

Headlines

Autumn Term
20th November 2020

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



Letter from the Headmaster

Dear Parents,

We are on a mission to keep the School as safe and fully operational as possible, whilst Covid continues to pummel the country. As you know, we have a small group of boys having to isolate at the moment and their parents have been so very understanding and supportive. Thanks to our experience during the first lockdown, we aim to leave no boy behind and so have been teaching a ‘mixed economy’ allowing feeds into the home via the Teams platform to facilitate live lessons. We welcome these boys back after the mandatory 14 days out are complete. We must brace for more of this and the likelihood that some of our staff may be required to self-isolate, due to track and trace. We will remain assiduous with safety and practical when dealing with any challenges emerging. We need to ensure as much uninterrupted and solid teaching goes on as possible.

The good news is, after looking at grade cards, book work scrutiny, formal lesson observations and a deep dive into standardised assessment data, we can see

student attainment has not dipped away from our normal high standards. Your sensitivity and support has been essential here as the boys have experienced a good learning journey, even when we had enforced site closure earlier this year.

We must keep going, even as we constantly adjust to the emerging situation and the updates of government guidance for schools to keep pace. There are many unsung heroes here, like Mrs Edwards our librarian who has ‘thermal scanned’ every boy coming into School since March (one of the boys can do the maths on how many scans that is... an awful lot!).

I look forward to getting back to our 150th anniversary celebrations, in due course, and we will throw the party for parents and staff as planned, albeit late. Rainbows!

Elsewhere some nice press this week with the first phase of our new build making waves:

<https://www.yourlocalguardian.co.uk/news/18874902.prep-school-kick-starts-first-phase-8-million-redevelopment/>

In the ‘trade press’ a proud moment as the Independent Schools Council cited us as an exemplar of best practice in its annual report on state school and charitable partnerships:

<https://bit.ly/3nIk2hE>

Just because the ‘going got tough’, we did not let go of those we support. We have been a pillar in this community for such a long time and we aim to stay that way.

John Towers
Headmaster

Pre-Prep Department

Nativity practises are now well underway. Thank you to all parents for supporting the boys at home with learning their lines. Please continue to practise these with the boys each day so they can work towards saying their lines, clearly and loudly, without any prompting.

We have started our new topic this week: 'Is It Shiny?' The boys have enjoyed talking about what is shiny and finding things around school that fit this description. This topic gives the teachers a good enough excuse to get fully immersed in the spirit of Christmas and get all the glitter out!!! The boys have loved playing with 'Cloud dough' this week (with added sparkle). We have included the recipe card if you would like to make a batch at home.

Cloud dough

Ingredients

- 1 cup of hair conditioner
- food colouring
- 2 cups of cornflour
- glitter

Method

- 1 Pour the conditioner into a bowl.
- 2 Add the cornflour and give the mixture a good stir.
- 3 Add a few drops of food colouring.
- 4 Mix well then add a good sprinkling of glitter.



Students of the Week

Louis in Tigers for great communication and interaction with a friend in play

Aaron in Tigers for having wonderful control over his emotions.

William in Monkeys for an amazing start with his reading.

Yohaam in Monkeys for excellent sentence writing.

Pre-Prep Students of the Week



Junior Department

In our Year 1 assembly on Monday some of the boys shared news about their Diwali celebrations. Euan showed everyone some lovely photos of his family celebrating. In another assembly we were all very impressed to watch a video of Yuvi solving a Rubik's Cube extremely quickly – how amazing, Yuvi!

At the end of last week, Year 1 took to the school field to explore the colours of Autumn – you may have seen some photos already. As a group, we thought of lots of words and phrases to describe the sights and sounds, as well as words to describe some changes that occur. We talked about activities we see and experience, such as descriptions of night time animals, squirrels looking for chestnuts, birds flying up and down and the fun we can have playing in the crunchy, crispy leaves – some boys even shared what is meant by migration, hibernation and what a deciduous tree is... can they remember?



Everyone had a go at writing an autumnal acrostic poem – it was very tricky, but as ever the Year 1 boys approached this challenge with thought and enthusiasm producing some beautiful work. Ved, Jeff, Anirudh, Junxi and Oliver shared their poems with Mr Towers who gave them a special stamp of recognition of their outstanding achievement! Well done, boys!

In Science, this week the boys have started to learn about 'Sound' and they listened very carefully to sounds around them. They were amazed to hear birds chirping, leaves rustling, the whiteboard whirring followed by a builder wheeling his trolley with the wheels clunking. Great Science boys – you all showed such enthusiasm for your work.

This week, Year 2 have been putting their inquisitive minds to work investigating the effects of friction. They tested the impact of different surface types on the speed of a toy car. Both classes used their scientific knowledge to make predictions and noted down their observations. In History, they incorporated drama skills, imagining life as a Tudor sailor boy and hot seating with great interview questions.

Junior Homefield Heroes

1H Ved for excellent effort in English and Maths.

1H Raymin for excellent behaviours for learning and being a role model to his friends.

1H Sachin for his perseverance with all tasks and working cooperatively with his friends in class.

1H Junxi for his excellent explanation to the class about how he found the answers in mental maths and problem-solving tasks.

1S Hussain for working really hard and for showing great enthusiasm for everything. Well done, Hussain!

1S Yuvi for super contributions to discussions and for being very helpful. Well done Yuvi!

1S Adam for his fantastic behaviour and wonderful presentation of all his work. Well done, Adam!

1S Yug for his enthusiasm in lessons and for sharing his good ideas with others. Well done, Yug!

2H Aiden for a massive improvement with his reading fluency and comprehensive skills.

2H Yusuf for outstanding contributions in our Geography and History lessons this week.

2S Elijah for being a fantastic role model and his phenomenal presentation in his maths work.

2S Zachariah for always making the right choices and his brilliant letter writing in English.



Pastoral

Senior Department Homefield Heroes

Years 3 and 4

The following boys are all Homefield Heroes for the lovely presentation of their work:

3H	Ranvir and Daniel
3S	Mikael and Constantine
4H	Austin and Arthur
4P	Lachlan and Masood
4S	Alex and Atharva

Year 5

To the following boys for settling so well into life back at Homefield after the half term holiday:

5H	Mikey and Zach
5P	Vedanth and Rishi
5S	Aamir and Nikshep

To the following boys for demonstrating a calm, sensible and mature attitude to school life:

5H	Luke and Shiven
5P	George and Sulaiman
5S	Ayaan and Iliham

Year 6

To the following boys for demonstrating a sensible attitude, friendly demeanor and strong work ethic:

6H	Kai, Jake, Parth & Sulaymaan
6S	Arnav and Zak

To the following boys for their insightful contributions and focus in lessons:

6S	Alex G and Jonas
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Year 7

7LC:

Ziyad - outstanding effort and commitment in PE lessons, with a very high level of skill in basketball.

Jasen - fantastic effort and commitment in football lessons, being a strong, skilful defender.

Faizaan - excellent listening, focus and work ethic in Humanities and English lessons. Mrs Sheppard and Mrs Muller are very impressed with his mature approach and the extra reading he is doing around the subjects.

Zain I - being extremely polite and well-mannered to staff. He offers to help teachers and is grateful to them, having excellent manners at all times.

7MMC:

Cass - an outstanding performance in House Cross Country, winning the Year 7 race by 18 seconds with a very determined run.

Ronak - superb effort and positivity in PE lessons, being enthusiastic and an excellent team player.

William - excellent effort and positive attitude in English, not afraid to make mistakes.

Ronak - brilliant attitude and work ethic in Humanities lessons.

Year 8

8KWL:

Archie - excellent performance in House Cross Country and making sensible, honest contributions in Mrs Mach's CEOP E-Safety lesson.

Seb - outstanding performance in House Cross Country, finishing six places higher than last year.

Peter - being helpful to staff especially Mrs Mach by offering to help her move things during the classroom move.

Oli C - fantastic performance in House Cross Country, finishing in second place just five seconds behind Sam after a close battle the whole way around!

Ollie T - excellent effort and commitment in football lessons, making good runs and covering every blade of grass!

8MM:

Amir - outstanding performance in House Cross Country, finishing nine places higher than last year and fourth overall.

Jijith - outstanding performance in House Cross Country, finishing nine places higher than last year.

George - making sensible, honest contributions in Mrs Mach's CEOP E-Safety lesson.

Sam S - fantastic performance in House Cross Country, finishing in 1st place in 5 minutes 19 seconds.

Hugo - for enthusiasm and effort during STEAM Club.

Harry - for organising and leading a fantastic House Four Square Tournament for the rest of Year 8. The boys loved it!

Well Being News

Year 7 boys have had the opportunity to attend a weekly Mindfulness Club during this term. This week, we discussed the 'Online Wellbeing Club' and they have begun to plan a mindfulness calendar for December. This includes designing some mini shapes to colour and suggesting several mindfulness activities. In addition to this, the boys have thought about how this activity can link to our 'Wellbeing Wednesday' focus: 'Connections', which is so important during these challenging times. It has been fantastic to see some creative ideas to remain connected to family and friends and the boys are trying to plan 31 different activities along this theme. If you think you can help, please share any ideas with us as we would love to include them. Once completed, we will be uploading all content to Teams for you to download and enjoy.

Anti-bullying week

"This year, more than ever, we've witnessed the positive power that society can have when we come together to tackle a common challenge."

This week is National Anti-Bullying week. During their form times, the boys have been engaging in dialogue, tips and quizzes to increase their understanding, awareness and toolkit. Below is a link for parents and carers regarding steps from home to further support your children.

<https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week/parents-and-carers>

Charity Collection

The school collects used stamps for the benefit of Hearing Dogs for Deaf People. If you feel that you would like to assist with our donations, please tear the stamps from any envelopes, leaving approximately ½ cm of paper round the stamp. Please separate foreign stamps from British, place in an envelope and leave in the school post box – we will do the rest.

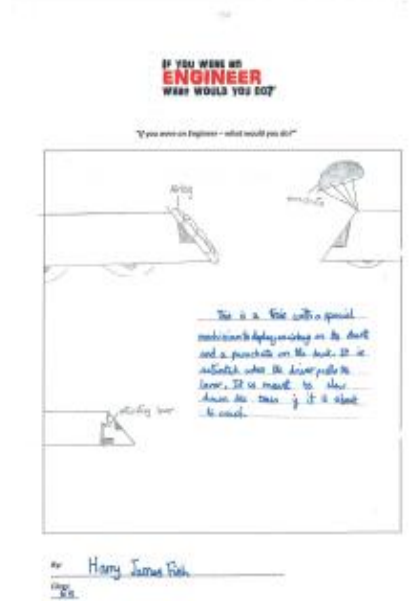
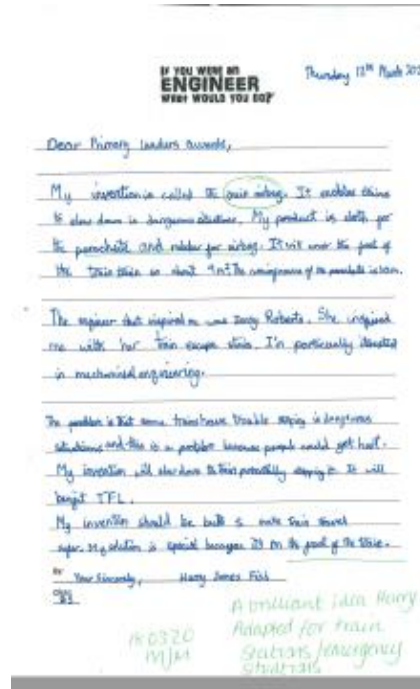
The charity trains dogs to alert deaf people to important and life-saving sounds they would otherwise miss – sounds that many people take for granted like the doorbell, alarm clock and even danger signals like the fire alarm. Being aware of these, thanks to a hearing dog makes a real difference to deaf people's lives, and could even be life-saving.



Curriculum News

IF YOU WERE AN ENGINEER WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

Last year, the boys in Year 6, took part in the 'Leaders Award' national competition for the first time. Last week, we heard how well our boys did! We are pleased to announce that out of 53 boys who took part, 48 received a Pass grade, Ronak and Zain M achieved a Merit grade and Cass achieved a Distinction grade. Harry and Rishabh's entries were both awarded a Distinction and have also been entered into the London Regional finals. All boys were tasked with the problem "If you were an engineer what would you do". Each boy had to decide what area of STEAM they were most interested in, find a problem in that area, and try to find a solution. They wrote about their idea and drew a detailed drawing. All boys who took part have been issued with a certificate. This year, all boys from Pre-Prep through to Year 8 will take part in this national initiative.



Parents' Association

Christmas Raffle

The Homefield Parents' Association is very disappointed not to be able to offer our usual buffet of Christmas events, but one thing that we have been able to salvage is our Christmas Raffle! In order to keep things safe and simple in the current times, we have set up an online ticket shop. Any tickets that you buy are assigned a number and will automatically be entered into the draw. The draw will be held online at noon on Wednesday 9th December, with all winners notified by email soon after.

Again, with safety at the front of our minds, all prizes this year are in the form of online Amazon vouchers, so there is no need for any physical goods to move between home and school in keeping with current Homefield policy.

The proceeds will go to HA funds. Please do help support your school. Tickets are available singly, or in bundles:

- £1 for 1 ticket
- £5 for 6 tickets
- £10 for 15 tickets (BARGAIN!)

Prizes are £100 Amazon Voucher, £75 Amazon Voucher, £50 Amazon Voucher and 4 x £25 Amazon Vouchers.

To buy tickets, you, simply click on the link below, register with Jumbeeb and place your order. To comply with gambling laws, only debit cards can be accepted online. You will receive an email with a copy of your ticket(s) attached. These are for information only – your unique number(s) will be automatically entered into the draw.

Good luck and thank you!
The Homefield Association Team

Ticket shop:
www.jumblebee.co.uk/HomefieldAssociationChristmasDraw



STEAM

Boys in Year 4 took part in their first live interview with Mr Bourke, an engineer. Due to Covid restrictions, they interviewed him through Teams as part of their Primary Engineer's Leaders Award. The boys asked some excellent questions about his role in designing aircraft as they participated in a very interesting and informative session.

If you have an engineering background and would be willing to be interviewed by some of our boys please do email Mrs Mach: mmach@homefieldprep.school



Curriculum News/continued

Engineering Q&A
















Mathematics

Primary Maths Challenge 2020






The boys in Years 4, 5 and 6 have taken part in this year's Maths competition. This is a National competition that has the boys working through fun and tricky Maths problems as they look to score as high as possible to achieve a: bronze, silver or gold award.

Here is one to try at home:

Murben knows that, in some order, the symbols , , ,  and , stand for the numbers five, six, seven, eight and nine in the Cnujian language. She also knows that:

 is greater than ,  is less than ,  is greater than , and  is greater than .

Which of these Cnujian symbols represents the number 5?

A  B  C  D  E 

Science

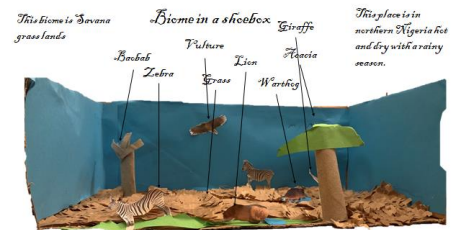
Stacks of exciting things have been happening in Science over the past couple of weeks including Year 5 boys learning how to use microscopes to observe cells, and some of the Year 4 boys have been getting their Bunsen burner licenses. The boys now know how to safely set up and use the Bunsen in the laboratory, and how to transition between the different flame types. Year 6 have heated coils of magnesium in crucibles to investigate the theory of 'the conservation of mass', and Year 7s have been learning how to test foods for sugar, starch, fat and protein.



Geography

We have been busy this half term learning more about the world around us: sharing knowledge and presenting our examples to the class. The boys have been very good at supporting each other; asking questions, complimenting each other's work but also helping set targets or suggest improvements.

Year 5 have all researched a biome of their choice and created posters, shoebox models and PowerPoints to show their special environment and how it is changing. Thank you to all the parents who helped craft boxes or posters, or taught the boys about embedding PowerPoint slides or making YouTube videos! The boys all gave excellent presentations as well as thoughtful feedback.



George 5P



Kavin 5P

Geography Postcard Competition

Please take a photo that sums up and celebrates our "Amazing World."

As we are all enjoying our weekend walks, and outside adventures this month, please encourage the boys to look around them and take photos.

One photograph entry per student, open to Years 3 - 8. Deadline 10th December 2020.

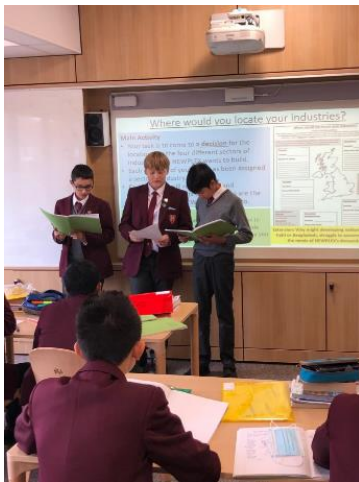
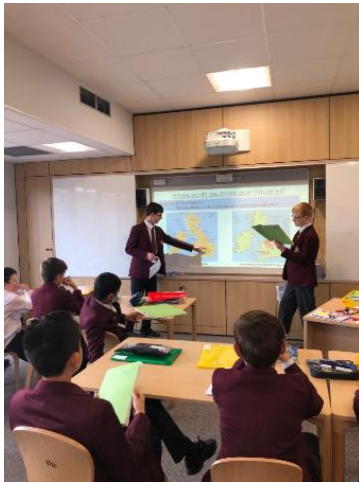
Winning photos will be printed as Geography Department Postcards.

Happy Photo Hunting!

Curriculum News/continued

Year 8 Entrepreneurs in the making...

Year 8 were also honing their debating and presenting skills last week as they worked in teams to decide on the best locations for a new eco-friendly car manufacturer. They needed to consider the different parts of the business and where in the UK would be the best location for them to be; balancing the materials, the workers and sales. This is a large part of their Common Entrance Transport and Industry topic. They proved themselves to be shrewd businessmen and knowledgeable geographers - making excellent use of map evidence to justify their positions! Well done, Geogers!



Sport

House Cross Country

Well done to the Year 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 boys who competed in the House Cross Country tournament. The boys all ran three laps of the Sutton Cricket Club grounds: just under 1500m. The following boys won medals for first, second and third position. There is also a 'special mention' medal awarded to the participant who the PE department feel gave everything for their team in the House run. Well done, boys!

Year 4

1st Olivier
2nd Charlie
3rd Noah
Special mention medal: Kayaan A

1st	Ellis	21.25
2nd	Bomfords	25.16
3rd	Grays	25.91
4th	Walfords	29.00

Year 5

1st Vir
2nd Oscar
3rd Alex
Special mention medal: Aidan C

1st	Bomfords	20.38
2nd	Grays	22.00
3rd	Walfords	25.16
4th	Ellis	30.75

Year 6

1st Philip
2nd George
3rd Luke
Special mention medal: Reece P

1st	Walfords	11.00
2nd	Ellis	14.10
3rd	Bomfords	19.85
4th	Grays	22.85

Year 7

1st Cass
2nd Jacob
3rd Oliver
Special mention medal: Mannan B

1st	Ellis	8.16
2nd	Walfords	11.00
3rd	Grays	12.5
4th	Bomfords	14.8

Year 8

1st Sam
2nd Oliver
3rd Zega
Special mention medal: Amir K

1st	Ellis	10.00
2nd	Bomfords	11.33
3rd	Walfords	15.00
4th	Grays	18.00

Overall average, the lowest average number wins.

1st	Ellis	78.32
2nd	Bomfords	86.47
3rd	Grays	90.91
4th	Walfords	91.16

Music

Congratulations to Rohan K in Year 4 on passing his Grade 1 piano with merit.



Homefield Art Gallery

Photography is the focus for this week ...

Leonardo 6S - Leo's Mad Hatter Tea Party



Tweet of the Week



Sutton Guardian
@suttonguardian

Prep school kick starts first phase of £8m redevelopment



Sutton school celebrates 150th anniversary with 'world class' redevelopment
Homefield Prep in Sutton has officially opened 14 brand new classrooms in line with their 150th anniversary.
yourlocalguardian.co.uk

Keep abreast with Homefield news as it happens...   

<https://twitter.com/HomefieldSchool>

<https://www.facebook.com/homefield.school/>

https://www.instagram.com/homefield_preparatory_school/