

Headlines

Summer Term

5th June 2020

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

ISI inspection report



Letter from the Headmaster

Dear Parents,

It's good for the band to play on, especially when times are challenging. The boys have stepped up here and in recent music grade exams we realised 15 Passes with distinction, 18 Passes with Merit, 5 Passes and no Fails. These were excellent results in line with the usual high standard that the boys achieve at Homefield.

After some hard peddling over the ½ term break we opened our doors to several classes of boys returning. It was a delight to see them so very happy to be with their friends and teachers again, catching up, playing together and cracking on with learning. Likewise, many of our parents were all smiles to be able to get on with their own work and wider life.

It's been a hard couple of weeks to deliver on this 'mixed economy', providing safe access to School whilst offering other year groups on-line learning. Never-the-less we have made the very best of it. The parents of returning classes have been extraordinarily diligent in supporting our rigorous safety procedures and organisation. Thank you very much for making life easier for us with all that.

Please do remember to send your boys in with the basics only, uniform and a packed lunch (unless they have ordered one from us – on Wednesday CH&Co provided a homemade chicken noodle dish or sushi... more than just a sandwich).

Below are our staggered start times for next week, for extra safety. Our thermal screening system is working really well and the boys are being remarkably sensible and helpful.

Timings & entrances for next week:

Key workers: 8.30am – 4.10pm (Hall)

Year 6 A & B: 8.40am – 3.45pm (Hall)

Year 6 C & D: 8.50am – 4.00pm (Hall)

Year 1: 9.00am – 3.30pm

1H (Hall) & 1S (Pre Prep)

Reception: 9.15am – 3.15pm (Pre Prep)

Nursery: 9.30am – 3.00pm (Pre Prep)

In the meantime, our wellbeing focus to start the ½ term off for our on-line learners has helped them rationalise these current changed and challenging times well. We are going to be following this up soon with a short two day digital detox, where our Form Tutors will lead on some projects away from screens. We will share details shortly.

As well as the work with the boys we have put some really good parent resources on helping transition back to school after so many weeks staying in the home on the 'Wellbeing' page of our website. Please see page 4 for more details.

For our troopers in Year 8 taking exams this week, I would like to pass on a message from Durrell Barnes, Chairman of the Independent Schools Examination Board:

We are very pleased that CE has been able to provide a focal point for studies for the great majority of those who had been entered.

Thanks are due to all the staff in schools who have worked hard to ensure the circulation, electronically and otherwise, of papers and who will undertake marking alongside the other demands they are dealing with. We wish all those taking the exams proverbial 'good luck'.

Enjoy your weekend.

John Towers
Headmaster



Pre Prep

Welcome back to some of our Pre Prep boys and a big 'Homefield Hello' to all those boys staying at home. We hope you all had a relaxing half term, it was well deserved. We want to reiterate how proud we are of you boys for how grown up you have been in coping with live lessons and online learning. Well done to all parents also, this has not been possible without your support.

Homefield is now open for selected year groups and we have started this week with a beautiful story called 'The Worrysaurus'. This is a well written story for our youngest boys about how to cope with anxiety. We then looked at some activities to follow on from the story. We are talking a lot about how we are feeling and what it has been like staying at home for such a long time.

The boys' wellbeing at this time is paramount and we want to make sure they are talking to us about any worry they may have. I am very pleased to report that all boys seem extremely happy and positive.

We have started exploring our new topic which is 'Minibeasts'. This is a great topic which sets us up for lots of outdoor learning in line with the theme. To start, we have been talking about different Minibeasts, what they look like and writing about them during our literacy lessons. The boys have also been working in their individual Maths booklets which contain lots of concepts, relating our Maths learning to our Minibeast topic with some 'ladybird doubling'.

Our Special Award in Nursery goes to:

William in Elephants for an excellent description of how a bee collects nectar and what it is made into.

Our Students of the Week are:

Yuvi in Tigers for having good knowledge of our new topic.

Arjun in Monkeys for demonstrating excellent progress in his writing.

Junior Department

Year 1

Just before the half term holiday, in their Art lesson, Year 1 looked at the artist Van Gogh and focussed on his painting of sunflowers. This linked in very well to our Science topic about plants and the sunflowers that the boys are growing at home. We were extremely impressed with the boys' efforts and it was great to see the boys proudly showing us their work.

On 'Wellbeing Day, we talked about friendship and what made the boys happy. In the afternoon form time, the boys presented their lovely work and we had a discussion about the qualities of a good friend – well done Year 1! The boys have been fantastic during the live lessons and we are very much looking forward to seeing them back in school on Monday.

Year 2

All the Year 2 boys were refreshed and ready for more learning on our return this week. They enjoyed a range of Wellbeing activities on Tuesday and we were impressed by their thoughtful compliments for members of their families. It was also very interesting to hear what they missed about school life and what they most enjoy about home learning.

They also proved to be eagle-eyed detectives and keen spotters of fibs in other activities they completed. So watch out! In History, we will meet some more inventors this term, while in Geography, we turn our thoughts to the seaside. Electricity is our next topic in Science. So lots to get our teeth into in the coming weeks.

Year 3

The 3rd year boys continue to delight us by their enthusiasm to attend live lessons and produce work of an excellent standard. The boys have been captivated by their study of dinosaurs and will be continuing their voyage into the distant past when these giants walked the earth! We have moved on to money in Maths, and using the decimal point is slipping painlessly into their work! Well done. We would like to give a special mention to Luke in 3H, who has been powering through all the work assigned and in 3S, for fantastic contributions and effort, we would like to mention Isaiah and Noah.

Homefield Heroes

1H Arnav for working hard in all of the lessons and **Peter** for an excellent poster in Geography all about the seaside. Well done boys!

1S Evan for working so hard and for his excellent creative work and **Eric** for his great enthusiasm with all his tasks and for some wonderful work in English. Well done boys!

2H Spandan for trying really hard and showing a massive improvement with his handwriting and **Kamran** for using his impressive IT skills to produce a creative and humorous quiz for 2H.

2S Zion for some super work in our on-line lessons and **Joshua** for active engagement in live lessons and an excellent 3D model of London.

3H Kayaan and William for excellent attendance in live lessons and for always completing and submitting their assignments.

3S Alexander, Ewan and Felix for going above and beyond with the creation of a marvellous wellbeing photo gallery that depicted many things that made them feel positive.

Senior Department

Special Mentions

Year 4

4H Krish, 4P Jake and 4S Henry for excellent effort this week and for their infectious enthusiasm!

Year 5

This week's special mentions are based on the work that the boys did in relation to our Wellbeing Day on Tuesday. We were extremely impressed with all of Year 5 for their positive attitude and contributions made during the live form times. In particular, we would like to give special mentions to:

Tejas for creating a super solar system model.

Tristan, Boris, Louie and Philip for super 'space themed' models created out of recyclable materials.

Henry for a super solar system photograph using a variety of different sized and coloured balls in the garden.

Alex G and Parth for their written story about going back to school.

Leonardo, Humzah, Hanlin and Zak for their hands poster, where they were able to articulate their mixed emotions during the lockdown and highlighting the future with lots of positive elements to look forward to.

Rayyan for an outstanding poem 'Back to School' using positive language 'body bubble, safe and happy'.

Sulaymaan and Reece for producing three outstanding pieces of work for Wellbeing Day.



Sulaymaan



Philip



Zak

Year 6

Sergio A-H for his wholly positive approach to the week and in starting the new maths topic of Probability.

Jasen whose behaviour has been excellent, following all the instructions in a positive and mature manner.

Jaiman for being very organised, listening carefully to instructions and working hard to complete tasks!

Harry for being reflective on the way lockdown has impacted and changed him, providing some very insightful comments.

Year 7

Special mentions go to the excellent effort being made in form time by **Peter F, Lorcan M-D and Niraj M**. Not only for their contributions to form discussions, but expressing their aspirations for the future through the medium of artwork.

Year 8 Podcasts

All the Year 8 podcast work during the school closure can now be found on Firefly using this link:

<https://homefieldprep.fireflycloud.net/year-8-2/computing/examples-of-boys-work>

English

Here is a poem written by a Year 6 duo (Gajan and Nishad) on the first day of teaching. The boys explored the poem 'Summer Sun' by Robert Louis Stevenson. They then had to write a poem entitled 'Summer Sun' using rhyming couplets and personification. They also had to ensure that their poem had a positive or negative tone.

Summer Sun

The Sun beats the life out of all thirsty things,
And when it is really hot his rays really sting
He makes animals succumb to a horrible fate,
When the Sun makes the rain really late.

The Sun is so ruthless he burns our skin;
In the process he destroys our grin.
He sends his rays when we're outside,
He gives little mercy so we have to hide.

In Winter he runs;
But after we build snowmen he ruins the fun.
In the winter he leaves us to the cold;
He has no mercy for the poor or the old.

He burns away forests and leaves animals
without a home;
And loves to watch them wither and groan.
He forces them into human places;
And makes us treat them with our graces.

The Sun comes through any nook or cranny;
He truly is so extremely canny.
The Sun always invades our space;
In my book he's a massive disgrace.



Wellbeing

There are resources and stories here for both the boys and parents:

<https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/for-parents/supporting-your-child-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/coronavirus-advice-support-children-families-parents/>

<https://www.annafreud.org/coronavirus-support/>

<https://www.place2be.org.uk>

<https://www.winstonswish.org/preparing-children-return-school/>

This last link is from a bereavement charity but their article is very useful and a good link for parents/families who may have experienced a bereavement even if not Covid-19 related.

All these links, and more, can be found on our website:

<https://www.homefield.sutton.sch.uk/school-life/wellbeing>

Music

Year 2 have been busy celebrating the work of the NHS and their work can be found using this link or on our Facebook page:

Year 2 NHS Song

<https://vimeo.com/424605765/523a5a8c97>



Grade Examination Success

15 Passes with Distinction

18 Passes with Merit

5 Passes

(no Fails)

Marks ranged from 65/100 to 95/100

It was so encouraging to see that despite all of the disruption to their lessons, the woodwind, piano, brass and string players were able to sit their Grade Exams at the intended time. Examining was achieved by submitted videos that were marked by Mrs Walker and Mr Meyers. These were excellent results in line with the usual high standard that the boys achieve at Homefield. Well done, boys.

School Uniform APPOINTMENTS NOW LIVE!

Appointments NOW LIVE

To keep both our staff and customers safe, our branches will be operating on an appointment only basis this summer. Appointments are recommended for **new starters only** and can now be booked online for an instore fitting.

To help schools and their parents we have allocated a recommended appointment window for your school, which is **Monday 13th July until Sunday 19th July**.

Please, where possible, book during this window. Our online store will be operating as normal but we highly recommend new starters visit our branch.

Online orders must be placed by July 17th for new starters.

Keeping you updated

With the current lockdown, retail restrictions and social distancing likely to have a significant impact in the flow of customers through our retail branches over the summer, we are having to revise our operations to maintain a smooth customer service experience. So we can update you on these changes it is important that we ask you register on our website so we can communicate these once we are in a position to reopen.

Unrivalled 120 day returns policy

Our industry-leading 120 day returns policy means you can purchase now and still be able to exchange unused garments if your child has a sudden growth spurt before the start of school.

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Tweet of the Week



Homefield Prep School @HomefieldSchool · 32m

Mr Towers was pleased to see so many of our #Year6 boys returning to school this morning in the sunshine #schoolsreopening #HappyatHomefield



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news as it happens...   