

# Headlines

Spring Term  
15<sup>th</sup> January 2021

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

ISI inspection report

## Letter from the Headmaster

### Dear Parents

It would be all too easy to begin the New Year with a sense of foreboding; a tough year ending with government U-turns on schools and the ‘lockdown’ so many predicted. Yet 2020 could have been so much worse... There was no mass civil disobedience due to the pandemic. We looked after the most vulnerable; via food banks and the sterling work of civil society. The government has helped many communities and business with furlough or other support. Our scientists moved with impressive pace to sort vaccines and we were reminded, by events in Minneapolis and elsewhere, that ‘Black Lives Matter’. In education we learnt that tens of thousands of children are being badly impacted by school closures, particularly where they have had little access to good remote teaching. Yet at Homefield, and in many other good schools, we ensured the boys’ attainment remained outstanding and learning was uninterrupted. We also kept them safe, well and happy.

So, being optimistic, a positive start for 2021 has been the attitude and behaviour of our ‘Key Worker’ boys on site (we’ve had double the take up compared to the lockdown last year).

They have been enthusiastic, positive and kind. I have also sat over the shoulder of many teachers this week, socially distanced of course, to see interactions in our virtual classrooms being of similarly high quality.

I do hope that parents have been able to share some of the delight as the boys interact with each other, and their teachers, for some quality learning and to anchor themselves within a strong community.

Late news (for senior school admissions are running a tad slow), with congratulations for our 2020 Year 8 boys; Vinicius, Ben and Kwame. They all won a prestigious academic scholarship at King’s College School, Wimbledon. In 2020 we had 4 offers at KCS, all at 13+ and these latest awards bring our total of senior scholarships up to 17 for the year and to 80 over the last 5 years.

Well done, Tosan, for being voted Head Boy by staff and to Amir, Qasim, Barnaby, Sam S and Jijith for picking up responsibilities as Prefects this term.

Parents will have noted the next two weeks timetables are out already. We are on a two-week cycle to ensure coverage of a rich and broad curriculum. You may also note additional lessons, either for some stretch or depth or to intervene and provide extra support for small groups. As well as having discrete intervention groups timetabled, our support staff are starting to invite some boys into ‘break out’ rooms on Teams, where they might benefit from more help.

We continue with our ‘Well-being Wednesday’ themes on-line. My Space, dedicated space for boys to talk, will continue to be available as an intervention, being personalised to support those who access it. There is also much useful resource on our website to help boys and families with well-being and mental health.

**John Towers**  
Headmaster

## Pre-Prep

We didn't expect to be writing the first edition of 2021's Headlines to include work the boys had been completing at home but here we are again. The Pre-Prep team are super impressed by the resilience of our youngest members of the school. They have maturely set off on their live lessons and completed work set to an excellent standard. We have seen them smiling and laughing during circle time games and showing us that they are thoroughly enjoying this temporary way of learning.

Therefore, we have decided not to award one boy with a special mention this week but the whole of Reception! The boys at home and at school are making us so proud of them all and are demonstrating that this virus is not going to affect our fun and love of learning.



Here are some of the boys on a live lesson where they were using their listening and responding skills to go on a scavenger hunt for specific items around their houses!

### Our Special Award go to:

**Audy, Alex, Xander, Aaron, Yohaam, Kiran, Louis, Mirsub, Shriyan, Ryan, Roshan, Jaiden, Zien, Harin, William, Kaan and Mikael** for settling so well to our new way of learning and demonstrating such maturity and resilience.

## Junior Department

The Junior Department boys have been brilliant in adapting so well to live lessons and online work. They have approached everything with great enthusiasm and we are very proud of them. Thank you to all parents for your support.

In Year 1, we have enjoyed all our lessons with the boys and we are very impressed at how grown up they have been. All have been happy to contribute online and are becoming experts at muting and unmuting their microphones! We have loved seeing their work and talking to them. In Science, the boys are busy investigating the properties of various materials and recording their results.

We have started a new History topic about the Romans and the boys are very keen to learn more. A highlight for the teachers is definitely 'Form Time' when boys have been sharing news of their activities with us all. Thank you boys for your hard work, great listening and fantastic behaviour.

The Year 2 boys have had a super start to the Spring term. In Geography, they have been learning about different parts of the world and exploring how the water cycle works. In Art, they have been creating their own colourful Rangoli and Aztec patterns and have enjoyed sharing them during our online form times.

## Homefield Heroes

**1H Ayaan** for trying hard with his cursive handwriting and using it in all his work. Well done, Ayaan!

**1S Shunta** for super progress with his written work. Well done, Shunta!

**2H Dyllon** for outstandingly neat and accurate Maths work this week.

**2S Eric** for his hard work and determination in English.

## Music

Congratulations to the following boys who recently passed music assessments:

Rohan 4P ABRSM Grade 1 Singing (Merit) and Piano (Pass)

Ronak 7MMC Grade 3 Piano

Magsud 5P Grade 3 Piano (Distinction)

Leonardo 6S Grade 3 Piano

Ethan 6H Grade 2 Piano (Merit)

Arjun 4P Grade 1 Piano



## House Points and School Officers

### House Points

#### Autumn Term House Point Totals

Well done to the top three pupils in each form for earning the most House Points last term!

**3H:** Shomik 58, Josh 54, Oliver and Daniel 53

**3S:** Hanchen 54, Jerry 53, Jack and Constantine 52

**4H:** Alexander 81, Owais 78, Olivier 69

**4P:** Charlie 71, Jaysen 66, Felix 64

**4S:** Luke, Atharva and Stefano 71

**5H:** Alex 91, Shiven 85, Rahul 78

**5P:** Magsud & Adrian 58, Siddharth 53

**5S:** Vir 81, Owen 80, Oscar and Dhilan 79

**6H:** Andrew 102, Tim 93, Aarush 88

**6S:** Reece 74, Arnav 70, Leonardo and Philip 65

**Year 7:** Ziyad 109, Ronak 105, Oliver M 99

**Year 8:** Barnaby 88, Sam S 75, Jijith 73

Congratulations to the top 10 across the whole school, as follows:

### Whole School Top 10

1st: 109 Ziyad 7LC

2nd: 105 Ronak 7MMC

3rd: 102 Andrew 6H

4th: 99 Oliver M 7LC

5th: 93 Tim 6H

6th: 91 Alex 5H

=7th: 88 Barnaby 8MM

=7th: 88 Aarush 6H

9th: 85 Shiven 5H

=10th: 81 Vir 5S

=10th: 81 Alexander 4H

### Senior Department

#### Spring Form Captains and Student Council Reps

##### 3H

Form Captain: Yusuf

Vice-Captain: Aled

Student Council Rep: Daniel

##### 3S

Form Captain: Mikaeel

Vice-Captain: Jack

Student Council Rep: Aarav

##### 4H

Form Captain: Alexander H

Vice-Captain: Sheldon

Student Council Rep: Owais

##### 4P

Form Captain: Masood

Vice-Captain: Nathan

Student Council Rep: Charlie

##### 4S

Form Captain: Seyon

Vice-Captain: Adam Q

Student Council Rep: Luke

### Homefield Heroes

#### Years 3 and 4

The following boys have been awarded Homefield Heroes for their thoughtful and considered contributions to our discussions in TPR.

3H : Aled, Josh

3S: Oba, Rudy

4H: Austin , Harry

4P: Nathan ,Felix

4S: Lewis, Luke

In Years 5, 6, 7, 8 our Homefield Hero awards go to the top boys in each form who achieved the highest number of House Points last term.

Very well done, a wonderful achievement.

## Well-Being

We were delighted with the uptake of our Advent Activity Challenge and have enjoyed discovering what activities many of you completed, particularly the amount of time you all spent outdoors despite the chilly weather! A big well done to everyone and especially those of you who completed one every day! Housepoints, stickers, certificates and prizes will be arranged as promised!



*Kamran in Year 3 enjoying a chilly walk*

In other news, we have begun our mindfulness topic this week as part of our 'Wellbeing Wednesday' Curriculum. Did you know that Mr Towers and Mrs O'Reilly recorded a soundbite about this? You can listen to this via our website. There are lots of activities that you can access from home and we will be posting some in the Wellbeing Club... how good are you at sitting still like a frog?

### Inclusion News...

The switch to remote learning has also seen us seamlessly reorganise our inclusion interventions too. Our last lockdown saw us sending home a number of home packs, we will provide these to some pupils. However, we have scheduled a high proportion of these sessions to be delivered live. Many of these began this week with boys accessing these sessions as they would in school: thank you to all the boys who have attended for being prepared and on time.

Our current provision is a greater enhancement of our previous version as we have increased the capacity of our offer by including more availability for My Space sessions, plus the addition of live group sessions with a focus on phonics, number and story time in the Junior Department and continuing to offer English and Maths sessions for boys in the Senior Department. Do remember to check your calendars as these sessions are on a two-week rotation.

## English Department

We are delighted to be able to publish the following poems by boys in Year 5:

### Poem of the Week

The boys in 5S were asked to write an extended metaphor about school: Oscar's poem makes for a wonderfully uplifting read in these dark times!

*The school is a super fit, healthy and strong human body.*

*Mr Towers is the battling brain, operating the obedient school,*

*Like a well-oiled machine, not stopping until the job is done.*

*Sending messages, hearing all and endlessly moving,*

*With Mr Chops at his side snoozing all day and not opening his eyes.*

*The teachers are the heart of the school, pumping knowledge that does not stop.*

*Answering extreme and endless questions, Testing their brains to the limit.*

*Moving and motivating a thirst for knowledge, Encouraging excellent children.*

*The boys are the blood flowing through the body.*

*Pumping through the brain to get their crests signed,*

*Flowing to the heart to learn their lessons, Sprinting to the lunch hall to refill their endless energy,*

*And flooding out the school and into the playing fields.*

*The buildings are the skeleton of Homefield for 150 years.*

*The structure is as hard as nails, protecting everyone.*

*Some of the skeleton has crushed and crumbled, But the skeleton is improving and recovering from its injuries by being rebuilt.*

*The whole of the body is excited.*

Boys in 5P are studying poetic devices, including rhyme. Henry made very good use of rhyme in his poem about 'The Monster Under His Bed'.

*One afternoon I said to Uncle Fred  
"Who is this monster underneath my bed?  
He looks like a fish and he is very thin  
Or how could he have gotten in."*

*Uncle Fred said from where he sat,  
"It is not nice to talk like that."  
"It's true!" I cried, "I swear it, Uncle Fred,  
There is a monster under my bed!"  
"I don't want to hear another word of it",  
thundered Uncle Fred.*

*"Believe me, Uncle Fred, there is a monster,  
a hairy, scary monster, under my bed!"  
That did it.  
He horribly, hurried me upstairs, brushed my  
teeth and plunged me into bed.*

*But then, a nicely timed event delivered me  
from punishment.*

*Deep under my bed something stirred  
and the most horrible noise was heard.  
A gurgling, grumbling, grunting sound that  
made my bed jump around.*

*My Uncle Fred nearly died!*

*"My goodness, what was that?" he cried.*

*"That's the monster!" I shouted.*

*"He is under my bed so now do you believe  
me, Uncle Fred?"*

*But Uncle Fred answered nothing more,  
For he had fainted on the floor.*

## Staff News

Over the festive break, we were delighted to welcome a new addition to the Homefield community with the safe arrival of a beautiful baby daughter for Mr Siva and his wife. Many congratulations to them both.



## In Memorium

We were saddened to hear of the recent sudden death of one of our Homefield 'Old Boys', Mr Peter Franklin, who has been a passionate supporter of the school over the years, maintaining close ties and curating the vast collection of Homefield memorabilia. His vast knowledge and passion for plants has inspired generations of our boys to take a keen interest in their environment and to hone their 'green finger skills'. We will be commissioning a tree in Peter's honour, with a commemorative plaque, to ensure his legacy continues to live on at Homefield.



## Tweet of the Week

You Retweeted



**Homefield Prep Sport** @HomefieldSp0rt · 1h

Here is Elijah in #Year2 having a go at Mr Edwards' #rugby kicking challenge! His best kick was almost 20 metres! 🌞🏉



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Should you wish to share any ingenious activities or projects that your sons are engaged in during the lockdown period, do please send details into school. We can then publish these on Facebook, Twitter and Headlines to keep our community in contact until school can fully reopen. Please send to [administration@homefieldprep.school](mailto:administration@homefieldprep.school) or [sevans@homefieldprep.school](mailto:sevans@homefieldprep.school)

Many thanks