

Headlines

Spring Term
25th February 2022

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

ISI inspection report December 2021



Letter from the Headmaster

Dear Parents

Thinking on one of our aims toward an education of both ‘head, hand and heart’ a few good examples of this to start the half term:

With the ‘head’: a nod to our top Townsend Warner Prize winners, followed by their national rankings. These boys are history essay writers of distinction ... in 1st Oliver B (Y8), 27th in the country (up from his 60th place last year), 2nd Ansh K (Y7) is 83rd (highly competitive with his big brother’s previous 123rd place) and 3rd Ronak N (Y8) is 210th.

With the ‘hand’: I was delighted to see Kailan N (Y6) extend his Art and Design skills at home producing a table and bench, with his Dad, to great practical and aesthetic effect. You can see the results on page 7 as our ‘Tweet of the Week’.

With the ‘heart’: I would like to commend all the Senior boys who have acted as guides and mentors for new students. With the School’s reputation moving forward we have had a 10% rise on roll this academic year, so these guides have been busy.

In particular, I thank Elliot V and Henry P (Y7) for their work as Librarians and for leading story time for the Junior boys. What wonderful role models. Next week, the Future Leaders Club have designed and will lead a ‘Kindness and Appreciation’ week. We look forward to celebrating this initiative.

On other matters, parents may have noticed the new build proceeding with energy. We anticipate the new front wing and entrance to be completed around the beginning of the Summer Term. You will see the new entrance and foyer now taking shape. We will have all our administrative function there, first aid, and a meeting room for parents. My office will be positioned above the main entrance, so you can find me easily. The new foyer will be spacious, have some ‘wow’ factor, a bathroom facility for parents and I’ve just ordered you a lovely Chesterfield sofa to sit on. I thank Mrs Corner and Mrs King for doing the whole winter, without complaint, in the temporary porta-cabin whilst we got the job done.

Following this we move immediately to the final phase, where we carefully remove the old Johnson building from the playground to allow significant extension to our sporting and play facilities with a new multi-use sports and games pitch. This should be done toward the end of the summer. Thanks for your patience around restricted access. Yes, ‘stop and drop’ will return on the front driveway, but with much better pedestrian access. Once the builders are done, later this year, we can re-start that service which I know many parents appreciate.

Finally, this half term, we welcome Mrs Yolandy Griffith (Head of Music) and Ms Ellie Leung (Admissions Assistant), to the Homefield team.

Have a good weekend.

John Towers
Headmaster

Lower School: Reception, Years 1 and 2

Reception

Reception have had a wonderful first week back after the half term break and we have loved listening to all the wonderful things the children got up to. Thank you for sharing your photos and home learning with us - we are seeing a great growth in the children's confidence when speaking in front of the class.

This week in Phonics we have been learning the ea (tea) and oi (spoil) sound. Can you spot any words with these sounds in your books at home? In Topic, we have begun exploring dinosaurs and what earth looked like millions of years ago.

A huge well done to the whole of Reception on their fantastic assembly about Space on Thursday morning. I'm sure parents will agree that the boys did a fantastic job at remembering their lines, speaking clearly and showcasing their Space art!

Years 1 and 2

We have had a super first week back in Years 1 and 2. In Year 1 we have been taking part in drama activities, becoming 'weathermen' using our knowledge of weather symbols in a fun and interactive way.

In Year 2 the boys have been working collaboratively as 'code breakers' this week using their SPaG knowledge to problem solve.

At lunchtimes, we are making informed considered food choices; keeping hydrated and encouraging each other to try new foods or revisit flavours we have tried before. Thank you all for helping your sons become independent eaters by practising their use of cutlery so they can approach our varied menu and food with confidence and dexterity.



Our Year 1 Weather presenters

Homefield Heroes

Tigers:

Evan for excellent focus in Phonics, especially when writing his sentences.

Ari for his growing confidence when speaking in front of his class.

Monkeys:

Edward for having a happy and positive attitude and improving responses to instruction.

Eesa for becoming more confident in school and making great contributions in class.

1H William for sharing, with confidence, his holiday news and Kaan for excellent focus and effort with his learning this week.

2H Gianluca for immaculate effort, concentration, and participation in our lessons this week and Kenzo for an excellent work ethic and concentration in all subjects.

2S Isaac for using his excellent SPaG knowledge to solve a mystery and Yuvi for an excellent 'shape poem' all about tigers.

Science

Year 3 and Animal Teeth

Year 3 have just finished learning about teeth. At the end of the topic, they compared the teeth of different animals by examining their skulls. They looked at the skulls from a sheep, fox, dog, badger, and cat. The boys noted how the dog skull had large, pointed canines for piercing and tearing meat, and the sheep had big molars for grinding up grass.



Year 6 and Static Electricity

'We've been learning about static electricity, and it's been very fascinating. We did an experiment which involved a balloon and hair. The negatively charged balloon attracts the positively charged hair, therefore resulting in the hair being attracted to the balloon. Doing the practical was a great and fun way to understand the principles of static electricity.'

Written by Aaron 6P



Year 6 and Copper Sulphate Crystals

Year 6 also enjoyed making copper sulphate crystals by reacting copper oxide with sulphuric acid and then evaporating the water to leave some beautiful blue crystals. Adharsh (6S) noted that if you evaporate the water quickly the crystals are small, but if you evaporate the water slowly the crystals are large.



Science Quiz Club

In the Year 5 and Year 6 Science Quiz Club competition, the Homefield 1st team won the semi-finals of the National competition so we progress to the finals to be held in the Summer term. A great achievement!

History News

Just before half term, the Year 3 boys were treated to an Egyptian Day workshop from 'Portals to the Past' to support their current historical studies. The boys thoroughly enjoyed the day and took away lots from the experience. The boys all looked fantastic dressed up as Egyptians or Egyptologists and embraced the activities with great enthusiasm. They had the chance to role play as Ancient Egyptians, mummify a pharaoh and take part in a burial ceremony, look at artefacts from the time, play an Egyptian themed game and even did some Egyptian Maths!

"It was the best day ever." – Aaron 3H

"I enjoyed learning about how the Egyptians mummified bodies." – Veer 3S

"My favourite thing was dressing up as an Egyptologist." – Easan 3P



In Year 5 History, we have been looking at the Normans and the castles that they built. For their homework, the boys had to complete a project on Motte and Bailey castles. The boys made some fantastic models of the castles and the boys and staff across the school commented on the high quality and effort put into the castles. They really enjoyed presenting their projects to their classes, explaining the construction and some new facts that they had learnt whilst making them. Well done boys for your brilliant work!



Year 6 'Young Historian' Presentation

With a keen interest in King Richard III, Rahul S in Year 6 went to Leicester to visit his death place. Who would have thought King Richard III's remains would be discovered in the middle of an old car park in Leicester City Centre? It is now a fantastically informative visitor centre! With historical messages on the War of the Roses, which ended with an exhilarating battle between King Richard III of York and Henry Tudor of Lancaster, Rahul presented his newfound knowledge to his form, showing his peers what an amazing experience he had. Well done, Rahul, and very well presented.



Townsend Warner History Prize

The Townsend-Warner History Prize, started 136 years ago, is one of the oldest institutions in the preparatory school world, older even than the Incorporated Association of Preparatory Schools (IAPS), founded in 1892. It has proved enduringly popular in encouraging the study of history. It is not linked to any national testing or examinations, but aims to provoke, through its two papers, interest and delight in historical reading, facts and analysis. It regularly produces winners of remarkable calibre, writing history with much flair and knowledge. The first fifty candidates receive generous prizes and the next fifty are sent cards of commendation.

Ronak (8CS), Oliver (8LC) and Ansh (7MJM) have made it into the top 250 students in the country after Round 1 of this prestigious competition. They have now completed the two hour, Round 2 challenge and Mr Towers has announced the results on page 1.



Future Leaders

As part of 'Future Leaders' project this term, we are looking at how to be an eco-leader with 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle'.

We need old tea towels or sheets for one of our projects so we would greatly appreciate any donations you feel able to make. Please send them in with your son to take to Miss Waite's classroom.



Pastoral

Senior Department

The following boys receive special recognition as Homefield Heroes:

Years 3 and 4

3H Aiden L for his enthusiasm and attitude during the Year 3 Egyptian Day.

3S Aiden Y for his quiet but dedicated commitment to his schoolwork.

4H Aarav for his valuable contributions to form time.

4S Ryan for his friendly approach and consistent work ethic since starting Homefield.

Years 5 and 6

5H Damon and **5P Calum** for making a strong start to the half term.

5S Kane for making an excellent start to life at Homefield and **Jonathan F** for being Kane's buddy and supporting him so well.

6H Aahan and **6P Sulaiman** for making an excellent start to the half term.

6S Rahul for being kind and considerate to others and **Joshua** for making a great start to the half term.

Years 7 and 8

7MJM Ryan for a hugely positive attitude in lessons and for always being a happy, polite and friendly student.

8CS Cass for a positive attitude in lessons, especially English, and for showing leadership to organise a team game during form time.

8LC Faizaan for showing compassion and care to help another pupil in need.

The Year 8 Technology Champions (Arjen and Mannan 8CS, Sidd and Hansol 8LC) for planning and delivering the Safer Internet Day assemblies to all pupils from Years 1 - 8. They engaged and interacted very well with their audience to teach them valuable lessons about e-safety.

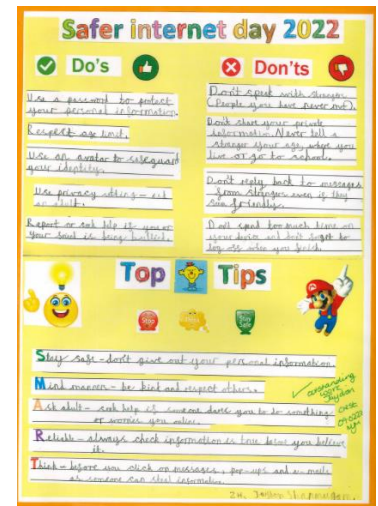


Learning Technology

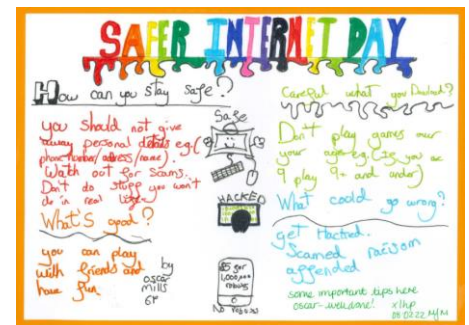
Prior to the half term break, we held special assemblies for Safer Internet Day, led by our Technology Champions: Sidd, Mannan, Hansol and Arjen - well done, boys! In addition to this, every boy had a special e-safety lesson, and all boys were challenged to create a Safer Internet Day poster, this was a huge success, with over 80 boys accepting the challenge. There will be a board in the IT lab which will showcase some of the boy's fantastic work.

Here are two posters that we thought were excellent:

Jaydon 2H



Oscar 6P



The Safer Internet Day resources have been shared on Teams within the e-safety section. Please do make time to look at these resources and have a talk with your son.



Drama News

Treasure Island

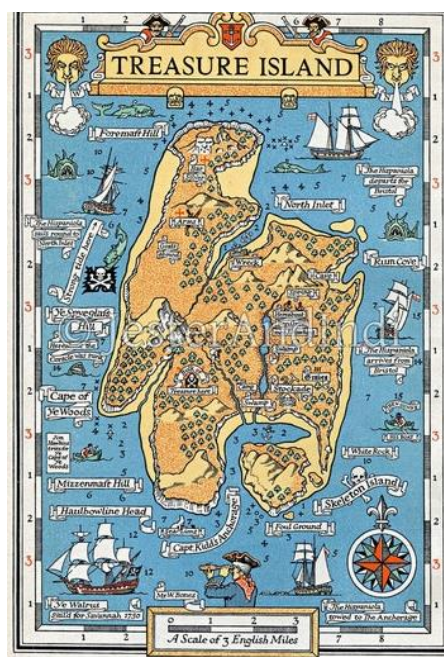
After a fun-filled week of auditions, the Year 6 production of Treasure Island has now been cast.

Captain G and First Mate Crook were delighted with the array of talent on show. There was top-quality acting, singing – and even a few parrot impersonations!

In addition to showcasing acting skills, the production allows the boys to show off their other talents. Some students have banded together to form the 'choral crew', 'choreography crew', 'backstage crew' and the 'arrrrrrrrrrrrrt crew' too.

Rehearsals begin next week. The process will help to refine, develop, and strengthen the boys' teamwork skills, as they work together towards their public performances in the summer.

Lift the anchor, for this voyage has begun!



Sport

Swimming

Well done to Jayden in 5S for achieving wonderful success in recent swimming championships:

Sutton Borough Championship

- 9 & Over 50m Free style - 1st place (shield)
- 9 & Over 50m Breaststroke - 1st place (shield)
- 9 & Over 50m Backstroke - 3rd place
- 9 & Over 100m Free style - 1st place
- 9 & Over 50m Butterfly - 2nd place
- 9 & Over 100m Butterfly - 1st place
- 9 & Over 200m Butterfly - 1st place

Surrey Age Group Championship 2022

- 10-11 50m Breaststroke - 3rd place
- 10-11 50x4 Individual Medley - 2nd place



Year 4 Rugby Fixture

Year 4s final rugby fixture of the year saw them host Cumnor House School on the 3rd February. Homefield's 'D' team played out a thrilling 13-13 draw. Spandan, Shomik (2), Alexander H (3) and Captain Aiden (7) scored the tries, while the top tacklers were Ryan, Alexander H and Aiden. Our 'C' team lost 4-9; Akesh scored a try and was top tackler. Aryan, Austin and Eric scored the other Homefield tries. The 'B' team match was a cracking 10-10 draw with tries scored by Aled, Alex W, Oliver, Reilly, Yaseen, Kota (2) and Captain Adam (3). Our 'A' team earned a deserved victory, winning by eight tries to five. Baden, Constantine, Hanchen and Darwin (5) scored the tries and Aaliyan, Josh, Ranvir and Rudy all did a great job supporting them with good offloads and strong tackling. Darwin's ability to take opponents off the pitch when tackling earned many turnovers for Homefield. In this fixture it was brilliant to see all boys' ball handling, offloading, and tackling improve greatly - well done, Year 4!

Year 5 Rugby

On Friday 4th February the Year 5 rugby teams travelled to Cranmore. The 'A' team played a cohort at a very high level and although unbeaten this year, found themselves two tries down very early on. Olivier managed to break through, and Charlie made some great tackles. Samuel scored a super try and Olivier also added to his try count but the game was dominated by the hosts. In the second half, Harry and Alexander were superb at the break down and Homefield got back in the game. Olivier scored again but Cranmore always led to the end. An excellent effort boys against very strong opposition. Cranmore 7 Homefield 4.

The 'B' team also took some time to get going but some super tackling by Jamie and Luke stemmed the flow. Cranmore went in front by three tries but Gbemi was able to score three in quick succession. Finn had a great run and scored but the opposition were very strong. A great game: HPS 4-9 Cranmore.

The 'C' team played extremely well. Calum, Seyon and Stefano were outstanding, and the game was very even until the second half when Cranmore scored freely. Kayann scored a great try and Seyon skipped through the defence to get over the line, but the game ended HPS 5 Cranmore 11.

It was a thrilling 7-7 draw on the 'D' team pitch as Homefield played some excellent rugby. Krish scored our first try after powering through several tackles, before Arjun S (2), Isaiah, Jonathan R, Adam and Jonathan F added the remaining tries. Ethan and Amran both rucked well to retain possession and Hardik's more direct running helped gain ground. Homefield almost won with the last play but just stepped in to touch before scoring a try.

This was the first time we have played Cranmore in 10 years. The level was very high and it was a great opportunity for all the boys. Well done.

On Tuesday 8th February, the Year 5 boys all played in the last rugby fixture of the season against Reigate Grammar School. Over one hundred pupils played on a lovely sunny afternoon and all the games were competitive, and fun. Looking across Homefield school pitches and literally seeing so many boys participate and demonstrate how they have learnt the skills, rules and etiquette involved in rugby was a real joy.

The 'A' team were 2 tries down at half time after a poor start to the game. In the second half Keller and Alexander really began to tackle and this led to a comeback when Olivier and then Damon scored. However, RGS snatched a victory in a highly competitive game. A great season boys, well done.

The 'B' team were fantastic despite losing 4-8. They have improved immensely with Finn and Gbemi excellent in defence and attack. The try scorers were Dev, Finn, Gbemi, and Luke.

The 'C' team gained a 6-5 victory with Owais and Jayden playing very well in the first half. Atharva scored two great tries: Amran used his speed to score and Matthew moved up to the 'C' team in the second half and scored two more!!

The 'D' squad played out an end-to-end thriller but lost 10-17! The standout players were Arjun S and Lachlan with Stefano and Daniyal both having a great game. Homefield's maroon team lost 9-5 to RGS with Krish (3), Jonathan R and Arjun S the try scorers. Homefield's team wearing black shirts narrowly lost 9-7, with the tries being scored by Aaden (4), Hardik (2) and Jonathan F. Homefield tackled well but lost possession in promising areas as RGS turned the ball over several times which ultimately proved the difference. Well played boys!

Sport / continued

Under 11 Rugby

The Under 11 rugby teams played their final matches of the season on the 9th February, against Mickelfield School:

'A' team Fixture

It was the biggest pitch we have played on so far this year, and we only had six players, so it was a lot of ground to cover. We made a decent start with some excellent tackling. After a good scrum, James received a pass and went around the opposition to score in the corner.

Mickelfield made a strong comeback and Homefield made a few silly mistakes. Half time ended with Mickelfield having scored three tries. Homefield were frustrated at half time but we made a great comeback in the second half. We won a scrum and Oscar received a good pass from Owen, using his speed to score a try. This was followed by Anthony heading out on the wing and using his fast pace to score another try. At the end of the game, we were all exhausted, but we managed to tie three all. The 'Man of the Match' was George B as he made some brilliant tackles and made strong runs through the Mickelfield defence, despite taking a few knocks. **By Oscar 6P**

'B' team fixture

Homefield's 'B' team played a fixture against Mickelfield. All of the team members were excellent, especially Tobi, who was assisted by Aaron scoring the last try for our team to win! Alex, who was a great runner, scored an amazing three tries supported by Aaron who also added three more tries to the scoresheet. We had three great tacklers: Magsud, Minghao and Aidan. Ismail is always a great team player and always there if you need to pass the ball on. Everyone supported each other in this fixture, and nobody felt left out. Many cheers and words of support from the players on the side. Happily, we won our fixture 15-14. **By Aidan 6H**

Year 7 Rugby

Our Year 7 contact rugby team played their final match of the season against Kingswood House and enjoyed a well-deserved win. Alex G (4) and Ethan (3) scored first half tries to make it 7-0 to Homefield at half time. In the second half, Henry, Andrew and Elliot scored a try each and Alex added another two to make the final score 12-1 to Homefield. Ayaan showed quick thinking as scrum half at the breakdown and all boys were excellent in the contact areas. It was a pleasing performance to end the season!

Year 8 Rugby

On Monday 7th February, the Year 8 boys played in their last ever rugby match for the school and finished off the season in style. Captain for the day, Cass, led from the front tackling everything that moved and Ziyad, Rory and Harry were super at the break down. Top try scorer, Jake, once again proved huge a threat in attack as he scored five tries and set up another. Kingswood House attempted to restore the balance, but the Homefield boys stood strong and kept their heads on a massively sloping pitch during the contest. Zain M scored a super individual try after an offload from Robert and a great tackle from Jacob. William, James, Zain IA, Jasen and Rishabh worked tirelessly in defence, but it was the outstanding tackling of Ronak that resulted him in being awarded 'Man of the Match'. Ronak began playing rugby at Homefield in Year 4 and represented the school at 'D' team level aged 9. At age 12 he represented the 1st team with incredible skill. Final score: Homefield 7 Kingswood House 5. Well done to all the boys who played.

Karate News

Congratulations to Sebastian in Year 6 who passed his Cho Dan Bo exam in February and is now a Black Belt candidate.

Learning Resources Centre

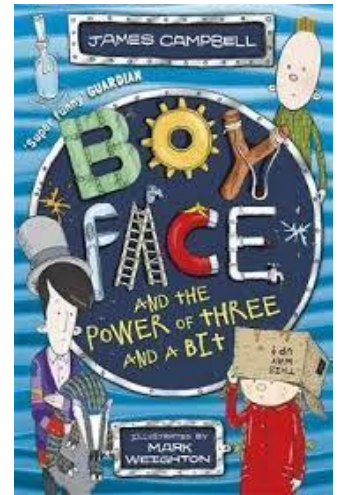
Homefield Book Week

Please see the information sheet attached to this newsletter giving full details of the arrangements for Homefield's Book Week taking place from Monday 28th February.

The Book Fair will be **cashless**. You may pay online or through the app for which QR codes and details will be visible on the day. Please visit:

<https://bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay/1169432> for further information.

On Friday 4th March, we look forward to welcoming our guest author, James Campbell, who writes the 'Boyface' series. He will be selling signed copies at the end of the day.



Lost Property

We are experiencing an extremely high volume of unnamed lost property. To ensure that we can get items back to your son, please ensure everything is labelled.



Homefield Art Gallery

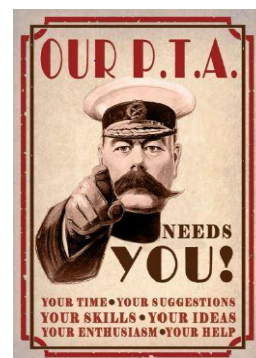
Daniel M, Year 3 - Optical Art Pattern



Parents' Association

If you are new to the school and have not signed up to Classlist yet, please register at www.classlist.com/or download the free Classlist app.

We are currently looking for more parents as Class volunteers or to assist on the HA team. If you are able to get involved, please email: homefieldassociation@hotmail.co.uk



Tweet of the Week



Homefield Prep School @HomefieldSchool · Feb 21

What a brilliant hobby! Kailan in #Year6 sent in a few pictures of the tables he has worked on making at home #LifeSkills #FurnitureMaking



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Keep abreast with Homefield news as it happens....

