

Headlines

Spring Term
19th March 2021

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

ISI inspection report



Letter from the Headmaster

Dear Parents

Some great learning in English lessons found a depth of expression from our Senior boys researching and celebrating inspirational women, moving towards personal reflection and appreciation. They have organised an exhibition of the work and given me the unenviable task of judging the ‘best’ entries for a limited display space... I’d like them all up! A familiar, but reassuring, roll call of icons emerged: Rosa Parks, Marie Curie, Kamala Harris, Frida Kahlo, Amelia Earheart, Billie Jean King, Helen Sharman, and more. It was good for the boys to teach me a few things about women of inspiration that I did not know: Ilwad Elamn, the Somali peace activist or perhaps Rani of Jhansi, an Indian ‘rebel queen’ of the 1850s.

In our recent celebration of International Women’s Day, these outcomes had particular resonance. Our boys are nurtured to uphold the values of mutual respect and dignity.

It’s more difficult, and yet far more rewarding, to have worked on the character and behaviours of our boys over time and with consistency. We can’t sit on our laurels with this.

When I was first a head teacher, back in 2004, kids didn’t even have smart phones, and now the only real bullying I tend to come across is of the cyber sort; sometimes very hard to sort out if it’s going ‘under the radar’ of parents and teachers.

We need to work together to help the boys navigate the world ahead with intelligence and the ‘soft skills’ and attitudes to ensure their success, both as learners and as young men forming successful relationships with others.

In general, the boys folding back into regular schooling have done so with enthusiasm and ease over the last two weeks. Whilst I do hear a national narrative on ‘catching up’, ‘gaps’ and ‘generation Covid’, I am concerned that such negative stereotyping might deflate children who are largely massively resilient and attaining really well. At least that’s the picture emerging here at Homefield. The boys need to hear that we are caring for them, but that we also have the highest expectations for them.

Thank you for continuing to help with all the safety procedures, staggered start time, etc. I know it’s a pain. Imagine how hard it is to run playtime with nine separate safety bubbles! We will get there and with your kind support.

Enjoy the weekend,

John Towers
Headmaster

Pre-Prep

All our boys in Pre-Prep seem to be maturing so quickly as the days go by and we can see them mentally and physically growing. We are so incredibly proud of how they have seamlessly returned to school without a wobble or a worry; it is as if we had never been away.

This week, the boys have been recapping our previously learnt sounds in Literacy, gaining more understanding of the words we find them in. We can see how much information they are retaining as their reading has unquestionably improved and they are now reading far more complex words with the help of their phonic knowledge. They have been writing sentences this week and learning how to structure a sentence so that it makes sense – ask the boys to tell you what needs to be included!

In Maths, we have also been focussing on recapping previously learnt concepts to see how much the boys have remembered. They enjoy their Maths and have loved returning to the classroom to explore it once again.

We have also celebrated St Patrick's Day by watching videos about how children celebrate it, having an Irish inspired lunch, playing with green playdough and making some wonderful arts and crafts.



Our Students of the Week are:

Alex in Tigers for using his initiative and always having such lovely manners.
Harin in Monkeys for his incredible progress with his reading and writing.



Junior Department

It has been wonderful to have the boys return to school with such cheerful exuberance and we have been so impressed at how quickly that they have got back into the routine with everyone working extremely hard and enjoying the social aspect of playtimes with their friends.

We have had some very exciting news in Year 2: Congratulations to Zayn and his family on the birth of twin baby boys and also congratulations to Yusuf and his family on the safe arrival of their baby boy! We're very much looking forward to meeting the new babies soon.

In Year 1, the boys are enjoying taking reading books home and we are so pleased with all the progress that the boys have made with their reading. This week, the boys were excited to visit our fabulous new LRC and also to be playing rugby on the school field.

In Science, we have been looking at our tree at the front of the school. We went outside to look at the seasonal changes and the boys were thrilled to also assess the progress of the building work!

In History, we have continued to look at the Romans and we are so amazed at how many facts that the boys could recall from their online learning. Well done, boys!

Year 2 have had an adventurous week learning about the different cardinal points of a compass. They went outside and used compasses to explore different directions. In History, the boys have been learning about the heroine Grace Darling and re-enacted her rescue through some drama. In Maths, the boys have been developing their money skills and practising how to convert pounds and pence.



Homefield Heroes

- 1H Kenon** for being a helpful and friendly member of 1H.
- 1H Oliver** for making an excellent start back at school.
- 1H Ved** for being a polite and reliable member of 1H.
- 1H Anirudh** for excellent money work in Maths.
- 1S Ryan** for making an excellent start coming back to school. Well done Ryan!
- 1S Finnlay** for his excellent effort with everything and his lovely reading. Well done Finnlay!
- 1S Yusuf** for his excellent contributions to class discussions. Well done Yusuf!
- 2H Ethan C** for an incredible improvement with his reading fluency.
- 2H Ethan M** for a brilliant drama performance during the re-enactment of Grace Darling's rescue mission.
- 2S Aidan** for working incredibly hard on his handwriting at home and now writing in beautiful cursive script.
- 2S Max** for working incredibly hard on his handwriting at home and now writing in beautiful cursive script.
- 2S Antoine** for excellent focus and participation in Science this week.

Pastoral

Homefield Heroes

Year 3

We have magical mathematicians to celebrate in Year 3:

3H: Shomik and Oliver

3S: Aaliyan, Jerry and Hanchen

Celebrations in Year 3 for fantastic effort and focus in History:

3H: Darwin and Spandan

3S: Hanchen and Oba

Year 4

Well done to the following boys for being such magical mathematicians:

4H: Austin and Owais

4P: Aadit and Kayaan

4S: Kaiyan, Stefano, Artharva and Krish

For fantastic effort and focus in History:

4H: Alexander, Vihaan and Ewan

4P: Nashwan and Aadit

4S: Rohan P and Krish

Year 5

Well done to the following boys who showed a calm and sensible attitude upon return to school:

5H: Zach and James

5P: Malachi and Rishi

5S: Nikshep and Aamir

Science

Year 6 have been learning all about acids and alkalis; testing a variety of household substances to find out whether they are acidic, alkaline or neutral.

They did this using universal indicator. The boys then attempted to make their own indicator by boiling and filtering red cabbage. They were surprised at all the different colours the red cabbage indicator turned in the different solutions.

Year 3 have been investigating rocks. They compared many different rocks including granite, marble and sandstone, looking at the different textures, comparing hardness, and also finding out which ones react with vinegar.

Year 6

Well done to the following boys for their calm and sensible attitude upon return to school:

Alex L (6H) and Luke (6S)

Year 7

Well done to the following boys for impressing their teachers with their positive attitude to learning and making an excellent start back at school:

7LC: Jasen and Oliver B

7MMC: Rishabh

Year 8

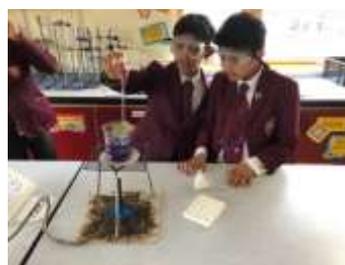
The following boys have made an excellent start back at school, impressing their teachers with positive attitudes to learning, good listening and being smartly dressed too!

8KWL: Henry

8MM: Amir and Jijith

For excellent improvement in his Science mock exam scores: Hugo (8MM)

For creating an e-safety quiz and running it superbly in the Year 6 assembly: Justin (8MM) and Henry (8KWL)



Red Cabbage Indicator



3S Rock Investigation

Charitable Endeavours Comic Relief

Thank you for your contributions towards 'Red Nose Day' upon your arrival at school this morning.

Those who are still keen to contribute towards the charity, please follow the link below to simultaneously purchase Comic Relief themed items and share your support.

<https://shop.comicrelief.com/>



Learning Resources Centre

A massive thank you to all the boys who entered the World Book Day Shelfie or Costume Design/dress up competition. We had great fun looking at all the amazing and intriguing places you found to read and some of your costume designs were amazing. Well done, all.

All the boys have now visited the two new library sections and the comments range from:

**WOW! AMAZING! SUPER COOL!
CAN I STAY? BEAN BAGS**

Prizes for Shelfie competition

Pre Prep	Kaan and Alex
Year 1	Henry, Oliver and Junxi
Year 2	Easan and Aran
Year 3	Jerry and Kamran
Year 4	Lewis, Stefano, Charlie, Calum, Luke and Isaiah
Year 5	Shaan, Owen, Harry and Raece
Year 6	Philip, Andrew and Parth
Year 7	Ziyad and Ronak

Costume Design/dress up

Year 1	Anirudh, Alexander, Jeff, Junxi, Gianluca and Charles
Year 2	Peter, Arnav, Max and Easan
Year 3	Rudy and Zachary
Year 4	Damon and Arthur
Year 5	Alex and Harry
Year 6	Reece and Sulaymaan
Year 7	Arjen and Jacob

Homefield Art Gallery



Sulaymaan, Year 6 - Hearts, Art and Mozart

Tweet of the Week



English

Boys in Year 4 have been working on personification in poetry.

Dragon Poem

A race in the green, running underground,
Growing like a boy, she jumps out a mound,
Nature is wherever she goes,
Look carefully, as the Plant Dragon grows.

Smile in treetops and rustle in bush,
Sometimes sadly hunted to mush,
Penguin, squirrel and different too,
The Animal Dragon at the zoo.

Poor little him he never gets a rest,
White clouds and nice day turn grey with sadness,
Now its eyes full to burst with many tears of pain,
Quick, now run away he's the dragon of the rain!

Bang, clatter, clang, rusting in liquid,
Watch out he's serious, he doesn't kid,
Different forms here and there,
Look the metal dragon is now a bear.

Charlie 4P



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