

# Headlines

Autumn Term  
8<sup>th</sup> December 2023

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

ISI inspection report December 2021

## Letter from the Head

### Dear Parents

As we approach the end of another term, we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for your continuous support and involvement in the school community. I have had a fantastic first half-term at Homefield, and I am thrilled to share the highlights of our end-of-term celebrations with you.

Our boys showcased their musical talents in an extraordinary carol concert, featuring awe-inspiring solos, heartwarming readings, and memorable performances. The dedication and enthusiasm displayed by our young performers truly made the event a special and unforgettable experience. Many thanks to Mrs Griffith, the music team, Mrs Colgate and all the staff for the support.

The festive spirit was alive and well as our boys brought joy and laughter with their delightful performances of "Hey Ewe." Their creativity and energy added a charming touch to the celebrations.

A heartfelt thank you to the Homefield Association for orchestrating a spectacular Christmas Fair. The event was a tremendous success, offering a variety of activities, treats, and festive cheer for all attendees. Your commitment to making this event possible did not go unnoticed, and we appreciate your hard work. The Christmas Fair was beautifully capped off with a mesmerising firework display that lit up the night sky. It added a magical touch to the festivities, creating lasting memories for all who attended.

I am proud to announce the success of our charity initiatives this term. Thanks to your generous donations, we were able to provide presents to the 'Cherry Trees' children's charity, spreading joy and warmth to those in need. Your compassion and generosity truly embody the spirit of the season.

As we approach the holiday season, I want to take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas. May the joy and goodwill of this season fill your homes with warmth and happiness.

Thank you once again for being an integral part of our school community. You will have seen our vastly extended club offer from January and there will be further improvements to our House system which underpins our pastoral support in January. I am looking forward to gradually moving the school forward and building a positive, open and transparent culture.

I leave you with my favourite Christmas Poem which I read at the Carol Concert, "Christmas" by Sir John Betjeman.

*The holly in the windy hedge  
And round the Manor House the yew  
Will soon be stripped to deck the ledge,  
The altar, font and arch and pew,  
So that the villagers can say  
"The church looks nice" on Christmas Day.*

*And London shops on Christmas Eve  
Are strung with silver bells and flowers  
As hurrying clerks the City leave  
To pigeon-haunted classic towers,  
And marbled clouds go scudding by  
The many-steeped London sky.*

*And girls in slacks remember Dad,  
And oafish louts remember Mum,  
And sleepless children's hearts are glad.  
And Christmas-morning bells say "Come!"  
Even to shining ones who dwell  
Safe in the Dorchester Hotel.*

*And is it true? And is it true,  
This most tremendous tale of all,  
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue,  
A Baby in an ox's stall?  
The Maker of the stars and sea  
Become a Child on earth for me?*

*And is it true? For if it is,  
No loving fingers tying strings  
Around those tissue'd fripperies,  
The sweet and silly Christmas things,  
Bath salts and inexpensive scent  
And hideous tie so kindly meant,*

*No love that in a family dwells,  
No carolling in frosty air,  
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells  
Can with this single Truth compare –  
That God was man in Palestine  
And lives today in Bread and Wine.*

**Homefield: 'Inspiring Boys'**  
**Mr A S Naismith**  
**Head**

## Lower School: Reception, Years 1 and 2

The Reception Team are so proud of the boys' performance in the Christmas celebration. We were so impressed that every boy participated in all of the songs, actions and remembered their words for the poems. Thank you to all the parents who came to support the boys and for also joining in with our dance along at the end! It was so lovely to see you all celebrating with your sons.

Last week, Reception loved participating in a workshop from the London Fire Brigade where we learnt about fire safety. We now know how a fire alarm works, how often to change and test the batteries and what number to call if there is an emergency. After our workshop, we were lucky enough to go outside and see the fire engine. We got a tour of the engine including the equipment that is used - we even got to use the water hose!



This week in Reception, we have thoroughly enjoyed our outdoor provision. The boys have been using their new mud kitchen to make icy potions! The water tray froze overnight, and the boys loved smashing it all up and making their wintery concoctions! We have also been using the large wooden blocks during our free flow. It was fantastic to see the boys working together to make extra-large models. One afternoon they made an enormous aeroplane and decided to use the plane to "fly the sick dinosaurs back to Jurassic Park".



In Year 1, we had a brilliant time visiting Brooklands Transport Museum. We had a very interesting tour of the planes and looked around the aircraft factory, flight shed and saw displays showcasing planes through the ages. The boys had an opportunity to make their own car during a craft session and had a tour of the Concorde!



The Year 1 Team remarked that the boys were so well behaved on the trip and that they can't wait to take them out again. Arjun in 1S said, "I like looking at the Lego car." Laurie in 1H said, "My favourite part of the trip was getting the old bus tickets." After our trip we wrote a detailed recount including a range of nouns, verbs and adjectives to add interest for the reader. The boys were also challenged to write their recount in order.

Our Maths focus in Year 1 has been using a number line to subtract so that we are able to visually see the numbers going down as we count backwards. We've done a great job with subtraction and we are now learning to subtract 2 two digit numbers. In PSHE we had time for the boys to share their family tree. It was so wonderful to learn more about the families that we have in our school: thank you for supporting the boys in learning about their family. Year 1 also had a visit from Ethan's dad who taught them all about Hannukah! The boys loved learning about how Ethan's family celebrate this special holiday. The gift of dreidels was very popular and it's been wonderful to see the boys spinning their dreidels in the playground.

In Year 2, we have continued with our focus text the 'Magic Finger', by writing a diary entry from the perspective of the unnamed girl. As this was an extended piece of writing, we worked on planning our ideas into paragraphs and learnt how to use a thesaurus to improve and expand our vocabulary.

## Homefield Heroes

RH- Aadit for working very hard in his writing and taking turns with his friends.

RS- Aarin Vaidyanathan: for his fantastic efforts when reading, superb blending!

1S - Cyrus for asking so many sensible questions on our trip the Brooklands Museum and Rishaan for being such a great narrator in our assembly 'Hey Ewe'.

1H - Nolan for fantastic effort in all lessons all week and particularly on our school trip to Brooklands Museum and Ariz for his fantastic performance in our 'Hey Ewe' assembly.

2H- Noah for making thoughtful and insightful contributions to lessons.

2S- Aarib Tejpar for fantastic independent work in English and always listening carefully to instructions.

Swimmers of the week: Eesa, Philp E, Philip P, Roger and Joshua.

The boys have also been working hard on applying their cursive writing in longer writing tasks such as this. In maths, we continued with addition and subtraction using the column method to find answers to calculations. Year 2, like Reception, had a joint visit from Sutton Fire Station. This was to consolidate our History topic on 'The Great Fire of London'. Logan in 2H said, "You need to check your smoke alarm once a week and the batteries once a year. Then you'll know if it's working." Will in 2H said, "We learnt how powerful the hose was - it was SO powerful. We also learnt how to hold it. That was the best bit." In STEAM the boys made their model rockets that they planned in previous lessons. It was great to see the boys problem solving and making adaptations to their designs. In geography the boys have been working on navigation skills and used a compass to follow directions around the school.

Thank you to all the parents for supporting the Year 1 and 2 boys this week in their Christmas assembly 'Hey Ewe'. They have worked so hard during all the rehearsals and we are so proud of them. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did and that you left in a Christmassy mood!



### Years 3 and 4

Well done to all of Year 4 for their fantastic efforts in the Christmas Concert at Trinity Church. They all worked incredibly hard with their singing and instrument playing and should be very proud of themselves. A well-rested weekend will be needed before our final stretch to the Christmas holidays next week.

Year 3 are looking forward to welcoming parents on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> for their own Christmas Concert in school, and have done a superb job at learning their poems and songs.

This week in Year 3, Homefield Hero certificates have been awarded to Zaviaan in 3H for his high standard of work and presentation in books and to Yahia in 3S for his enthusiasm for learning and hard work in lessons.

In Year 4, Jai in 4H for his focus in lessons and being a good role model to his class and Yug in 4S for his focus and determination to get his work completed to a high standard.

### Years 5 and 6

The boys have worked assiduously this term. It has been lovely to see their support for one another and strong exemplification of our Homefield Values. They have coped admirably with the closing in of darker, wintry days, always finding new ways to amuse and entertain themselves and have fun.

Nearly three thousand House Points have been amassed between them since September.

## Music

Congratulations to Oliver G 6P who won the piano category for age 12 and under at the Sutton Music Festival held in November.



This half term's class assembly was led by Miss Waite's tutor group, 5S. The boys planned and presented a wonderful assembly to all Year 5 and 6 boys. Their chosen topic of 'dolphins' made for a fascinating and informative presentation. The boys presented material they had prepared with great accomplishment and deftly handled the audience's participation too. Well done for your team work and such a professional approach to the task. We have all appreciated upping our linguistic skills by learning how to speak dolphin!

Congratulations to the following boys who have so ably demonstrated aspects of our Homefield Values over the last few weeks. They have received a Homefield Hero certificate and Head of Year Commendation:

5H Harris  
5P Karsten, Sulaiman  
5S Kaylan P

6H Phoebus, Shomik  
6P Kian, Aarush  
6S Sarvesh, Aiden L

### Years 7 and 8

This week, commendations go to Alex Z in Year 7 for great effort during concert rehearsals and singing at the concert and to Aaron Year 8 for his resilience and admirable determination during concert rehearsals.



## Charities



### Charitable Giving

As the Christmas season draws nearer, we often think of how we can help others at this time of year. At Homefield, we will be supporting the charity 'Cherry Trees' by providing wrapped gifts for children. Cherry Trees provides specialist short-break respite visits for children and young adults with a range of complex disabilities including learning, physical and sensory impairments. Please see the link below, showing the difference the charity makes to the lives of children, young adults and their families. <https://www.cherrytrees.org.uk/Pages/Category/the-difference-we-make>

If you and your son would like to contribute to the cause, we are asking for donations of wrapped gifts to be brought in to school and placed under the Christmas tree in the front reception. Presents should be appropriate for children and young adults between the ages of 5 and 19, and should not contain perishable foods or nuts. Please attach a removable label to the present, stating its contents, so that the Cherry Trees team can assign your present to an appropriate person (they will remove the label beforehand so the present is a surprise to the recipient!) The last date for donations to our front reception will be **Tuesday 12th December**.

Thank you in advance for supporting this hugely worthwhile cause by giving an extra present this Christmas.

### Charity of the Year

We are happy to announce that the official charity of the year will be the "Diamond Riding Centre". This is a unique charity located in Carshalton, Surrey, which specialises in helping disabled people interact with horses as a form of therapy. Established in 1974 and opened by HRH Princess Royal, who is known for her love of equestrian sports, the Diamond Riding Centre is also known for competing in important equestrian sporting competitions, such as the Paralympics! On the larger scale, they support over 350 people a week and it costs over £300,000 a year to maintain the whole centre. This is why we need your help. Over this year we will be holding various events to raise money to help this charity and these will provide numerous opportunities for you to donate to a great cause.

Thank you.  
Siddharth – Head Boy

## Science

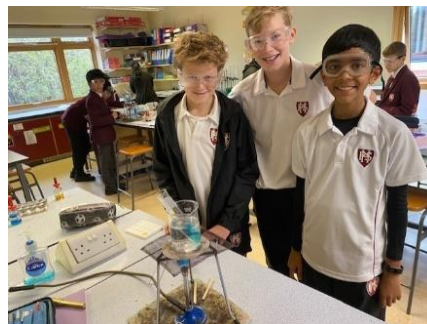
The past couple of weeks have been extremely busy in the science labs. Year 4 have been learning about diffusion and light; they have constructed pinhole cameras, which use the property of light travelling in straight lines to work.



Year 7 have been working through their food and digestion topic by carrying out food tests to test for protein, fat, starch and glucose, and also burning common foods to see which produce the most heat and therefore contain the most energy.



They have also been learning about the respiratory system and really enjoyed investigating some real lungs from a sheep, which were inflated with a foot pump.

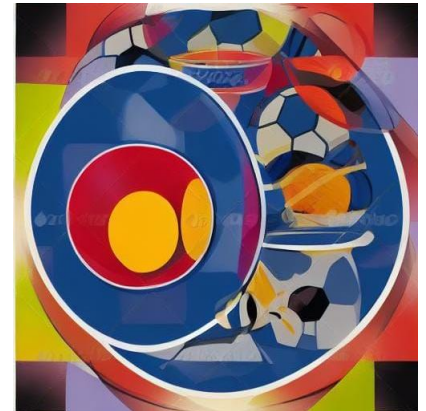


## Before School Wraparound Care

At the start of the Spring term, the school's Breakfast Club provision will be delivered by Homefield school staff in the form of two options:

**7.15am until registration - 'Breakfast Club'.** Breakfast will be provided by our catering staff and boys will also participate in sports and activities. There will be a £5 charge for this club and a menu of each day's breakfast option will be sent out with the lunch and snack options on the previous Friday.

**7.30am until registration - 'Morning Sports and Activities Club'.** Pupils will participate in sports and activities, but breakfast will not be provided. There will be no charge for this club.



**Breakfast Club and the Morning Sports and Activities Club should be booked in advance via SchoolCloud. Bookings will open on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00pm.**

## Science Quiz

Our wonderful Year 5 and Year 6 science quiz club has been in triumphant, competitive action again this week. Homefield 1, won the semi-finals and Homefield 2 came in 11<sup>th</sup> place. Both teams will qualify for the finals in Oxford in June.



## Parental Feedback

Thank you all for your attendance at parent events this term, hopefully it's been a welcome opportunity to connect with Homefield and celebrate different aspects of your son's learning,

This term, we added additional opportunities to view boys' work via year group 'book looks' prior to our consultation days for the Autumn Term for both Lower and Upper School. We will run the book looks again in the week of February 5<sup>th</sup> and will ensure that different year groups are separated in order to consider siblings that may have been impacted in our November events.

If you have any feedback on how the virtual parent consultations ran and would like to share feedback in consideration for the summer term, please email Mrs Field at [efield@homefieldprep.school](mailto:efield@homefieldprep.school) before the 15<sup>th</sup> December.

We are particularly interested in hearing from Upper School parents on whether splitting core subjects over the two days was useful.



## Homefield Art Gallery

Leo, Year 5, Homefield Christmas Card Winner



## Sharing Good News

Has your son done anything exciting or interesting outside school? Any achievements that you would like to share with the school community?

Please contact us with a short explanation and a photo via email to [administration@homefieldprep.school](mailto:administration@homefieldprep.school).

We would love to share your son's good news on social media and in Headlines!

Keep abreast with Homefield news as it happens ....



## Opening Times

From everyone at Stevensons, we're sending you our best wishes and a little note to say that we are closing our stores over the Christmas holidays so staff can spend time with their family and friends.

We're closed from 18th December until 1st January.

We re-open on the 2nd of January

You can still order for home delivery or Click and Collect once the store re-opens.

## THE YEAR OF THE DRAGON

Please see the attachments for details of an exciting History Competition open to all boys throughout the school!

Festive. 

