

Headlines

Spring Term
13th January 2023

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

ISI inspection report December 2021

Letter from the Headmaster

This week, our guest writer is Mr Siva, Deputy Head Pastoral

Dear Parents

While the Christmas decorations and trees were taken down on the 6th of January, I do hope there is not a similar expiry date on new year well wishes; we would like to take this opportunity to wish both you and your families a Happy New Year.

It has been great to welcome the pupils back into school to truly kickstart the new calendar year. They have acquitted themselves well in their lessons, positively navigated the corridors and enjoyed playing with their friends in the playgrounds at both breaktimes and lunchtimes.

As we celebrate the start of the new year, our minds may well be drawn to the communications at the end of last term regarding Mr Towers, which was one of thanks and pastures new. Whilst more recently Mr Towers has managed and overseen a rebuild and a very successful ISI inspection, it is the unquantifiable that I would like to pay the greatest thanks to. When I joined Homefield, I reached out to the registrars of our pupils’ destination schools and they all used the same four words to describe our

pupils: sincere, kind-hearted, hardworking and highly intelligent. This was not a coincidence. In my time here at Homefield I have realised that this is possible due to the positive collaboration between the pupils, parents and teachers: underpinning this has been Mr Towers’ unwavering pursuit, through all channels, to better prepare our pupils for their next steps; both academically and socially into the wider society.

I am honoured to take on the role as acting Head, in September, and look forward to working even more closely with Mr Towers over the next two terms to ensure that sense, community and the ‘village’ feel that I often refer to, is protected and further developed whilst ensuring that the pupils always remain at the heart of all our endeavours.

Continuing with this central theme, the following was written by Aun in Year 3 in anticipation of announcing the House crest competition winners:

*Now the shield competition is closed,
we will see who will get the prize
for first, second and third.
It will be displayed in the new reception
where it will stay for the next 150 years,
at Homefield Prep School.*

The process involved designing a new crest for each of the four Houses at Homefield and the winners are:

Bomfords: Jayden Year 6
Ellis: Lachlan Year 6
Grays: Deep Year 6
Walfords: Hanlin Year 8

Sterling effort and a huge well-done, not just to the winners but to those who also contributed their designs and visions. We have thoroughly enjoyed looking at all the entries and are excitedly awaiting the unveiling of these crests to the pupils, in our new reception area.

Have a great weekend,

Mr Z Siva
Deputy Head (Pastoral)

Lower School: Reception, Years 1 and 2

Reception

In Reception we have started our new topic, 'Ready, Steady, Grow!' We began with *Jack and the Beanstalk* and enjoyed writing a range of adjectives to describe the characters. We have continued to work on retelling familiar stories in the correct order and enjoyed using repetitive phrases such as, "Fee, fi, fo fum!" in our most menacing voices! In maths we have been learning what 'double' means, how to double numbers to 10, and working on mental recall of doubles to 10 and beyond!



As we reflected on the New Year, the boys thought of a goal for the year ahead which included a wide variety of ideas from being better friends to learning how to read: we can't wait to see how the boys get on with achieving these goals.

Reception Houses

All Reception pupils have now been inducted in to the Homefield House system by being allocated a House team! Boys are in one of four teams (Bomfords, Ellis, Grays and Walfords), with siblings being in the same house as their brother.

To show which House they are in, boys will be given a badge of their House colour to wear on their blazer. Please ensure this stays on their blazer, so if it is removed for washing, please do pin it back on. Your son can now earn House Points for their team, which you will be able to view in the SIMS Parent App. The House system will play a large part in a pupil's journey through Homefield School. As well as competing in the weekly, termly and yearly House Point Competition, boys will compete for their House each year in Sports Day, and have competitions in different sports (e.g. House Football), as well as in some academic subjects too.

I hope your son enjoys the many House competitions he will take part in throughout his time at Homefield, and is keen to start earning House Points!

Years 1 and 2

In Year 1 we have put our knowledge of place value to the test and started our new maths topic of money. As our boys are growing up in a world of contactless payments, they found working with notes and coins fascinating! In English we have started our new text, *Through the Magic Mirror* by Anthony Browne with a focus on prediction based on the title, pictures and blurb. We have also been exploring illustrations, story sequencing and incorporating drama. In history, we have begun learning about significant figures with a focus so far on Boudicca and Grace Darling.



*Angus and Tahazyan 1H
'Extreme Weather', our current topic in
geography*

In Year 2 we have begun our history topic of the Titanic and already uncovered some fascinating facts!



Continuing with the theme on transport, in STEAM we have been learning about the lives of astronauts and what they need to do to prepare for living in space. Our English focus has been features of instruction writing and in science we completed an investigation to discover the absorbency of a range of paper towels.

Homefield Heroes

RH Gryffin for excellent work on doubles and Nolan for fantastic consistency in reading at home and school.

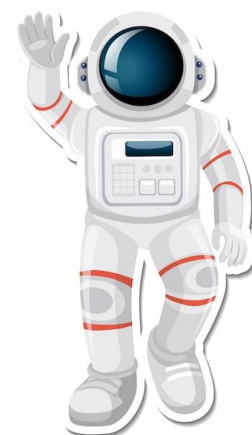
RS Rishaan for using previously learnt digraphs to independently spell some tricky words and Cyrus for being helpful and well-mannered at all times.

1H Aarav for fantastic participation in phonics this week and Tahazyan for working well in geography when learning about extreme weathers.

1S Philip P for great predicting when looking at the front cover of our new text in English and Jacob for working really hard on his writing.

2H Aarya for coming back with more confidence and working incredibly hard and Kiran for trying very hard to be more confident and independent in his lessons.

2S Shriyan for superb participation and enthusiasm in geography with a guest teacher and Wesley for excellent teamwork and investigation skills in science.



Pastoral

Years 3 and 4

A fantastic start to the Spring term for Years 3 and 4 – it's been lovely to see the boys back catching up with their friends and showing lots of enthusiasm and focus in lessons. A very warm welcome to Ansh in Year 3 who has settled in brilliantly and has received a Homefield Hero certificate for this.

Other boys in Year 3 receiving commendations are: Alex in 3S for his superb poetry writing and Anirudh in 3P for his admirable efforts in being organised and on time to lessons.

In Year 4, Daniel T in 4H has wowed his history teacher with his enthusiasm for the Anglo-Saxons, Aidan L in 4P has made wonderful contributions to French lessons and Max D in 4S has worked very hard on his poetry writing.

Well done boys and keep up this great work!

Years 5 and 6

For consistently excellent attitude and behaviour in the Autumn Term. Well done!

5H: Hei and Mustafa
 5P: Aled and Constantine
 5S: Justinus, Brendan and Eric
 6H: Hardik and Benjamin
 6P: Finn and Jonathan
 6S: Abdulaziz, Jonathan, Kayaan and Seyon

French Workshop

This week, Years 3 and 4 welcomed 'Freshwater French Theatre Company' to Homefield. The interactive session allowed boys to take part in a retelling of *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* and *The Three Little Pigs*, both in French. Despite the whole session being in a different language, the boys engaged brilliantly with the performance, singing songs accompanied by an accordion and joining in with parts of the story with confidence. There were some particularly memorable performances from Aun as a very mischievous Goldilocks and Raymin as a very loud, frightening wolf! Well done to all the boys for their enthusiasm and determination!

Years 7 and 8

Well done to the following boys:

7MJM Petro for excellent work in English, history, computing and sport
 8CS Jimmy for his dramatic performance during the Year 8 assembly

School Officers

Congratulations to Mathew G in Year 8 who is the Head Boy for the duration of the Spring term. We also welcome Jimmy and Hunzah, who join our prefect team.



Homefield Head Boy, Mathew with his proud parents



Our bear trio!

Form Time

During the week commencing 30th January, parents are warmly invited in to visit a special Form Time. Here, your son can sit with you for 20 minutes to share his learning. If you can't make it, please don't worry as our staff can fill in for you. Boys will have chosen a selection of books to share and have some prompts for discussion with you.

Please note, this is not a mini 'parent consultation', it is a chance to talk with your son and to celebrate and encourage. If the feedback is good, we may make this a regular occurrence. Please see timetable below:

Monday 30th January: Year 1 and Year 6	8.20 – 8.50am
Tuesday 31st January: Year 2 and Years 7/8	8.20 – 8.50am
Wednesday 1st Feb: Year 4 and Year 5	8.20 – 8.50am
Thursday 2nd Feb: Reception	8.20 – 8.50am
Thursday 2nd Feb: Year 3	9.00 – 9.30am (post assembly)

Parking

We understand that Welcome Gym will be imposing parking restrictions on parents using their car park facilities at the beginning and end of the school day from next week. NCP are to be engaged to operate warden patrols who will issue fines to those parked who are not members of either Sutton Cricket Club or the gym.

We operate our 'stop and drop' system at the start of the day where our Estates staff will assist your son to disembark your vehicle and see him safely into the school. If you would like to drop your son earlier, then please register with our wrap around care provider, Orchard, who currently provide a breakfast club from 7.30am

Additionally, when queuing to access the school driveway for the 'stop and drop' facility in the morning, could parents please avoid blocking resident's driveways, preventing their access to the highway.

Sport

On Wednesday 11th January, The U11 'A' team played away against Hawthorns in their first rugby fixture this year. The team were fantastic in attack and defence with some super tackles by Harry and Alexander. William showed quick feet and skill to score three tries. Alexander (2) Damon (2) Samuel (2) Keller (1) and Nathan (1) added to the total with the game ending with a 11-2 win. A fantastic start to the rugby season.



Victorious 'A' team

B Team

Spectators wouldn't have thought it was the boys' first match of the season, as our 'B' team played with confidence and speed.

Jamie was the team's top tackler, supported well by Owais and Finn who made a great try-saving tackle on the try line. Homefield deservedly won 6-3 with tries scored by Finn, Amran (2) and Jaysen (3), one of which was superbly set up by Atharva's brilliant run and pass. They kicked very well to gain ground and rucked consistently to retain possession. Well played 'B' team

Science

In science this week, Year 3 have been experimenting with switches in electrical circuits. They worked really hard to make switches out of brass paper fasteners, paper clips and bulldog clips.



Year 5 had lots of fun carrying out an investigation into friction and how different surfaces create different amounts. They did this using toy cars and ramps covered with different surfaces. They took great care to ensure it was a fair test by keeping their control variables the same for each test.



Year 6 have started their acids and alkalis unit of study and have learnt how to test the pH of a substance using universal indicator.



Year 7 have learnt about muscles, joints and the respiratory system. They have had a go at measuring their peak flow readings by blowing into peak flow meters and we can verify that they all have very healthy lungs!



The Year 7 boys also enjoyed dissecting chicken legs!

In this lesson we were given a chicken leg and I was very excited as this was my first time dissecting anything. We first had to skin the leg, and we used dissecting scissors and a scalpel. I also cracked a bone in half and it was very satisfying! I saw the tendons of the chicken leg and the fat.' - Rayhaan 7MJM.



Homefield Art Gallery



Jayden Year 6 Watercolour Dinosaur

Orchard Childcare

HALF TERM HOLIDAY CLUB

Our half term holiday club is open to siblings from 4 years and above. Places are charged at £30.00 per day which is non-refundable whether your child attends or not.

The Holiday Club operates from 7.30am to 6.00pm from Monday 13th – Friday 17th February (inclusive).

All attendees should bring a healthy packed lunch (no nuts please) and wear suitable clothing.

Itinerary

- Monday** Dress to impress prize for the best costume – Marvel v Disney
- Tuesday** Arts and Crafts with a Valentine's Day theme
- Wednesday** Visit to Buckingham Palace and Changing of the Guards
- Thursday** Royal Afternoon Tea – come and make a crown or tiara and let's make some cakes for our tea party!
- Friday** Visit to the Natural History Museum



For information on activities and full details for registration please ring Orchard Childcare on 07542 364932

Keep abreast with Homefield news as it happens

