

## Headlines

Spring Term  
6<sup>th</sup> March 2020

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

ISI inspection report



### Letter from the Headmaster

#### Dear Parents

The whole school has enjoyed 'Book Week', an event that's become a perennial celebration in so many schools. In particular, thanks to you parents for supporting the book character dress up event which the boys and staff so enjoy.

We learnt from the National Literacy Trust that children today read less frequently and enjoy reading less than previous generations, with only about 26% of under 18s picking up a book for pleasure each day... with boys being markedly worse than girls. All the more reason to press on with this; yes, we teach phonics and comprehension and end up knee deep in Shakespeare, Bronte, Wordsworth, Orwell et al. However, the boys do need to be devouring books at home too. It works. Testament to that some comments from parents who have moved on to academically selective senior schools at 13+ in recent years:

*'Really very easy in Year 9 for him' (Freemans)*  
*'The same level as Homefield, so no problems' (King's)*

*'He was bored at first, but the boys from other schools are beginning to catch up' (Trinity)*

So keep reading!

Parents will be most likely thinking more about coronavirus than books! At present, the Department for Education has advised that schools should not close, *even if* they have confirmed cases of the infection, unless told to do so. To date, we have not seen any cases of the virus in the school community, but remain on careful alert.

Should we really have to close for a period, then the staff have already been working on distance learning solutions for all subjects. We are fortunate to have a 'virtual learning environment' already embedded (Firefly) and so can easily provide an appropriate study and work flow for all year groups and all subjects.

Sadly, we have already experienced some impact with other organisations cancelling events, for example, our Year 7 and 8 boys were disappointed that the Lancing College French Speaking Competition was postponed. Expect more disruption in the coming weeks. My sincere thanks to the many community-minded parents who have called in regarding any illness. We cannot advise on individual cases: parents will need to follow government advice, as we are not in a position to diagnose illness.

If you do this rather than indulge in school gate/social media gossip, it will help us stay safe. A big relief to me, as a parent and Headmaster, is the news that coronavirus appears to be less dangerous to most children than to adults. If you do need to keep your child off school, please let us know and we will authorise the absence: [absence@homefieldprep.school](mailto:absence@homefieldprep.school).

Little boys and washing hands is always a challenge, but we have been pushing on this so please do encourage the same at home!

Finally, please do check ParentMail for your invitation to our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ball at Epsom Racecourse on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June. Tickets are selling fast!

Have a good weekend

**John Towers**  
Headmaster

## Pre-Prep

We have really hit the ground running with our new topic 'Do Cows Drink Milk?' The boys have come up with some really good questions that they would like to investigate during the topic. Some include:

"How can we milk lots of cows?"

"Why do baby chickens lay their eggs in the nest and other animals go in the tummies?"

"Why do pigs like mud?"

"How is food grown on the farm".

Last week saw our trip to Bocketts Farm and I really must commend the boys on their exceptional behavior and manners whilst we were there. Their day was action-packed with exciting animal encounters. We hope they came home and told you all about their amazing time and the information they have learnt.

## Junior Department

On World Book Day we were very impressed by all the fantastic book character costumes that the boys wore - many thanks to parents for their support. The Junior Department boys had a great day and they enjoyed taking part in a variety of interesting activities. The boys loved showing their costumes to everyone in the whole school assembly. Congratulations to our Junior Department winners - Yusuf, Atharv, Boris, Baden, Lachlan and Felix. Yusuf in Year 1 was selected as the overall Junior Department winner - Congratulations! During Book Week, each form was visited by senior boys who confidently read stories to a very appreciative audience.

We had a super assembly from 2S all about litter and its problems. The boys had learnt a lengthy poem, which they recited beautifully. They shared with us their fears for the environment and what measures we can take.

Mrs Hilton had some Guide Dog news for us this week. This term our collection has risen to over £600, which means we are well over half way to training our 32<sup>nd</sup> guide dog! Well done boys for remembering your money on Fridays and thank you!

We look forward to meeting you at our Parent Evening next Wednesday and Thursday. Year 2 are currently rehearsing for their involvement with the St Christopher's Music Festival next Thursday and are sounding wonderful.

We have all enjoyed Book Week and shared some wonderful stories; some of these were read to us by the senior boys.

The boys all made such a fantastic effort for Book Character Day and the school looked so bright and colourful.

Congratulations to Auldy, Jeff and Esa for their winning entries in the dressing-up competition, with Esa winning the overall prize for Pre-Prep.

We look forward to welcoming you on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30pm when the boys will have the opportunity to show you how hard they have worked so far this academic year.

### Year 3 Egyptian Day

By Adam, Calum, Isaiah and Olivier in 3S

On Friday the 28th February, Year 3 had Egyptian Day! A specialist lady called Lauren came in and taught us about Ancient Egypt for the whole day. We all came to school dressed as either a pharaoh or an everyday Egyptian.



Firstly, we learnt about lower and upper Egypt. We learnt that lower Egypt is above upper Egypt on a map because the River Nile flows North, out to the Mediterranean Sea. We also learnt that the River Nile was very important to the Egyptians because it helped the crops to grow as it flooded every year and left black fertile soil. After learning about the river, we saw some artefacts. We held some real artefacts, like linen bandages, that had been on a real mummy. We also held Canopic jars which could have had contained the lungs of a real mummy in the past.

### Our Special Awards go to:

**Aldous in Elephants** for engaging with our topic – great questions, vocabulary and retention of facts.

### Our Students of the Week are:

**Tigers: Jai** for working hard in Literacy and his exceptional behaviour on our trip to the farm and **Anirudh** for his great progress in writing.

**Monkeys: Ralph** for showing resilience in his learning when faced with new concepts and **Arjun** for always being so helpful and polite.

## Homefield Heroes

**1H Aran** for great English work and **Abbas** for challenging himself and for producing lovely work in Maths.

**IS Easan** for excellent work in English and **Daniel** for fantastic progress with his reading. Well done, boys!

**2H Spandan** for bursting with enthusiasm to learn with his amazing contributions in lessons and **Jerry** for settling in well and trying so hard in his first week at Homefield.

**2S Yusuf** for improved handwriting due to his steady focussed effort and **Thomas** for always looking after others with kind words and actions.

**3H Yulin** for his enthusiasm and improvement in presentation and **Kayaan** for his positive approach to learning in Maths and great progress in Mental Maths and division.

**3S Rohan** for outstanding independent research in History and **Gbemi** for being supportive and providing excellent encouragement to other boys in a lesson.



## Junior Department / continued

Secondly, we learnt about how the Egyptians used to measure things. We had to read some hieroglyphics, work out what they said and find objects that measured a cubit, a palm or a finger just like the Egyptians would have. Next, we looked at some information to help us answer a quiz. After that, we played an Egyptian game called river and jackals. It is similar to snakes and ladders and we had to use an Egyptian die.



Lastly, we found out that the Egyptians did not drink water at all! They only drank beer because the water from the River Nile was too dirty.

The problem with the beer was that there were lumps in it. To stop the lumps getting stuck in their throats, the Egyptians would cut reeds out of the River Nile and use them as straws.

Next, we had a go at mummifying Pharaoh Bob (he was a doll). We had to wash him, cover him with perfume, take his organs out, dry the organs and wrap him in linen.

We thought the day was excellent because we learnt lots and we had so much fun. We would love to do something like this again!



## Parent Association

We look forward to welcoming more than 130 boys and girls to the Disco tonight! We hope that they all have a fantastic time. Thanks to all who are volunteering and making this event possible for the children to have fun and to raise money for the school.

At the last H.A. meeting, we agreed to purchase the following items for the school:

A digital camcorder for the Sports Dept;  
Bloxels for the IT Department;  
Lever kits for the Science Department;

Also, in support of the 150th Year Anniversary of the school, we are purchasing a time capsule and some of the entertainment for the Grand Ball.

The upcoming Quiz Night is an extremely enjoyable evening with dinner provided and the quiz - written by one of our Homefield parents, Alex Fox! Bring your own drinks and nibbles.

The Easter Egg Hunt will be the next event for the boys. Taking place after school, they will have a clue sheet and the prize at the end is, of course, an Easter egg.

### Dates for your diary:

Quiz Night - Friday 20th March  
Easter Egg Hunt - Wednesday 25th March

Quiz Night is approaching fast. Please buy your tickets on Classlist.



## Theology, Philosophy and Religion

### Philosophers of the Week

#### 7H

Felix - Is school essential for education?

Qasim - How does education shape you?

#### 7S

Harry H - If God is in 'heaven' is he dead or alive?

Hugo - What is God if he is real?

Oli C - Will we ever know if God is real?

## Philosophical Reading and Inquiry

**Philosophy Book Review.**

Book review by: NIRALI

Title: THE BOOK OF BOB

Author: OLIVER TERSOFF

Non-fiction ☒ Fiction ☐

What is the book about?  
The book is about a boy and his missing parents.

Write a question for the main character.  
What do you like about Bob?

What themes were in the book? (circle them)  
Happiness, Friendship, Questions, Family, Everyday life, Sadness, Anger, Confidence, Bravery, Resilience, Wishes, Tolerance, Respect.  
Can you think of any other children's books?

Would you recommend the book? Why?  
Yes ☒ No ☐  
Why? Yes because it's a fun book and it's about a boy who is missing his parents.

Rating: ★★★★★

Book Illustration

## Year 7 visit to Olympic Park

The Geography trip to Olympic Park was cold but incredibly interesting – there was a guided tour of the site and the features that have remained and developed into a successful and sustainable community. The boys looked at how the environment has been cleaned and improved, along with how the opportunities and facilities have developed. This has all led to a very eco-friendly and exciting area with amazing park spaces, sports facilities and Westfield shopping centre! A world away from the old industrial brownfield site. In addition to the guided tour, the boys also got to watch a spot of cycling in the Velodrome and then they had a ride on the Cable Car on the way home. A great way to learn about improving city spaces and seeing London for themselves!



## Book Week

Throughout Book Week, Year 8 students have visited our younger boys to treat them to stories. Pre-Prep, and Years 1, 2 and 3 have all enjoyed hearing stories read aloud and talking about the pictures. The Year 8 boys really rose to the challenge and shared lots of tips with each other on how to best engage the eager youngsters.



All students have enjoyed the anticipation of the 'Drop Everything and Read' bell each day, offering them an oasis of immersion in a different world.

Boys of all ages have enjoyed time in the LRC and English lessons expressing their views on their favourite reads, reviewing books and creating bookmarks.

Results for the Shelfie competition will be announced next week.

On Thursday, we marked World Book Day with our annual Book Character Costume Competition, open to all. Participants really outdid themselves this year! Such a wonderful array of imaginative and often intricate and detailed outfits on show. The proceeds of the day will be donated to The Children's Trust Tadworth Charity.

Thank you for the efforts of the boys, their parents and the staff for creating a 'Buzz around Books' once again.

### World Book Day Character Competition

#### Pre-Prep

Nursery – Auldy  
Tigers – Jeff  
Monkeys – Esa  
Overall winner: Esa

#### Junior Department

1H – Atharv  
1S – Yusuf  
2H – Boris  
2S – Baden  
3H – Lachlan  
3S – Felix  
Overall winner: Yusuf

### Senior Department

4H – Oscar  
4P – Ayaan  
4S – Henry  
5H – Rishan  
5S – Hanlin  
6H – Siddhant  
6P – Mannan  
6S – Hugo  
7KWL – Jijith  
7MMC – Tosan  
8AM – Tom  
8LC – Ben

#### Staff prizes to:

Miss Gaworzewska and Mr McCaffery

### The Poetry Society

We are so excited to announce that the **Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award 2020** will be launched on Thursday 5th March 2020. Their amazing judges this year are the wonderful Maura Dooley and Keith Jarrett. The Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award is the **biggest poetry competition for 11-17 year olds in the world**.

Since it began the Award has kick-started the career of some of today's most exciting new voices. Past winners include Jay Bernard, Sarah Howe, Helen Mort, Phoebe Power, Caroline Bird, Richard O'Brien and many more incredible poets.

The competition welcomes poems on **any theme and any length**. It is completely **free** to enter for anyone in the **world** aged 11-17 years.

Winners receive a fantastic range of **prizes**, from **mentoring to a residential Arvon writing course, Poetry Society membership to books**. The Poetry Society also continues to support winners' development with performance, publication and internship opportunities.

**English teachers will be promoting this completion to all year 6, 7 and 8 students this year.**

**See Mrs Colgate for further details and take a look at past winners in the anthologies published last year.**

**Alternatively, you can visit**

<https://poetrysociety.org.uk/competitions/foyle-young-poets-of-the-year-award/>



## Fantasy Football League

### GW26:

League	Most Points	Team	Manager
<b>Pupils, Parents &amp; Staff</b>	84	Tester11	Adekunle A
<b>Year 7 &amp; 8</b>	80	The Gunning Soldiers	Kwame
<b>Year 6</b>	74	Gajan's Lads	Gajan
<b>Year 5</b>	69	Premier 11	Rayyan
<b>Year 4</b>	70	Rahul The Great	Rahul
<b>Junior</b>	66	Arjun's Fireball	Arjun
<b>Parents</b>	84	Tester11	Adekunle A
<b>Staff</b>	78	Larkin's Loonies	Ms Larkin
<b>Alumni</b>	59	The Stadium Raiders	James

### GW27:

League	Most Points	Team	Manager
<b>Pupils, Parents &amp; Staff</b>	70	Noice	Chris S
<b>Year 7 &amp; 8</b>	59	Nujman	Anuj
<b>Year 6</b>	58	The Purrfect Legends	Raamin
<b>Year 5</b>	69	Bonson Athletics	Zak
<b>Year 4</b>	64	Wild Tigers FC	Luke
<b>Junior</b>	65	The Pog Show	Nathan
<b>Parents</b>	70	Noice	Chris S
<b>Staff</b>	55	Abra Dúbravka	Mr Smith
<b>Alumni</b>	48	No Spurs	Gabriel



## Sports News

### Hockey

On Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February, the U10 'A' hockey team travelled to Caterham Senior School to compete in the Caterham 6 a-side hockey tournament. In the first game, the boys looked at home on the state-of-the-art Astroturf pitch and some super passing, tackling and two quick goals by George and Kai T, saw Homefield win the match 2-0 against Aldro. Then the weather changed for the worse as freezing rain and a strong wind battered the boys for the rest of the games.

Despite this they had a great game against Rokeby and at 1-1 it looked like we might secure a point but the opposition piled on the pressure to score two more and we lost 3-1.

In the third game, Andrew, Phillip and Aarush were superb in defence and the game against Caterham (prep) ended in a 0-0 draw.

In the fourth game we took on the unbeaten Shrewsbury House team and Louie pulled off a string of sensational saves despite not being able to feel his fingers or toes!! It earned him the 'Man of the Match' award for his sterling efforts. Tim S was everywhere on the pitch but Shrewsbury House eventually beat us 2-0.

In the final game, the score sheet and all the boys were drenched and freezing: not a good time then to play the eventual winners, Cranmore! Luke was super playing in three positions during this game and Tim was 'Man of this Match' with his stick work and tenacity still vibrant in spite of the downpour. We lost 4-0 but the result did not matter as the boys had a great day out and with the heaters on full blast on the mini bus on the way back we reflected on what a memory maker the hockey tournament had been. Well done to all the boys for wonderful effort and sportsmanship.

### Year 3 Tennis Fixture

Homefield's first tennis fixture in over a decade took place on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March when eight Year 3 boys travelled to Cumnor House School. Having been to Sutton Tennis Academy in their PE lessons lately, this was a great opportunity for our boys to put their skills to the test in matches.

Our doubles pairings were: Sheldon and Atharva, Olivier and Jamie, Rohan and Alexander and Calum and Luke. Each pair played two matches to ten points with tie break scoring. The matches were very close but Homefield managed to win six of the eight doubles matches.

The singles matches that followed were also very evenly matched. Each boy played two half court singles matches to five points - there were sixteen games in total and Homefield won 10 and lost six. None of the singles matches were won by more than three points - it was brilliant to see such close matches played with great enthusiasm and sportsmanship by both teams.

Some particular highlights were: Calum's powerful serve meaning he hit several aces, Rohan winning both his singles matches with controlled forehand shots, Sheldon hitting forehands and backhands with power and accuracy to win points and Luke's excellent return of serve. Well done to Homefield's Under 8 tennis team!



## 1870 History Competition Winners

Thank you to all the boys who researched, discussed, created, illustrated and wrote their entries for the '1870 History Competition'. We had an amazing range of posters, essays and even cartoons!

All the boys had clearly considered how life may have changed since 1870 and what Homefield and the boys would have been like back in the school's infancy.

### The Winners...

#### Pre Prep to Year 2 A4 Poster Category:

Special Mentions to Jack and Akesh 2S  
Winner: Kamran 2H

#### Year 3 - Year 6 A3 Poster Category:

Special Mentions to Jamie 3S, Henry 4S, Arjun 6H  
Highly Commended: James 6S, Rahul 4S, Leonardo 5S  
Winner: Alex 4S

#### Senior Essay Competition:

Highly Commended: Tosan, Barnaby and Vinicius  
Winner: Jijith



## Tweet of the Week

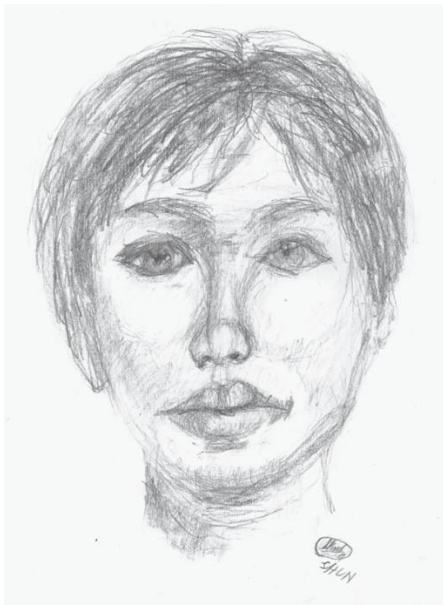


**Homefield Prep School** @HomefieldSchool · 1m

Well done to Mrs Cygan, our Finance Accountant, who climbed Mount Kilimanjaro last week. She scaled the 5,895 m (19,341 ft) dormant volcano with such determination! The mountain has many varying ecosystems, from rain-forest & alpine desert zones, all the way up to arctic. #Proud



## Homefield Art Gallery



Shun, Year 5 - Self Portrait in Pencil

Keep abreast with Homefield news as it happens...   

## Music

### Alumni News

Ex Homefield pupil - Eddie Henning, is performing the 1<sup>st</sup> Horn Concerto by Richard Strauss on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March at All Saints Church, Market Place, Kingston, with the Kingston Chamber Orchestra at 7.30pm. The concert will be conducted by Andy Meyers, and Mrs Walker, Mrs Martindale and Barnaby's mum will be part of the violin section.

### Festival of Music for Youth

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February Cecil Sharp House

The Composers Ensemble were praised highly for their excellent composition, and seeing a wind quintet from a prep school shocked the mentors – they were astounded that such young players could manage to play so well that they were able to perform in such an advanced ensemble!

### Composers Ensemble

Samuel B	Piano
Keshav	Flute
Sam T	Trumpet
George G	Horn
Oliver T	Viola
Kwame S	Cello
Anuj S	Percussion

### Wind Quintet

Keshav R	Flute
Barnaby F	Oboe
Jijjith T	Clarinet
Felix P	Bassoon
Sam S	Horn

