

## Headlines

Summer Term

1<sup>st</sup> May 2020



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

ISI inspection report

### Letter from the Headmaster

#### Dear Parents,

We do like a challenge and the school has surmounted so many since our founding in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. So, we have decided to ‘climb’ Mount Everest. That’s about 5200 upward steps. If we all do about 130+ each we will soon be up that mountain. If you are up for it, you can donate £1 to the NHS as they are climbing mountains for us all. See Page 6 for details from Mr Matthews. Perhaps we can smash our target and climb Everest and K2? Let’s see!

We are also planning to turn around about 200 PPE face visors for St Helier’s Hospital by the end of next week, using our Art and Design Technology laser cutter, an initiative to help our local NHS staff.

As we move forward let’s stay safe and well in mind and body. You will see details of a wellbeing competition organised by Mrs O’Reilly on Page 5 and I’m sure many boys will enjoy some thoughtful engagement here. As many of us are feeling the pinch, it’s wonderful that the boys are able to spend time with each other online and talk through all this with their teachers and friends.

On a similar note we are engaging with Sutton Cultural Services to help with a local history archive called ‘When We Saved Lives’; exploring how children are feeling and responding to the coronavirus. This work is looking to help boost student well-being and also develop a sense of belonging and we will share that with the boys next week.

Elsewhere, I’ve spent much time dropping into live teaching sessions and also looking through submitted work. The boys’ behaviour and attention is really excellent, considering the challenging context, and so thank you for supporting them so very well from home.

Overall, I can see some of our boys erring towards volume rather than quality and so my advice would be to slow down a little and focus where appropriate. Better to do some things well (and so progress skill and understanding) rather than do everything in a rush (and stand still).

Tutors will remain understanding and flexible in this regard.

Finally, thanks for all your loyal support. I can see that many parents donated their summer term fee discount to our restricted Bursary funds, for families in financial difficulty. The Bursar is writing a whole lot of individual letters of gratitude for your kindness. Also my thanks to the Homefield Association Committee Members and Class Reps for so generously spending time consulting with me on ‘Zoom’ over the last couple of weeks, your support and wisdom have been deeply appreciated.

Take care

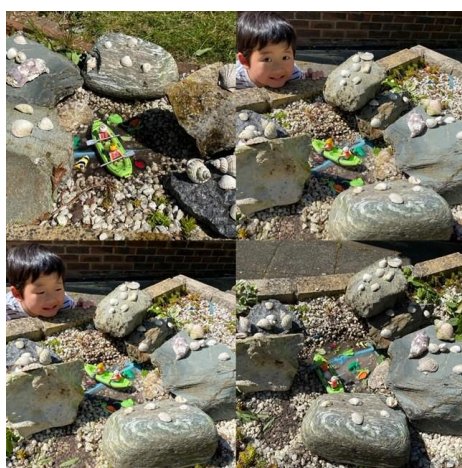
**John Towers**  
Headmaster

## Pre-Prep

We would just like to start by saying how proud we are of all of the boys in the Pre-Prep Department. You have all been so grown up during this very strange time and are coping so well at home. We have seen and heard from your parents how well you are doing with your learning at home and we have absolutely loved to see all of the photographs of your beautiful pieces of work. It really has brought a smile to our faces during this time. We ask that you continue to access all of these activities on Firefly and please do keep in touch with us and send us lots of videos and photographs all of the learning you are doing at home.

We have been setting lots of activities on Firefly and we would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to the parents for working with us at this time. It has been a new experience for all of us and we really do appreciate the effort and time that you have also put in to make sure that your son can still access his education.

We can see that the boys have been participating in lots of the activities set. We have loved to see the photographs of the boys' attempts at cursive writing, something that is very new to them. We are very impressed with how quickly they have picked this up! Keep up the good work boys!



We have also enjoyed seeing that many of you participated in the topic project that we set, to make your own rock pools!

We have loved seeing the variety of pools that you have made and again are so impressed that you managed to do this using a wide range of materials.

For now, online learning will continue and we have lots more activities for you to be doing. Our main focus at the moment is that you are all safe, happy and well. So as much as we hate being apart from each other, it is very important that we stay at home and stay safe. We will come back together soon! In the meantime, whilst you are at home please remember to talk to your grown-ups about how you are feeling, spread lots of joy and happiness, be kind and keep having fun!

We look forward to another week full of learning and fun. See you during our live sessions.

Stay safe and keep smiling boys!



## Our Student of the Week is:

**Mikael** for making such a great effort at completing all of the activities set. What a great start to his online learning!

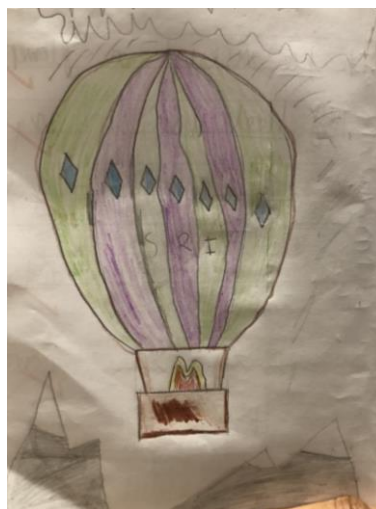




## Junior Department

Boys throughout the Junior Department continue to impress with their amazing attentiveness and contributions to the online classes.

The Year One's have been very busy at home learning all about hot air balloons. They then designed their own, highly impressive designs. Great work boys!



## Homefield Heroes

**1H Edouard** for great work this week. Well done, Edouard!

**1S Aditya** for working well and for doing some super Maths. Well done, Aditya!

**2H Aurin** for producing a fantastic and detailed pond habitat in our science lesson this week.

**2S Aled** for growing in independence as he tackles school lessons during the lockdown.

**3H Owais** for his great help in showing his teacher how to sort out problems on Teams and for completing every task at every level!

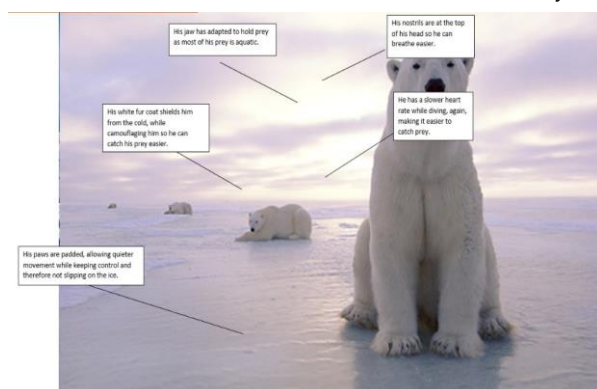
**3S Nathan** for a superbly detailed storyboard about King Midas and the Golden Touch.



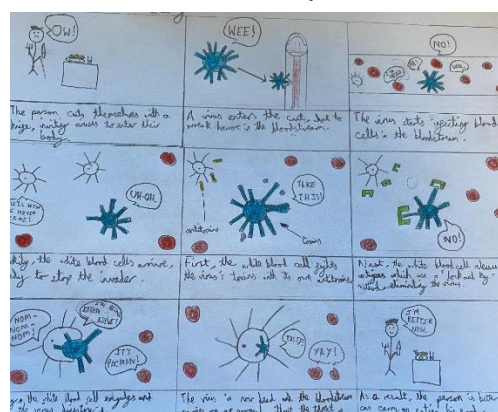
## Science

Here are a few examples of work boys are producing online as part of their Science projects:

Polar Bear, Harry 6P



Viral Storyboard - Qasim 7H



We also should thank Lachlan in 3H for a wonderful musical interlude this week that was shared on social media. Take a look here:

<https://vimeo.com/homefieldprep/download/413086749/9f6f0142d4>

## Humanities News

It has been extremely quiet in the classroom without you boys, but the plants are still growing and the weather station has been tracking our recent heat wave and now recording the stormy week ahead.

Well done to Year 4 who have made an excellent start to their Wild World topic and have been sharing lots of excellent earthquake and volcano examples. Years 5 and 6 have also made a fantastic start to our new topics; rivers and coasts respectively. Well done to all the boys and parents who have got to grips with printing, scanning, labelling and sharing the World Map work - we have all learnt a lot these last 2 weeks.

If you do need an escape from the living room - do take a look at the Geography Resources section on Firefly - there is a huge list of Virtual Tours to take you to amazing places, foreign landmarks, exciting zoos and museum tours.

Keep up the fantastic effort with Geography and History, and hope to see you all soon!

## Geography

Here we have a beautiful descriptive piece from Raghav in Year 6 as part of his Geography assignment:

*Dear Diary,*

*Today was a catastrophic day despite it being my birthday. It was a hot sunny day in Canada. There were good signs for a promising calm exhilarating day. There was perfect weather for a beach holiday. Very excited not wanting to waste any time we packed into the car by 10 am. We were buzzy like a fizzy drink, buzzy like a bee. The drive was the longeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeest hour of my life.*

*As we rolled down the road, a distant beach, (the Bay of Fundy) came into view. As we got closer to the beach, the amber-gold sand invited us. Sheltered by steep rocky cliffs, the beach seemed infinitely long. In search of food, hermit crabs were patrolling the beach. Docile waves gently slapped the shore. As we nested on the warm soft sand, my energy levels zoomed up.*

*Within roughly five minutes on the beach, my brother and I jumped into our swimming costumes and carefully rolled out the kayak and the oars. I was so glad to finally use the kayak.*

*They were the strong double orange ones fixed with flares for emergency purposes e.g. high tides or tsunamis. The moment our mum and dad had explained when we should come back and all that stuff, we left. Just to warm up quickly, before going out of our parent's view (very important), we lingered around the shore for it was going to be a fun ride. I was in command today because it was my birthday.*

*After doing 12 rapid laps, we set off. As we kayaked away, our parents started disappearing. Although the turquoise waters were translucent, I could see bottlenose dolphins peacefully swimming and creating impressive soundwaves to talk. Seeing that they were about to porpoise, I told my brother and we swiftly steered away. While I happily watched the dolphins porpoising, my brother was in grief that he was drenched.*

*As we looked forward, we saw a high tide brewing. So, we immediately looked behind and started to go back. But, we were too far away to know the way back. Behind was also a storm brewing. We were in trouble. Our once exhilarated faces had now turned into being full of grief and fright.*

*Were our lives going to be safe?  
Our lives were in the balance!  
What should we do?*

*As we thought, the storm and high tide started strengthening and the storm and high tide was closing in. "ZAP!" a lightning bolt struck: luckily it was not us. Now we were petrified. The once turquoise and calm sea were now dark blue and meant **DANGER!***

*Just then, as the tide was about to close in on us, I pulled out the flare gun and shot three red awakening shots.*

*Next, the kayak was up about 15 metres in the sky on top of the wave. For us though we were getting calmer as we saw a bright light coming from the top of the sky. It was our **GUARDIAN ANGEL!** A helicopter! The coast guards to the rescue!!!*

*As the coast guards lowered the rope, we quickly grabbed hold before the wave collapsed. We were saved! The next of my memories was of my parents worried on the beach until they saw us shivering and freezing.*

## Benjamin's Blog



### Week 1

It's not the holidays but my first week of online school was great. Surprisingly, I was excited to go back to school, with the whole new idea of video calls and online learning. What's not to like about using technology! There were some initial teething problems but on the whole it worked well. It was brilliant to see and hear my friends again. When I left the house for my lunchtime walk on Monday (got to keep healthy) I had a real spring in my step as I explained how interesting my morning had been. It's slightly strange because despite not being in school, seeing our teachers in person (rather than on a screen) and some technical issues, I think that I have done more work than I usually would which is really good and, quite frankly, unexpected. Adding to the fact that I didn't have to wake up early, wear school uniform or do any travel, it was one of the best weeks of school in a while and am very grateful for the huge effort that the Homefield teachers have made with the move to Microsoft Teams.

This week's high point:  
short walks to the fridge/cupboard

This week's low point:  
running out of cheese crackers

**Benjamin Year 8**



## Wellbeing and Community

### Kindness Matters Competition

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted" Aesop

#### Pre-Prep – Year 3

Design a 'Kindness' card that has a picture, slogan or quote about kindness and being kind to others. You will need to think about what kindness means and different acts of kindness.

#### Year 4 – Year 8

Write a short report on random acts of kindness that you have observed or engaged in. Can you link this to key figures that are known for their kindness? Alternatively, create a 'Kindness' poem using abstract nouns and adjectives within phrases –

*Kindness is the colour of sunshine yellow bursting through the clouds on a dark and dismal day...*

Think of other effects you can include in your writing, like metaphors, similes and personification.

Please send your entries to Mrs O'Reilly or your form tutor.

“Kindness is the most important tool to spread love among humanity.”

### Fun and finding new skills during Lockdown

A 'just for fun' family activity for you and your family was set inviting boys to create their own 'Active April' Calendar. We have had some fun and creative examples sent back to us, like Stephen's (Year 6) calendar showing many active ideas for a whole month. Lots of boys have also been learning new skills, like Rahul (Year 4) who has learnt to roller blade, whilst others have been enjoying their daily exercise with their family, like Henry (Year 4) who has been running 7 km with his family every other day - incredible!



William in Year 5 on his bike assault course learning new skills as a stunt rider, perhaps?



Vir in 4S has apparently been keeping busy with a 30-day Lego Challenge. So far, he has built a rocket, a house, a movie set, a tower, pick-up truck, a boat, treehouse, castle, a monument, hotel, circus, wagon, a racing car and a snow scene. He may well have a future career as a Lego designer!

### PPE for the NHS

As lockdown continues throughout the country, Homefield's Art and Design Technology Department has been busy producing PPE masks for the local hospitals. Mr Towers and the Homefield Association were keen to help the local community and so Mr Leung has been putting the 3D laser cutter to good use while the school is closed. These masks will hopefully give NHS staff added protection in order for them to continue their fantastic work safely.



APRIL 2020						
		01 Phone a friend	02 Play table tennis	03 Play a board game	04 Joe Wicks exercise	05 Bike ride in the garden.
06 Do 100 star jumps	07 Plant some flowers	08 Water the flowers	09 Play football	10 Have a water battle	11 Run for 20 minutes	12 Clean my room
13 Have a barbecue	14 Have a water balloon fight	15 Have a game of tennis	16 Play basketball	17 Read a book	18 Make a flicker book	19 Message a friend
20 Have a birthday party	21 Do some work	22 Fix the fence	23 Listen to the news	24 Mow the garden	25 Dig up some weeds	26 Plant some fruit
27 Clean the shed	28 Complete a sudoku	29 Do a puzzle	30 Make a game			

### #StayingConnected

Slightly unusual Year 4 get together this morning with Mrs Burgess!



## Wellbeing and Community / cont.

### Wellbeing

As part of our wellbeing provision, boys been given optional tasks to support understanding different emotions that they may experience, either themselves or hear about. Boys have used a picture and also read a poem by Noland Holland to explore the emotion 'fear'. Many people of all ages feel fear. It can be hard to explain how this feels and why we feel like that. Jaiman (Year 6) has written a poem in response to this task thinking about the current situation we are all facing...

We struggle to have meaning  
in this world, which we all know.

We try, but yet we wonder  
where we all should go.

Hidden in the questions,  
we cannot find,  
the answers.

They are all hidden  
deep inside our minds.

Fear what can we do!!!

As a school we recognise the importance of managing and supporting the wellbeing of our boys and also that of our families. To offer some further support, we have highlighted below some websites and links to activities that may be useful to you at home. We hope that you find these useful.

### Useful Websites for MHEWB

**Place2Be** has a number of additional links which can help answer specific questions provide information to aid discussions at home.

<https://www.place2be.org.uk/about-us/news-and-blogs/2020/march/coronavirus-updates-from-place2be/>

**Booktrust** has enlisted the help of authors and illustrators to provide free books, videos, games, quizzes, and drawing lessons for children.

[https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/have-some-fun/?q=&sortOption=AtoZ&pageNo=1?utm\\_source=place2be.org.uk&utm\\_medium=referral](https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/have-some-fun/?q=&sortOption=AtoZ&pageNo=1?utm_source=place2be.org.uk&utm_medium=referral)

**The Daily Mile Foundation** has put together some helpful tips on how you can still go out and do The Daily Mile, whilst keeping yourself safe.

<https://thedailymile.co.uk/at-home/>

### Place 2 Be: The Art Room At Home

The specialist Art Room team have created a series of art projects for primary aged children.

<https://www.place2be.org.uk/our-services/parents-and-carers/coronavirus-wellbeing-activity-ideas-for-families/the-art-room-at-home/>

### BAFTA Kids at Home with Place2Be

Their friends at BAFTA Kids have enlisted some famous faces to share their recommended films, TV shows and games to keep the family entertained.

<https://www.place2be.org.uk/about-us/news-and-blogs/2020/march/launching-bafta-kids-at-home-with-place2be/>

### RHS: Bringing the sunshine inside

A few ideas to help you and your family connect with nature, even while staying indoors.

<https://schoolgardening.rhs.org.uk/News/News-results/National/2020/March/Bringing-the-sunshine-inside>

### Greenhouse Sports: #HomeCoach

These daily sports and fitness activity videos are designed to help you keep stay active, as well as some fun challenges for you to try at home.

<https://www.greenhousesports.org/2020/04/06/what-is-isolation-to-you/>

### National Literacy Trust: Family Zone

Free reading and writing resources, audiobooks, videos, competitions and reading challenges to support parents during school closures.

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/family-zone/>

### Q&A with Katie Thistleton

Place2Be ambassador, Radio 1 DJ and CBBC presenter Katie answers questions from children on childhood, wellbeing, her career, and coronavirus.

<https://www.place2be.org.uk/about-us/news-and-blogs/2020/april/q-a-with-katie-thistleton/>

### Everest Challenge

The Sports Department is planning to set all pupils (and staff) the challenge of climbing Mount Everest as a team. Our proposed ascent route is approximately 52,000 steps. This divided by 400 is 130 steps each.

Using our stairs at home we propose to step up 130 times each – either in small amounts per day or the lot in one go, if you are feeling fit and strong!

Full details will be coming out next week (along with training tips)!

We also thought it would be a nice idea if everyone could donate £1 to the NHS because of the mountains they climb for us each day.





## Homefield Art Gallery



Amir, Year 7 - The Colourful City of London

## Tweet of the Week



**Homefield Prep School** @HomefieldSchool · Apr 21

Well done to Jijith in [#Year7](#) who has been playing different pieces on his clarinet each Thursday during the [#NHScLap](#). Last week he performed 'Over the Rainbow'. His neighbours have really enjoyed listening and he has loved expressing his gratitude to all key workers [#NHSHeroes](#)



0:22 50 views



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Keep abreast with Homefield

news as it happens...

