

Headlines

Summer Term
23rd June 2023

“The quality of the pupils’ academic and other achievements is excellent.”

ISI inspection report December 2021



“Be awesome! Be a book nut!” – Dr. Seuss

Letter from the Headmaster

Dear Parents

Sincere thanks to the Homefield Association for hosting our most successful social event for some years. We had joyful support at the charity dinner event at Denbies Vineyard last Friday and raised £1,200 for the vital work of the Children’s Trust in Tadworth. The event also helped us with fundraising toward our new Adventure Playground that starts construction in July thanks to the generosity of parents who have donated £23,000 to the project. Particular thanks go to Stephanie, Rhiannon, Yuzi, Kajal and the HA Committee for the organisation and commitment to enable this celebration. I was also surprised and happily overwhelmed by the speeches of thanks given to me. Deeply appreciated.

Thanks to your support, to the skills of staff and to the work ethic of our wonderful boys for another year of quite remarkable formal exam results. Let me share the very welcome headlines with you right now...

Year 8 Maths, English, Science:

73% gained grade A* to A in English, Maths and Science

85% gained grade A* to B in English, Maths and Science

Year 6 Maths:

98% of boys performing at or above the national standard

79% of boys performing highly above the national standard

50% of boys performing exceptionally above the national standard

Year 6 English:

98% of boys performing at or above the national standard

74% of boys performing highly above the national standard

38% of boys performing exceptionally above the national standard

Year 2 Maths:

96% of boys performing at or above the national standard:

77% of boys performing highly above the national standard

42% of boys performing exceptionally above the national standard

Year 2 English:

96% of boys performing at or above the national standard

73% of boys performing highly above the national standard

38% of boys performing exceptionally above the national standard

In Year 1, for the second consecutive year, 100% of our boys achieved the national expectation in Phonics at the end of Year 1, with 23% of boys attaining the highest possible score.

Please do check the calendar for our approaching Sports Days, plays and Prize Day. In addition to the online parent seminar ‘Preparing for AI – What Parents Need to Know’ on the 11th July 5.30-6.15pm (Teams link to follow).

Kind regards,

John Towers
Headmaster

Lower School: Reception, Years 1 and 2

In Reception, we have continued our topic of 'Moving Up' by reading the text, 'The Very Impatient Caterpillar'. We learnt about the caterpillar who found it difficult to be patient in his cocoon for two weeks and as a class we shared times that we find it difficult to be patient and suggested ways to help. We wrote a letter to the caterpillar to give him some ideas of what he could do to pass the time. Ishaan suggested he should "play monopoly!" The boys then enjoyed a test of patience themselves; they selected a small world butterfly which was frozen overnight in water. The boys then had to use a range of tools such as hammers, pipettes, paintbrushes, and chisels to get their butterfly out. Gryffin said, "I feel like a real scientist!" Freddie said, "I used my warm hands to melt the ice." The boys had a real sense of achievement when they finally got to their butterfly and were able to reflect upon how long the challenge took them. In Maths, we have been learning about symmetry and using butterfly wings as an example of symmetry in nature. The boys made a range of symmetrical pictures using gems, shapes, and natural objects.



In Year 1, we have continued with our poetry topic and learning strategies on how to read them. Evan impressed everyone with his brilliantly unique rhyming couplets!



In Maths, we have been working on a unit of work on time with a focus on 'quarter past' and 'quarter to' and comparing time durations. In TPR, we have been reflecting upon 'What makes me, me?' by thinking about things that might be different about us such as beliefs and opinions but also what we have in common. In History, we have been learning all about the dinosaurs.

In Year 2, the boys have finished writing their sequel to 'The Magic Finger' and we believe some of them may have given Roald Dahl a run for his money! The boys needed to include lots of complex writing features such as similes, interesting and varied sentence types, and adverbs. Rohan demonstrated all these features in his first paragraph which reads, "As quick as a flash, the girl was running to the Coopers with fury. Then, she wildly put the magic finger on them. In a few moments they turned into crabs as hard as rocks." Rohan said, "I found this writing fun because I like writing." In Maths we have started a new topic on position and direction and in Science we have recapped learning about food and energy chains. We are coming to the end of our history topic on the Gunpowder Plot and explored the chronology of events leading to the discovery of the plotters. The boys had to evaluate which events were the most significant in the discovery which led to some interesting discussions and debates. Lastly, the boys have taken part in a workshop with Polka Theatre this week which has focused on a range of PSHE topics including transition to Year 3.

Well done to all the Reception and Year 1 boys for a brilliant assembly based on the book 'You are Special'. The boys worked hard to learn their lines and songs. This story has a beautiful message for both children and adults, and we're so pleased with how the boys brought that message to life. We hope that they will always remember the message of the story that they are special for exactly who they are.



Homefield Heroes

RH Idris for writing fantastic sentences about the characters from 'The Lion Inside' and Gryffin for a great performance in our assembly!

RS Jamie for brilliant work on symmetry and Laurie for his beautiful solo in the Lower School performance.

1H Shivvy for fantastic effort and participation when learning to tell the time and Lavann for excellent effort during our comprehension group.

1S Ini for a huge improvement in his reading and Eesa for confidently delivering his lines in our assembly.

2H Mikael for working very hard this week and for being extra helpful to his peers.

2S Ivaan for excellent effort and perseverance in Geography and Ian for fantastic creative writing in English.

Phonics Success

We are pleased to share that we maintain 100% success in Year 1 phonics. The boys in Year 1 wanted to share their successes and advice with Reception. Tahazayan said, "Phonics helps me read so I can find the answers to questions in reading books." Ryan said, "I know I'm good at phonics because I can read long words. Phonics is important because it helps you read and spell!"



Pastoral

Years 3 and 4

Over the last couple of weeks, the following pupils were recognised for their diligent work and role model behaviour at school:

Isaac (3H) for fantastic efforts practicing his handwriting, in preparation for his pen license.

Ted (3P) for enthusiasm in Humanities lessons and producing outstanding written work.

Jai (3S) for positive attitude and determination to complete English work.

Daniel (4H) and Evan (4P) for excellent focus across all lessons and determination to complete all set tasks.

Kaloyan (4S) for exceptionally good manners and consideration of others.

Hussain (3H) for fantastic contribution in lessons, particularly his enthusiasm in History.

Kenon (3P) for great all-round Maths performance in class.

Yuvi (3S) for superb progress in his creative writing and beautiful handwriting.

Nathan (4H) for excellent focus and determination to complete all set tasks.

Arnav (4P) for achieving 100% in both half yearly and yearly tests for Classics (this was last achieved by a pupil 12 years ago!)

Zain (4S) for fantastic creative writing in English and working hard to speed up his writing.

Years 5 and 6

Congratulations to the following boys for excellent effort, attitude, and behaviour in recent weeks:

5H Akesh

5P Reilly

5S Aryan

6H Matty

6P Cedric

6S Charlie

Well done to the following boys in Years 7 and 8 for being awarded Homefield Heroes:

Years 7 and 8

Henry in Year 7 for his resilience and effort in Sports and Sid for outstanding work in Science.

Humzah in Year 8 for his dedication and enthusiasm during the Year 8 play rehearsals and Boris for his enthusiasm and willingness to take on all roles during the Year 8 production.



Classics Workshop

This week we welcomed Year 4 students from Woodmansterne Primary School, who took part in an immersive classics and Latin workshop with Mr McCaffery.

They learnt some greetings in Latin and tracked the extent of the Roman Empire using a map.

Mr McCaffery had a range of Roman army equipment; armour and weaponry for our visitors to examine and the group collaborated to label a Roman soldier with his full range of equipment.



Homefield Association

Our Mediterranean Charity Ball took place at Denbies Wine Estate in Dorking last Friday. We gathered under the evening sun for drinks and onto a sumptuous dinner thereafter in the conservatory.

We heard speeches from our Deputy Chair of Governors, Marjorie Harris and Mr Siva, both with a special dedication to Mr Towers to whom we bid farewell at the end of this term. Videos created for Mr Towers from current and past Head Boys and a family of four Homefield boys made the whole room (including Mr Towers himself) shed a tear or two.

We were very fortunate to also have ambassadors from The Children's Trust attend on the evening - Diane and Bill Graham. It was great to hear their own personal journey with the charity who have helped their son through the years, which really touched all our hearts.

A silent auction consisting of fantastic lots from the world of art, sport and luxury continued into the night with frenzied bidding wars for the most coveted. In particular, a limited-edition whisky, commissioned for the House of Lords and donated by our PM Rishi Sunak, sold for just under £400 with the lucky winner snapping this up for Father's Day! A huge thank you must also go to Mr Leung who helped the boys create some stunning artwork that ended up raising just over £500. We are delighted to announce that the total raised for The Children's Trust was £1,200, which we will present to Diane on behalf of the school.

I would like to say thank you to everyone who attended the event. It was a very special evening and a chance to bring our Homefield community back together again after a hiatus during the pandemic.

I have to extend a special thanks to the HA organisers - Stephanie Tofts, Rhiannon Watson, Kajal Rao Vajjhal and Yuzi Chen who have worked tirelessly alongside their day jobs to make this event a huge success.
Gautam Rao Vajjhal – Chair HA

Sport

Year 6 House Golf

On Friday 9th June, the Year 6 House golf competition took place at Oaks Park Golf Club. The following boys all represented their House with excellent skill and golf etiquette: Olivier, Harry, Ryan, Matthew, Atharva, Charlie, William, Finn, Damon, Ewan, Alexander, and Arthur W. The format was 'Texas scramble' and there was some amazing golf played. The eventual winners were Bomfords but all the boys that participated gained House points for their team. Well done, boys.



Year 4 Cricket v Kingswood House

Year 4 ended their cricket season with a fixture against Kingswood House on the 22nd June. Homefield's C and D mixed team won by ten runs, as their total of 60 wasn't quite reached by Kingswood House who finished on 50. Sten got a run out, Zachariah bowled a maiden and scored 7 runs, and Ashton and Daniyal were a formidable batting pair, hitting 18 runs in their two overs. Our A and B mixed team won by two runs. Chasing 66, they finished on 68 after some quick running by James and Antoine, and some great fours by Max, Aran, Shivansh and Advik. Homefield's wicket takers were Yusuf (hit wicket) and Max and Advik who both got a run out. Well done to the twenty pupils who played in this final fixture!

Year 3 Cricket v Chinthurst

On Tuesday 20th June, the Year 3 pupils all played in a cricket fixture away against Chinthurst. The Red team batted first and some great batting from Anirudh, Mikael and Yuvi led to an impressive total.

Keshav hit a super 6 as Homefield posted a score of 276. The Homefield bowling was even better as Aarya took two wickets for just 2 balls off one over. Chinthurst found it hard to bat against good line and length bowling, but the game was very close and eventually Homefield won by 16 runs.

The Blue team also showed great improvement, especially in their running and bowling with sound play from James and Oliver and fine bowling by Kenzo and Yusuf. However, Chinthurst narrowly won the game.

The Yellow team worked hard but also lost. Yahya and Sebastian played some lovely cricket shots and Charles and Alexander showed some superior bowling skills.

The Green team won their game with style and celebrated at the end with a huge cheer! Isaac and Aun scored well and Ryan excelled with his bowling skills. Charlie hit a super 4 and Henry, Kenon and Christopher fielded brilliantly.

Congratulations to Kiran, Mikael and Aarya from Year 2 who played at Year 3 level for a second time.

U11 Tennis Fixture

On Wednesday 21st June, our Year 6 tennis team enjoyed their second fixture of the term as Ewell Castle provided the opposition at Sutton Churches Tennis Club. On the orange ball court, Raghav and Kane both played well and won two of their matches. Luke, Stefano, Arvind and Rohan battled well on the green ball court against strong opponents, with Luke winning a singles match. Performance levels on the yellow ball court were extremely high - Arthur and Abdulaziz won their doubles match, and Abdulaziz also won a singles match. There were some brilliant rallies on all three courts, but ultimately Ewell Castle were the winners on the day despite Homefield's best efforts. Well done to our U11 tennis team!

Cayley Maths Challenge

Congratulations to Maths superstars: Justinus, Ranvir, Yusuf, and Alex! The boys came 2nd at the Cayley Maths Challenge. 24 schools competed in the prestigious challenge comprised of multiple rounds of increasingly tough Maths problems set by the Maths Department at King's College Wimbledon!



Nature Diversity

As part of their enrichment lessons, 3P have made an insect hotel with bamboo and recycled materials. It has been installed near the school garden and we are waiting for our first guests to take up residence.



Science

Here are some activities that have been taking place in the ever busy science department...



Year 3 enjoyed carrying out their paper helicopter experiment in the sunshine. They investigated whether larger or smaller paper helicopters fall the fastest, and then used their conclusion to link to plants and how they disperse their seeds.



Wotsits appear to have more energy than the other snacks tested, but the boys also know that these are not a particularly healthy snack to eat, once in a while is OK though!



Year 6 had a fabulous day out at London Zoo looking at all the amazing animals. Krish Mohan summed up the day; *'London Zoo is the best place ever. Animals, from a bush baby all the way to an emerald tree boa snake were camouflaged amongst the trees. The zoo brought humanity closer to organisms and it was simply splendid to see real-life animals instead of just watching nature programmes. This exceptional expedition also merged our science work on evolution and adaptation with art and all of the interesting drawings that we do.'*

Year 4 investigated which of a selection of foods contain the most energy by burning them and using the flame given off to heat a boiling tube containing water.



Year 8 had great fun with a post-exam investigation where they dropped Mentos into a variety of fizzy drinks to see which created the biggest fountain. They concluded that diet cola is the best for this.

Sharing Good News


Has your son done anything exciting or interesting outside school? Any achievements that you would like to share with the school community?

Please contact Sue Evans, Head of Admissions & Marketing with a short explanation and a photo (sevans@homefieldprep.school). We would love to share your son's good news on social media!

Keep abreast with Homefield news as it happens



Tweet of the Week

 Homefield Prep School @HomefieldSchool · Jun 16 ...
100% Phonics Success! Despite a national picture of declining attainment (89% in 2019, 75% in 2022) our #Year1 boys are flying high! Ryan told us: "I know I'm good at Phonics because I can read long words. Phonics is important because it helps you read and spell!" #Achievers



Homefield Art Gallery

Here are 3 images of canvas artworks from our wonderful artists from Reception to Year 6, which were sold at auction for the Homefield Association ball. They sold for a total of £590.



HOMEFIELD PREP SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUB

MON 17TH	ACTIVITY DAY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AM LEGO ACTIVITY/ MINECRAFT MORNING PM CLAY POT MAKING 	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p>CLUB PRICE</p> <p>£30</p> <p>PER DAY</p> <p><small>THIS IS NON-REFUNDABLE WHETHER YOUR CHILD ATTENDS OR NOT</small></p> <p>CLUB IS OPEN FROM 8:00AM-4:00PM</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>FOR AGES 5-11 PLEASE BRING A PACK LUNCH AND ENSURE YOUR CHILD IS WEARING SUITABLE CLOTHING.</p> <p>CLUB NUMBER 020 8212 7312</p> <p><small>During days planned to remain in club we may visit the library, local park, etc. We will leave a message on the door of where we are and what time we plan to return.</small></p> </div>
TUE 18TH	DAY OUT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AM MANOR PARK FUN MORNING PM SUTTON LIBRARY TRIP 	
WED 19TH	ORCHARD BUSH TRUCKER TRAILS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GET READY TO TEST YOUR LIMITS AT THE ORCHARD BUSH TRUCKER TRAILS! 	
THU 20TH	HISTORY DAY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AM TRIP TO WHITEHALL MUSEUM PM ART HISTORY AFTERNOON 	
FRI 21ST	HERO OR VILLAIN? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> COME AS A SUPERHERO OR AN EVERYDAY HERO. LIKE A DOCTOR, NURSE, SOLDIER, OR FIREMAN. THEME BASED ACTIVITIES. 	

BOOK NOW

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