

Headlines

Autumn Term

19th November 2021

"The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils is excellent."
ISI inspection report



Letter from the Headmaster

Full 'STEAM' ahead in Reception

Dear Parents

We have enjoyed a smooth term with little in the way of restriction or interruption due to Covid. It's been great to see community engagement move forward so much. The new parent assemblies have been well received and I feel it's something we should continue with. Last week, Year 6 equipped us all on how to cope if bullying should rear its ugly head. This week, Year 7 delighted us with a smorgasbord of learning from short stories to Chopin and volcanoes.

Engaging with learning, our latest English Progress Test results (marked externally) indicate that 44% of our whole school cohort are working at 'above' or 'very high' compared to the National Average expected levels. This compares favourably to the national average of 23%. We have been quick to identify and mitigate any 'gaps' through a bespoke post Covid recovery package through to the Spring Term. Where needed, tailored interventions for

handwriting, comprehension and spelling have been deployed.

The latest Math's Progress Test results have seen 55% of all pupils from Reception to Year 8 achieving 'above' or 'very high'. Again, nearly double the national expectations. As with English, our recovery planning here has focused on ensuring learning is fluid according to the topic and gaps from 'lockdown learning' are covered in depth.

With an eye on some fun amongst all this learning it was good to see so many of our Year 5 and 6 boys ace it in the 'National Junior Maths Challenge', where they won 72 medals. In the 'National Cipher Challenge', our Year 6, 7 and 8s, undeterred in competing against Sixth Form colleges, have been getting first and second places on the leader boards. It's an epic David vs Goliath moment for our young contenders. See page 4 for more details.

Looking forward, we will be sending out details and tickets for a range of festive concerts across the last two weeks of term. Please look out for that and we also have the Christmas Fair back, thanks to the Homefield Parents' and Friends' Association. Before all that, a few weeks of hard work for boys and teachers.

Enjoy your weekend.

John Towers
Headmaster

Lower School: Reception, Years 1 and 2

Reception

It's been a busy week in the Lower School, with nativity rehearsals starting for the boys in Reception. We were also pleased to warmly welcome Eesa and Logan to our Homefield family. They have settled in marvellously well, and a big thank you to their class buddies who have helped them along the way.

Demonstrating great citizenship, many of our Year 7 boys delivered an assembly to Reception this week on the theme of fundraising. To help the younger boys get to grips with this tricky concept, they read the story 'Pudsey's Big Fundraiser' and asked questions. Monkeys and Tigers eagerly shared their knowledge and were ready to be sponsors for 'Children in Need' with their mufti donations for today. Thanks to Alex, Andrew, Hanlin, Ansh, Ayaan, Humzah, Henry and Ethan.



A date for your diary: The Reception assembly for parents will take place on the 24th February 2022. The event will begin with light refreshments in the dining room at 8.25am with the assembly taking place in the new performance hall at 8.35am.

Year 1

Year 1 and Reception enjoyed sharing a playtime this week and the Year 1s enjoyed teaching the younger boys some of their favourite games.

Boys also completed their first science investigation of the year. Miss Smith, our Head of Science, really enjoyed visiting the class to see how they researched whether objects float or sink. She was very impressed



with the boys' understanding of investigative work and how well they collaborated in groups to collect their data and record their results. Well done Year 1!

Year 2

Year 2 took a trip to 'The Living Rainforest' this week and it was wonderful to see them exploring and celebrating the concepts they've been studying in class.



'We saw lots of animals, reptiles, birds, mammals and some fish' – Charles 2H

'There was a lady taking us around for a tour, she told us lots of facts about all the animals. The animals were really cute' – Yuvi 2S

Other Awards in Years 1 and 2

We celebrate kindness, resilience, and organisation with the following awards:

- **Kindness: Kangaroo award**
- **Courageous: Koala award**
- **Helping Hands award**

Kindness (Kangaroo award)

1H Zien for being so polite, consistently remembering good manners and Harim for sharing his resources with others.

2H Axel for helping his peers when they were in need and helping them to get organised and Jaydon for holding open doors for peers and staff members.

2S Anirudh for demonstrating polite manners in class and Ryan for encouraging his classmates to work hard as a team.

Resilience (Courageous: Koala award)

1H Aldous for working hard to try his best with his writing and completing his

Homefield Heroes

Reception

Tigers Ryan for brilliant focus in class activities, especially during art work.

Monkeys Kylesh for being a super good friend and for helping in class.

1H Kaan for trying hard with his addition work this week and Kiran for improved fluency with his reading. Well done!

2H Finnlay for working exceptionally hard all week in all lessons and Charles for making fantastic contributions during Science this week when learning about friction.

2S Kenon for trying his hardest in Science, Geography and History even when he finds it difficult and Jai for working consistently hard this week.

work and Xander for persevering with his writing.

2H Charles for challenging himself when deciding what level to complete in Maths and English this week and Alex for giving trickier questions in a discussion a go rather than giving up.

2S Yug for choosing to challenge himself when choosing his maths 'chilli' level and Ayaan for being brave and taking responsibility.

Organisation (Helping Hands award)

1H Zain for following instructions promptly and William for consistently being well organised for his day.

2H Aun for stepping in and ensuring the lunch hall was spotless when a monitor was away and Hussain for helping to ensure all tables in the classroom are tidied and equipment is put away in the right places.

2S Isaac for always ensuring the classroom carpet is spotless and tidy and Yug for helping Mrs Costain prepare the classroom for lessons.

Pastoral

Senior Department

The following boys receive special recognition:

Year 3

3P Arjen for working hard to improve his schoolwork and take part in lessons.

3S Daniel for settling in really well to life at Homefield – we can see his confidence growing!

Year 4

4H Thomas C S for sustained effort and working really hard in all of his lessons.

4S Joshua for being a very helpful member of the form in the morning.

Years 5 and 6

Well done to the following boys who are Homefield Heroes for a consistently mature and positive attitude:

5H Lachlan **6P** James

5P Owais **6S** Liham

5S Lucas W

The following boys are Homefield Heroes for having good focus and demonstrating polite manners across a range of lessons:

5H Stefano **6S** Zach & Siddharth

5P Noah

5S Raghav

Year 7

Ansh (**7MJM**) for earning lots of House points and a superb attitude so far this term and Hanlin (**7MJM**) for writing a superb script for his group's drama performance in the Year 7 parent assembly.

Year 8

Ziyad (**8CS**) for politeness and kindness to staff and an excellent hat trick for the 1st team and Siddhant (**8LC**) and Jacob (**8CS**) for outstanding attitude, and application throughout 'mocks' week.

Science

It has been yet another busy week in the science labs. Year 6 have been learning about the conservation of mass by heating magnesium in ceramic crucibles. The mass increases following heating due to oxygen being added to form magnesium oxide. The boys now understand that the mass of the reactants equals the mass of the products in a chemical reaction.



They have also just moved onto the circulatory system topic and are currently investigating pulse rate and how it links to fitness. The boys have had a go at listening to each other's heart rates using a stethoscope kindly lent to us by a Year 6 parent. There seem to be some budding young doctors at Homefield!



Parents' and Friends' Association

Our first major event of 2021 is almost upon us - the **HOMEFIELD CHRISTMAS FAIR** is taking place on Tuesday 7th December between 4.00pm and 5.30pm. Doors will close by 6.00pm.

The elves have some very exciting things planned to include: "Sponge the Teacher", numerous Christmas stalls, arts and crafts and other fun activities.

There will also be a raffle with marvellous prizes including the chance to be an Assistant Headmaster for a day with Mr Towers, swimming lessons, Amazon vouchers and more. You won't even need to cook dinner that evening as there will be several delicious food stalls including hotdogs (halal), chicken and vegetarian biryanis, and a selection of drinks. As with all events, we really need your **HELP** and **SUPPORT** with the following:

St Raphael's Hospice fundraising stall - our boys have chosen to support this charity for the year, and we are inviting parents to donate any unwanted/new/unused gifts to resale at this stall. For any perishable items donated, please ensure they are nut free and within the expiry date.

Cookie jar decorating – Year 1 and 2 boys have been asked to decorate their own cookie jars and fill them with wrapped and nut free sweets.

Other stalls - we would welcome donations of toys, books, new or unused toiletries, bottled items for the tombola and nut-free chocolate.

Important dates for your diary:

Monday 22nd November - all donations to be dropped off in the specially marked boxes at the front of the school.

Friday 26 November - class contacts to recruit volunteers to help at stalls - please use Classlist.com 'Christmas' sign-up pages to specify which stalls you can help with.

Wednesday 1st December - we need volunteers to sort through donations between 08.30am and 10.00am in school.

And **FINALLY**, for any parents who are DBS checked and would like to volunteer to be our Father Christmas at Santa's Grotto, please contact:
homefieldassociation@hotmail.co.uk

Thank you for taking the time to support this event. Do join in and make sure we give our boys a fantastic Christmas Fair!!

See you there!

Humanities

It has been a busy term in Homefield's Humanities Department with plenty of mapping, researching the natural environment and exploring events from the past. It is fantastic to see the boys so enthused and engaged in their classwork. The effort and application in their homework has been exceptional; thank you so much for the help and support with Humanities research projects this term.

In Geography, Year 8 enjoyed their fieldtrip to the River Tillingbourne and are well on their way to writing up the Common Entrance River's investigations.



Year 7 have been delving into Plate Tectonics and were tasked with explaining plate boundaries. The boys used their design and technology skills, also with some amazing ICT talents to make model animations for tsunamis, volcanoes and destructive plate boundaries.



Year 5 have been learning about World Biomes; researching specific locations, creating shoebox models, and presenting David Attenborough style explorations to the class.



The boys have also been developing their World Map knowledge, OS map skills and beginning to explain and evaluate some of our environmental issues; they are very much abreast of the COP26 discussions, and all have an opinion! Thank you to all Year 6-8 pupils who have signed up to the WWF's 'Wild Wisdom' Challenge: <https://www.itza.io/>. New Challenges are set each Monday and points are gained by learning about environmental issues and attempting the online quizzes.

The boys haven't been quiet in History either; learning about Dinosaurs in Year 3, The Celts in Year 4, with their fantastic trip to Butser Farm being a constant source to reference in lessons, re-enacting the Battle of Hastings in Year 5 and beginning the Tudors in Year 6. Year 7 have also successfully started their Common Entrance course and have recreated the Jacobite Rebellions and redesigned the Transport Revolution! Year 8 are currently putting pen to paper in their Mock exams but are looking forward to their trip to Canterbury Cathedral next week.

Thank you again for your interest and engagement with Humanities and we look forward to more presentations, projects, workshops and trips, next term!



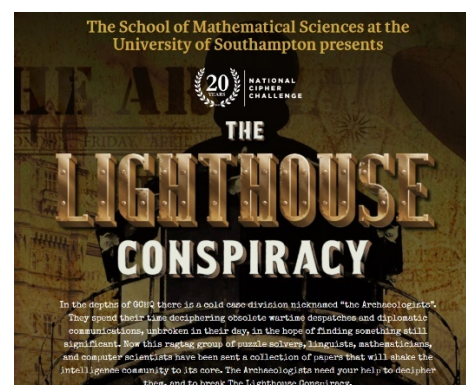
Maths News

Last week, boys in Years 5 and 6 took part in the Junior Maths Challenge. This is an exciting and demanding set of maths questions which thoroughly engaged and excited our boys. Please see the breakdown of results by each year group and medal. Certificates will be given out in assembly next week, but congratulations to all the boys who took part. We are very proud of you!

	Bronze	Silver	Gold
Year 5	17	14	4
Year 6	11	22	4

Seven boys across Year 6, 7 and 8 have been taking part in the 'National Cipher Challenge'. This is an extremely hard maths challenge, in which codes and text need to be deciphered using different mathematical skills and formulae. They have been working exceptionally hard and have been up against 1,340 other teams nationwide, of which the majority are sixth form colleges. However, our boys have still managed to receive first and second place positions on the leader board so far! Well done to Zain M (Y8), Hanlin, Ansh, Andrew (Y7), Rahul and Aahan (Y6). Keep going boys!

If you would like to keep up with how the boys are doing, please look at the National Cipher Challenge website: <https://www.cipherchallenge.org/> or their Twitter page: https://twitter.com/cipher_master



Sport

U13 Football v Kingswood House

On Monday 8th November, Homefield Prep welcomed Kingswood House School for our final U13 football fixture of the year. Our 1st team signed off with a win which rarely looked in doubt after Elliot scored in the first 30 seconds before Ziyad and Antony added further first-half goals. In the second half, Kingswood House scored three goals but between each one there was another goal for Homefield to maintain their three-goal advantage. Cass scored a well-worked team goal and Ziyad completed his hat trick with two more goals. An excellent team performance to round off the season with a 6-3 win! The 2nd team also enjoyed victory in a superb match which finished 2-1. James and Zain M were the goal scorers, but it was a real team effort with all boys putting in a great shift. Oliver M made some superb saves and Jasen was solid at the back. Henry's nice finish wasn't enough for the 3rd team who lost 2-1 to their KHS counterparts. Ethan, Hansol and Faizaan battled well but the team couldn't quite find an equaliser. On the 4th team pitch, Arjen (2) and Harry scored the three Homefield goals but KHS ran out 6-3 winners despite captain Mathew encouraging team mates to tackle and never give up. Overall, this was a brilliant set of matches and a fitting way to end the U13 football season!



Year 4 Football Fixtures

On Thursday 4th November, Homefield Prep welcomed Chinthurst and Reigate St. Mary's schools (RSM) for a Year 4 football fixture. On the 'D' team pitch, Homefield lost 1-0 to Chinthurst but then secured a memorable 1-0 win against RSM after Aarav put one into the net. Our 'C' team lost 3-1 to RSM but the match will be remembered for captain Baden's wonder strike - a half volley which arrowed in to the top corner from 15 yards! The 'B' team lost 3-0 to Chinthurst and 1-0 to RSM but Aaliyan battled hard, Josh made some good saves and Zareef was skilful on the ball. Our 'A' team persisted throughout despite losing 1-0 and 3-0. They were unlucky not to score - Oba hit the post and Darwin shot just wide. Adam stood out for being composed and positive in attack, using space well.

A week later, Homefield Prep's Year 4 boys took on Hawthorns School. The 'A' team were 2-0 down but Oba's goal gave the team some late hope. The match finished 2-1 - captain Gary tackled well, Mikaeel made some great saves and Rudy showed good composure on the ball. The 'B' team lost 1-0 which could have been more if it wasn't for Aaliyan's super save! Oliver and Zachary scored for the 'C' team who lost 3-2. Mustafa was full of running as he tried to get Homefield level. Homefield's 'D' team were 3-0 down but showed great attitude to come back to 3-2 after Aarav and Thomas reduced the deficit. With Homefield pushing for an equaliser, Hawthorns capitalised and scored two further goals to make the final score 5-2. Aled was a standout performer with his high energy levels and positive play.

Music

Congratulations to Andrew Y in Year 7 who has been offered a position in the National Children's U12 Orchestra for 2022 as a violinist. He will join two residency courses during Easter and the summer holidays and perform in two concerts held in two prestigious venues. A wonderful opportunity!

Congratulations also go to Zachary M in Year 4 who competed in the Kingston upon Thames Festival for the Performing Arts last weekend and won first place for playing his own choice of repertoire and a set piece. Well done Zachary!



Homefield Art Gallery

Thomas C S, Year 4 - Winter Bloom

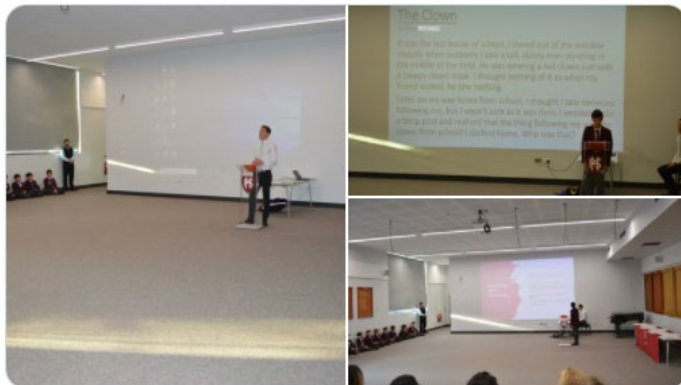


Tweet of the Week



Homefield Prep School @HomefieldSchool · Nov 18

#Year7 boys enjoyed inviting their parents in for an informative assembly today to showcase some of the excellent work they have been doing in school this term #Excellence



Keep abreast with Homefield news as it happens...

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