

Headlines

Autumn Term

20th September 2019

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

ISI inspection report



Year 8 boys about to undertake Geography Fieldwork at the River Tillingbourne

Letter from the Headmaster

Dear Parents

An ex-student wrote to me this week to share, amongst other things, some fond memories of a school visit to the Lake District; the journey itself, where we stayed and the array of opportunities once we got there, from exploring geographic features to emersion in historical settings. Also the emotions, the people and that edgy moment fleeing from an agitated bull in a farmer's field (my fault!). What was remarkable was the time line and the detail of the recollection, for this expedition was back in 1994. As well as making me feel very middle-aged, this reminded me of why it is so important that we give the boys this sort of learning. So, we start as we mean to go on this week with Year 8 out in the field studying the geography of the River Tillingbourne and Year 4 out for some history at Butser Farm. Learning and memories will be made of such visits.

The cool sun shone on these trips and also on the sports field where we opened the competitive football season playing Willington at home.

All the boys in Year 6 got to play a good match. It's important that our boys, at whatever skill level, are able to enjoy competitive fixtures and the camaraderie of the team.

Thanks to the Parents' Association for holding a well-attended coffee morning and AGM today. Also thank you to the many who sent contributions in for our 'Jeans for Genes' fundraiser today. Here is a link if parents wish to find out more on this charity. We all enjoyed having our blue jeans on:

<https://www.jeansforgenesday.org/>

Back in the summer we entered the Charlie Waller Wellbeing Challenge, where more than 40 schools and youth organisations used the NHS 'Five Steps to Mental Wellbeing': connect, be active, keep learning, give to others, be mindful.

A nice link here celebrates our focus on good emotional and mental health: https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/637e26_0230712d89e34ab1bca2d26ee5a4f7f0.pdf

Have a great weekend,

John Towers
Headmaster

(PS on the subject of 1994: The Channel Tunnel opened, Blur released 'Parklife', Four Weddings and a Funeral played at cinemas, a pint of lager cost £1.50, smartphones didn't exist and only a very few had (Nokia) mobiles. My classroom had a blackboard that, unlike a computer or an interactive white board, never, ever broke down. There were 'raves' in old warehouses near Kings Cross, or so I am told...)

Early Years Department

We have had a very busy week getting the boys to produce some beautiful work to decorate our display boards ready for our Open Morning on the 28th September.

Reception have started learning to recognise, pronounce and write our first 5 sounds and will be bringing their first phonics homework home this weekend.

We are looking forward to welcoming you to our Curriculum and Welcome evening on Thursday 26th September. The start time is 6.30pm.

Please come to the main hall for a welcome drink and then head to the Early Years Department for a talk from your son's class teacher at 6.45pm.

Please make sure you are checking and emptying your son's book bags every day as we send information, homework or things that have been made during the day home in their bags each afternoon.

Junior Department

It has been a very busy week in the Junior Department with the boys working hard in class and also enjoying playtimes with their friends. 2S led the way with our form assemblies and confidently told us all about eating a balanced diet. Well done 2S! It was lovely to see all the boys wearing jeans today and thank you for helping with this fundraiser for the 'Jeans for Genes' charity.

In Year 1, the boys are now far more familiar with our daily routine and it's surprising to think they have only been with us for a short time! The boys are enjoying all the different subjects: in Science they have learnt about the bones in the human skeleton, in History they have been talking about growing up. What busy bees they are!

Year 2 are really enjoying our Science and Humanities topics as we delve further into them. Our 'Space' background has been painted, spaceships created and information is travelling in at the speed of light! In Geography we are enjoying learning about the diversity of life in the Amazon Rainforest. History will take us on many voyages with a range of interesting explorers from the 13th to the 20th century and beyond!

Our oldest boys are now settled into the life of Year 3 and enjoying the academic as well as the social life! They have demonstrated a lively interest in all the topics at this early stage of the term.

Clubs are now underway and the Year 1 and 2 boys have been enjoying the enrichment activities at the end of the afternoon.

Congratulations to Sheldon and William, who are the Form Captain and Vice-Captain for 3H this term. In 3S Zinedine is Form Captain and Abdullah is Vice-Captain. The Form Representatives on the Student Council are Austin and Adam. Well done, boys! Our monitors, who always do an excellent job helping out with the younger boys are, Kayaan, Luke, Arthav, Samuel, Rohan, Lewis, Adam and Jamie. Thank you, boys!

We look forward to seeing parents on Thursday 26th September from 6.30pm-7.30pm at our Curriculum and Welcome Evening.

Our Special Award this week goes to:

William in Elephants for settling into Nursery so well and getting involved in all the activities.

Our Student of the Weeks are:

Jeff in Tigers for being such a sensible Reception boy.

Ved in Tigers for always being such a polite boy.

Finnlay in Monkeys for growing in confidence during his first week.

Henry in Monkeys for being very helpful when in class.

Homefield Heroes

1H Aran and Jacob for settling exceptionally well into Homefield and Year One and **Dakarayi** for being an enthusiastic member of the class and for working incredibly hard.

1S Ashton, Easan and Elijah for settling in so well to life at Homefield. Well done, boys!

Daniel for being a sensible and reliable member of 1S. Well done, Daniel!

2H Hanchen for always giving 100% in lessons and **Kamran** for always being so enthusiastic towards his learning.

2S Darwin, Zion and Thomas for a super start at Homefield and **Sabir** for increased speed and participation in lessons.

3H William for a brilliant start in 3H and for being so hardworking and polite and **Austin** for being such a kind boy and always helping others.

3S Alexander for starting the year with an outstanding attitude towards his learning and **Jamie** for always being ready for class, on time and smiling – he consistently makes the best choices.

Parents' Association

It was wonderful to see so many new (and old) faces at the Coffee Morning this morning, and celebrate the Parents' Association's fundraising last year. We raised over ten thousand pounds and were therefore able to purchase many items for the school including a laser printer, weather station, robotics set and playground equipment for the younger boys.

At the AGM, we voted in the six Homefield Association Trustees for this year:

Chair	Lizby Sharpe
Vice Chair	Vicky Price
Treasurer	Jo Grainger
Secretary	Noelle Pownall
Vice Secretary	Shoma Garai
Classlist Liaison	Josie Ruffle

We are still looking for Class Reps for Nursery, Reception, Year 1, Year 5 and Year 6. If you are new to the school, it is a great way to meet parents and get involved. Please contact Lizby Sharpe on Classlist.com for more information.

Alternatively, if you would like to be involved in planning our events within the wider HA team, please join us at our HA meeting next Friday at 8.30am. Finally, if you haven't signed up to Classlist yet, please register at www.classlist.com or download the free Classlist app.



Sports News

U11s (Year 6) Football v Kingswood House

It was a keenly contested fixture to kick off the season for the Year 6 boys.

- A- 1-2 Lost (Goals - OG)
- B- 2-0 Win (Goals - Omasan and Akshay)
- C- 5-1 Win (Goals - Jaiman x 3, James and Rishi B)
- D- 5-3 Lost (Goals - Namish, Ronak and Raamin)
- E- 3-1 Lost (Goal - Hugo)

There had been some good training sessions in lessons and both staff and pupils were keen to get out onto the pitch to play a formal fixture against Kingswood House. Other than the emphatic win for the 'C' team which featured a Jaiman hat trick. All the other four games were decided by two goals or less. Omasan scored on his debut to seal victory for the 'B' team. Next week, Homefield will play a triangular against Hawthorns and Solefield at Hawthorns School, Bletchingley. Be aware that teams may change as there will be movement in numbers per team based on fixtures and competitor team numbers. Squads and teams will adjust a little throughout the year for many reasons.

U13 Football Captain

Well done to Tom H who will be the 1st XI Football Captain this term. He will be supported by Yasir S as Vice-Captain.

Fantasy Football

Fantasy Football is back!

Gameweek 5 winners:

League	Most Points	Team	Manager
Pupils, Parents & Staff	76	Played Cymru	Miss Smith
Year 7/8	69	Tos da Boss	Tosan
Year 6	63	The Purrfect Legends	Raamin
	63	Liverpool Champions	David
Year 5	60	Leonardo's Leopards	Leonardo
Year 4	70	Legends11	Iliham
Junior	68	Elijah5	Elijah
Parents	79	Salahvation	Sami B
Staff	76	Played Cymru	Miss Smith
Alumni	60	No Spurs	Gabriel

Learning Technologies

All boys in Reception - Year 2 have had a letter issued with details on how to access 'Busy Things'. This is a really good resource for the boys to use in and out of school. Busy Things can be used to complete homework, projects and improve all areas of learning within the national curriculum. It may be a welcome tool to use over the half term holiday or on a rainy day, all in addition to our Purple Mash resource.



All boys in Juniors and Seniors can now access their Firefly accounts. We are asking all boys to reset their passwords over the next few days. Please can you help your son with this process and record his new password onto the previous Firefly letters that were sent home. If your son is in the Juniors his password will need to be written in his reading record book and if your son is in the Seniors his password should be written in the Firefly section of his diary/notebook.

A 'How to guide' has been sent home to explain how to change a password within Firefly.



All boys from Nursery through to Year 8 have begun their e-safety lessons for the Autumn term. Please do take a look at the e-safety page on Firefly for further parent information. In addition to this, please take the time to discuss the e-safety content with your son, details of their learning can be found on the relevant year group page\computing\resources\e-safety.

Purple Mash

All boys in Years 1-8 have had their class Purple Mash accounts created and their log-on cards have been issued to them via their form tutors (along with a parent help sheet). This is a really good resource for the boys to use in and out of school. Purple Mash can be used to complete homework, projects, improve Maths and English skills, as well as the boys accessing a variety of computer science games and touch typing. It may also be a welcoming tool to use over the half term holiday or on a rainy day. Over the course of the next few weeks individual log-ons for the boys will be created. *Please note that if your son does any creative work within their class account, that work will need to be saved with the boys' initials in the save title, to avoid overwriting each other's work.*

Maths Challenge

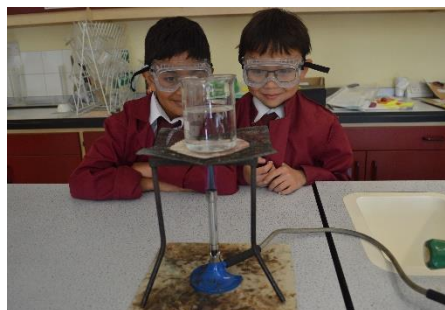
Back by popular demand(!) and to a wider audience. Hampton School have launched their Maths Wizard Challenge for pupils in Years 4, 5 and 6.

The Maths Wizard Challenge can be found at <https://hamptonschool.org.uk/maths-wizard/> and contains a range of fun and challenging puzzles which are set each week and the answers (with workings) posted the following week. Correct answers earn points with high scoring Wizards securing a place on the Wizard leader board and winners receiving prizes. Pupils submit their answers online via the website entering their first name, school name and year group only.

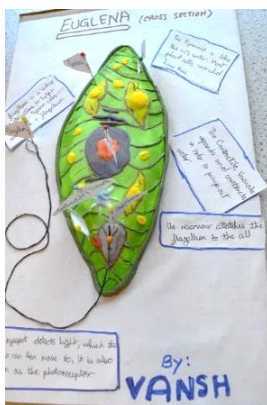


Science

Year 4 were excited to receive their Bunsen burner licences this week. To earn these, they had to go through a training course followed by a practical assessment where they set up and lit a Bunsen burner to heat a beaker of water. For some of the new boys it was the very first time that they had even seen a Bunsen burner. Hopefully, they will get through the year without gaining any points on their licences!



7H have made some fantastic specialised cell models. They put a huge amount of effort into making these cells, which included red blood cells, leaf palisade cells and nerve cells. Making models is a useful way for scientists to learn about things which cannot be seen easily.



Cell model making – Year 7

The Art and Science Fusion Club has been busy making plaster of Paris fossils. They made their own moulds by pushing shells into clay and then filled these with the plaster. Once set and dried they extracted the 'fossils' and painted them. Some were more successful than others so it was lucky that there were some standby 'cup fossils' for them to paint!



Learning Resources Centre

Well done to the following boys whose stories will be published in the 'Ancient Adventures' Book:

Shankar	Year 6
Aarush	Year 5
Tristan	Year 5
Boris	Year 5
Magsud	Year 4



Geography

Tuesday saw the Year 8s out in the sunshine and in the River Tillingbourne. All the boys got thoroughly stuck into measuring the river's width, depth and speed! They also enjoyed their picnic lunch on Abinger Hammer cricket pitch. This rivers fieldwork will form the basis of their individual projects for either Common Entrance or future Scholarship essays. The boys worked exceptionally well and demonstrated high-level fieldwork techniques, which will be extremely valuable this year and well into the future. Well done Year 8, and good luck with the projects ahead!



Tweet of the Week



Homefield Prep School @HomefieldSchool · Sep 13

It was wonderful to welcome back some old boys, previous members of staff & trustees of the school for a special viewing of our exciting new school development plans today. They all enjoyed a school lunch with our boys which was an added treat! #alumni #HPS150years #ExcitingTimes



The Homefield Art Gallery

Ilyas Year 7 - Observational Pen Sketch



Keep abreast with Homefield news as it happens...   

Next Saturday we are holding our annual Saturday Open Morning.

Thank you to all the senior boys who have volunteered to help.

Please do spread the word and let friends and family know they are very welcome to attend if they are looking for a school for their son. Places can be booked by visiting our website:

<https://homefieldschool.fluencycms.co.uk/Arranging-a-Visit>

Come & Visit Us - Open Morning

Saturday 28th September 10.00am - Midday



Homefield Preparatory School

FOUNDED IN 1870

An Independent Day School for
Boys Aged 3-13
www.homefieldprep.school
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Charity No: 312753