

Headlines

Spring Term
31st January 2020

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

ISI inspection report

Letter from the Headmaster

Dear Parents

Our attention focused on well-being, and 'finding our brave' realised some great outcomes. The staff set a good pace as role models, showing the boys how to express and share feelings and also when to 'dig deep' and be brave. From Mr Fitzgerald's Scottish poetry to Mr Meyers's juggling, we saw some big men who showed the boys that they are unafraid to take risks and perhaps even fail.

Sadly, in the wider world, our boys don't need to look far to be across less helpful models of 'toxic masculinity', especially in the media. Added to this worry is easy access children have to such. 'Childwise' published research this week finding that more than half of seven year olds now have a smart phone and that half of children are allowed to go to bed with such a device.

A real worry. What's wrong with a teddy bear? You can give it love and it won't give you insomnia, cyber bullying, safeguarding and mental health issues... just lovely warm cuddles!

I digress, the main thing is we have been sharing a healthier take on life in the school, talking to the boys about when they have been nervous or afraid and how they stood up to that.

Being a boy/young man and expressing your emotion, without fear, is part of what we should be teaching.

Here is a 'recipe' from Ismail in Year 4:

*First, a cup of confidence with 25ml of belief
Second, two spoons of strength and add a drop of laughter*

Next, mix a touch of grit, 50ml of determination

Then pour a cup of enthusiasm with a litre of support

After that, add a pinch of kindness with respect

Finally mix it all together and then you have your jar of courage.

...and on good role models, a nod to one of our Old Boys: Mr Simon Everest, who was awarded an OBE in the New Year's Honours. Simon went from Homefield to Dulwich and then onto a distinguished career in both the MoD and Civil Service. Luckily for us, Simon has now flown back to the learning nest and sits on our Board of Trustees.

We have lots of parents in this week in the Senior Department for teacher consultation. Thanks for your support with that.

We also have a parent questionnaire open at the moment. I know these things are dull, but our one only takes 5 minutes! The data can be really useful to us. For example, last time we did questionnaires we discovered you all really liked our after school clubs and our trips... so, consequently, we just did more.

Please do click this link, enter the password and share some of your perspectives with us:

<https://survey.glassessment.co.uk/s/UISYR/>
Parent Password: **HPS12346parent**

Finally, a diary reminder:

On Friday 14th February, the School is CLOSED FOR INSET.

Have a good weekend.

John Towers
Headmaster

Pre-Prep

Pre-Prep immersed themselves fully into Mrs O'Reilly's 'Find Your Brave' week. The whole school started the week off with an assembly about what it takes to be brave and the boys watched a video of staff members retelling a time when they had to show courage. For Pre-Prep it was quite difficult to understand the meaning of 'brave', but the boys tried really hard and by the end of the week were much more knowledgeable. We focused on a different story each day and followed it with some lovely activities. We finished the week with 'Make1Change' and saw the boys coming in to school with different socks, trousers, tops or shoes on!

This week, Mr Frost joined us for a few of our lessons and was extremely impressed at how well our Reception boys can talk about their feelings when changing their Mood Monsters, and then suggesting ways in which they can improve their mood.

The boys are doing well with practicing putting their hats, scarves and gloves on independently before play times. Keep encouraging the boys to do this by themselves at home, as it really helps improve their confidence and independence skills. When the weather is cold we do encourage them to put all their warm clothes on.

Junior Department

We have had a very busy couple of weeks and the boys gained a great deal from all the activities relating to our theme for Mental Health Week – 'Find your Brave'. 3H led the form assembly on Tuesday about 'being brave' and they spoke confidently and maturely to us all.

This Tuesday, we welcomed Celia from the NSPCC who gave an informative presentation to Year 1 and 2 boys about 'Speak out. Stay Safe with Buddy'. Celia was very impressed with the boys' listening skills and reflective responses. The Year 3 boys joined in the presentation given to the older boys in the Senior Department.

In Year 1, Eric's mother came to talk to the boys about Chinese New Year; she told the boys lots of interesting facts and we were amazed with the questions they asked. They also watched a video telling them about the story of the Chinese Zodiac. In Science, the Year 1 boys have been testing materials to see if they are waterproof. The boys all showed great enthusiasm for the activity but the Lego men used in the experiment weren't so impressed with their dunking!

Year 2 has been enjoying Dance as one of their Enrichment activities. They now use the assembly hall for this activity as it gives them greater scope. The boys have several favourite routines which they perform with gusto! They also partner with others to combine moves into unique routines. There are many budding dancers in our midst!

Another creative activity the boys have explored recently is Aboriginal Art. They have produced a variety of pictures in this style using pencils, crayons and paint. We are all delighted with the new displays in the classrooms.

This week in Science, Year 3 were investigating which teeth are most generally used to eat a variety of foods. The tasty treats: carrot, apple, bread and popcorn disappeared swiftly and the boys then recorded their personal findings into a class results table – and at this point, we moved away from the 'expected' results!!! Those with missing or only recently replaced incisors (about ⅔ of the class apparently) choose to bite with canines and molars! Well done boys – we had fun!



During enrichment, 3H have been learning some playground games that they are looking forward to teaching the younger boys! So far they have enjoyed playing 'Rainbow' and 'Grumpy Frog'.

Our Special Award goes to:

William in Elephants for growing in confidence and speaking more in class.

Our Students of the Week are:

Charles in Tigers for his good knowledge of what it means to be brave.
Ved in Tigers for working so hard with his reading.

Adam in Monkeys for building his courage to share ideas in class discussions.

Homefield Heroes

1H Aiden for excellent contributions in our Science lesson and **Faiz** for thoughtful contributions to all Year 1 activities.

1S Ashton for being a friendly and helpful member of 1S and **Daniel** for thoughtful contributions to Year 1 activities.

2H Hanchen for creating and performing a brilliant routine in 'Dance' enrichment and **Boris** for producing and sharing an outstanding poster of the times he was brave.

2S Jack for creating and performing a brilliant routine in 'Dance' enrichment and **Raunak** for improved effort and always being a perfect gentleman.

3H Alex for bravery and **Krish** for wonderful presentation of his work and **Owais** for settling into Year 3 so seamlessly; a brilliant start to your career at Homefield.

3S Krish for his excellent PowerPoint presentation on the Temple of Artemis at Ephesus and working well cooperatively with his group, **Musa** for attention to detail in a class activity and for making excellent choices when lining up and **Zinedine** for producing some excellent poetry in English.

Parents' Association

Tickets are now available on Classlist for the Senior Disco and Quiz Night!

The Senior Disco is incredibly popular with the boys at Homefield and young ladies at Sutton High School and Seaton House.

The Quiz Night for parents and teachers is a fun evening out. Questions are varied: topics have included general knowledge, music, sport, anagrams, picture rounds and even questions from the Homefield 'Headlines'! Come, enjoy, relax. It's nice to have a year group at the same table - this can be with couples or Dads only for example. It's a great social event and food is provided.

Dates for your diary:

HA Meeting:

Friday 28th February

Senior Department Disco:

Friday 6th March

Quiz Night:

Friday 20th March

Easter Egg Hunt:

Wednesday 25th March

Finally, please check your notification settings on Classlist to ensure that you are getting alerts on the app or by email about the events, and that you are receiving announcements.



Science News

Year 4 are currently learning about the properties of light. Following their lesson on reflection, they had a go at making periscopes. The boys really enjoyed using these to look around walls and over tables. They were interested to learn how periscopes are used by submarines to see what is happening above the water line.



Year 7 had the opportunity to look at some real lungs of lambs during their lessons on the respiratory system. They used the foot pump to inflate the lungs by passing a piece of tubing through the trachea. The boys were fascinated watching the lungs inflate, especially seeing how big they got when fully inflated. They also had a look at the heart and liver that were attached. Perhaps this wasn't the best lesson to have before lunch!



Theology, Philosophy and Religion

Philosophers of the Week

Nishad 6S

Can there be such a thing as a bad life?

Gajan 6S

How difficult should life get?

PHILOSOPHY MATTERS

Philosophical Reading and Inquiry

Philosophy Book Review.

Book review by: Ethan

Title: The Gullible who squashed

Author: a man named and 74

Non-fiction ☐ Fiction ☒

What is the book about?
The gullible piglet and the last piglet who squashed the book. The book is about a piglet who squashed the book. The book is about a piglet who squashed the book.

Write a question for the main character.
Should you get a piglet?

What themes were in the book? (circle them)
Happiness, Friendship, Questions, Family, Everyday life, Sadness, Anger, Confidence, Bravery, Resilience, Worries, Tolerance, Respect.

Can you think of any others? Anger, Confidence

Would you recommend the book? Why?
Yes ☒ No ☐
Why? It is exciting and has a piglet character.

Rating: ★★★★★

Book illustration

Philosophy Book Review.

Book review by: Julia

Title: THE GULLIBLE WHO SQUASHED

Author: Paul Lewis

Non-fiction ☐ Fiction ☒

What is the book about?
The gullible piglet and the last piglet who squashed the book. The book is about a piglet who squashed the book. The book is about a piglet who squashed the book.

Write a question for the main character. Should you get a piglet?

What themes were in the book? (circle them)
Happiness, Friendship, Questions, Family, Everyday life, Sadness, Anger, Confidence, Bravery, Resilience, Worries, Tolerance, Respect.

Can you think of any others? Anger, Confidence

Would you recommend the book? Why?
Yes ☒ No ☐
Why? Because it is an interesting book.

Rating: ★★★★★

SuperCamps

A multi-activity day camp will be held at Homefield during the half term break from the 17th – 21st February. For more information please visit www.supercamps.co.uk or call 01235 467300.



Sports News

Under 8s Tag Rugby v Willington

The U8s enjoyed their second competitive tag rugby games of the season against Willington this week. All the boys in Year 3 played which was encouraging to see. The boys again demonstrated very good speed looking for the spaces and gaps to score tries. In all the games played Homefield scored an impressive 56 tries across four teams; a fine achievement by all the boys.

In the 'A' team match against Willington all of the boys in the team managed to go over the try line which was encouraging.

Many thanks to the Homefield boys who played for the opposition during the course of the games. This was because they have very few boys in the year group.

Many thanks to the staff for refereeing and the parents who watched and encouraged from the touch-line.

Results:

'A' Team v Willington Won 19-17
William (2), Nathan (2), Samuel (3), Olivier (6), Alexander H (3), Noah (2) and Harry (1)

'B' Team v Willington Draw 15-15
Ewan (1), Saaketh (1), Jaime (3), Sheldon (2), Luke (3), Arthava S (3), Calum (1), Masood (1)

'C' Team v Willington Won 15-11
Damon (4), Adam Q (1), Musa J (1), Lewis (2), Charlie (3), Felix (1), Matthew S (2) and Isaiah (1)

'D' Team v Willington Won 7-6
Owais I (1), Arvind (2), Zinedine (2), Arthav A (1) and Kayaan A (1)

The boys will have another game of tag rugby against Hawthorns and The Mall on Thursday 6th February at Sutton Cricket Club. Information can be viewed on Firefly.

Year 4 Rugby Fixtures

Year 4 began their rugby season with two exciting fixtures on the 16th and 23rd January. On the 16th every boy in the year group played as Ewell Castle and Reigate St. Mary's came to Sutton Cricket Club. Our 'A' team were dominant in the contact and proved too strong for Reigate St. Mary's 'A' team, winning 11-8 with tries from Tosin (3), Rayhaan (3), Oscar (2), Jake (2), and Malachi (1).

Our 'B' team played Ewell Castle's 'A' team and despite showing great determination, they lost 8-14 with tries scored by Aidan (1), Noah (1), Dhilan (3) and Vir (3). Our 'C/D' team narrowly lost by two tries to Reigate St. Mary's 'B' team. The eight Homefield tries were scored by Aaron (2), Raece (2), Denis (1), Tobi (1), Vedanth (1) and the 'Man of the Match', Wilfred (1). The 'C/D' team won by two tries against Ewell Castle's 'B' team - an excellent 9-7 win with tries scored by Alex (2), Magsud (2), Siddharth (1), Rahul (1), Nikshep (1), Minghao (1) and Kavin (1). Ewell Castle's 'C' team played out a thrilling 8-8 draw in a tag rugby match against the Homefield Year 4 tag rugby team. Adharsh (1), Jeyavel (1), Iliham (2), Michael (2) and Captain Henry (2) were the try scorers in a very enjoyable match.

On 23rd January, our 'C/D' team travelled to Kingswood House and played two fantastic games of running rugby. In one match, 14 tries from Raece, four by Captain Shaan and one by 'Man of the Match' Luke, meant the game ended in an incredible 19-19 draw. On the other pitch, 'Men of the Match' Tobi (4) and Vedanth (3), scored seven of the nine Homefield tries. The other two were scored by Aahan and Denis with the match ending in a 9-13 defeat for Homefield. Mr Matthews was particularly impressed with the boys' endeavour and bravery when running with the ball in these matches.

Meanwhile, three other Homefield teams were enjoying a competitive fixture at Reigate St. Mary's. Our C/D Team 2 ran out 15-8 winners after some positive running and improved passing. The tries were scored by Magsud (5), Alex (4), Kavin (3), Nikshep (2) and Rahul (1). Mr Pearce was pleased with the team's commitment to making hold tackles to try and slow down the opposition. Our 'A' and 'B' teams were mixed up and split in to two teams to play two quarters each against Reigate St. Mary's 'A' Team.

Unfortunately, Team 1 made some basic handling errors, knocking on six times to give possession away and as a result lost the first quarter 0-8. However, they showed great improvement when they came back on to play the third quarter, losing 2-4 with much improved ball retention and tackling.

Find Your Brave

Last week Homefield participated in 'Children's Mental Health Awareness Week' with a focus on 'Finding your Brave' through developing speaking and listening skills. Across the school there was a real buzz of excitement with boys participating in a number of activities thinking about emotions through stories, reflecting on working with new partners, developing skills to share, receiving constructive criticism and writing a speech for a climate talk.

Thank you to everyone who participated in our 'Make1Change' fundraiser for Place2Be, so far we have raised £190. Photos from the week and reflections from the boys will continue to be shared on our dedicated Twitter feed: https://twitter.com/wellbeing_hps



LRC News

In celebration of World Book Day, we will be holding 'Book Character Day' on the 5th March. On this day the boys came to school dressed as a book character and prizes will be awarded for the best costumes. Additionally, the boys will shortly be receiving a £1 book voucher which can be put towards a book from a local bookshop.





Team 2 played in the second and fourth quarters which finished as a 3-2 Homefield win and a 2-2 draw. Across all four quarters the tries were scored by Tosin (4), Jake (2) and George (1). Wilfred made one outstanding try saving tackle and other top tacklers were team Captains Malachi and Owen as well as George and Noah. A huge well done to our Year 4 rugby players for a super start to the season!

U10 Rugby

On Tuesday 21st January, the whole of Year 5 played in a fixture against Lanesborough. The 'A' team started brightly but fell behind as the opposition proved to be very well organised in attack. When Homefield went two tries down, Phillip and George stepped up a gear and after some good passing, George scored. Lanesborough were always ahead but two more tries from George and a try from Phillip put them under pressure. In the end, it was a very competitive loss, 4-6. The 'B' team also lost in an extremely close game. Alex G has now moved up to the 'A' team after scoring a remarkable seven tries. Other tries were scored by Elliot and Humzah but the opposition sneaked a 10-9 win. The 'C' team played well as a team but were defeated 11-5. Aarush scored three and Ethan and Hamdan also added to the scoreline. The 'D' team were victorious and won 9-5. Well done to Reece, Arnav, Parth and Sulaymaan.

U10 Rugby v Reigate St Mary's

On Wednesday 22nd January, the U10 'A', 'B' and 'C' teams played in their second competitive fixture of the week against Reigate St Mary's. The 'A' team were involved in an epic battle of defence. The tackles and rucking at the break down were immense from both teams so much so, in fact, it was nil-nil at half time! In the second half, Reigate broke the deadlock when a couple of rare miss tackles allowed them to score in the corner. Homefield proved that their Mental Health Week 'bravery' was paying off and put enormous pressure on the visiting team. Eventually, after superb work from George and Phillip, Luke raced free to score the equaliser. Despite the low score-line it really was a fantastic game of rugby.

Only two tries separated two well organised teams and the Homefield try scorers were Humzah, Saideep, Hari, Elliot and Shun.

Brilliant running from Elliot and improved rucking in the 2nd half, led to more ball retention which was evident throughout the game.

The 'C' team were victorious and won 10-9. Ethan O scored three fantastic tries and so did Aarush as their running with the ball was fast and furious. Rishan, Tejas and Jonas also scored and Hamdan completed the victory with a super try to win the game.

U11s Rugby v Willington

The 'A' team started sluggishly, conceding five first half tries. At half time, the boys felt they needed to react a little quicker and more aggressively in a variety of situations. The second half saw the boys put up a much better fight, with their defensive line pressing, scrapping at the ruck and attacking with greater support. Omasan scored a hat trick and Homefield restored a little pride as the game ended 7-3 to Willington.

The Homefield Barbarians team had a thrilling encounter with Willington 'C' Team. The boys trailed 5-4 at half time, but could not quite make up the deficit in the second half. Naman tackled well, Rishi B improved his running and Namish played so well he was moved up to the 'B' team in the second half! Jaiman scored four tries and Amaresh two, but the game ended by Willington holding on to win 8-7.

U 11 'B' Rugby v Willington

The U11 Bs enjoyed their second half performance after trailing by 3 tries to 0 in the first half. Dron started the good work after some fine running, scoring Homefield's first try early in the second half. Riccardo was increasing competitive and set up Dron's second try with an early pass to set him free to run through the Willington defence and score. Most of the play was now in the Willington half with Homefield applying good pressure. Namish was introduced from the 'C' team and improved the attacking part of the game, often breaking through the Willington rear guard. He was rewarded when he went over the try line in the corner of the pitch. The final whistle unfortunately was then blown to end the match with Homefield in control.

U11 'A' Team Rugby

Congratulations to the U11 'A' team who registered their first win this season. Cass led the play well from the scrum half. David, Omasan, and Oliver were constant threats with the ball in hand. Two of the matches against Chinthurst and Reigate St. Marys' were particularly exciting encounters. With a number of the team playing regular 'A' team rugby for the first time and with adjustments in the U11 rules, it was necessary to learn quickly. What was most pleasing about the victory against Reigate St. Marys' was the considerable reduction in needless penalties through lack of understanding. The work at the breakdown was also much sharper and led to a greater percentage of possession. This attacking ball led ultimately to more try scoring opportunities.

Chinthurst 6-7 (Lost)

Tries: Omasan (3), David (2), Oliver (1)

Lanesborough 8-4 (Lost)

Tries: Omasan (2), David (1), Oliver (1)

Reigate St. Marys' 5-3 (Win)

Tries: Omasan (3), David (2)

The challenge now in the later part of the season is to defend with more width and aggression, whilst becoming more fluent in attack with our handling. Upcoming fixtures remain against Willington, Hawthorns and Micklefield on respective Wednesdays this term.

U13 Rugby

On Monday 20th January, the 1st team travelled to The Mall. The game was very close and there was little to choose between the teams. Homefield started brightly with two early tries: Felix P and Tom H ran over two well worked scores with super work at the breakdown by Peter and Ben H. However, The Mall struck back when their number 10 launched a huge kick and the winger chased it down to score. The Mall levelled the score just before half time when Homefield were left exposed on the left side of midfield. Homefield were very unlucky not to score before the half time whistle. In the second half, Thomas G scored a super individual try blasting through the opposition defence, but once again The Mall struck back.

Sports News / continued ...

Kwame, Anuj, Sam and Tosan worked tirelessly but our opponents took the lead. Harry H then made a jinking run to score. Immediately, the host scored and were leading with just two minutes to go. Felix P scored the equaliser after a super link pass from Thomas G, Ollie and Hugo. The boys were well rewarded for their efforts, coming away with a 5-5 draw.

The 2nd team suffered a 5-10 loss to Cumnor House

They were 1-5 down at half time but a huge second half improvement saw the boys be brave to make more tackles, win more rucks and force more mistakes from the opposition.

Tries: Ilyas (1), Ashton (1), Vinicius (3)

Nicky, Sami and Barnaby made some excellent brave tackles. Yasir, Ashton and Ilyas were quick, agile and confident runners.

Well done to Vidwat who played for the 2nds after wanting to play contact on Friday.

The 3rd team played out an entertaining game with improved brave running as the game evolved. The boys improved both their passing and support play in the second half. However, it was the opposition fast wingers who proved to be the difference between the two teams.

Qasim (1), Oliver T (1), Rafael (2), Shaoor (2), Justin H (1), Jaineel (1) and Zohaib (3) were the try scorers but Homefield lost 16-11.

The 4th team also enjoyed a fun game and drew 12-12. All the boys who played scored a try and the improvement in passing was evident throughout. Well done, boys.

On Monday 27th January the U13 first and second rugby team travelled away to Willington in what was to become a real memory-maker match. The weather was appalling with strong winds, rain, mud and low temperatures. However, all four teams battled on regardless! The first team although unbeaten this year, were up against some very strong big runners and in the first two minutes Willington ran over two tries. However, the Homefield boys rallied and got back in the game with a try from Tom H as he ran from the half way line to score. The hosts then went up a gear and Homefield soon found themselves 5-1 down. At half time, the boys were encouraged to tackle lower, support their teammates and keep going. Kwame scored after the break and Ben H made a great run but was tackled three metres out. Harry H and Thomas G began to put in some huge tackles and Hugo and Tom H continued to work tirelessly. Willington scored their 8th try in the last minute but a wonderful effort by Anuj to track back and put in a last gasp tackle, showed amazing character and spirit.

The 2nd team were involved in a very close game and the mud did not deter either team from scoring freely. A super off-load by Archie, let Samuel S-P run over a well worked try and Ollie C scored two fine individual efforts. Vinicius used his strength at the break down and also scored twice. Samuel S-P scored his second try to make the game 6-6 with three minutes to go. However, Willington scored two quick tries in the last moments of the game running downhill with the wind behind them to win the game. With such appalling conditions, we are extremely proud of the boys who all played with excellent attitude and resilience.

Fantasy Football League

Games Week 23

League	Most Points	Team	Manager
Pupils, Parents & Staff	81	Liverpool Champions	David
Year 7 & 8	67	Justin's Judges	Justin
Year 6	81	Liverpool Champions	David
Year 5	76	Bonson Athletics	Zak
Year 4	67	Krish's Kings	Krish
Junior	75	The Pog Show	Nathan
Parents	66	Noice	Chris S
Staff	50	Played Cymru	Miss Smith
Alumni	68	No Spurs	Gabriel

Games Week 24

League	Most Points	Team	Manager
Pupils, Parents & Staff	101	Krish's Kings	Krish
Year 7 & 8	75	Out of this World!	Sam
Year 6	66	Keeping Our Manager!	James
Year 5	83	I Am Not GUNNER Win!	Tim
Year 4	101	Krish's Kings	Krish
Junior	86	Cal Attax	Calum
Parents	98	Noice	Chris S
Staff	78	Played Cymru	Miss Smith
Alumni	71	No Spurs	Gabriel



Tweet of the Week



Keep abreast with
Homefield news as it
happens...   

Homefield Art Gallery



Ben Year 8 – The Brexit Drama

SAVE THE DATE

150 YEARS

Homefield Prep is celebrating its **150th Anniversary** and we will conclude this glorious year with a 'Grand Ball' at Epsom Downs Racecourse on **Saturday, 27th June**.

Please put the date in your diaries. Information on tickets to follow soon...