

# Headlines

Summer Term  
15th May 2020

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

ISI inspection report

## Letter from the Headmaster

### Dear Parents,

I sense we are all feeling the real pinch now; whether it's talking to boys, parents or addressing my staff training meeting yesterday, being open about mental health with children and teenagers is so vital now. One in four of us will be affected at some point, and in many cases, issues begin early on. We are proud of how our boys and staff approach this within the curriculum and the support that they offer to each other. Boys can access support via 'My Space', a safe place for pupils to talk and share their news, worries and look to find coping strategies. More recently, the focus has included the impact of Covid-19, organising schedules and timetables, maintaining focus and developing study skills, managing relationships, dealing with the restraints of lockdown, bereavement and anxiety. In each session, boys are encouraged to start conversations with parents too.

Under the current climate, technology has allowed us to continue this as a virtual face-to-face intervention and in addition, parental involvement has also been increased and strengthened. Mrs O'Reilly has also introduced a 'group chat' in the

Seniors alongside continuing to offer My Space 'Virtual' Playtime for our Juniors. Parents can directly contact Mrs O'Reilly via email: [loreilly@homefieldprep.school](mailto:loreilly@homefieldprep.school) and she will liaise with you to organise video calls for your son via Microsoft Teams or Zoom if required.

This week saw the launch of our first 'Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Soundbite'. Our launch episode is with Mr Frost who is talking to Mrs O'Reilly about how staff are managing school closures in response to the Covid-19 situation and you can find out his top tips for boys and families. Upcoming episodes will feature Mr Smith talking about 'Staying Active' and I will be talking about the 'Mindfulness' course I run with Year 5. See the wellbeing page on our website to find out more and take a listen: <https://www.homefield.sutton.sch.uk/school-life/wellbeing>

Parents will appreciate that we are planning toward a phased return to school after the half term, following the Government announcements this week.

I'm working with my team and other ISC Heads across the sector to ensure a workable, safe and effective approach and will return to you on this. It seems likely we will have Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 back first (as mandated by the Government).

Finally, please could you make sure your boy is equipped with a pair of headphones (with mic) should they be participating in our live lessons. When joining lessons this week I've heard background; toasters popping, dogs yapping, babies wailing, musical instruments practising, parents' business meetings progressing and even a 'domestic' ... yikes! So let's adapt and avoid this distraction in our virtual classrooms. In addition, a few of the boys seem a tad too relaxed here. So, when I speak to them I expect: the video on, sitting up straight, attentive throughout and all else on mute. I have asked the teachers to tighten the nut on this too.

Take care

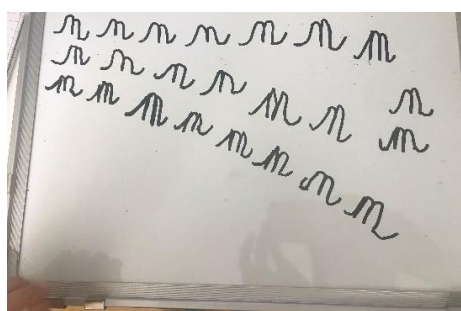
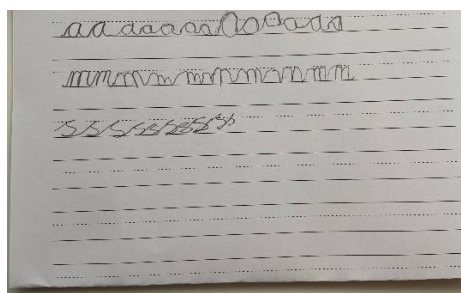
**John Towers**  
Headmaster

Another week of online learning has passed, and we want to take this opportunity to once again say how proud we are of the Pre-Prep boys. The way they have adjusted is outstanding. They are participating in our live sessions and showing that they are concentrating and listening, answering all of our questions and demonstrating such good manners and patience. It is a really tricky time for them but their resilience to all of this is incredible. It has been wonderful to see them on our live sessions and we have had lots of fun over the last few weeks with story times, circle times, literacy and Maths lessons. Thank you boys for continuously putting a smile on our faces and reminding us how brilliant and cheerful you are. We hope to be back together really soon!

In Maths, the boys have been learning about 3D shapes: cubes, cuboids, spheres and cones. They enjoyed learning about the different properties of these shapes such as edges, points and faces. One of the activities was to see if the boys could find these shapes around their homes. They had to hunt in each room and see what items or objects they could find that were the same shape as either a cube, cuboid, cone or sphere. It was very interesting to see what the boys found and these included boxes, footballs, party hats and even ice cream cones. Well done boys, you did a brilliant job! Reception were tasked with becoming architects and were asked if they could make their own 3D models. Their challenge was to make a 3D shape of their choice using cocktail sticks and playdough, they had to really think about the properties of the shape and explain how many edges and points the shapes have. We have to say that we are extremely impressed at some of the models that we have seen over the last week! I think we may have some future budding architects in our year group!



Over the last couple of weeks, the boys have been introduced to something that is very new to them. This was cursive writing. They had never done this before and with the help of their parents, this is something that they are making excellent progress with. Every week they have been watching a live lesson on how to form the letters and have then been going off and practising these formations. Now this is a very tricky thing to do, to learn to write in a different way to what they have been normally used to. However, from all of the photographs that we have been sent, we can see that our boys have gone above and beyond our expectations. Some of the handwriting that we have seen has been so neat and beautifully written! We couldn't be prouder of you. Keep practising and keep writing such wonderful sentences, we have loved reading all of your work.

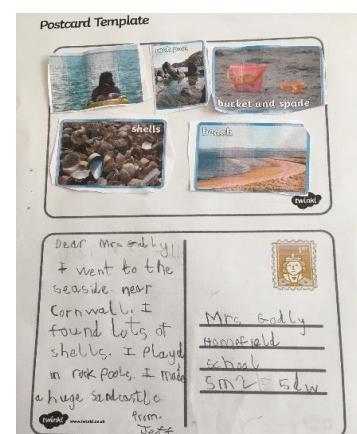


**Tigers:** Charles for making such a huge effort with all of his online learning.

**Monkeys:** Junxi for extending his vocabulary in his writing activities resulting in more complex sentences.

The last few weeks we have been learning all about the seaside. The boys have been learning about rock pools, sea creatures, sand and water, pirates and the importance of seaside safety. We have enjoyed reading some postcards that they sent us about their times at the seaside. However, the boys' favourite week was then they jumped aboard the Pre-Prep Pirate Ship and had an adventure on the seven seas! They loved dressing up as pirates, making their own maps and telescopes and setting sail to find the treasure. It was great to see them transform into pirates and get involved in some imaginative play.

The boys have also taken on the very important responsibility of keeping everyone safe whilst at the beach. Last week, they all became lifeguards. They learnt all about how to stay safe when at the beach and also when in the water. The boys were tasked with packing their own beach bags with all the things they may need to keep them safe in the sun such as: sun cream, a sun hat, water, etc. They also learnt how to keep safe in the water, by learning about what the different flags mean when they want to swim in the sea. If you ever need anyone to remind you of the rules of the beach, you can always ask the boys from Pre-Prep!





## Junior Department

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

In Year 1 we have enjoyed all our lessons with the boys and we are so impressed at how grown up they have been. They have all been very happy to contribute online and are experts at muting and unmuting their microphones! We have loved seeing their work, reading their stories and seeing their fabulous art work. In Science, the boys have been learning about plants and following the growth of their sunflowers that they planted from seed in the Easter holiday. In Geography, they are learning about seashores and this week they have looked at how seashores have changed over time.

A highlight for the teachers is definitely our 'Form Times' when boys have been sharing things with us all. During these sessions we have seen live animals, bicycles, been in boys' gardens, seen lots of fantastic Lego models, had book recommendations and met lots of cuddly toys! Thank you boys for your hard work, great listening and fantastic behaviour.

Mrs Mach has been really pleased with the boys in their ICT lessons and has been particularly impressed with the following boys for their computing skills and participation in their lessons. In 1S, Daniel, Aidan, Yusuf, Zayn, Eric, Ashton and Easan and in 1H Jacob, Arnav, Daniyal, Faiz and Dakarayi. Well done, boys!

Year 2 have been their lively lovely selves since the start of term. The boys adapted quickly to using Microsoft Teams for live lessons, with the teachers catching up eventually! We have been impressed by their attention and contributions in lessons and they have got stuck into new topics with great enthusiasm.

Some excellent writing, research and drawing was done in History on 'The Great Fire of London' and we are now enjoying learning about 'The Titanic'.

In Geography, we escape each week to the beautiful Island of Struay (Isle of Coll, Hebrides in real life) and wonder and ponder on the simpler life lived in remote places. Actually this year comparing island life with lockdown life in the suburbs will raise many similarities, as well as differences.

Science has seen us look at Habitats and Food Chains and we are now learning about Materials and their Properties. Year 2 boys have continued to work hard and are constantly striving to improve their work and we are very pleased with them.

At the start of term, Year 2 were given three weeks to produce a model of a habitat as an art project. They have been presenting these to their form this week. The models are very impressive and show careful planning, creativity and inventiveness. The boys have explained their ideas and methods and we are all loving sharing and admiring their work.

Here are some examples, lots more can be seen on our Facebook page:



Aurin 2H



Oliver 2H

## Homefield Heroes

**1H Daniyal** for great Maths work. Well done, Daniyal!

**1H Rishi** for good listening skills during the live lessons. Well done, Rishi!

**1S Yusuf** for his excellent Geography work about seashores. Well done, Yusuf!

**1S Zayn** for lovely handwriting and for his fabulous 3D seaside creation. Well done, Zayn!

**2H David** for producing amazing English work using homophones and Oba for being extremely helpful and considerate with technology this week.

**2S Rudy** for lively engagement and enthusiasm in our live lessons.

**3H Harry** for his enthusiasm for the science topic and developing his gardening skills and for the interest he demonstrates during online lessons and his thoughtful contributions.

**3S Rohan** for consistently challenging himself with his online learning.



Rudy 2S

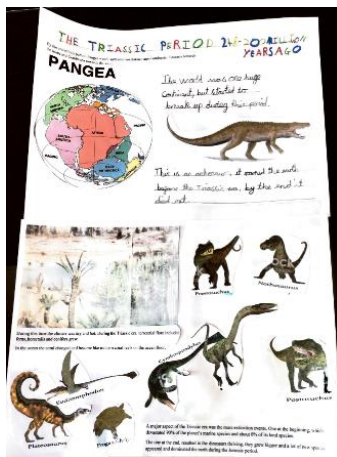


Baden 2S

## Junior Department / continued

Our twice-weekly form times are fun sharing sessions. The boys have shared Lego models, paintings, inventions, structures, jokes, poems and Joshua even played a piano piece for our enjoyment recently. Year 2 are looking forward to when we can get back together at school but in the meantime we are being positive and resilient and doing our level best to carry on and enjoy every aspect of our learning.

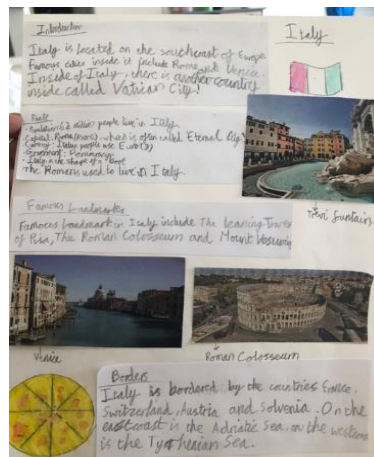
In History, Year 3 have turned back the clock not 100 years, or a 1000 years but a whopping 250,000,000 years when the Earth contained a single continent and dinosaurs were the top dogs. The boys have loved this topic and come to class full of enthusiasm and bursting to tell Mr Powell a whole heap of interesting facts.



Year 3 Enrichment has continued to be a firm favourite, with weekly general knowledge quizzes, challenges and online drawing classes. The boys have built towers taller than themselves out of recycling materials and learned to draw cartoon super heroes.



In Geography, the boys have been developing their independent research skills and have created some beautiful pieces of work about Italy.



We have been learning about reproduction and germination plants in Science and at the end of last term, the boys were asked to plant some seeds... Well Harry went a whole lot further and is tending his own smallholding!



## Benjamin's Blog

### Week 2

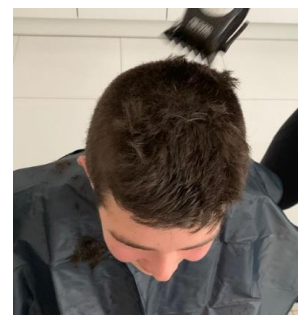
Wow! What a week. I faced my scariest challenge so far in the life of a lockdown student - going to the barber's shop, otherwise known as the kitchen. In fairness, my mum did a great job considering it was only her second time and there's no issues that you can spot on Microsoft teams ☺. Apart from that I have had a really consistent supply of both work and snacks (yes, cheese crackers are back in stock!). The work has been surprisingly fun and I have actually looked forward to getting up and starting my day along with joining the Teams calls and talking to my teachers live.

This week's high point: was getting good feedback on some critical writing which is not my strongest area

This week's low point: my Joe Wicks exercise streak was broken in favour of early morning lessons!

Visit our Facebook page to read Benjamin's Blog for Week 3.

Benjamin H Year 8





## English

### Budding Author

Boys have been studying 'The Speckled Band' by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. They were tasked with crafting the opening of a detective story in which they introduce the central investigator. This response demonstrates a real grasp of a Victorian setting, an intriguing detective and a sense of the detail required for an exciting adventure worthy of Holmes himself.

### Introduction of a Detective

#### Qasim Year 7

"Sir, may I come in?"

Sensing someone, Guy looked up from his newspaper. Slowly, he approached his front door. Opening it, he saw a middle-aged man. A beard as bushy as a hedge covered the newcomer's mouth, while his eyes gleamed at him. Holding a briefcase, the policeman placed his spectacles in his pocket. Dressed in a police uniform, the man looked like he was ready to spring into action.

"Yes, of course. Search me, there are no stolen jewels here," Guy muttered dully, not really interested. Ever since his last case, which had been more than a year ago, he had been very bored. Striding into the meagre yet comfortable dwelling, the policeman sat himself down; Guy did the same.

"Guy Smithers, are you still a detective?" Guy nodded, awakening his senses. As soon as the word 'detective' was mentioned, his attention was snagged, as if caught on a fishing line, and unable to break free. Intrigued, he sat forward.

"Is there a new case to be solved, Constable Brian?" Astonished by being addressed formally, Brian gasped like a fish out of water. "There is no mystery, sir: you have a constable's badge and your name is on your briefcase. I guess a murder has commenced. There is forensic evidence with blood blotched on it in your left pocket. I also see you are not alone. When you entered, I spotted another officer in your police car. He is most likely your superior, so I assume you are a messenger. Now, my good fellow, tell me everything."

Obediently, the constable recounted the tragic story of the murder of Dr Jay Birch, a renowned pioneer in the world of botany. While studying a poisonous plant, Birch was somehow poisoned by the shrub and died promptly after being exposed to it.

"Here is a jar with a sample of the plant," stated Brian sombrely, reaching into his briefcase. Producing a container, Brian handed it to Guy.

After studying the shrub for a length of time, Guy finally nodded, reassured by his conclusion. As he opened his mouth, the wind whistled outside wildly, adding to the spooky atmosphere. It was as if the ghost of Birch had entered the room, haunting their minds with images of his gruesome demise. "This, my good man, is yew, a poisonous tree. You can tell by the fact it comes from an evergreen tree, has dark green needles and bears a red, berry-like fruit. I expect you can also see bits of flaky bark surrounding this fine sample." Pausing for a second, Guy thought to himself, weaving in and out of all of the possible explanations for Birch's death. Yet, nothing seemed to fit the facts. "Well, it looks like I will help. I wish to see this to the very end," Guy cried.

Springing like a gazelle, he rushed to his hat. He was ready, ready to find the cause of Dr Birch's unexpected death. He felt like he could reach the sky. "The winter has subsided, spring has come," he thought jovially.

"Are you ready, sir?" Brian asked, shaking Guy out of his fantasy world of extremely problematic cases.

"Everything has logic incorporated, you just need to look for it," he mumbled to himself. Straightening his back, he turned around. "Yes."



## Senior Department

### Special Mentions

#### Year 4

Oscar, Kavin, Raece, Mikey, Owen and Aaron for some remarkable work and positive contributions to live lessons. Well done, boys!

#### Year 5

Andrew for the quality of his French work and for his active involvement in his 'live' Classics lesson.

Jake for consistently working hard in his Maths lessons.

Jonas for exceptional Geography work done - he has attempted all extension tasks set!

Musa for completing an excellent assessment piece and for his active involvement in his 'live' Classics lesson. George, Philip, Alex and Tristan have shown great friendship and companionship thinking of creative ways to connect and maintain a supportive friendship to each other. Sulayman and Louie for their effort and achievement in English.

Reece for consistently working to a high standard with his English and producing a high standard of STEAM work.

Arnav, Tim, Parth and Ansh for their effort and achievement in computing. Shun and Alexander G for producing an exceptionally high standard of work in their STEAM project.

#### Year 6

Harry for being the 'drum' of the class by consistently bringing positivity to all live lessons!

James for always being eager to respond and help others in both form times and science lessons.

Cass for displaying kindness to other pupils of all ages during break times at school.

#### Year 7

Zohaib, Lorcan, Thomas B and Henry for showing active participation, enthusiasm and contribution in Maths lessons.

#### Year 8

Vinicius for putting extra effort and time into his podcast assignment for ICT and Ben H for working diligently in Science.

## Other News ...

### Music

To keep music lessons practical, all of the boys in Years 5 - 8 have been working on an online program called Soundtrap. They have been learning how to create and edit tracks and are now moving on to producing their own music. Vincius in Year 8 has produced a rather catchy 'Europop' track.

Please visit if you want to take a listen:

<https://www.facebook.com/homefield.school/videos/715819075822535/?eid=ARDm3LMZhpNFMrslByHluVjNUKp8vgxd-tuDI9q2vEFWkZZsOiYDpr49GF-DCTd5uOR0tHbFjq427jBK>

### Maths

There has been some remarkable online work this week and special mention should be made of Raamin B for taking a quirky Maths starting activity and running away with it! This led to Raamin giving a short presentation in our live lesson on Gibberellins (plant growth hormones!). Zain M has also gone that extra step further with a Maths problem (The extra cube of Dairy Milk chocolate!) by creating a PowerPoint to prove that it was just an optical illusion.

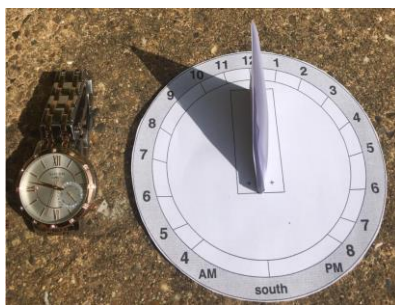
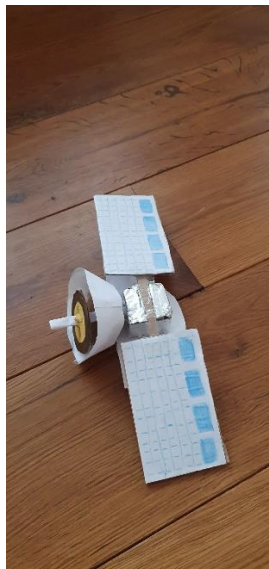
### Creativity during quarantine

Amir in Year 6 has been busy developing his anime artistic skills and has applied for inclusion in the Young Artists' Summer Show at the Royal Academy, which is open for all young artists from 5-19 years of age.



### Science

Year 4 have been working hard learning about space and our solar system. The boys took advantage of the sunny weather last week and got outside to make some excellent sundials. Sundials are the earliest timekeeping devices which show the time by the position of a shadow cast by the gnomon. This moves as the position of the sun in the sky changes over the course of a day. Dhilan Patel in 4S has also made a fantastic model of a satellite following his live lesson on satellites at the start of this week. Maybe there are some future astronauts among our current Year 4 boys!



## NHS and Key Worker Support

A huge thanks to all the staff and boys who took part in our #BlueForYou day yesterday. Take a look on our social media pages to see what a fantastic response there was from our community. A parent in Year 3 wrote in to express these heartfelt sentiments:

*'Such a thoughtful idea to get children to appreciate and understand the role of NHS.'*



## Everest Challenge

### Intrepid Homefield Climbers Scale Mount Everest

*(Terms and conditions apply)*

As a community, boys and staff, we are planning to climb Mount Everest by doing 145 step-ups each on the stairs we have at home. If we each complete 145 step-ups, then we will have done 58,000 steps, which is roughly the amount required to reach the top.

Please kindly make your donations (suggested minimum £1) to the NHS by bank transfer:

Homefield Preparatory School  
Account Number: 00249001  
Sort code: 30-98-36  
Bank: Lloyds Bank  
Reference: Everest

Watch this brief video by Mr Matthews for more details:

<https://vimeo.com/homefieldprep/review/417691459/262f1fc879>



## Homefield Art Gallery

Sami S-Pena, Y7, A Cold Portrait



## Tweet of the Week



**Homefield Prep School** @HomefieldSchool · May 7

#Year5 boys are coming to the end of their #Excel work. The last task set was for them to use the 'flood fill' tool. Mrs Mach has been really impressed with their creativity! Here is Arnav's rainbow & #NHS logo to celebrate & thank keyworkers #NHSClap #HomefieldHomeLearning



Keep abreast with Homefield

news as it happens...   