

Headlines

Spring Term
27th January 2023



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

ISI inspection report December 2021

Letter from the Headmaster

Dear Parents

Post Covid and we hoped for a renaissance on the importance of pupil well-being and happiness. This seems yet to flourish in parts of our wider community and so we find ourselves dealing with some boys, particularly our 10 and 11-year-olds, bent out of shape by overbearing and rather narrow expectations of what success looks like. So, we will continue to fight for what’s most important – being happy and safe, developing a thirst for knowledge, for critical thinking and developing a suite of collaborative and social skills.

To help celebrate that breadth and depth, our new parent ‘Book Looks’ open up next week during some Form Times. A chance for parents to sit with their boys to share their learning and talk about wider achievement. We hope this gives the boys a morale boost and also offers a useful insight to parents. The dates are:

Monday 30 th Jan: Year 1 and Year 6	8.20 – 8.50am
Tuesday 31 st Jan: Year 2 and Years 7/8	8.20 – 8.50am
Wednesday 1 st Feb: Year 4 and Year 5	8.20 – 8.50am
Thursday 2 nd Feb: Reception	8.20 – 8.50am
Thursday 2 nd Feb: Year 3	9.00 – 9.30am (post assembly)

We shall also continue with the Parent Assemblies as the boys have really enjoyed presenting a cornucopia of learning. Last week, I thought Year 7’s use of mixed media; film footage drama they had directed and starred in, juxtaposed against a series of reflective readings was really very ingenious. The moral of the story ‘respect your parents’ was one which I’m sure was well received by the audience! Likewise, Year 4 provided a really engaging Assembly for their parents about Roman civilisation.

We have the following events coming up:

2 nd February	Year 3
9 th February	Year 6
23 rd February	Year 5

On learning, we had a purposeful Autumn term with all things ‘gifted and talented’ at Homefield. The boys took part in multiple competitions, including our Bonfire Night and Christmas competitions, the Y8s went on an exciting trip to Bletchley Park to study the Enigma code and we started a Newspaper club which published its first edition just before the holidays. Given the popularity of ‘The Homefield Times’, Mrs Drake is currently looking for enthusiastic

pupils to be part of the Newspaper Club this term, from Years 3-8.

On Teams tiles, please do look out for our Heads of Department putting some exciting challenges and projects for the boys to do at home this term. Mrs Mach started us off with some stimulating Computing and STEAM activities this week. Some of the more challenging extra-curricular provision such as the new Psychology Club in Senior School and the Reasoning Club in Lower School, have received some excellent feedback from the boys. We will look to extend such in the next terms.

Finally, I hope all parents celebrating the ‘Year of the Rabbit’ enjoyed the festival.

Have a great weekend,

Mr J Towers
Headmaster

Lower School: Reception, Years 1 and 2

Reception

In Reception, we have continued our topic of 'Ready, Steady, Grow' by reading 'The Little Red Hen' and 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'. In the story of 'The Little Red Hen', the other animals don't help her make the bread, but we worked together as a team to make a delicious loaf using a bread maker. It was so much fun watching the beaters mix the dough and seeing the bread gradually rise. It made the Reception classrooms smell fabulous! For our afternoon snack we all had a taste: it was so exciting to eat something we had made ourselves! Bernardo in RH said, "I can smell the sugar and salt in the bread." Reuben in RH said, "It is very soft!" Even Fudge the dog was anxious to sample our culinary efforts!



Mrs. Sinha worked with the boys to plant seeds in small cups to take home: we can't wait to hear how the cress or mustard seeds sprout into life.

Towards the end of the week, we celebrated the 'Year of the Rabbit', for Lunar New Year. We learnt the story of the animals in the zodiac and enjoyed role playing using masks.

We also worked on our fine motor control by moving noodles using tweezers.



In maths, we have been comparing quantities using vocabulary such as 'more', 'less', 'equals', 'the same'. It was wonderful to hear the boys explaining their understanding and using skills such as subitising to prove that they were correct. This week we have been learning about odd and even numbers and used numicon to sort numbers into odd and even groups.

Years 1 and 2

In Year 1, we have continued with our text 'Through the Magic Mirror'. This week we wrote our own narrative of what Toby will experience when he steps through into the magical world! In maths, we have returned to addition, this time learning how to use a 10 frame and number line to help us add. In our history topic of significant individuals, we learnt about Marie Curie and the impact she had on developments in science. In our geography topic of extreme weather, we pretended to be estate agents selling houses purposefully built for extreme weather conditions. Our skills in persuasive language were really put to the test!

In Year 2, we have continued our topic on the Titanic with a focus on writing a newspaper article recounting the dramatic sinking. We have completed our focus on instruction writing in English, culminating in penning a set of instructions on how to make a stinky and disgusting sandwich! In maths, we have started a topic on multiplication and division with a focus on vocabulary such as 'sharing', 'grouping', 'equal', 'unequal' and 'number sentence'. The boys have also continued their rehearsals for our play, 'The Not-So-Creepy-Crawlies' which we cannot wait to perform.

Homefield Heroes

RH Freddie for excellent contributions to our maths lessons and Dylan for writing detailed sentences about 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'.

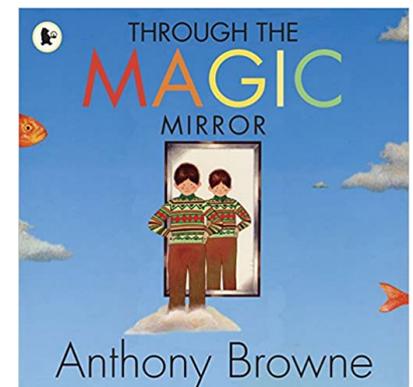
RS Shahmeer for excellent progress in phonics and Ethan for impressive improvements in his reading and phonic knowledge.

1H Sam for fantastic effort using adjectives and Lavann for excellent effort calculating difficult 2-digit addition problems.

1S Kylesh for his great work with split digraphs in phonics and Aarib for his consistent exceptional behaviour.

2H William for showing an excellent improvement in his maths work and trying his best and Roshan for trying very hard with his maths work and making great improvement.

2S Zien for brilliant participation and knowledge in History and Arish for excellent written instructions in English.



Pastoral

School Officers

Roles and Responsibilities

Well done to the following boys in Years 3 and 4 who have been elevated to the following roles:

Form Captain: Yug 3H, Keshav 3P, Kenzo 3S, Max V-B 4H, Veer 4P, Easan 4S

Vice-Captain: Gianluca 3H, Charles P 3P, Ethan 3S, Aran M 4H, Ethan 4P, Nathan 4S

School Council: Ryan 3H, Raymin 3P, Yuvi 3S, Vincent 4H, Antoine 4P, Max D 4S

Congratulations to these Year 5 and 6 pupils who will be taking on the following roles and responsibilities this term.

Form Captains: Oliver 5H, Reilly 5P, Justinus 5S, Olivier 6H, Arthur 6P, Seyon 6S

Vice-Captains: Thomas C-S 5H, Darwin 5P, Ranvir 5S, Lucas 6H, Kane 6P, Zinedine 6S

School Council: Akesh 5H, Spandan 5P, Yaseen 5S, Keller 6H, Dev 6P, Lewis 6S

Youth Travel Ambassadors: Aarav 5H, Oba 5P, Zachary 5S, Vihaan 6H, Raghav 6P, Owais 6S

Librarians: Amran 6H, Harry 6H, Jaysen 6P, Kaiyan 6P, Musa 6S, Daniyal 6S

The following boys in Years 7 and 8 take on the responsibilities of:

Form Captain: Aaron 7MJM, Ryan 8CS

Vice-Captain: Sid 7MJM, Boris 8CS

School Council: Rayhaan 7MJM, Ansh 8CS

Homefield Heroes

A huge well done to all of Year 4 for their brilliant delivery of the 'Romans Rule' assembly to their parents. All pupils worked extremely hard to learn their part and blew me away with their growing confidence and acting skills. Thank you to parents for helping your son at home with their lines.

Two weeks ago, some pupils received a Head of Year 'Homefield Hero' commendation for being an excellent citizen in school and setting a great example in their year group. They were:

Yug (3H), Ted (3P) and James (3S) Zachariah (4H), Vincent (4H), Arnav (4P) and Harris (4S)

Last week, the following pupils received their commendation for showing great resilience when working with more challenging tasks:

Jaydon (3H), Raymin (3P) and Jai (3S) Zayn K (4H), Dakarayi (4P) and Kaloyan (4S)

Well done everyone!

Years 5 and 6

For an excellent start to the new term. These pupils have been focused, polite and responsible, making a very positive start to 2023!

5H Hanchen and Adam
5P Zohad and Sarvesh
5S Aiden

6H William
6P Atharva
6S Zinedine

For being extremely committed and diligent in his role as Technology Champion:

6S Alex

For being very hard-working and helpful to others in Computing lessons:

5S Justinus and Brendan
6H Rohan
6P Aadit

Years 7 and 8

Well done to the following boys:

7MJM Adam for consistently working hard, for always being polite and never forgetting his manners and Kavin for his 13 housepoints in a week, with 6 being for Latin.

8CS Ansh for always working consistently hard and having showing exemplary politeness around the school and Boris for his ability to reflect and develop his confidence.

English

Responses to War Poetry

Year 8 students have studied Tennyson's famous poem 'The Charge of the Light Brigade'. They also read first-hand accounts of the Battle of Balaclava from soldiers who had survived the deadly attack.

Inspired by these sources, they responded with their own poems, trying to capture the heroism and horror of the conflict.

The Fall of the Light Brigade

by Henry Year 8

Slow trudges echoed,
A mist filled the air,
The sound of war bellowed,
Each man's breath was a sigh of despair,

All men charged forward with sharp haste,
A cold expression flew into the eyes,
A numbness overcame my face,
As I heard the sounds of shots and cries,

I quickly streaked along on horse,
To help my own true kin,
But as the screams came more and more,
My mind clouded with sin,

I witnessed brothers fall,
And prayed they would get up,
Brave, kind, tall,
They were not strong enough.

I leaped abruptly on my feet,
Clutching heroes in my grip,
I could not let their journey be absolute,
And carried with me, their brave trip.

I wonder if people will know,
The harsh torment of war,
Escaping is the strongest blow,
When your comrades are no more.

Music

Charterhouse Strings Afternoon

Seven of our more experienced string players visited Charterhouse School on the 19th January. They workshopped two pieces with the students from the school and performed to delighted parents at the end of the afternoon. It was wonderful to see our boys perform brilliantly with such confidence and hold their own among some of the most experienced string players in the county.



Sport

Under 8 Rugby

On Tuesday 24th January, the Year 3 boys all travelled to Hawthorns School for a highly anticipated rugby fixture.

The Green team started brightly and Keshav scored two quick tries but Hawthorns bounced back. Some good defensive work by Sacha and Henry stemmed the flow but the home team forged ahead. Keshav scored his third try and good link-up play by Charlie led to Aun scoring a super try in the corner. The final score was HPS 4 Hawthorns 6.

The Yellow team also had a high scoring game but lost 3-10. Hawthorns were very strong and organised. Charles P scored a wonderful try after a good pass from Jaydon. Alexander also scored and Keshav scored late on when Ethan won the ball back in the middle.

The Blue team had a very open game but were unable to capitalise on their chances. Benji scored a super individual try jinking through four players to score. Hawthorn took their chances and won 5-1.

The Red team were super in defence and despite playing an excellent Hawthorn team who could pass with ease, they limited the opposition to just 3 tries in the first half. Yuvi made a great run and scored after a great pass from Hussain but eventually the home team broke through and won 9-1. Well done to all the boys who played on a very cold afternoon.

Under 11 Rugby

On Wednesday, Homefield took on Willington and Tower House in an exciting well-contested match. Tries from Alexander (2), Noah (2), Harry, Keller and Oliver ensured Homefield's 7 – 2 victory against Willington.

In the second game, Homefield took on a fresh Tower House. Homefield conceded an early try, but just before half time, Homefield scored two quick tries from Alexander and Damon. In very muddy and cold conditions, the boys displayed brilliance against some strong Tower House boys. With further tries from Keller and William, Homefield with a 4 – 2 score, were victorious.



Our Year 6 'C' team beat Willington by four tries to two in a short first match, before players from both teams joined up to play against each other. This second match ended in a 6-4 win for the Maroon team. It was great to see players from both schools teaming up in this game, passing to each other and spurring each other on. The Homefield try scorers on the day were Aaden (2), Alex M, Arthur W, Jonathan RM (2), Krish (2), Raghav (2) and Sachin (2).

Sporting Ambitions

"One and a half years ago, I was recommended to do water polo by my swimming club. Only a few weeks into my training, I was entered into the London Regions trial for the team. At that time, I barely knew anything about water polo and I learnt how to catch the ball properly in the trial itself. It was incredible when I heard the news that I had made the team. From then on I started doing 2 water polo training sessions a week followed by multiple swimming sessions to back it up and keep me fit.

2 weeks ago on the 6th January, I was asked to trial for the National Academy or National Talent Centre, as it is now called. And after a year or so playing for London I happily took the challenge head on.

The trial was difficult, we did gruelling sessions as well as a torturous 400 metre sprint. Turns out it was worth it. My 400m time was way lower than I expected at 5 min 45 seconds and I was given a place in the Academy.

I will now receive weekly coaching on Fridays from a team of international coaches, who will hopefully help me reach the next level.

I would be so happy to be picked for the team (the best of the National Academy) to play for Great Britain against other countries".

Andrew Year 8

Mathematics News

Join us for a Mathsificent NSPCC Number Day on 3rd February 2023

Homefield Preparatory School will be supporting the NSPCC by taking part in the annual 'Number Day' on **Friday 3rd February 2023**. By helping to raise money, our school will help to fund vital services such as ChildLine – the helpline that's always there for children and young people whatever their problems or concerns.

We kindly ask that pupils bring to school the suggested £1 donation on Friday 3rd February to help raise funds, whilst celebrating together a morning of fun problem-solving and team building activities centred around mathematics.

Our Lower School pupils are invited to create a number themed hat and wear it with pride to school. They will partake in a 'Hats on Parade' march with prizes being awarded for the most creative millinery skills.



Homefield Art Gallery



Winter City by Elliot Year 8

Learning Resources Centre

Dates for the Diary

Book week 27th February - 3rd March

There will be planned activities every day and we will celebrate the end of Book Week with the opportunity to dress up as their favourite character for Book Character Day on Friday 3rd March.

Throughout book week we will be running our 'Shelfie' competition where you can submit a photo of yourself taken in an unusual place while reading a book – the more creative the better!

Book Fair 27th February - 2nd March

Books will be able to be purchased after school with **CARD ONLY PAYMENTS**. Every book purchased generates new books for the school library. Further details to follow after half-term.

Poet Visit 10th March

On the 10th March, the performance poet, Adisa, will be demonstrating his skills with workshops for boys from Year 3 – 8.

Orchard Childcare

Half Term Holiday Club

Our wrap around care providers will be running a half term holiday club during the week commencing 13th February. This will be held at Highview Primary School, The Chase, Wallington SM6 8JT. Please refer to the attached information flyer.

Keep abreast with Homefield news as it happens ...



Next month, in support of Children's Mental Health Week, *The Parent Team* are offering free places for parents at an online version of their Anxiety workshop.

It will run on Thursday 9th February at 7:30pm. Please click on the link below for details on how to join.

<https://theparentteam.simplero.com/page/277497-free-anxiety-workshop>

www.theparent.team

