

Headlines

Summer Term

3rd July 2020

Year 1 boys conduct a site visit of our new build project



Letter from the Headmaster

Dear Parent

My last scheduled Headlines of an interesting academic year. We made the best of it with your kind support. The on boarding of the rest of our year groups has been a real success. Happy boys! The guidance issued by the Department for Education this week allows all the boys back, all the time, and with full access to the curriculum and specialist teaching from September. We will have to step carefully with safety matters for a while yet. So, we have been thinking carefully on matters such as sport (where we will extend the cricket season) and how we manage big gatherings. We also expect to be running our minibus service and some after school cubs. I will return to you with any nuancing here.

In the meantime, I am sure events will continue to ebb and flow, along with press and social media coverage. We have confidence that the School will take whatever measured and robust steps are in order, as we have done so far. I will reach out to you all again the week before the Autumn Term starts to check in with you and give an update on any pertinent matters.

But for now, let's finish on good news.

Firstly, we can be proud that Homefield, for the first time, has been shortlisted for the Independent School of the Year Awards, with particular recognition of our work around student wellbeing.

Next term we will find out if we have the 'gold cup', but whatever the case, we will continue to build on this achievement as a core character of our School. There are some great resources on our website to help parents here: <https://www.homefield.sutton.sch.uk/school-life/wellbeing>

Also, on the website we have updated our destination senior schools for 2020. It's really the learning journey that's important here, not just the resulting destination and, of course, different schools suit different boys. But, for your interest, in 2019 we realised 11 grammar school offers and this year we've received 26. That represents a lot of hard work from our current Year 6 boys and staff. The Year 8 exam season was somewhat disrupted, but never the less a late special mention to both Keshav and Anuj for scooping 13+ Academic Scholarships at Hampton this week. A super achievement.

We have had to be flexible with Prize Day this summer, providing individual events for each year group. Attached to this letter, a list of all the subject prizewinners from Year 4 to Year 8. Heads of Year will also give special mentions on pastoral matters, good citizenship and good leadership. Well done to all.

We look forward to having a positive and celebratory week with all our boys, ensuring they break for the holiday with hope and enthusiasm. We will up the pace on our building works and I anticipate the handover of the new classroom wing in October. Once we have moved in, we will crack on with the next phase to replace the front of the School with the new dining and performance halls.

I know many of us will continue to feel pressure and uncertainty over the holidays due to the Covid-19 crisis, but I hope you can find some peace and family time amongst all this. My staff really need a break now and time with their own families so that they will be refreshed and on top form for the new term, so you can safely 'lean in' on us.

Summer Term finishes next Thursday (with the exception of the Year 8 Prize Day Assembly on Friday morning), and the boys are back on Wednesday 3rd September.

Thank you again for your support and take care.

John Towers
Headmaster

Pre Prep Department

This week, in Pre Prep, we have focussed on the 'Jungle/Rainforest' in Reception and 'Under the Sea' in Nursery.

Reception have enjoyed a virtual school trip to the Amazon Rainforest then made a collage of their own rainforest as a follow up activity. We were super-impressed with the finished pieces and the level of concentration from the boys. We have noticed how much the boys have matured and developed in their ability to concentrate since September. We have also been out to the field to draw the shadows created by their jungle animals and the boys built a den for their animals using natural materials.



Nursery boys have been looking at creatures that live under the sea and practising their counting skills. They have also been learning about the life cycle of a sea turtle, then consolidating their learning and practising their fine motor control with a cutting and sticking activity.

Well done boys, not long to go until the summer holiday so we will make the most of the last four days with you all.

Our Special Award goes to:

Kaan in Elephants for increased participation in classroom activities, including stories and songs.

Our Students of the Week are:

Hussain in Tigers for his continued resilience when working through our Maths problems this week.

Ralph in Monkeys for counting so well in 2s when adding up the total of 2p coins.

Junior Department

Year 1

It has been great to welcome all the Junior Department forms back to school and we have been delighted with the way that they have settled back so easily. Well done, boys!

As we approach the end of term, we will sadly be saying goodbye to Mrs Connaughton as she retires from her teaching career. She has taught in the Junior Department at Homefield for over 30 years and it's hard to imagine how many boys have been lucky enough to have been taught and guided by her. We have all really appreciated her huge commitment, hard work and caring nature towards all the boys. The boys and staff will miss her greatly and we wish her every happiness in her well-deserved retirement.

We received some lovely baby news recently – Congratulations to Owais and Sulaiman and their family on the safe arrival of baby Ibraheem!

There was great excitement in Year 1 on Tuesday as the boys went on a tour of the new building. The boys all showed great interest and loved seeing the spacious new classroom with the views of the field. We were very impressed by the questions that the boys asked. We think we have some budding future architects and construction engineers in Year 1!

'I felt very excited and happy. It was fun learning about the building. I liked looking around and learning about the parts of the new building.' - Arnav

'The building site was nice and the site manager and builders were kind. We wore safety helmets and hi-vis vests and had to walk over a drawbridge to get in!' - Easan



Year 2

Our Year 2 boys bounced into school on the 22nd June delighted to be back. They have settled into the new classroom routines and timetable. They are enjoying the three break-times but wish they were longer! They have been learning more about Electricity in Science lessons and had fun investigating simple circuits this week. The boys have been brushing up on their Maths and Literacy skills and enjoyed challenging each other's knowledge. 2H were pleased to meet Kota who will be joining them in Year 3 in September.

Homefield Heroes

1H Aran for working hard and putting a lot of effort in this week. Well done, Aran!

1S Yiru for excellent work in Mathematics. Well done, Yiru!

2H Aesan for participating in lessons amazingly and producing fantastic work in school this week.

2S Thomas and Max for coming up with fun suggestions for Enrichment sessions and other activities.

3H Yulin for his enormous enthusiasm and positive approach to everything. His ebullient personality is delightfully infectious.

3S Gbemi for exceptional progress with his reading.

Year 3

Making Fossils

In Year 3 we had a lot of fun getting our hands (and Mr Powell's classroom) messy by creating our own dinosaur fossils. We made them out of salt dough, which consisted of mixing together flour, water and salt. We shaped the dough into flat disks before pushing our dinosaurs into it to create the fossil shape. The fossils then went into the oven and we baked them so that they became hard.



Sport

Year 2 Virtual Sports Day - 2H v 2S!

Year 2 took part in a Virtual Sports Day in their live online lessons on the 25th June and 2nd July. The pupils participated in eight events in each lesson and were competing to score points for their class. 2H won five out of the first eight events so were winning 5-3 at the halfway stage but 2S staged a great comeback, winning 5-3 in the second lesson. Both classes therefore won eight out of the sixteen events, meaning it finished as an 8-8 draw! Well done to all Year 2 boys for their efforts for their class!



Oliver 2H – Sporting and art cross curricular activity

Year 2 Online PE Lessons

Year 2 have been working extremely hard in their online PE lessons this term. They have enjoyed a range of activities, from home workouts to isolated cricket and athletics skills!

Their efforts have been rewarded with Dojo points, also used in class throughout the year.

Well done to the following boys who earned the most Dojos during the online PE lessons in the summer term:

2H:

Oliver	26
Aurin	23
Oba	17
Benjamin	16

2S:

Max	24
Joshua	21
Jack	19
Baden, Daniel and Sabir	18
Yusuf	17

Year 6 Sports

The following boys are worthy of special mention this week for their amazing sporting achievements:

David M and Daniel T for extremely helpful and polite attitude throughout.

Daniel T for excellent javelin throws!

Omasan F for an exceptional 80-metre sprint time.

Siddhant B and Arjen F for improving their table tennis skills.

Ronak N for giving Carter H a brilliant 1:1 badminton coaching session which saw Carter make improvements to his game.

Senior Department

Virtual Sports Day

The Senior boys were set the task of completing seven athletic events with a twist this year. Due to sports day sadly being cancelled, the boys took part in activities at home including the 'Games Shirt Shot Put' (GSSP), five metre X 10 shuttle run, standing long jump, five books hurdles, 'T' Towel Javelin and the long distance walk/jog/run/cycle.



In the final event, the Senior boys had to select a current Olympic sport and adapt it themselves so that they could complete it at home using everyday items!

Mr Matthews was astounded at the invention and audacity of many of these events, which included downhill skiing using cardboard skis and challenging a pet dog to get the football off the competitor! Check out our sports Twitter feed to see some of the videos. Massive congratulations to all the boys who took part with such enthusiasm.

The results are as follows:-

House	Total
Ellis	1463
Walfords	1364
Grays	1199
Bomfords	1189

STEAM

Shun in Year 5 has been awarded a Headmaster's crest for his amazing bridge construction for STEAM.

About my bridge:

I got the idea of building a circular arch in the middle from an image created by computer graphics, which I found on the internet. I chose this idea because it was unique but also simple, unlike the helix bridge, which is also unique but extremely complex.

This bridge does not actually exist. I named it "Ring Bridge" after the arch in the middle, which looks like a ring. If this bridge were real, it would have been one section of a row of the same parts joined together. The scale is approximately 1:300.

This bridge consists of the following materials: foam boards, for the arch, parts of the road and the truss; cardboard for the base and most of the road; tissue paper for the sea and finally strings for holding the bridge up. I also used artificial grass leftover from when I made a model of Bodiam Castle to decorate the middle.



Wellbeing

Being shortlisted for the Student Wellbeing Award has been a fantastic opportunity to champion and share how we support mental health and emotional wellbeing here at Homefield. Our submission explained that the accelerated approach, which has been welcomed by all, has a positive impact on our boys' experiences whilst reducing stigmas often associated with this topic.

Alongside this being an opportunity to share our achievements and the strength of provision, specific interventions and the layered approach were described, such as 'My Space' and also our bespoke 'Wellbeing Wednesday' curriculum, which shows the innovative and creative approach we have.



There was a wealth of evidence of our work and much came from the voice of the pupils who not only shared positive outcomes through their viewpoints, but also from staff and parents alike. It is an exciting time for the growth of this provision especially as we end one academic year and begin to plan for the next.

Articles relating to our wellbeing initiatives can be found on our social media feed.

Special Mentions

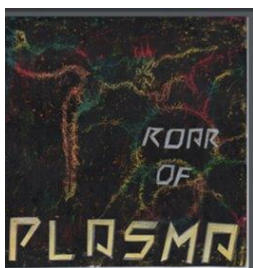
Year 5 Special Mentions

French

Luke, Parth, Leonardo, Andrew, Philip, Ansh, and Zak for producing good quality work for their Year 5 French speaking countries project and presenting their work to the rest of the class with such enthusiasm.

Art

Shun for showing super creativity for his album cover work in Art.



Computing

Andrew for producing an outstanding chess website.

Maths

Arnav, Ethan and Henry for fantastic diligence, tenacity and endeavor in their Maths lessons this week.

Year 6

To all of 6D for their humour and positivity in PSHE this week and. Faizaan for his positive attitude and efforts in his PSHE and transition sessions this week.

In Maths, boys have been working diligently and special mentions go to the following boys: Aaditya, Rishi, Alex and Nishad.

Parents' Association

The Homefield Association team would like to take this opportunity to say THANK YOU to Mr Fitzgerald for the active role that he has played in the Homefield Association for the last 4 years. Mr Fitzgerald has been a great sport and has got thoroughly stuck in to every role given to him, from selling Pimms in the sunshine at the Summer Fun Day to manning the gate in the rain on Fireworks Night! He has barely missed an event, has always been the last to leave and has enjoyed many a HA meeting. Thank you very much from us all!



Our jolly Christmas Elf – Mr Fitzgerald



Help needed!

Over the last few years, the Homefield Parents' Association has raised a fantastic amount of money to fund a huge array of items to benefit all of our boys.

With several of the team nearing the end of their time at Homefield, we need others to get involved. If you are able to help organise our events, please do get in touch by emailing homefieldassociation@hotmail.co.uk.

Learning Resources Centre

Return of library books

There are still a number of library books that still need to be returned. Boys can bring them into the hall in the morning and leave them with Mrs Edwards. Additionally there is also a collection box in the Front Office. If books are not returned before the end of term you may incur a charge for replacing the books your son has on loan. Many thanks to all those who have returned their books, ensuring that our library is well-stocked with a wide variety of reading material.



PLEASE
RETURN
YOUR
LIBRARY
BOOKS!

Music

Sadly, we have had no Homefield concerts since Christmas; however, some of the boys have been busy recording their parts for some pieces and singing some songs. Watch out for a ParentMail at the end of term (or just after) when I will be posting a link to a brief online Summer Concert!

Good luck to all the boys moving onto new schools, I'm sorry I wasn't able to be around to say goodbye!

Mr Meyers

Instrumental Lessons from September

Unless government guidelines change, instrumental lessons will return to School in September with lessons taking place in the Rock Room, Rainbow Room and Mrs Walker's Room to allow for appropriate distancing. Next week, I will send out a demonstration video of the different instruments available to boys at Homefield and application forms for pupils wishing to start new instruments. (Lessons will automatically continue for those boys already taking lessons unless you have given notice to stop before last half-term.)

Tweet of the Week



Homefield Prep School @HomefieldSchool · Jun 26

We are so excited to have been shortlisted in the 'Student Wellbeing' category for the 'Independent Schools of the Year 2020' awards! [@isotyawards](#)



School Uniform APPOINTMENTS NOW LIVE!

Branches welcome walk-ins from August 17th

We are pleased to announce that due to the updated Government Guidelines on social distancing, we are now able to re-open our branches from **Monday 17th August** for our walk-in customers. However, in order to keep both our staff and customers safe we will have made some changes to the way our branches will operate.

What to expect

To aid with social distancing we will be limiting the number of customers entering our stores at any one time. This will unfortunately mean queuing during busy times. We have also introduced sanitising stations for all customers to use on entry and for our staff to use in between customers. Walk-in's are recommended for those customers wishing to buy 2 or 3 top up items, those who need to return or exchange items or customers wishing to collect items previously ordered.

Appointments

Appointments are recommended for all new starters or those wishing to purchase full uniforms. We previously communicated your Schools' recommended appointment window, for new starters to book a fitting, we are pleased to now be able to open up this window to all pupils, both new and existing. Please visit our website to book an appointment.

Online

Our website continues to operate as normal, although extended delivery times have been advised by our external delivery companies. We recommend placing your order before **July 17th** for a pre back to school delivery

Unrivalled 120 day returns policy

Our industry-leading 120 day returns policy means you can purchase now with confidence, even if your child has a sudden growth spurt before the start of school.

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news as it happens...



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