

Headlines

Autumn Term
4th December 2020

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

ISI inspection report



Letter from the Headmaster

Dear Parents,

My last newsletter of the calendar year and I really don't want to 'jinx' it: however I can't help but comment as we are one of the few schools left standing... we have not had to close completely or even close a year group (as I write). With your kind help and my staff, we have worked hard to enable all that. Thank you.

Not only are we managing the challenges posed by the Covid crisis but we are moving forward with our ambitious strategic plans, as well as managing the School rebuild with great efficiency. Our business is learning, that's it really, albeit with bells and whistles.

Our most recent externally validated and standardised test results (November) report very high standards and progress, despite the significant challenges of this year. This speaks of a resilient school delivering on good learning, with strong teaching driving this.

I think it is worth having a quick look at this. Put your reading glasses on for the great news. **For those just wanting the headline: we punch well above national standards across the board.**

I can't think of a better Christmas present to give you as parents, other than the safety and happiness of your boys ... Oh and far more festive than a dull chart containing attainment data, is our recorded Christmas Concert that we will share with you next week. Joyous!

Enjoy your holidays.

John Towers
Headmaster

Progress Tests in English

	V Below (%)	Below (%)	Avg (%)	Above (%)	V High (%)
	<74	74 - 88	89 - 111	112 - 126	>126
Nat. Stand.	4	19	54	19	4
Year 3	3*	17	47	27	7
Year 4	2*	0	23	43	32
Year 5	0	2*	34	34	30
Year 6	0	0	13	47	40
Year 7	4*	8*	33	46	8
Year 8	4*	0	25	50	21

* = 1 pupil

Progress Tests in Maths

	V Below (%)	Below (%)	Avg (%)	Above (%)	V High (%)
	<74	74 - 88	89 - 111	112 - 126	>126
Nat. Stand.	4	19	54	19	4
Year 3	7**	14	28	28	24
Year 4	2*	0	27	53	18
Year 5	0	4*	17	31	48
Year 6	0	0	23	23	53
Year 7	0	4*	30	43	22
Year 8	0	4	27	42	27

* = 1 pupil ** = 2 pupils

Pre-Prep Department

As I sit here writing the final edition of Pre Prep's Headline entry for 2020, I look back at the year we have had and what a year it has been! Yet throughout, the boys have been little bundles of happiness and joy. I think all the staff will agree with me when I say, that you almost forget about what is going on when you are busy in school with the boys. They have showed amazing resilience since starting Reception in September and have been so sensible with the many new rules that have been put in place. They have been sponges for learning and we are seeing some fantastic progress.

Can I also send a big thank you to our parents for being so understanding with the new rules, learning how to use Microsoft Teams, supporting your sons with eBooks/phonics and supplying them with great costumes for the Nativity play.

The boys have worked incredibly hard in the run up to the Christmas holidays in everything they have done, especially when it has come to our Nativity 'Christmas with the Aliens'.

The teachers are so proud of them all for being able to learn their lines, have confidence to speak and act in front of their peers, teachers and a video camera, learn and sing all those songs and remember all the actions that go with them. Not bad for 4-5 year olds! I think we are in for an Oscar! We hope you enjoy watching it with your sons and make sure you get some popcorn or alternative snacks in ready for the big screening!

As we approach the last 4 days of term we will still be busy with lots of curriculum related Christmas activities and fun and games. The boys are definitely in need of a lovely break to recharge their batteries. Just a reminder that the last day of term is Thursday 10th, there will be no school on Friday 11th December. Boys please remember to wear your Christmas jumpers and festive socks on the last day of school!



Junior Department

1S won our Junior Department guide dog competition last week. The boys were thrilled to have Superstars and the cuddly puppies visiting for the week! The toy puppies have been receiving lots of attention! Many thanks to you all for your continued generosity to our guide dog collections every Friday. We are now over half way to our target of £1000, which will mean that another little puppy can begin its training to become a guide dog.

The boys have all been working really hard practising their lines and songs for our virtual Christmas concert. We are sure that you will enjoy watching it and seeing the boys in action. Many thanks to Mrs Walker for her hard work with the Year 1 boys.

In the classrooms in History, we have been looking at Christmas in the past and the boys were fascinated by some of the old traditions. The boys were very interested to find out the ingredients that go into a Christmas pudding and that sometimes you might be lucky enough to find a coin hiding inside!

In Art, we have been getting festive and preparing Christmas treats! The boys have certainly enjoyed all the different creative activities.

In Year 2, they have had an exciting week with lots of hands on activities. In Geography, the boys have learnt about the effects of deforestation and designed their own terrific "Save the Rainforest" T-shirts. Continuing with their topic of forces in Science, the boys were thrilled to take part in an experiment recording the air resistance of different sized parachutes. There are some true Galileos in the making!



Students of the Week

Mikael in Tigers for his contributions to class discussions.
Ryan in Tigers for settling in to school so well and having a great first half term in Homefield.
Xander in Monkeys for having a positive attitude when in class.
Jaiden in Monkeys for progression in reading.

Pre-Prep Students of the Week



Junior Homefield Heroes

1H Anirudh for always having a positive attitude to everything in school. Well done, Anirudh!
1H Arjun for his thoughtful contributions in class discussions. Well done!
1S Finnlay for being a sensible and reliable member of 1S. Well done, Finnlay!
1S Theo for his excellent effort with everything and his lovely reading. Well done, Theo!
1S Henry for working really hard and having a great week. Well done, Henry!
1S Isaac for being a kind and considerate member of 1S. Well done, Isaac!
2H Ashton for superb improvement with his reading fluency and expression.
2H Daniel for always being a great role model and having lovely manners.
2S Zayn for excellent manners and always being helpful.
2S Ethan for excellent effort in his comprehension task and working hard to stay focused.
2S Raveesh for an excellent fact file on Captain James Cook and making super contributions in class.

Junior Department / continued

Save the Rainforest' t-shirts designed by boys in Year 2



Faiz 2H



Ethan 2S

English and Drama News

English – Lady Macbeth

Year 6 are studying Macbeth and have been exploring the character of Lady Macbeth. They were asked to write and perform a piece where Lady Macbeth explains who she is and compares herself to her husband.

Jimmy, an English as an Additional Language student who arrived in February, wrote the following:

"I am Lady Macbeth. I am the wife of Macbeth, who is Thane of Cawdor. 'Macbeth loves me and I love him too. He is brave but is sometimes filled with human kindness. I, on the other hand, am evil from head to toe and murderous.

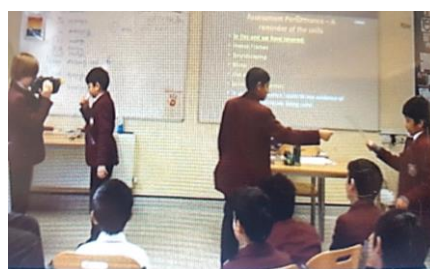
'Come to my woman's chest and turn my mother's milk into poisonous acid. Let not heaven peep through the blanket of the dark and cry, 'Stop, Stop!'

'I don't want to be a soft, nurturing mother protecting her helpless children. In opposite I want to be aggressive. I want the darkness and the smoke of hell. I hate to feel guilt and sorrow. Wah haha haha!'

Drama – 5th Form Project

5S have been involved in a special project, which explores the impact of drama on creative writing. Miss G has been running drama workshops as part of their English lessons. The boys have developed a range of performance skills, including improvisation, mime and soundscaping.

They have worked hard to improve their acting skills, with specialist workshops focusing on use of voice, body language and facial expressions to tell a story clearly and convincingly to an audience. The boys have even written, rehearsed and performed their own scenes in groups. Their commitment and enthusiasm to the project has been exemplary... next stop Hollywood!



Boys' News

Final day:

This will be on Thursday 10th December. It would be great to see the boys in non-school uniform and most importantly, wearing a Christmas jumper and festive socks! If the boys could also bring in a £1 for our seasonal charity, that would be much appreciated.
<https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/christmas-jumper-day>



Music

Christmas Performances

Christmas concerts for Year 2, Year 3 and Years 4 – 8 will be available to view next Wednesday evening – the date of the intended live concert!

A link will be posted on Teams so that you can stream the Video from the Vimeo website. The performance will be posted as a private video, only able to be viewed by people with the private link. Feel free to share the link with family members but please **do not post it on social media**. Merry Christmas.



Parents' Association

There is just one more weekend left to buy tickets for the great Homefield Christmas Raffle. Ticket purchases are online this year, and all prizes will take the form of electronic Amazon vouchers, so we could not be more Covid compliant if we tried!

Please do support your school and consider buying some tickets. The deadline is noon on Wednesday 9th December, when the draw itself will take place, and all winners will then be notified by email.

To enter please go to:

<http://www.jumblebee.co.uk/HomefieldAssociationChristmasDraw>

1st Prize:	£100 Amazon voucher
2nd Prize:	£75 Amazon voucher
3rd Prize:	£50 Amazon voucher
4th Prizes:	4 x £25 Amazon vouchers

Good luck!

Pastoral

Senior Department Homefield Heroes

Years 3 and 4

Well done to the following boys who have all shown wonderful independent learning:

3H Spandan and Reilly
3S Baden and Thomas
4H Ethan and Matthew
4P Jaysen and Felix
4S Rohan and Krish

Years 5 and 6

For being kind and considerate to others:

5H Yusuf and Lucas
5P Rayhaan and Aidan
5S Vir and Shaan

For demonstrating good citizenship and teamwork:

5H Tobi and Wilfred
5P Sid and Zayn
5S Tosin and Oscar

For being thoughtful and respectful to staff and peers:

6H Elliot and Leo
6S Tim and Reece

For always being polite and well mannered:

6H Aarush and Parth
6S Shun and Luke

Years 7 and 8

7MMC:

Hansol for superb effort, enthusiasm and manners in Science lessons.
Zain, Cass and Robert for working very hard in French lessons this term.

7LC:

Oliver B, Arjen and Siddhant for superb effort, enthusiasm and manners in Science lessons.
Siddhant, Jake and Zain for working very hard in French lessons this term.

8MM:

Sam S for superb sportsmanship and team play during House Football.
Sam T, Samuel B for excellent effort, attitude and participation in TPR lessons with Mrs Burgess.
Tom for honest, thoughtful contributions in Mrs Mach's CEOP E-Safety lesson.

8KWL:

Lorcan, Henry and Archie for honest, thoughtful contributions in Mrs Mach's CEOP E-Safety lesson.
Ilyas for excellent focus and effort in the Year 8 Mock Exam week. He impressed Mrs Edwards and other staff by approaching the week with great positivity and determination.
Tosan for working extremely hard in TPR lessons with Mrs Burgess.

Art Competition Success

Stationery company Stabilo and current affairs magazine 'The Week, Junior' held an art competition recently, which asked children to create a piece of artwork for their new 2021 calendar. The theme for the calendar was to celebrate the world's most endangered animals.

Amir (Year 8) decided to paint a sea turtle for his piece. He wanted to highlight Sir David Attenborough's message about how the natural world is changing and what people can do to help the environment and the animals that are becoming endangered.

Entering the 11-14 category, Amir faced fierce competition from children all around the country. However, Amir's work was chosen by a panel of judges and will now be included in the upcoming calendar. Amir has been asked by 'The Week, Junior' to share his thoughts about what it means for him to win and how he feels about his work being chosen, which will be published in the magazine. Amir also received over £100 of Stabilo art stationery as a prize, which he plans on using to create more artwork!

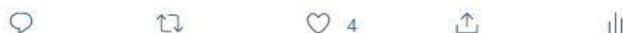


Tweet of the Week



Homefield Prep School @HomefieldSchool · Nov 26

#Year1 boys were very excited to have their first lesson with Mrs Mach today in our brand new #Computing Suite #PreparedForTheFuture #150Years



CHRISTMAS AND 2021 OPENING UPDATE

Like all retail businesses, we have faced an extremely challenging 2020 and as such have reviewed our opening hours with a view to making a change for the upcoming seasonal break and into 2021. Our store and warehouse teams have worked tirelessly over the summer and autumn, in very difficult circumstances, with many unable to take their scheduled holidays. This we need to rectify.

We are approaching the quietest time of the year for our business due to the seasonality of our trade and as such have made the decision to have an extended shut down over the holiday period. We have also taken the opportunity to assess the trading pattern of our business into the new year and will be closing our stores each week on a Wednesday for the early part of 2021.

EARLY CHRISTMAS STORE SHUTDOWN

Due to the very limited shopping in our stores, in both the approach to Christmas and over the new year period, all our stores will be closed between:

MONDAY 14th DECEMBER 2020 - FRIDAY 1st JANUARY 2021.
We will re-open on **SATURDAY 2nd JANUARY 2021.**

During this extended break customers will still be able to shop online, and orders will still be processed by our warehouse team. Delivery times may be affected by the expected general increased use of both the postal and courier services.

Our 120 day returns policy remains in place for the majority of items we sell, so you if your child has a growth spurt over the Christmas break you can exchange items easily later on.

A MORE EFFICIENT WORKING WEEK

Having analysed our staffing numbers during non-peak periods, we know that we generally have limited members of the team on the sales floor within our current 6 day a week opening. The need to schedule each member of staff's day off on low staffing numbers in each shop means there are less of our team around to serve customers, every day.

So, from **MONDAY 4th JANUARY** we will close all our English stores on Wednesday every week. This will enable all staff to have the same day off, resulting in better all-round service on the remaining 5 days we will trade in each location. We will return to 6 days trading in the months June - September 2021.

ENSURING STABILITY

We believe that in these continued difficult times, these are small changes that will provide increased stability and still deliver the high level of customer service that our history and reputation demands.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

E: customerservices@stevensons.co.uk

T: (0) 1727 815700 (9.00am - 5.30pm Mon - Sat. For Bank Holiday opening times, check our website)

W: www.stevensons.co.uk

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