

# Headlines

Spring Term  
3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023

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

ISI inspection report December 2021

## Letter from the Headmaster

### Dear Parents

When we rebuilt the School, we had a real intent on siting the mezzanine library at the very heart of the building. It speaks of our deep commitment to literature and our desire to ignite a passion for reading in all of our boys. So, thank you for celebrating ‘Book Week’ with us and especially your support with the fantastic dress up event. The costumes were just beautiful, and I imagine this was due to much help, tape, glue and paint at your kitchen tables. This treat has become quite the standout on our calendar, with your kind help! The focus of the week is fun, but the work behind it is serious. There is such a strong volume of quantitative research that directly links good reading habits with academic attainment. More so, we know that reading for pleasure also increases critical thinking skills and can support social development. My thanks go to the Parents’ Association for organising a Readathon during the Easter holidays; further details can be found on page 5.

In an age of the puerile seductions of smart phones, social media and gaming it can be a real battle to engage young boys with books at home.

A stealthy approach can help...for example, DC and Marvel comics at the start, audio tapes of stories in the car, leading to graphic novels, then chapter books and before you know it, they are devouring trilogies. Little and often works well too. My personal rule, as a dad, was to always purchase my kids a volume happily from a bookshop, without hesitation... as long as they promised to read them cover to cover! Waterstones made a lot of money out of me.

On being bookish, our Year 8 worked hard on their mocks for Common Entrance and Scholarship this week. I celebrate their efforts, but I mention this to also remind parents we take CE as a curriculum and as a low stakes ‘leavers certificate’. Our Year 8’s will either already have a senior school in hand, via a ‘pre-test’ place, or sit a direct and simple 13+ for the likes of Whitgift, Trinity, et al. Common Entrance largely stopped being used by London senior schools as an exam entrance many years ago. However, we believe in the ambition and depth of the curriculum so have made it our own over the years. It keeps the boys ‘on point’ right until the end of Year 8.

There is more to life than books of course, and we saw that on the sports pitch this week. Thanks to all the parents who braved a very chill wind to celebrate our first ever home hockey fixtures on the new MUGA pitch. This was also the first time the School has successfully included Year 3 boys in competitive hockey fixtures, a super opportunity for the boys and they got so much out of it.

Finally, please do see the parent survey attached on holiday clubs at Homefield. We would like to test your appetite, as Orchard Childcare are keen to do more for us, if there is a demand. Please use the link: <https://rb.gy/6kjc66> to let us know your thoughts.

Kind regards and enjoy the weekend,

**John Towers**  
Headmaster

## Lower School: Reception, Years 1 and 2

### Reception

In Reception, we have started our new topic of 'Big, Wide World' by reading *Handa's Surprise*. We really enjoyed the twist at the end of the story when Handa arrives with different fruit to those she set off with. We have diligently worked on retelling the story in order and are starting to write sentences to match. The boys are working hard on using finger spaces and some can use capital letters and full stops. We had the opportunity to try unusual fruits such as passion fruit; some brave boys had a taste and were surprised that something so gooeey could taste so refreshing! In Maths, we have been learning about subtraction; we understand that when we take away our new total is smaller. To illustrate this, we were like the animals in the story and took fruit out of a basket!



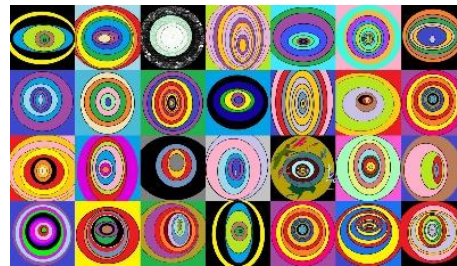
### Years 1 and 2

In Year 1, we have started our new text, *'Millie's Marvellous Hat'* by Satoshi Kitamura. Our focus has been on comprehending the text with a particular focus on the meaning of new vocabulary. Connor in 1H said, *"This story is about a magic hat. Millie can imagine anything and then her hat will turn into it. I would have a hat with a dog with lots of feathers, the feathers would tickle me!"*

## The Big Walk and Wheel

Homefield are taking part in Sustrans 'Big Walk and Wheel 2023', the UK's largest inter-school cycling, walking, wheeling, and scooting challenge. The challenge runs from the 20<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> March and we will only be involved for the first few days due to our Easter break. Participation is free and we would love everyone to be involved.

In Maths, we have started a topic on measurement with learning how to measure height and length using standard units of measure. We have also begun our new Geography topic of continents and oceans. In History, we are continuing our topic of significant male figures by learning about Winston Churchill and his impact on British History. In Art, we have studied Kandinsky's circles painting and started to create our own interpretation of this piece.



In Year 2, we are working hard to prepare our assembly of *'The Not so Creepy Crawlies'* on 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 8:40am. In Maths, we have started a topic on measurement by learning how to measure height and length using standard units of measure and learnt how to convert some units. Our English unit of work is looking at the features of a non-chronological report and then researching our own information to work towards writing our own contribution. In Science, we took part in an experiment to test the elasticity of different fabrics. This half term, we are continuing with our topic on the Victorians and Year 2 have been shocked at some of the challenges the Victorians faced. Ryan in 2S explained, *"For a bath they had to light a fire under the bathtub to make the water hot, but some people got burnt because they didn't turn the fire off! I wouldn't want to live in the Victorian times because I wouldn't want to have that bath!"*

### What do you need to do?

Encourage your child(ren) to walk, scoot or cycle to school on as many days as possible during the event.

### Why we are taking part

Sustrans 'Big Walk and Wheel' is a great way to build physical activity into children's daily routine: important for their physical health and mental wellbeing.

## Homefield Heroes

RH: **Arjun** for brilliant work on subtraction - we're so impressed with your mental calculations and **Bertie** for fantastic progress and perseverance in his reading.

RS: **Clement** for excellent progress in phonics and **Tian** for amazing progress in blending in our phonics lessons.

1H: **Shivvy** for working extremely hard in all subjects and staying focused and **Charlie** for phenomenal concentration and effort when measuring differing heights and lengths in Maths.

1S: **Iniyam** for working so hard in English this week and **Jacob** for his excellent work in Maths this week.

2H: **Kiran** and **Aarya** for brilliant effort with their tennis skills and **Elijah** for working well in a team and trying very hard with his work this week.

2S: **Jaiden** for astounding effort in multiplication and division and **Rohan** for excellent work in Geography.



Active school runs also help to reduce congestion and air pollution outside the school gate. [A 2021 YouGov study](#) showed nearly half of UK children worry about air pollution near their school and that children thought active travel was the best away to bring down these pollution levels; plus there are some great prizes to be won every day if we get enough pupils taking part!

## Pastoral

### Homefield Heroes

#### Years 3 and 4

Last week, the Year 3 and 4 focus was to be positive role models, showing good manners, excellent focus, and determination.

The following boys were awarded a Head of Year commendation in the form of a Homefield Hero award: Oliver (3H), Sacha (3P), Axel (3S), Karsten (4H), Yusuf (4P), Raveesh (4S).

Prior to the half term break there were more special mentions about individual achievements elevating the following boys to Homefield Heroes:

Isaac (3H) for being caring and kind towards his friends, Aun (3P) for his fantastic efforts in Maths and Yuvi (3S) for his superb contributions to English lessons, particularly during the poetry unit.

In Year 4, Nathan (4H) for his lovely presentation in his History book, Daniel (4P) for his focus and determination to complete tasks in History and Easan (4S) for completing homework to a high standard across all subjects.

#### Years 5 and 6

Well done to the following boys for an excellent first half term of 2023:

5H Harry and Mustafa  
5P Jerry and Reilly  
5S Ezel and Oliver  
6H Amran and Rohan  
6P Jamie  
6S Gareth

For superb effort in computing lessons recently:  
6P Raghav

For being a positive role model to others:

5H Kamran  
5P Ryan  
6H Arthur  
6P Kane  
6S Owais

#### Years 7 and 8

Well done to the following boys who are all Homefield Heroes:

Denis in Year 7 and Alex L in Year 8 for their consistent hard work and for their manners and politeness towards peers and staff plus Petro in Year 7 for his outstanding effort and conduct during the hockey fixture. Sivan in Year 8 for his effort and progress in English and his particularly focused attitude with the mock exams this week.

### Gifted and Talented

This week in all things G&T, the boys have been given an exciting opportunity to design a bench for the King's Coronation. Miss Randall has posted an informative PowerPoint about this on our G&T Teams tile, so please do take a look this weekend at what is relevant for each year group, as entries are due in on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March!

Please make sure when designing your part of the bench that you are including values and symbols that represent the new era of having King Charles III as our monarch. These symbols could represent our modern era in any way, whether that be new technologies, advancements in sustainable practices or social/political changes and new ideas. Good luck!



### Music

Homefield Prep will, once again, be hosting BRSM and Trinity graded examinations and would like to extend this opportunity to our boys who take instrumental music lessons outside of the school and would like to take their ABRSM or Trinity graded exams on-site on the 24<sup>th</sup> May for Trinity and during June/July for ABRSM.

Please contact our Head of Music, Mrs Griffith via email on [ygriffith@homefieldprep.school](mailto:ygriffith@homefieldprep.school) **NO LATER THAN Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March.**



## Holiday Club



Over the February half term, Orchard Childcare ran a very successful Holiday Club. The children enjoyed a week of fun activities and trips!

Please click on this link to complete a short survey (2 minutes) to let us know if you would be interested in your children attending a Holiday Club over the Easter break:

<https://rb.gy/6kjce6>

Thank you for your time!

## Sport

### U8 Hockey

On Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February, the Year 3 pupils made history by playing the very first Homefield Year 3 hockey fixture against Reigate St Mary's and all four teams played with great energy and enthusiasm.

The Red team were drawing the game 1-1 after a super goal from Raymin but in the last moments Reigate scored the winner. The Yellow team battled out an impressive 3-3 draw with some wonderful goals from Kenzo, James and Yahya. The Blue team lost 1-5 but the goal of the match was scored by Ethan after a fantastic through ball by Jai. The Green team worked really hard but lost narrowly: a goal from Oliver after Yug made a good pass. Well done to all the boys who played.

### Year 4 Rugby Fixture

On Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February, Year 4 played in their final rugby fixture of the season, away at Chinthurst School. Our 'A' team battled hard but couldn't replicate their superb performance from the week before. Despite Elijah's three tries, the team lost 8-3.

Our 'B' team enjoyed a 12-4 victory, with the whole team being very eager to take possession of the ball. Veer and Dakarayi made some strong tackles, and Anish was a confident ball carrier. Tries were scored by Michael, Aaron, Austin (2), Ethan H (3) and Haran (5). Well done to Year 4 for their great effort in the rugby season!



Victorious 'B' team at Chinthurst School

### Under 11 Hockey v Reigate St Mary's

In the 'A' team's first fixture of the season, Homefield took an early 2-0 lead into the first quarter with goals from Lachlan and Finn. We went into the second quarter with great intelligence and some brilliant passing from Arthur and Olivier that took Homefield into halftime leading 4-0.

In the second half, two early goals from Reigate got them back into the game, but brilliant defensive play from Matthew led to a break to give Lachlan his second goal. With a few minutes remaining in the final quarter, Finn embarked on a fantastic run down the right wing to pull the score back and assist Lachlan with his hat trick. Congratulations to all the boys who took part in the fixture. Goalscoring: Lachlan (3), Finn (2), Noah (1), Samuel (1).

The 'B' team played a thrilling match against their Reigate St. Mary's counterparts. Homefield went 2-0 down but then led 4-2 at half time. Both teams improved their attacking play in the second half and ten more goals followed. It was RSM who managed to get in front and then hold on to their two-goal lead, winning 9-7 at the final whistle. Homefield's goals were scored by Seyon (5) and Gbemi (2). Kane and Zani brought energy to our play, Aadit showed some excellent control when moving the ball forwards, and Ben and Aden were solid in defence.

*"The recent fixture for the 'A' team against Reigate St Mary's was a thrilling game. There was some brilliant defending from the whole team but especially from Matthew and Finn who showed some excellent skills in the centre. Scoring goals were Lachlan with a hat trick, Finn with 2 and Noah and Sam both with 1 goal each. Apart from terrific goals outfield there were also some great saves from our amazing goalkeepers, Charlie and Nathan. The game ended in victory for Homefield with a final score of 7-3."*

Arthur, Year 6

### U13 Hockey Fixture

On Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February, our U13 teams played a competitive hockey fixture at Kingswood House. Up against strong opposition, Homefield had to dig in.

Our 'A' team were 5-1 down at half time, but an excellent comeback in the second half took Homefield to within two goals at the final whistle, with the score finishing 8-6 to Kingswood House. Homefield's goals were scored by Kavin, Matty, Arthur, Darwin, and Finn (2).

Our 'B' team couldn't quite find the goal their perseverance deserved, as Kingswood House won 4-0. Goalkeepers Ansh and Boris made some good clearances, and Petro put in a Man of the Match performance. Homefield can now prepare for the return leg on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March.



U13 A team



U13 B team

## Book Week

As usual, during Book Week, our boys have engaged with a broad range of activities from author workshops, competitions and reading for pleasure. It has been great to see such an array of book character costumes in the celebration assembly. You have outdone yourselves again this year!

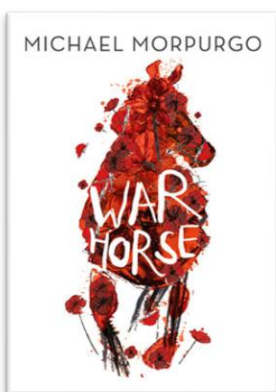
Thanks to all the Year 6 librarians for their reading skills and help with the Book Fair. So far, we have raised £895.12 from the sale of books giving us £477.07 to spend on books for our own library.

Thank you too for your generosity in donations for St Raphael's Hospice. A total of £165.00 has been raised this year.

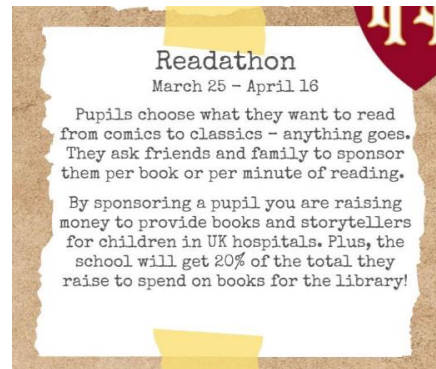
Many thanks to all the boys for their wonderful costumes who earned House points; the winning House was... **Bomfords!**

Keep reading boys!

On Thursday, boys in Years 3 – 6 took part in a LIVE virtual event with world-renowned author and former Children's Laureate, Michael Morpurgo. In this Q&A session, Michael talked about his inspiration for 'War Horse' as well as reading an extract from the book.



Many thanks to the Parents' Association for organising the Readathon taking place over the Easter break. Sponsorship cards and bookmarks (stickers for Reception) have already been distributed – time to start gathering sponsors!



## Some Book Day Memories!

See our social media feeds for more magic moments!



## Tweet of the Week



Homefield Prep School @HomefieldSchool · 20h  
Book Week has got off to a flying start at Homefield Prep!  
#bookweek #fancydress #books #bookaddict #dressup  
#bookweekcostume #booklover #childrensbooks #eric #bookworm  
#worldbookday



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Keep abreast with Homefield news as it happens ...



## Homefield Art Gallery

Harris, Year 4 Monotone Flower

