

# Headlines

Spring Term  
25<sup>th</sup> March 2022

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

ISI inspection report December 2021

## Letter from the Headmaster

### Dear Parents

A big thank you for your continued support of our charitable endeavors for the children of Ukraine. Last week, we were able to raise £240 for Red Nose Day and £130 for the Balham ‘White Eagle Club’ charity. While this is impressive as a standalone, I know that this is just a small part of the efforts from the school’s community in raising money and awareness to support those disadvantaged by the current climate.

We enjoyed the company of over 100 families for our online seminar last week, considering some of our work on behaviour, personal and social education, and on staying safe. We have booked an external specialist to come in next term on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April on the theme of developing emotional resilience at home. We will either host this in the Performance Hall or flip to online if demand is very high. Please find further details via: <https://theparentteam.simplero.com/page/249740-raising-boys-nurturing-emotional-intelligence-resilience-at-homefield-prep>

Developing the healthy theme, we start a new provision from next term.

All boys staying on to do an after-school club will now be given fresh fruit to provide them a boost. The school will meet the cost of this extra provision.

This is, of course, in addition to our home cooked snacks at first break and then the full lunch service. We are also tightening the rules and not permitting boys to bring in snacks from home (or from the corner shop). We have had too many incidences of boys bringing in dangerous allergens, such as nuts, and have had vulnerable students put in hospital. Less concerning, but really not healthy at all, is the volume of sweets and crisps being brought into School and shared.

As we come to the end of term, we will be welcoming back Mrs Godly into Reception Class following her maternity leave, and thank Mrs Hosking for her cover. Miss Breach and Miss Skinner from the teaching assistant team have external promotions and we are interviewing for more assistants next week. Finally, Mr Harper our Bursar, following seven years dedicated hard work, moves on to be CFO at Shrewsbury House School. He will be succeeded by Mrs Ngozi Nwaejike who is currently Bursar at Prince’s Gardens Prep in Kensington.

Over Easter we will be cracking on with the build and anticipate the new front wing being handed over to us in May. Over the summer we will then complete the new all-weather sports pitch.

Probably the best prep in South London?

Finally, the Year 5 boys have suggested we finish the term with a non-uniform day, themed yellow and blue, with charitable donations requested to enable a further contribution to a Ukrainian refugee charity.

Have a good weekend and enjoy the Easter break when we get there.

**John Towers**  
Headmaster

## Lower School: Reception, Years 1 and 2

### Reception

This week, Reception had a wonderful time enjoying a lot of outdoor learning and stories in the sun. In phonics we have been working on our handwriting, as well as new sounds. The children are making great progress with their letter formation and focusing on tall letters.

In Maths we have recapped number bonds to 10 and challenged ourselves to learn some number bonds to 20!



The children have shown a lot of enthusiasm during class discussions about spring, growth and lifecycles. They have been looking after their beans so well that they have started to germinate!

### Years 1 and 2

Years 1 and 2 have enjoyed another Drama workshop focusing on Geography, respecting, and caring for the planet and all who live on it.

In PSHE they have been discussing our THINK initiative and valuing each other and choosing positive lifestyle choices about food, exercise, and money.

### Other Awards in Years 1 and 2

We celebrate kindness, resilience, and organisation with the following awards:

- **Kindness: Kangaroo award**
- **Courageous: Koala award**
- **Helping Hands award**

#### Kindness (Kangaroo award)

**1H Anish** and **Kiran** for sharing well with others.

**2H Alex** for demonstrating care and kindness towards others and **Yahya** for setting positive examples on how to treat others.

**2S Sebastian** for always being a good, supportive friend to those around him and **Benji** for helping his peers when working with coordinates.

As we embrace the sunshine this week, we start to consider bringing our school caps into school to wear at break times and a named water bottle so we can remain hydrated.

#### Drama Workshop for Lower School

We were very pleased to receive a visit from 'Perform' drama workshop on Thursday 17th March for our Reception, Year 1 and 2 boys. The children had a wonderful time exploring the theme of *The Jungle* and using drama, dance and singing to help develop their confidence, concentration and social skills.

To complement the workshop, there is a free educational app for iPhones and iPads based around the theme of *The Jungle*. It contains fun games, creative tasks and videos of the themed songs and dances.

'Perform' run regular weekly classes in the local area and they are offering a **special introductory discount** to all parents of Homefield Prep if they sign up for a free trial session before Thursday 7th April.

To claim your discount, just call Perform on 020 7255 9120 quoting **HMF1070422** or book online at [perform.org.uk](http://perform.org.uk).

#### Resilience (Courageous: Koala award)

**1H Mirsub** for trying very hard with his cursive handwriting style and **Ryan** for tackling map work.

**2H Henry** for dealing with situations so positively and **Hussain** for maintaining a positive attitude and demonstrating resilience.

**2S Anirudh** for always trying his best no matter what the subject or activity may be. **Isaac** for showing great listening and participation skills in History.



## Homefield Heroes

### Tigers

**Zaviyar** for always showing enthusiasm for lessons and giving 100% effort.

**Ini** for his amazing efforts in number and letter formation.

### Monkeys

**Kylesh** for excellent focus and contributions to Topic lessons  
**Subir** for producing an amazing dinosaur map.

**1H Shriyan** for working so hard on his science poster ideas and **Zien** for consistency good cursive handwriting.

**2H Hussain** for fantastic contributions and efforts across the curriculum and **Charles** for always giving 100% and providing clear explanations in his work.

**2S Charlie** for magnificent homework effort and class participation and **Sebastian** for showing consistent resilience and determination during Geography.



#### Organisation (Helping Hands award)

**1H Harin** for being proactive as a cloakroom monitor and **Zain** for organising equipment in the classroom for Mrs Burgess.

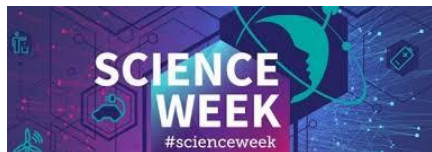
**2H Adam** for being so helpful and attentive around the classroom and **Junxi** for being an excellent plant monitor.

**2S Benji** for helping both Mrs Costain and his classmates around the classroom and **Kenon** for being an excellent and attentive corridor monitor.

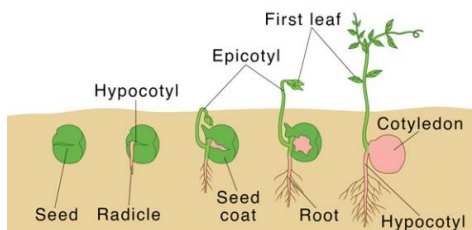




## Science News



Last week, Homefield celebrated Science Week, where boys enjoyed exploring the topic of 'Growth' in various lessons. They enjoyed a number of activities, ranging from experiments and modelling of growth, singing growth related songs in music, and looking at their growth mindset towards learning. They also enjoyed a very interesting talk by Dr Farah Ahmed, who brought in a real Martian meteorite for the boys to look at as she explained some of the scientific work she had been involved in. The boys are also continuing to be enthralled in the House Gardening Competition as their seeds have started to germinate.



## STEAM



During this term and across the school, every boy has had the opportunity to take part in this year's STEAM Leaders Award: **'If you were an Engineer what would you do?'**

The competition challenged 327 of our boys to identify a problem and design a creative solution for it. Each boy had to draw their design and compose a letter explaining why an engineer should choose their design. Every boy's entry will be assessed and graded by an engineer.

### Grade Cards

The end of term grade cards will be published to the SIMS Parent App next week. For full access please ensure that you are signed up for the service by following the link sent out on the weekly invite to those who are yet to subscribe.

### Gardening Club Competition

Spring definitely came to Homefield last week! As part of Science Week, the entire school kicked off the school garden by sowing tiny seeds in germinating compost. Each form was divided into their Houses and each House was given a different plant to germinate - 36 different variants in total! Members of the Gardening Club distributed the seeds, which were planted in recycled materials - brought in by the students - to reduce costs and waste.

Once the seeds have grown into little plants, they will be transferred outside to large planters. Each House will have two planters and the plants themselves will be colour coded. The House with the strongest germinated plants and best harvest will scoop a prize! Thank you to the Homefield Association for help in funding this project.

Fingers crossed this mammoth undertaking will soon bear fruit!

All our boys will receive a certificate, with shortlisted entries put forward to a panel. The best ideas will then be celebrated at an awards event and public exhibition in the summer term.

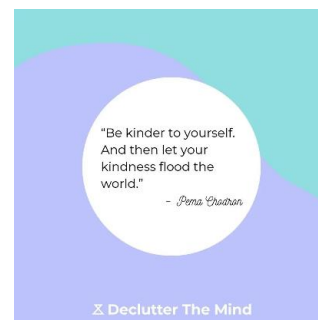
Further announcements will be made in the summer and autumn terms.

Well done to all the boys who took part and all the STEAM teachers for helping the boys along the way.



## Wellbeing News

This half term our focus has been on mindfulness and thinking about how this can support the RULER approach we have adopted in school as a strategy to 'regulate'. Reception classes have been using stories to help bring focus and attention as a reflection - it was a fantastic moment when some boys identified this as an approach to 'calm themselves down' too. Many of the boys in school are inspired by mindful quotes, which was certainly the case in Year 3 where we have thought about mindfulness and kindness to create typographic pictures. The boys really used this time to think about the importance of being kind to yourself, as well as to others.



As we come to the close of our current Wellbeing Wednesday theme, it is time to introduce our next Family Challenge... 'A Month of Mindfulness'. Look out for this on the Wellbeing Club Tile next week. The challenge will run throughout the entire month. As usual, rewards and prizes will also be awarded to boys, not only for their efforts with these home-based activities, but also to recognise and celebrate those boys who have stood out within school too.

### National Online Safety Update

Please click on the link below to view this week's resource from National Online Safety 'Phones and Scams'.  
<https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:b11d8f51-1863-3eff-a43b-b6da0a24bd4b>.

A copy of the PDF has also been included within the file section on your son's computing tile.



## Sports

### Epsom College Cross Country

On Friday 11th March, the U10, U11 and U13 cross country teams travelled to Epsom College to compete in the Epsom College Cross Country Championships. Although the weather was extremely wet and blustery, all the boys did Homefield proud. In the Year 5 team, Olivier top scored, finishing 70<sup>th</sup> out of 200 competitors, a super effort. Arthur finished 74<sup>th</sup>, Alexander came 92<sup>nd</sup> and Damon came 125<sup>th</sup> in a very strong group of runners from over thirty schools.

In the Year 6 team, Homefield's highest position went to Oscar who finished 83<sup>rd</sup> and Alex P who came 84<sup>th</sup> out of over 200 runners: a great achievement for both. Dhilan and Henry gained valuable running experience and worked extremely hard on the course that was just less than two miles long.

Five U13 runners competed for HPS this year and their contribution was impressive. Jacob excelled coming 47<sup>th</sup> out of a field of over 100 Year 7 and 8 pupils. Jake worked incredibly hard in his race and finished 53<sup>rd</sup>. Boris, Robert and Elliot stayed as a team and despite slipping in the mud, finished strongly.

I would like to thank Miss Leong and the parents who supported the boys with great encouragement.

### Year 5 Hockey v Lanesborough

On Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March, all of Year 5 played in a hockey fixture vs RGS Lanesborough at Cheam Goals. The 'A' team squad played exceptionally well and were four goals up in the first half. Noah scored a well worked goal and Finn completed a hat trick.

In the second half, Lanesborough battled back to 4-4 but the quality of Finn, Matthew and Arthur was too strong for the opposition and after some great defending by William and Alexander, Keller was able to put the ball into the net! Lachlan put the game beyond doubt with a super goal and Nathan was again excellent in goal. Felix, Jaysen, Samuel and Olivier combined very well in midfield and overall, it was a super team performance.

The 'B' team lost but continued working hard throughout the game. Lanesborough had several club players in the team that dominated going four goals up early on.

Austin scored a well worked goal and Sachin also scored from a quick pass from Damon. Despite good defending from Kayaan and Charlie, the opposition won 2-10.

The 'C' squad played out an excellent high scoring match but ultimately lost 6-13! Great goals from Seyon, Arjun, Arjun S and Arvind kept the contest close but Lanesborough always led the game and eventually won.

The 'D' squad played well as a team but lost concentration which meant they conceded late goals. Masood scored a good goal and Rohan put on a good turn of speed, but the opposition were too strong on the day.

### U13 Hockey Fixture

On Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, our Year 7 and 8 pupils took on Kingswood House in a hockey fixture at Sutton Goals. The 2<sup>nd</sup> team secured a resounding score as they ran out 7-0 winners. Goals were scored by the captain Zain M (3), Zain I-A (3) and Ethan. Assists were provided by Harry, Ayaan, Henry, Rishabh (2) and Ethan (2). It was a very pleasing display, with Homefield moving the ball quickly. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Team narrowly lost 2-1 with Alex L being our goalscorer. Sivan, Arjen and Tony showed some good control of the ball while Mathew and Ryan battled hard.

Over at Kingswood House School, our 1<sup>st</sup> team led 4-2 at half time thanks to goals by Ronak and Ziyad (3). In the second period, Homefield got off to a flying start with quick goals by James (2) and Rory (2), but Kingswood House mounted a comeback which saw them reply with three goals. It wasn't enough to draw level, with Homefield winning 8-5. Jacob made some outstanding saves and Faizaan's reverse stick passing was excellent. Well done to all Year 7 and 8 boys who represented the school so well in their final fixture of the term!



## Drama News

### Treasure Island Update

Yaaaaar me hearties, Year 6 will have their first run-through of *Treasure Island* on Monday! The show is looking ship-shape – and will look even better after Mrs Costaine choreographs the fight scenes next week...

Mrs Griffith and Mrs Walker will be teaching the boys sea shanties after half term, which will be included in the show, and Mr Leung will be instructing the 'arrrrrt crew' to make key props for the production.

Details regarding costumes and key rehearsal/performance dates will be emailed to Year 6 parents on Monday, in advance of the Easter Break.

I would like to thank the students, staff and parents who are coming together to help make this production a success on the high seas! Anchors aweigh ....

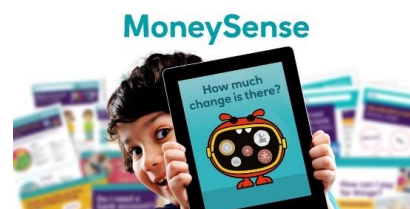
Captain G

### Global Money Week

This week, the boys have been learning all about money for Global Money Week. This is an annual global awareness-raising campaign on the importance of ensuring that young people, from an early age, are financially aware, and are gradually acquiring the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behaviours necessary to make sound financial decisions and ultimately achieve financial well-being and financial resilience.

The boys have learnt, through the amazing NatWest MoneySense resource, about needs vs wants, savings and current accounts and how work and money go hand in hand. Their HOYs have discussed these matters in assemblies and Maths lessons have had a themed money focus throughout the week. If you would like to continue these discussions at home, do take a look at the parental resources on the NatWest website:

<https://natwest.mymoneysense.com/home/>





## Sport / continued ....

### Year 4 Hockey Fixtures

On Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March, Homefield's Year 4 played their first ever hockey fixture. Hawthorns School were the opponents at Sutton Goals. Eric scored a nice goal for our 'D' team but despite their effort, Hawthorns won 5-1. Akesh was fantastic on the 'C' team pitch, but Hawthorns won 4-0. Our 'B' team lost 10-4 with the goals scored by Aled and Rudy (3), whilst Baden moved the ball well. There was a Homefield victory on the 'A' team pitch as goals by Darwin (2) and Oba secured a 3-2 win after Homefield hung on at the end with goal-saving tackles by Mikaeel and Hanchen.

Two weeks later, Year 4 travelled to Kingswood House for a great afternoon of hockey in the sunshine. Our 'D' team played very well and won 7-0. Mr Matthews was pleased with the boys' use of space. Goals were scored by Ezel, Jerry, Spandan, Zachary, and Oliver (3). Our 'C' team won 4-2 thanks to goals by Thomas C-S, Yusuf, Eric, and Ryan. Alex made some fantastic saves in goal and was well supported by Eric who made some great passes. Our 'A' and 'B' teams were mixed in to three mini teams to take on the Kingswood House 'A' team.

Our Orange team won 4-1 with goals from Oba and Rudy (3). Reilly, Gary and Darwin scored in a 3-0 win for our Yellow team whilst our Red team narrowly lost 3-2, Constantine and Aled our scorers. These matches were a brilliant way to end our hockey season at Homefield!

### London Olympic Hockey Centre

On Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March, several Homefield boys played hockey at the London Olympic Hockey Centre.



Finn, Matthew, and Arthur all play for Wimbledon Hockey Club and they took part in a tournament against a range of clubs in South London, qualifying for the regional heats at the Olympic Park.

The boys had a wonderful day and enjoyed the opportunity of playing hockey where the best in the world have played. Wimbledon won the tournament overall.

## Pastoral

### Homefield Heroes

The following boys receive a special mention this week:

#### Years 3 and 4

**3H Rowan** for his overall effort and confidence when presenting work to his class.

**3S Faiz** for his great work about the Rock Cycle.

**4H Justinus** for outstanding work in Classics.

**4S Aled** for his determination to do well, no matter how challenging the work.

#### Years 5 and 6

Special mentions go to the following boys for demonstrating positivity and enthusiasm to school life:

#### Year 5

**5H Arjun Se** and **Arjun Sa**

**5P Vihaan** and **Alex M**

**5S Musa** and **Jayden**

#### Year 6

**6H Pierce** and **George**

**6P Ayaan** and **Henry**

**6S Joshua** and **Shaan**

#### Years 7 and 8

Well done to the following boys:

**Jimmy (7MMC)** for fantastic effort and participation in STEAM, English and Trivium Club.

For excellent performances in hockey lessons and fixtures, showing improvement and commitment: **Jacob (8CS)**, **Oliver M (8CS)**, **Sivan (7MMC)** and **Mathew (7MJM)**.

## Homefield Art Gallery



Arnav, Year 3 - Calm and Chaos

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



## Tweet of the Week



Homefield Prep School @HomefieldSchool · 15m

A very special thanks to Zayn's mum in #Year3, Dr Ahmed, who came in last Friday to deliver an exciting assembly to the boys on her work with NASA and meteorites. We even had a special dinosaur guest entry! #Science #Space #Exploration

