

Headlines

Autumn Term
13th October 2023

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

ISI inspection report December 2021

Letter from the Headmaster

Dear Parents

September 7th, the start of the new school year, feels like more than the six weeks that the calendar would indicate, as we adjust to new routines and welcome parents and visitors to an array of events. Each new school year brings its own challenges and opportunities and despite the long days it has been an absolute pleasure to witness the pupil’s zest for learning, manners and fervour towards all things that a busy day at Homefield can throw at them.

Success and our first half-term have gone hand in hand. We, as staff, have been continuously impressed by the numbers of House Points earned, to the improved performances on the sports fields culminating in victories for many of the year groups, to impeccably dealing with the external pressures imposed by the most-examined system in Europe: the 11+. This is just the tip of the success iceberg, there are many, many more.

What has paved the way for this success at school? There are two immediate things that come to mind: the pupils and the staff.

Firstly, the pupils. I have been impressed by their unwavering efforts and the positivity they employ when pursuing new challenges. This was typified by a Year 6 pupil in a lesson who got a question wrong during a class discussion, he then shrugged his shoulders and said “*Ah of course! Okay, I will get the next one right*”. The ‘Homefield shrug’, this was not the only class that I witnessed this in.

To the staff, I am grateful for all their efforts. It is easy to let our naturally aspirated pupils ‘coast’, but the learning opportunities and creativity of their lessons whether that be through their curriculum design, questioning, challenge, transparency and rapport, have truly helped matters and been a joy to observe.

After nearly six busy weeks there must be a sombre realisation in your minds as parents: ‘*Over to us now for two weeks*’. I suspect this will be reciprocated on the morning of the 30th October.

To genuinely help, and not tease (unlike the previous sentence!) I have challenged the boys to help around the house over the half-term. To assist with the shopping, the tidying up and most importantly, to learn the art of making a perfect cup of tea or coffee and serve it to their parents. The boys gave me their assurances this morning in our Whole School assembly - good luck!

Most importantly, I hope our pupils explore their hobbies and enjoy the half-term.

All good wishes



Mr Siva and Fudge

Lower School: Reception, Years 1 and 2

Last week in Reception, we had a brilliant trip to Gatton Park to hunt for the Gruffalo! We had to follow the footprints of the animals through the 'deep, dark woods' to find the different characters. We foraged for some ingredients for a delicious Gruffalo crumble and also made some Gruffalo faces with clay on the trees.



All the staff at Gatton Park were so impressed with the boys' behaviour and their enthusiasm. We also had so much fun that some boys enjoyed a refreshing nap on the way back! In Literacy, our text has been 'Percy the Park Keeper' and our focus has been learning what a character and setting are. Ethan in RS said, "A setting is where everything happens." In maths we have been learning about numbers 4 and 5 whilst also exploring squares and rectangles. Azai in RS said, "Rectangles are long, squares are short." We have also started some simple addition with number bonds to 5, using the numicon to support us and learning how to represent our number bonds in different ways. We created some mathematical art inspired by Modrain using squares and rectangles and talked about the features of these shapes. Our topic has been learning about Harvest Festival and we created our very own scarecrow to protect the fruits and vegetables that are growing in our Homefield garden. We used our knowledge of scarecrows to construct 'Hayden' (the scarecrow) but also our critical thinking to decide on how to piece Hayden together and to get him to stand up. We also worked on developing our teamwork skills as we collaboratively to build up his body and legs with hay.



In English, Year 1 have been learning about different word types, starting with verbs. We have been learning not only how to find verbs in a sentence, but also how to use a range of verbs to make our sentences more exciting!

In maths, Year 1 have been learning how to recognise numbers to 100 and learning how to write numbers in word form. We have continued to develop our understanding of place value by placing 2-digit numbers in place value columns to demonstrate our understanding of tens and ones.

In history, we have continued our topic of transport with learning about the history of trains. Dylan in 1S said, "Old trains are not electric they use steam. I've been on a steam train before in Sri Lanka!" Gryffin shared, "Old trains are steam powered, like the Rocket! Trains today are electric and there is an extra rail which carries the electricity. Steam trains still exist today." In PSHE we have been learning what 'privacy' means and how to keep ourselves safe.

In Year 2, we have continued with our focus text of 'Masha and the Firebird'. We have used the text as a stimulus to write formal and informal letters. We are now excellent at writing complaint letters as we wrote one to Baba Yaga! In maths, we have been learning a range of strategies to add numbers over a tens boundary such as bridging, repartitioning and using number lines. This has helped us with our mental maths as we are able to add numbers faster in our heads.



In history, we have continued with our topic of the Great Fire of London by ordering the events that took place over the five days that the fire burnt. Noah from 2H explained, "The fire started early Sunday morning because the baker Thomas Farriner didn't put out his fire. The wind was so bad and that's why it spread over all the houses; they were also made of wood which made them burn."

Homefield Heroes

RH- Tarin for playing nicely with his friends and asking people to join in and Robbie for doing his work without disturbing others and trying very hard in his phonics.
RS- Kieran for looking out for others on the playground and helping them on the climbing frame and Arib for excellent concentration when working.
1H- Shahmeer for trying his best in phonics and with his letter formation and Ethan for a brilliant effort when leaf printing in art.
1S- Reuben for a great music lesson with Mrs Griffith and Ariz for having a great first half term in Year 1 and following all our Homefield values!
2H- Kylesh for demonstrating brilliant sportsmanship in PE and Hugo for demonstrating all the Homefield values in all that he does. Our swimmers of the week have been Will S, Noah and Tahazyan.
2S- Sam for demonstrating brilliant sportsmanship in PE and Angus for contributing to class discussion and engaging with his learning.

Our science topic of materials has continued by experimenting with permeable and impermeable materials.



In geography, we are learning about the differences between physical and human features. One of our tasks was to use our letter writing skills from English, to write a persuasive letter to the government requesting that they plant more trees. detailed nature sketches. We had to use persuasive language and give detailed reasons as to why this is important. In art, we have continued with our theme of nature and art by completing detailed nature sketches.

Pastoral News and Activities

Years 3 and 4

This week, I have been very pleased with Year 3's efforts when working collaboratively during partner work in History lessons. Year 4 have stood out particularly at break time for following rules and playing well together. Keep this up boys!

Last week, the following pupils received a Homefield Hero certificate for their own personal triumphs:

Michael (3H) for his growing confidence when contributing to class discussions.

Vincent (3S) for his positivity and enthusiasm in lessons.

Ethan (4H) for his drive to complete his work to a high standard whilst also helping others in the class.

Ayaan (4S) for his positive attitude in lessons and commitment to completing his work.

This week, the pupils commended with a Homefield Hero certificate are:

Wesley (3H) for his focus and efforts in presenting his work neatly.

Arish (3S) for his focus in lessons and determination to complete all his tasks.

Raymin (4H) for his brilliant focus and behaviour in lessons.

Jeff (4S) for his determination to complete work set to a high standard and challenge himself.

Years 5 and 6

The boys have worked tirelessly this half term and it seems to have flown by. They have thrown themselves into so many activities, trips, clubs and assemblies on top of the new learning they do each day.

Over a thousand House Points have been amassed between them in a few short weeks.

Congratulations to the following boys who have so ably demonstrated aspects of our Homefield Values. They have received a Homefield Hero certificate and Head of Year Commendation:

5H Samuel and Faiz

5P Sulaiman, Rowan, Elijah, Eric and Zain A

5S Theo and Daniel

6H Thomas and Aled

6P Harry

6S Enming

Years 7 and 8

In Year 7, Head of Year commendations go to Kaiyan for excellent work in Science and Zachary for excellent attitude and following all the Homefield values.

In Year 8, Oscar is commended for his attitude and effort in sports fixtures and Aaron has been recognised for his overall effort in his studies, particularly in Music.



Library News

At present, the library has 413 books out on loan, which is fantastic. Unfortunately, a few books have become lost or mislaid which of course decreases the available stock. Accordingly, from the 1st January, any book which has been lost can either be replaced or a charge will be put on your account. Happy reading.



Science News

Year 4 were very excited to use the Bunsen burners for the first time and 4S have been awarded their Bunsen burner licenses. They put their new skill into action with a practical involving heating ice and recording its temperature as it transitioned from solid to liquid to gas.



Year 5 have been enjoying getting to grips with the microscopes. They have used them to look at their own cheek cells and the cells in onion skin.



Year 6 are currently learning about different techniques for separating mixtures; they have used dissolving, filtering and evaporation to extract pure salt from rock salt.



They have also had a go at paper chromatography where they separated the mixtures of inks in different coloured felt tip pens, and the dyes in the coating of Skittles. The boys did very well to resist the temptation to also taste test the sweets!

Sport

Year 3 Football v Aberdour

On Tuesday 10th October, all of the Year 3 boys travelled to Aberdour for their first away football match. The Green team started brightly and goals from Viyan and Yahia meant Homefield went three nil up. The Green team controlled the game and this led to Vincent scoring his first ever goal – a double bonus as he was captain for the day. Viyan went on to score a hat trick and although the hosts scored two goals The Green's won 5-2.

The Blue team also scored five magnificent goals in an amazing game. They quickly went three goals up with Michael scoring two before half time and Yohaana finishing a great move after a super pass from Ivaan. Zayn played valiantly in goal and Advik was strong in attack, scoring a great goal. Michael then went on to score his second hat trick in two games! The Blue team eventually won 5-1.

The Red team bounced back after a recent home defeat with huge improvement. Great passing from Druv and Mikeal led to a shot from distance by Aiden: the ball bounced over the keeper's head and the boys celebrated. Harin then latched onto a through ball from Ethan and scored to make it two nil. The second half was very close and great defending by Alex and Wesley meant that the game finished, Homefield 2 Aberdour 0. Well done to all the boys who played.

U10 Football v Chinthurst

On Friday 29th September, the U10 cohort started their football season fixtures at home against Chinthurst. The 'A' team began brightly in a very even contest. Max made a good save and Elijah made some great tackles. Homefield began to dominate the match with Haran making a super run into the box and scored. Immediately after the restart, Yusuf put pressure on the Chinthurst defence and scored. Homefield went two up within 2 minutes for a well-deserved lead. The confidence that resulted allowed the 'A' team to pass more freely and after a super pass from Haran, Sulaymaan scored at the back post. Chinthurst did respond in the last minute with a consolation goal but our boys had a great 3-1 win to start the season.

The 'B' team played out an epic seven goal thriller. Despite being 3-1 up after goals from Ansel, Advik and an own goal Chinthurst clawed their way back into the match. With just minutes remaining, Chinthurst scored a goal from a free kick to win 4-3.

The 'D' team played outstandingly well. Daniyal Q scored a brace of goals, Xingda scored on his debut game for Homefield and Harris scored after a super pass from Oscar. Anish and Theo completed which meant Homefield won 6-0. Well done, boys – a great afternoon of football.



Music

It has certainly been a busy week for our Year 6 boys in the music department. On Sunday, Oliver H, Oliver G and Hanchen took part in Trinity boys' school's 14th annual Orchestral workshop. The boys spent the day learning three new pieces while being coached by teachers and music scholars, including two of our Alumni, Jonathan F and Sebastian. Their performance delighted parents and peers alike.

On Tuesday the 10th October, eight Year 6 boys attended an orchestral workshop at King's College, Wimbledon. It was an afternoon of full-on rehearsals culminating in an impressive recital.

Both events had a 100-strong orchestra, made up of pupils from schools around London. If you are interested in your son taking part in subsequent choral and orchestra days, please don't hesitate to get in contact with Mrs Griffith at ygriffith@homefieldprep.school

Christmas Concert Series 2023

- 23rd November: Year 3 Christmas Celebration
- 29th November: Reception Christmas Assembly
- 4th December: Year 1 Hey Ewe!
- 5th December: Year 2 Hey Ewe!
- 7th December: Senior Christmas Concert (Years 4 – 8) @ Trinity Church

Gardening Club

This week, the Gardening Club have been planting bulbs in preparation for spring colour. Let's hope they survive the winter.

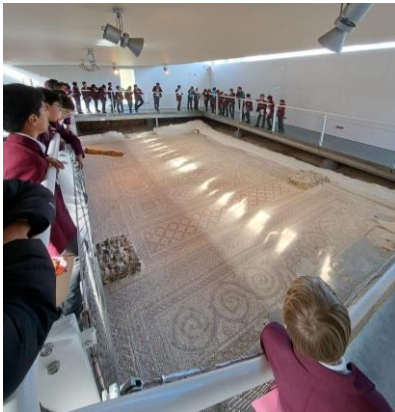


Trips and Visits

Year 6 Visit to Verulamium 2023

Last Tuesday, boys in Year 6 undertook an excursion to St Albans in order to learn more about the Roman city of Verulamium, once the third largest Roman settlement in the province of Britannia.

Upon arrival, our boys were introduced to the site by a short audio-visual display, before splitting up to either explore the museum galleries or undertake a workshop handling and investigating Roman artefacts. Armed with their worksheets and clipboards, boys in the galleries enthusiastically sought out answers to their questions. However, what was most pleasing to see was the discussion and further questions which the boys themselves generated as they examined the vast collection of artefacts and considered the nature of life in a Roman town.



Whilst some marvelled at the impressive mosaics, others drew comparisons between the coinage and merchandise of ancient and modern trade, and still others sat down to challenge each other in Roman board games.



Meanwhile, in the artefacts room boys were tasked with becoming archaeological detectives, 'seeing', 'thinking' and 'wondering' about the objects in front of them and what their function may have been. There were many different objects both real finds and replicas, including a box flue tile from a hypercaust, plumb bob from a Roman groma, a knife handle made of bone and various pottery items.



Some boys even had the opportunity to dress up as Ancient Romans and discover how their clothing and colours demonstrated status.

After lunch, we took a walk around the park near the museum to visit the remains of the 3rd century Roman walls and an exposed hypercaust system which was once part of a mansiones (guest-house). Walking around the site also endowed the boys with a conception of the original size of the settlement.



We also made a visit to the remains of the Roman theatre – the only such remains still present in Britannia. Students learnt about the unique functions of this theatre, built in AD140 and capable of seating 7000, which doubled for the local inhabitants at the times as a stand-in amphitheatre, plus religious site. Again, boys were aided in their understanding of a Roman theatrical production's nature by seeing the ruins at first hand.

Gifted and Talented Morph Trail Challenge Prize Winners

At the start of the summer break the boys were set the challenge to find the 6-foot tall Morph statues that were erected near to various London landmarks as part of a trail. There were 56 Morphs in total, each with a unique design and story. Lots of boys took part in the challenge, but the entries chosen as the prize winners, for especially good presentations, were from Charlie (2H), Kylesh (2H) and Elijah (5P). The boys used many skills including literacy, art and design and communication to carry out their 'Morph hunting' and put together their presentations. The presentations included picture collages, videos, journals and model Morphs. Well done to our prize winners.



Parents' Association

The Homefield Parents' Association invites you to this year's Fireworks Night. We are celebrating Bonfire Night on Thursday 2 November. The event will start at 6pm, allowing families time to go home and change clothes to something warmer. We will have food stalls along with an improved and larger glow stall! Advance tickets are £8.50 for adults, £5 for children age 3 and up, and babies are free. Advance tickets will be available until Friday 27th October.

In order to help us ensure there is enough food, treats and glow products, please buy tickets and Homefield currency on ClassList in advance. The event is cash-free. These will then be available to collect from the reception desk at Homefield Prep from October 30th. Further details can be found on Classlist.



Orchard Childcare

Orchard Childcare who run our Breakfast Club currently have spaces available for parents who would prefer to avoid the traffic and drive through/drop off in the mornings, especially as the mornings become darker and the weather more inclement. Please contact Orchard via <https://www.homefield.sutton.sch.uk/school-life/orchardchildcare>

Sharing Good News

Has your son done anything exciting or interesting outside school? Any achievements that you would like to share with the school community?

Please contact us with a short explanation and a photo via email to administration@homefieldprep.school.

We would love to share your son's good news on social media and in Headlines!

Keep abreast with Homefield news as it happens



Senior School Admissions Deadlines

A reminder to parents that many registration deadlines are approaching so please ensure that you check senior school websites to avoid disappointment.

WARNING

DEADLINES ARE MUCH CLOSER THAN THEY APPEAR

Homefield Art Gallery

Raymin, Year 4, Monochrome pen drawing



Ibstock Place
CO-EDUCATIONAL DAY SCHOOL



Community Event: Parenting in a Digital Age

How do technology and social media impact mental health, and how can parents help their children to navigate it?

Ibstock Place School invites you to join us for an event designed to empower a new generation of parenting in the digital age. Hear from a panel of experts and have your questions answered.



Hannah Abrahams
Educational and Child
Psychologist at The Soke.



Asha Fowells
Head of Education &
Engagement at the
Daniel Spargo-Mabbs
Foundation.



Alicia Drummond
Founder of Teen Tips
and The Wellbeing Hub.

Wednesday 22 November 2023
6.30 pm - 8.30 pm



Please contact the school to book tickets:
office@ibstockplaceschool.co.uk