

# Headlines

Spring Term  
29th January 2021

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

ISI inspection report

## Letter from the Headmaster

### Dear Parents

A character in a Gaskell novel once commented that ‘speculation is the enemy of calm’. If only the Department of Education would take heed of that wisdom. I know many parents, following the press, will have noted the jarring voices regarding when schools return, with Public Health England suggesting it is increasingly safe to do so, whilst Number 10 appears more reticent, even to formulate or share plans. However, it does appear that the target is for schools to start bring students back from early March ... as soon as we hear I will let you know and we are ready for anything.

Again, we will look to on-board the boys as soon as practical and with all the bells and whistles on safety.

For the moment, we stick with our virtual classrooms for most. In-between typing I have jumped into a couple of Year 2 Maths lessons (on division). It does make me so proud to see the boys responding so well and getting on with their learning.

I also miss their presence and happy voices ringing through the playground and corridors at break. I know many parents and families are struggling with lockdown fatigue. I am a dad as well as a teacher. Both of mine tend to roll their eyes when I try to get involved. My younger is struggling a bit as she keenly misses her friends. My older, doing his A-levels now, has the focus to keep his head in the game but likewise really wants the emotional and social fix of the classroom.

So, please continue to lean on us. Reach out to Form Tutors or Heads of Year. Do look at the well-being resources (detailed later in the bulletin) to help maintain motivation. We are planning some further variation to timetables and to do something fun as well, as we approach half term.

Meanwhile, we have commissioned the new mezzanine library and it does have the wow factor, I can't wait for the boys to come back and get to use and enjoy it.

Up front, the old classroom block has gone and the steels are going up for the new double deck dining hall and assembly hall. Once that is complete, we take down the old dining hall and a new entrance and reception suite goes in its place to finish off the build.

Take care

**John Towers**  
Headmaster

## Pre-Prep

It is so very different writing a Headlines entry based on work you are all doing at home. Can we reiterate how proud Pre-Prep staff are of all the boys. They continue to work so hard every day and join in each live session with an abundance of maturity and excitement! We love watching all the boy's concentration during their Zoom lessons especially the drawing enrichment sessions and how much they love a game – 'Rainbow Dash' being a particular favourite! What was your favourite boys?

Can we please send our sincere thanks to all parents: we appreciate how difficult it is home schooling, working from home and keeping on top of day-to-day household chores, so thank you for assisting us with the boys' learning, you are doing a great job!

The boys have been producing great writing linked to their 'phonic of the week' and some fabulous Maths work. We love receiving your submissions and think you are working so hard. We have also set some STEAM activities so are looking forward to seeing your individual creations on these.



Don't forget to send us photos or videos of what you produce so we can share these on our social media sites!

### Our Students of the Week are:

**Kiran in Monkeys** for all his hard effort throughout his online learning.

**William in Monkeys** for writing some brilliant sentences and remembering to use all the Golden Sentence rules.

**Audy in Tigers** for working so hard on his Maths work.

**Shriyan in Tigers** for writing such a detailed sentence linked to our digraph of the week

## Junior Department

The Junior Department boys have continued to work incredibly hard and are enjoying the online lessons, submitting fantastic work to the teachers. Well done, boys, and keep it up.

We had some exciting news from Gianluca in Year1 last week, that he is now a very proud big brother. Congratulations to Gianluca and his family on the safe arrival of their baby girl. We look forward to meeting her.

Mrs Hilton has been in touch about our guide dog collection and because we have raised so much money for the charity, we were asked to name another puppy. The boys originally chose the name 'Bader' if it was a boy, to commemorate the opening of the school on its current site in 1968 by Group Captain Douglas Bader. The puppy is, however, a girl, so we have opted to name her after Group Captain Bader's mother who was called 'Jessie'. Our 'Jessie' is currently with a puppy walker and will soon undertake her guide dog training.

Thank you all so much for your continued support of this charity, enabling them to bring hope and independence to those without sight.



The Year 1 boys have been working SO hard. In our Form time this week there was, of course, lots of excited chatter about the snow! In Art, the boys have designed snowmen and here are some of their lovely creations.

### 'Do you want to build a snowman?'



Jeff 1H



Kenon 1H



Jaydon 1H



Hussain 1S



Finnlay 1S



Charles 1S

In Geography, we are looking at the weather and have talked about weather symbols. The boys are continuing to enjoy their History work all about the Romans and this week we have learnt about Roman numerals – such a grown up work for Year 1!

The Year 2 boys have had another brilliant week. As Historians, they have been learning about the differences between primary and secondary sources and how transport has evolved over time. In English, they have turned into creative writers and written their own version of 'Mr Gumpy's Outing', using speech marks for the characters. In Science, the boys have been learning about life-cycles and were particularly fascinated with the lifecycle of a butterfly which is known as metamorphosis!

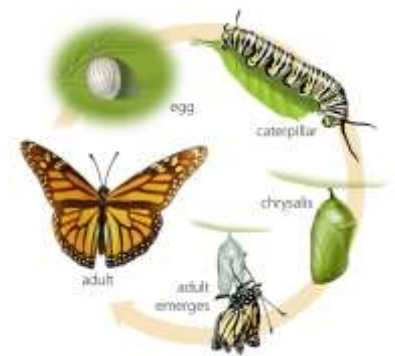
## Homefield Heroes

**1H Arjun** for working really hard in everything he does, **Gianluca** for excellent effort in all areas and **Junxi** for great effort and enthusiasm in our History lessons on the Romans. Well done, boys!

**1S Henry** for making a fantastic effort with everything, **Charles** for producing some really super work and **Alex** for making a great effort with the wonderful presentation of all his work. Well done, boys!

**2H Peter** for producing a great mind map in STEAM of all the essentials astronauts need when they travel to Space and **Zain** for a phenomenal effort to write beautifully in cursive.

**2S Jacob** for challenging himself during home learning and producing excellent pieces of work and **Rishi** for being a fantastic model student with his efforts towards online learning.



## Healthy Eating

To keep you inspired and perhaps encourage the boys to embark on some home cooking, we have attached the latest healthy eating publications from our Caterers, CH&Co.

We may have some budding chefs waiting to be released onto their families!

Features include special budget meals and ideas for brain-boosting mid-morning snacks and lunches, along with money saving tips and special recipes including supermarket swaps, roast potatoes and 'Sunday Specials' for all the family to enjoy.

FROM THE *Kitchen*

LEARNING  
FROM HOME



## English Department



Josh 3H

Year 3 have been creating their own 'animal' poems, inspired by the poetry of Roald Dahl. The boys have been getting to grips with a range of poetic techniques: rhyming couplets, stanzas, alliteration, similes and onomatopoeia!

The two-week project saw the boys creating their characters, writing short stories about their funny adventures and adapting these into storyboards, before drafting their poem and presenting it using their best handwriting - and adding beautiful illustrations too. Well done, boys!

## Senior Department Homefield Heroes

### Year 3

3H Aesen for excellent work in IT and Akesh and Aarush for great effort in Music.

3S Jack for excellent Logo work and Hanchen, Jack and Kota for great contributions to their online Music lessons.

### Year 4

4H Vihaan and Beichen for excellent Logo work and Ewan and Olivier for outstanding work in Music.

4P Aadit for making a very positive start in IT and Aadit, Damon and Nathan for great work in Music.

4S Rohan P for great Logo work and Luke and Alexander for wonderful work in their online Music classes.

### Year 5

The following boys deserve special mentions for their impressive work using Excel as a creative tool, learning the 'flood fill' technique:

Aahan, Shaan, Sid, Aidan, Krish, George, Zayn, Harry, Ismail

Three special mentions go to the following boys for their perseverance with online Excel lessons and overcoming all the difficulties thrown at them:

Pierce, Owen and Raecce

Well done to the following boys for producing some fabulous History work:

Oscar, Dhilan, Owen and Aahan for creating an outstanding Norman castle poster.

### Year 6

The following boys all deserve a special mention for the high quality of their History work:

Henry, Tim, Elliot and Andrew for 6H Leonardo, Jonas, Arnav and Philip for 6S

The following boys all deserve special acknowledgement for their fantastic contributions in PSHE:

Rishan, Parth, Aarush and Tim 6H Alex G, Louie, Luke and Reece 6S

### Year 7

Rory 7MMC and Ronak 7MMC for doing very well in French lessons last term.

Cass 7MMC and Sidd 7LC for providing excellent technical support to others in Computing lessons.

William 7MMC and Faizaan 7LC for persevering with the online SWAY lesson, overcoming the difficulties it provided.

## Music

Many congratulations to James in Year 7 for passing his Grade 1 Cello.



### Let It Snow!

The weekend snow provided some great opportunities to wrap up warm and have some fun in the fresh air.

Kamran 3H attempting a rather chilly 'snow angel'!



### Year 8

Qasim 8KWL and Jijith 8MM for writing a superb first person narrative in Classics and excellent contributions in STEAM.

Zega 8KWL for an excellent start to online learning and for being very impressive in Science lessons.

Lorcan 8KWL, Felix 8MM and George 8MM for writing an outstanding podcast script.

Henry 8KWL for being superb in his Learning Technology Prefect role, creating a Teams video guide for others to use, and for writing an outstanding podcast script.

Vansh 8KWL for creating exciting digital art, and for writing an outstanding podcast script.

Ilyas 8KWL for improved effort and quality of work in English, and for writing an outstanding podcast script.

The Senior Department's Philosopher of the Week is Rahul 5H: 'Is our identity a way we can show pride?'



## Well-Being

We have been in Lockdown 3.0 for some time now and whilst the transition to online learning has been smooth, the dark and damp days with many restrictions can affect our motivation.

We are all balancing learning with planning productive and exciting leisure activities and, whilst the surprise of a snow day brought joy and connections to many of us, it can be hard to remain motivated with the continued uncertainties at this time.

Here are some tips that are helpful for maintaining motivation and can be adapted to all ages. It is key to remember that we do often implement such strategies, but we should try to adapt them, or reintroduce them to our lives.

- Devise a personalised reward plan, with a selection of rewards to aim towards a goal
- Display a clear routine with break and leisure activities highlighted. For some children this is effective when 'chunked' into smaller parts of the day.
- Going outside each day is important for both physical and mental health. According to the official NHS guidance, children and young people should do at least two types of exercise each week: aerobic exercise such as running and exercises to strengthen muscles and bones.
- Find time to reflect on the day together. Hearing about how adults reflect on and manage successes and challenges of the day can encourage children to follow your lead when reflecting on their own day.

Below are some ideas of activities to do on a family walk and a link to a website that have some other great ideas:

- Why not download a walking tracker app and see how many miles or kilometres you can do in a week or a month?
- Make a journey stick (tie things you find onto a stick or collect them on double-sided tape attached to a stick).
- Go bird spotting.
- Take a penny hike. At each junction, toss a coin and let the coin decide which way you go: heads for left and tails for right, or vice versa.
- Collect natural objects to make a pictures (stones, leaves, twigs and so on).

Visit: <https://thimbleandtwig.com/how-to-make-walking-outdoors-fun-for-kids-2/>

## Tweet of the Week



Homefield Prep School @HomefieldSchool · 1h

It was lovely to see our boys making snowmen at the weekend. Some were even bigger than our boys! #FunInTheSnow #HappyAtHomefield



Should you wish to share any ingenious activities or projects that your sons are engaged in during the lockdown period, do please send details into School. We can then publish these on Facebook, Twitter and Headlines to keep our community in contact until school can fully reopen. Please send to: [administration@homefieldprep.school](mailto:administration@homefieldprep.school) or [sevans@homefieldprep.school](mailto:sevans@homefieldprep.school)

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