character.	
<u>Why did you do it with a nothing at?</u>	
What themes were in the book? (circle them)	
Happiness, Friendship, Questions, Family, Everyday life, Sadness, Anger, Confidence, Bravery, Resilience, Wonder, Tolerance, Respect.	
Can you think of any others? <u>Love</u>	
Book Illustration	

Philosophy Book Review.	
Book review by: <u>MIKAEL ZADRI</u>	Would you recommend the book? Why?
Title: <u>NOT NOW, BERNARD</u>	Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>
Author: <u>DAVID McKEE</u>	Why? <u>BERNARD IS SO NICE</u>
Non fiction <input type="checkbox"/> Fiction <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rating: ★★★★★
What is the book about?	
<u>The book is about Bernard's money and daddy not listening to Bernard and daddy not love Bernard. The daddy ask up Bernard and give money. Bernard and daddy don't make the money. Write a question for the main character.</u>	
<u>Why doesn't you money and daddy listen to you?</u>	
What themes were in the book? (circle them)	
Happiness, Friendship, Questions, Family, Everyday life, Sadness, Anger, Confidence, Bravery, Resilience, Wonder, Tolerance, Respect.	
Can you think of any others? <u>Shed</u>	
Book Illustration	

LRC News

In celebration of World Book Day, we will be holding 'Book Character Day' on 5th March. On this day, the boys come to school dressed as a book character and prizes will be awarded for the best costumes. Additionally, the boys will shortly be receiving a £1 book voucher that can be put towards a book from a local bookshop.



Sports News

Under 8s Tag Rugby v The Mall and Hawthorns

The U8s played some impressive rugby throughout the afternoon. The understanding of support play and the speed of the passing was fantastic to watch.

All the boys in Year 3 played which was encouraging to see. The development of the boys in both rugby lessons and fixtures has been very pleasing. The boys need to take great credit in their performances. In all the games played Homefield yet again, scored an impressive 62 tries across four teams, and eight fixtures.

Many thanks to the staff for refereeing and again to the parents who watched and encouraged from the touch-line. I'm sure you were delighted with your sons' performances!

Results:

A Team v The Mall

Won 7 – 3

Nathan (3), William (2), Samuel, Jamie

A Team v Hawthorns

Draw 8 – 8

Alexander (3), William (2), Samuel, Jamie, Noah

B Team v The Mall

Won 9 – 3

Sheldon (2), Luke (2), Arthav S (2), Ewan, Calum, Austin

B Team v Hawthorns

Won 6 – 3

Luke (2), Arthav, Sheldon, Austin, Ewan

C Team v The Mall

Won 9 – 3

Damon (2), Dev, Adam Q, Musa J, Charlie, Matthew S, Isaiah, Seyon

C Team v Hawthorns

Won 6 – 2

Damon (2), Dev, Musa J, Charlie, Felix

D Team v The Mall

Draw 10 – 10

Owais (3), Arvind (2), Gbemi (2), Rohan, Kayaan, Zinedine

D Team v Hawthorns

Won 7 – 3

Gbemi (2), Alexander Z (2), Owais, Zinedine, Arvind

Year 3 Rugby v Banstead Prep

Year 3 ended their rugby season with a fantastic fixture against Banstead Prep School on the 11th February.

All matches were extremely close which made for great entertainment for the spectators.

The Chiefs team lost 15-17 with every boy scoring a try: William (7), Olivier (2), Sam (2), Nathan (2), Alex and Lachlan.

The Barbarians team also lost by just two tries. Homefield's 12 tries were scored by: Damon (5), Saaketh (3), Abdullah (2) and Seyon (2).

The Scarlets team won 19-15 and just like the Chiefs team match, every boy in the team scored a try: Owais (7), Arvind (3), Adam (3), Rohan (2), Zinedine (2) and Matthew (2).

The Homefield boys played with great determination and sportsmanship. Well done to our Under 8 rugby teams!



Humanities News

Huge congratulations and well done to Qasim, Vinicius, Samuel, Kwame and Vansh on making it through Paper One of the Townsend Warner Prize! The boys completed the 100 questions in a one-hour exam and all scored among the top 250 students in the country, and now are eligible for Paper 2 after half term! This is a huge achievement and shows their amazing knowledge and attention to detail in history - across all decades! Well done boys!

In other History news - please do remind all boys about the *150 Years of Homefield Competitions* - details are on Firefly - please have a go and create a poster or write an essay about how life has changed since 1870! Entries to Mrs Sheppard on Monday 24th February.



Finally, a big well done to Year 6 - our future climate savers, environmentalists and world changers! A group of Year 6s - Riccardo, Harry and Haris have been working on litter picking, improving the school environment and educating us all to consider our impact on the world around us. They have been collecting and monitoring the litter around school; finding that straw wrappers and milk cartons are a big issue. They have also been working on a particular recycling project with Mr Matthews to collect and recycle crisps packets with the Terracycle scheme (Eliminating the Idea of Waste by recycling the "non-recyclable"). Look out for more tips and litter tackling next term - ideas and help welcome!



Sports News / continued ...

Year 4 Rugby v Hawthorns & Yardley Court

On Thursday 30th January, all of Homefield's Year 4 boys travelled to Hawthorns School to play in fixtures against Hawthorns and Yardley Court. It was a superb triangular fixture with 76 tries scored in total in the eight Homefield matches!

Our 'D' team got off to a great start by beating Hawthorns 10-8 before a thrilling 8-8 draw with Yardley Court. Across their two matches, the tries were scored by Ayaan (4), Michael (4), Sulaiman (4), Iliham (3), Daniyal, Henry and Jeyavel.

Our 'C' team narrowly lost 2-1 to Hawthorns, with Tobi scoring the try after a powerful run. They then drew 3-3 with Yardley Court with Rahul (2) and Vedanth scoring Homefield's tries. Well done to Minghao and Vedanth who were the 'C' team's top tacklers on the day!

On the 'B' team pitch, a try each from Kailan and Vir was not enough against Hawthorns who scored six tries of their own. Homefield responded well by beating Yardley Court 6-4, a try each again for Kailan and Vir as well as four from Magsud, whose speed was superb.

Despite making an excellent second half comeback, the 'A' team also lost to Hawthorns. Oscar, Tosin and Ismail scored as Homefield lost 7-3. They also showed great fight against Yardley Court and were unlucky to lose 3-2 after tries from Oscar and Jake. Homefield came extremely close to drawing level with lots of pressure in the final minutes. After the Homefield teams showed much improved tackling and defensive positioning, it was very pleasing to hear comments from Homefield spectators about how much the boys have improved over recent weeks.

Well done, Year 4!

U10 v Willington

On Tuesday 4th February, the U10 year group travelled away to Willington. The 'A' team took on a Willington side who had not been beaten or had conceded a try in previous encounters but in the very first minutes Phillip ran through and gained a penalty after a shocking high tackle.

From the penalty, Phillip scored. It was game-on but Willington did show their high level of ability, immediately running over two scores. Boris H and George G were everywhere on the pitch, putting in immense tackles which rattled the home team. Henry and Tim linked well to set up Alex G but he was held up 3 metres out and the spilled ball ran luckily to Willington who then capitalised by scoring. At half time, Homefield were behind but they showed immense spirit. George ran over a super try and Musa and Phillip passed well from the ruck. Luke put in the tackle of the season taking the attacker two metres from the line and Homefield scored a wonder try with Luke, Phillip and eventually George passing through four phases to score. The final score was Homefield 3, Willington 6. 'Man of the Match' was Boris.

The 'B' team showed improvement despite losing heavily 1-8. Louie B scored a great solo try and super running from Andrew and Elliot was the highlight of the match.

The 'C' team played out a twenty try thriller. The score was 10-10 with three tries for Kai T, Aarush and Ethan and a single try from Alex L., Leonardo, Hamdan, Rishan and Jonas did not stop running the whole match. Well done, boys.

The 'D' team recorded another victory with Aash and Jake named equal 'Men of the Match'. Jake scored six and Aash got five tries! Parth, Zak and Hanlin also scored to put the final score at 14-10.

Well done to all the boys who played.

U10 v The Mall

On Friday 7th February, the U10 boys played their second fixture of the week and their last rugby fixture of the season away against The Mall. The 'A' team played very well but felt hard done by with several dubious refereeing decisions. Having conceded a try, they ran a wonderful passing move and got over the line. However, the whistle had gone so the try was disallowed. The tackling from Boris and Phillip was fantastic and despite losing 3-1 the team has shown huge improvement throughout the season. George scored our only try and the game was very even throughout.

The story of the week was the U10 'B' team who recorded their first ever rugby win. They played out a 7-6 thriller of a match. Elliot V scored four super tries with Rayyan, Louie and Andrew all adding to the tally. Hari W was everywhere on the pitch tackling everything that moved and Shun, Saideep and Humza all tackled well at the break down. Overall, it was a well-deserved win with super team work ethic.

The 'C' team narrowly lost 7-9 with Kai T, Ethan and Tejas scoring 2 tries each and Aarush running over a score when a very good pass from Leonardo sent him through a gap to score.

The 'D' team once again won their game with the pace and power of Jake too much for The Mall. Jake scored five tries, Arnab and Aash scored three apiece, Umar scored two and Zac scored one in a 14-5 demolition.

Well-done to the whole year group who played superb rugby throughout the season.

Year 6 Barbarians v Hawthorns and New Beacon

On Wednesday 5th February, the Year 6 Barbarians team enjoyed a fantastic afternoon of rugby at Hawthorns School. In glorious sunshine, their commitment to tackling was excellent - the standout tacklers were Joshua, Krish, and Harry F but it was great to also see Harry N, Siddhant and Raamin be more involved in defence to slow down the opposition. Rishabh and Ivan scored tries for Homefield in a 2-5 defeat against Hawthorns. In the second match against New Beacon, Hugo, Carter (after a great pass by Harry N) and George scored the Homefield tries in a 3-7 loss. Despite the results, it was very pleasing to see the boys perform courageously against strong opposition and apply their learning from recent lessons in a fixture.



Sports News / continued ...

Under 11 'B' Rugby match v Hawthorns/ New Beacon

Homefield produced some impressive rucking during both the fixtures against Hawthorns and New Beacon. This was rewarded with some excellent passing which allowed the boys to find the spaces. Both Aaditya and Dron were the try scorers in the closely contested match against Hawthorns.

Unfortunately, after going two tries up against New Beacon, the boys allowed the opposition too much space to gather speed and direction. It was very encouraging to see Ronak making many good tackles as well as set up good rucking situations with his determined running with the ball in his hands. Homefield try scores were Jasen, Oliver, Harris, Sergio and Dron.

Tweet of the Week



Homefield Prep School @HomefieldSchool · 2h

#Year7 had a go at dissecting chicken legs during their #Science lesson on muscles. They enjoyed identifying the muscle and fat tissue, the tendons and joints, and finding the smooth cartilage at the end of the bones. #HandsOnLearning



Homefield Art Gallery

Oliver C Year 7 - Nature in the wind. Pen on canvas



SAVE THE DATE

Homefield Prep is celebrating its **150th Anniversary** and we will conclude this glorious year with a 'Grand Ball' at Epsom Downs Racecourse on **Saturday, 27th June**.

Please put the date in your diaries. Information on tickets to follow soon...

Keep abreast with
Homefield news as it
happens...   

150 YEARS

Music

Pro Corda National Chamber Music Competition

Vansh, Samuel and Vinicius performed the exposition of the first movement of Beethoven's G major string trio in the first round of the Pro Corda competition held at King's College School on Monday 3rd February. The boys performed very well and the adjudicator commented that he really admired the boys for taking on such a challenging work from the core adult repertoire.



Epsom College Strings Day

13 violinists and 2 viola players from Homefield attended the Strings Day at Epsom College on Tuesday 11th February. The boys joined the 135 strong orchestra made up of fifteen prep schools from as far afield as Wandsworth and Reigate. The boys rehearsed a full programme of music taken from films, which they performed to their parents at the end of the day. The massed orchestra played *Hedwig's Theme* and *Fawkes the Phoenix* from Harry Potter along with the *James Bond* main theme, *View to a Kill* and *Nobody Does It Better*.

