



Headlines

Spring Term
8th February 2019

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

ISI inspection report



Tag Rugby in full swing

Letter from the Headmaster

Dear Parents

I would suggest pursuit of a life well lived is far better for our children than ‘A’ grades on a piece of paper, or x number of exam passes. If we can help to be present in their learning and relationships, that can only be a good thing. Some examples to celebrate recently include music, where our quartet of Vansh, Oscar, Vinicius and Samuel (Years 6, 8, 7 and 6 consecutively), competed at the top end in the Pro-Corda National Music Competition. These boys have really shown us how to be ‘lost in music’. Elsewhere, the Jazz Workshop at Christ’s Hospital gave many more a chance to shine and enjoy.

We saw some music from the soul as our Year 7 and 8 supported Holocaust Memorial Day with poetry and thought. It was a particularly proud moment to receive a letter from a community elder who told me that the poem from Nicky (Year 7), drawing on his feelings and family history, had brought some in the audience to tears along with the violin piece from Eric (Year 7). You can see Nicky’s poem printed further back in the newsletter.

On such, I must recommend a book on poetry written by Joe Nutt, columnist in the Times Education Supplement and until recently a Trustee here at Homefield. Along with many of his friends, I helped ‘crowd fund’ its publication: *The Point of Poetry – How Poetry Can Teach Us About the Things in Life That Really Matter*.

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Point-Poetry-Joe-Nutt-ebook/dp/B07JQ3MSFB/ref=sr_1_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1549460530&sr=8-2&keywords=joe+nutt

We have benefited from a Safer Internet week for the boys; I joked with Mrs Mach that perhaps the safest thing to do was to just switch it off; however, she has helped the boys with more sensible and pragmatic approaches. I discovered a new way to prise my daughter away from the internet at the weekend by buying her a ukulele; she then spent most of the weekend figuring out songs and playing tunes, rather than any screen time.

Thanks to the Parents’ Association for peddling hard with lovely recent events such as The Magic Show, Coffee mornings and more on the horizon including the Senior Department Disco, Family Film Night, Quiz Night and the Easter Egg Hunt.

Finally, congratulations to the U11 chess team who played with aplomb to secure top position in the EPSCA National chess quarterfinals.

Have a good weekend,

John Towers
Headmaster



Early Years Department

In Nursery, the boys found a dinosaur nest and huge dinosaur egg on Miss Bruton's chair; they learnt that the dinosaur would only hatch if they made the right choices in behavior around the classroom such as class rules, remembering not to shout out and being a kind friend to others.



To their excitement and amazement, the egg started to change shape and eventually, after a long time waiting, the baby dinosaur hatched out of its egg!

Reception have focused on 'Old and New Toys' and 'Superheroes' over the last fortnight. The boys had a visitor in to talk to them last week about old toys and had the opportunity to examine some old toys kindly brought in from Bourne Hall Museum.

During our 'Superhero' week, the boys enjoyed bringing in their favourite Superhero regalia. We took photos of the boys in their costumes and wrote speech bubbles to go with them. There were some excellent examples of independent writing. It is lovely to see the confidence of the boys growing and for them to be able to write sentences by themselves. These will be displayed in the classroom.

This week, we have been learning about Chinese New Year and how the twelve animals were chosen for the Chinese zodiac. The boys enjoyed some lovely creative activities and dancing to Chinese music and were also treated to some Chinese delicacies by boys celebrating the festivities.

Junior Department

We have recently had a visit from our friends Rick and Nick from Sutton Schoolswork. They took an assembly about making positive changes and the boys loved joining in with an action song.

Last week 2S took a lovely assembly about 'Happiness'. The boys told us confidently what made them happy and shared ideas for spreading joy to others. 3H's assembly was perfectly timed for the celebration of Chinese New Year. Joshua wore a traditional outfit for his role of the Emperor in the telling of the story of the Chinese Zodiac.

Year 1 enjoyed a shared PHSE session with Year 5. They worked extremely well together and loved the opportunity to get to know the older boys.

On Thursday, the boys were very excited to learn that a 'buddy bench' had been newly delivered. Boys can sit there if they are feeling in need of someone to play with. All the boys know that someone sitting there is in need of a friend to include in their games. Our grateful thanks to the Parents' Association for making this possible.

Year 1 and 2 boys are bringing a letter home about scooter training next half term. This is a new initiative as part of our School Travel Plan to encourage other ways for the boys to travel to school.

Our Special Awards go to:

Jeff in Elephants for being able to identify and pronounce all of his initial sounds in phonics.

Ralph in Elephants for being able to write all the letters in his name without any help!

Our Students of the Week are:

Rishi in Tigers for his excellent knowledge of digraphs!

Yiru in Tigers for contributing more to class discussions.

Alexey in Monkeys for increasing positive interactions with his peers.

Zachariah in Monkeys for excellent progress with his reading.

Homefield Heroes

1H Vivaan for settling down and getting his work done and **Shomik** for displaying good knowledge in Science.

1S Aesan for great progress with his reading and **Kamran** for super work in Mathematics. Well done, boys!

2H Zinedine for really working hard to improve the presentation of his work, **Austin** for always being kind and caring with the other boys and for being a great partner and **Aarav** for excellent effort in English; your story was super! Well done, boys!

2S Samuel for improved application in his English work, **Arjun** for showing great interest in all our Humanities topics and **Oliver** for always working hard and being an encouraging, supportive partner.

3H Vedanth for a positive approach to his work, **Kailan** for his conscientious approach to his work and neat presentation and **Zach** for his cheerful manner and friendly ways in the playground. **3S Aidan** for being a conscientious student and **Wilfred** for demonstrating his critical thinking skills this week.

Parents' Association

There is something for everyone in the second half of term: the **"Keep Calm and Floss On" Disco** for boys in the Senior Department with girls from Sutton High School, the **Incredibles 2 Movie Night**, the **Annual Quiz Night** for parents and teachers, and the **Easter Egg Hunt!** Tickets are available to purchase online on the Events page of Classlist. Please remember to return the permission forms for the Senior Disco to the School Office.

We are looking for parent volunteers to help out at the disco - please contact Lizby Sharpe on Classlist if you are able to help.

Sports News

Year 4 Rugby Fixture at Hazelwood

Year 4 played their penultimate rugby fixture of the season at Hazelwood School on the 7th February. The 'C' team attacked with real verve as they made Hazelwood suffer wave after wave of attack. Jake scored six tries with his dazzling breaks leaving the defenders in his wake. Saideep was another major contributor with four tries of his own. Abhi (2) and Hamdan (1) also scored tries but it was a real team effort. Hazelwood posed great threat in attack themselves; it was a credit to all the Homefield 'C' team that their opposition were often stopped in their tracks by strong tackling and holding. Homefield earned themselves a deserved 13-10 win!

Our 'B' team have found previous matches difficult but got a draw that their endeavour this season has deserved as 12 tries were shared against Hazelwood. Kai Tian (1), Elliot (2) and Louie (3) scored Homefield's tries as Alex also proved a valuable addition to the team with his confident running. Well done to our 'B' team!

On the 'A' team pitch, Homefield got off to a fantastic start as early tries from George and Philip gave them a deserved lead but disappointingly Hazelwood were able to run around the side of the Homefield defence too often to open up a 5-2 lead at half time. Homefield's defensive line improved greatly in the second half and as a result the difference between the teams remained three tries at the final whistle.

Dates for the diary:

Coffee Morning	1 st February 8.30am
Senior Disco	1 st March 6.30pm
Family Film Night	15 th March 5.45pm
Quiz Night	22 nd March 7.00pm
Easter Egg Hunt	27 th March 3.45pm

Four second half Hazelwood tries were cancelled out by tries from George, Musa and Luke (2), meaning a close, competitive match ended 9-6 to Hazelwood. Homefield's offloading was outstanding, their tackling was strong and they showed improved decision making at times. It was great to see such committed performances by all three of our teams as they prepare for their final match against Kingswood House next week.



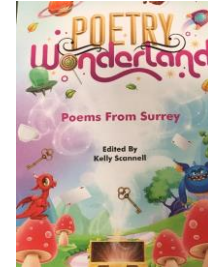
U10 Rugby v Willington

On the 30th January, the Year 5 'A' team found it a tough afternoon away to Willington. The boys started exceptionally well, scoring immediately from the free pass, however, slowly but surely a well organised Willington team imposed their dominance on the game. Homefield struggled to compete in the contact and despite some last ditch tackling by Rory, Henry and David, they were unable to stop a strong Willington side.

LRC News

Poetry Wonderland

Well done to Tosin, Yusuf and Dilan, who have had poems published in 'Poetry Wonderland', an anthology produced by 'Young Writers', for young poets from 6-11 years of age.



The closing date to hand in entries to Mrs Edwards for 'Poetry Patrol' is **12th February**. This anthology is for young creative writers from 5-7 years of age.

Mathematics

Cheddar and Camembert



Seventeen boys from both Years 5 and 6 have sat the bonus round paper of the Primary Maths Challenge this week. The boys seemed positive and confident as there were no 'pickles' thrown their way!

20% of Pete's Cheddar is the same weight as half of Erica's Camembert.
10% of the Camembert weighs 28 g.
How much does Pete's Cheddar weigh in total?

A 70 g B 280 g C 700 g D 1400 g E 14 kg

Results will be sent through to Homefield in March.

Headmasters Crests this term, to date:

Abhi G	Literacy
Musa S	Achievement
Jonas J	English
Alex P	Classics
Raamin B	Achievement
Akshay P	Music
Adam L	Achievement
Amir K	Sport & English
Vidwat S	English
Aravind G	English
Nico G-W	English
Sam S	Achievement
Harry H	English
Thomas G	Achievement

U10 Rugby v Willington / continued

Homefield lost the game 7-2 with tries from Rory and David. The pleasing aspect of the game was watching the Homefield boys' 'never give up' attitude which was maintained throughout the game.

The Year 5 'B' team suffered a 9-2 defeat to their Willington counterparts as Homefield were punished for not making the most of their opportunities in possession. Homefield showed good resilience to keep battling but Willington passed the ball quickly into space which caused Homefield problems. Oliver's pace meant he scored the two Homefield tries and Xavier was a committed tackler while Daniel stood out for his rucking and tackling.

The 'C' team put in an outstanding performance to run away 7-2 victors. Jamin (2), Riccardo, Alex, Nishad, Jasen and Shankar all went over the try line. This was an excellent team performance and the positive attitude from the boys was excellent.

Colts 'B' Team Rugby v Hawthorns /New Beacon

The Colts 'B' team put in two very encouraging performances against Hawthorns and New Beacon this week. It was evenly contested against Hawthorns with Rivan V, Joshua A, Sam T and Oliver T all going over the try line. In the game against New Beacon, Homefield went down by one single try. The boys showed good speed with some encouraging runs and good support play.

U11 'A' Rugby Season

The first game of the season against **Chinthurst** taught the 'A' team a lesson or two about the intensity, organisation and pace of U11 prep schools rugby. It is a credit to the squad that they took the defeat on the chin and learned fast! The speed and body position of our rucking improved immediately in the second half of the Chinthurst match. Homefield were a lot more competitive after a rather slow and tentative start. It was pleasing then to see improvements made and then replicated in future matches. The defensive line was a lot more aggressive in a thrilling three all draw against **Lanesborough**. We led one try to nil at half time against **Ripley Court**.

Unfortunately, in the second half they closed us down well in defence and kicked the ball intelligently using the slope to their advantage. In the first match at **Reigate St. Mary's**, a slender half time lead was extended significantly by some sensational all round movement of the ball in attack. Our decision making as when to run and when to pass had really improved. The contest at **Hawthorns** was another thriller with the hosts coming back from a two try deficit to even the scores just before the final whistle.

It was pleasing to see Homefield play some very slick close-quarters rugby in what were heavy, damp conditions. The final game was ferocious from the start and saw **New Beacon** playing with great aggression. It was very satisfying to see the Homefield boys meeting fire with fire to grab a try and hold onto the victory with some passionate work in the defensive line and at the breakdown.

A great note on which to end the season. Congratulations to the following boys who were the regular members of the team: Tosan O, Sam S, Harry H, Hugo S, Stuart S, William K, Peter F, Alexander P, Ben H and Jijith T.

Stuart S and William K were incredibly industrious and effective as forwards, with Jijith T and Ben H supporting them with some intelligent and technically sound contact work. Harry H and Hugo S often conducted the direction of play in attack and were particularly robust in the tackle. Alex P and Sam S were very effective in the centre or on the wing. They both had an uncanny knack of scoring tries, making great breaks, ball in hand, as well as making some great decisions under significant pressure. Tosan O grew in confidence both in attack and defence, scoring some long range tries when he could get into his stride and break free. Peter F played with equal commitment and skill, both in the forwards or more latterly on the wing, where he performed with great distinction.

Scores:

V **Chinthurst** 0-7 Lost
V **Lanesborough** 3-3 Draw
(Try scorers Sam S, Harry H, Hugo S)
V **Ripley Court** 1-3 Lost
(Try scorer William K)
V **Reigate St. Mary's** 12-4 Win
(Try scorers Tosan O x4, Alex P x2, William K, Peter F, Sam S, Stuart S, Harry H, Hugo S)
V **Hawthorns** 2-2 Draw
(Try scorers Tosan O, Alex P)
V **Reigate St. Mary** 3-4 Win
(Try Scorers Will P x2, Alex P, Tosan O)
V **New Beacon** 1-0- Win
(Try Scorer Alex P)

U13 Tag Rugby v Willington

Our U13 2nd team enjoyed playing in a tag rugby match against Willington School in glorious sunshine on the 28th January. It was a thrilling end-to-end game with lots of direct running from both teams. Homefield offloaded exceptionally well after working on their support play during their Games lesson the week before. At half time it was seven tries all and but soon afterwards Homefield pulled three tries clear and kept that margin until the end; the final score being 16-13 to Homefield. Try scorers were Anush, Thomas (2), Yasir (4), Ashton (2), Justin (2), Vinicius (3) and Oscar (2). Jaineel created two of the tries with his positive forward running, whilst Gus, Joshua, Shaor and Theo were key players in defence, making lots of successful tag tackles. Well done to Homefield's U13 tag rugby team!



Stay up to date on news via:
<https://twitter.com/HomefieldSp0rt>



Other Homefield News

Music

St. John's Orchestra Day

On Thursday 24th January, twenty-one boys from Homefield attended the St. John's School Orchestral event.

After an afternoon's rehearsal, the massed orchestra of Prep schools and singers from local primary schools presented a concert for parents. There was a vocal performance of *When I grow Up* from *Matilda* and the massed orchestra played a March by Arthur Sullivan, *Goldfinger* and the *James Bond* theme.



The boys were impeccably behaved and they made a great contribution to the overall performance.



Pro Corda National Chamber Music Competition

On Tuesday 5th February, the Homefield Piano Quartet - Vansh K (Piano), Oscar P (Violin), Samuel B (Viola) and Vinicius G (Cello), took part in the first round of the Pro Corda Competition.

The boys gave an excellent performance of the first movement of the Beethoven 'C' major piano quartet. This was mature music making at an exceptional level.



Holocaust Memorial Day

On the 25th January, boys in the Senior Department visited Sutton Grammar School to participate in the Holocaust Memorial Day. The theme this year was 'Torn from Home'. Nicky in Year 7 was inspired to write the following, thought-provoking poem:

A Cup of Water

The morning sun shone in the sky,
Bringing a warmth that made them smile.
The light came through the kitchen window,
In a house, in a village, in Eastern Hungary.
They gathered round the table with their mouths watering
Breakfast, telling jokes, laughter, hopes for the day.

This was the day they would take him.

To them, it was easy.

Numbers on a list:

Six million,

Seventeen million,

One more.

A bang as loud as a gunshot,
Soldiers charging like bulls,
Red faces, barking orders,
They grabbed what they could see.
They stood frozen.

The morning sun was frozen.

The warmth was frozen.

They came for János Kovács,

My grandfather's uncle.

A loving man who dried my grandfather's tears when he fell and scraped himself,

A loyal friend,

An optimist,

A man who everyone knew and loved,

A storyteller and a joker,

Who cared and organised,

Who tried to make people's lives better.

But to them there were no uncles,

No loyal friends,

No optimists,

Just labels:

"Jew"

"Gypsy"

"The incurably sick"

"Socialist"

"Trade Unionist"

And to them these labels were just things,
Things to be ripped from the earth,
Things to be torn,
Things to be burnt.

My seven-year old grandfather trembled with fear,

When he entered the police station,
10 minutes' walk from the kitchens, in the house, in his village, in Eastern Hungary.
They took him to see his uncle in a cell.

He couldn't stand up.

He couldn't move.

"Uncle, do you want anything?"

What would you want?

The sun that brings warmth that makes you smile?

Your family?

Your freedom?

Relief from pain?

What would you ask for?

"Mihály, can you bring me a cup of water?"

Please, they won't give me any water."

The policeman took my grandfather outside.

"Come back tomorrow", he said.

The morning sun swelled in the sky,
Bringing warmth that makes you smile,
The light came through the door,
As my grandfather ran to the well in the middle of his village,

He drew water,

He ran to the police station.

But the cell was empty.

"He's gone. They took him." said the policeman.

"Where?"

"Away."

"When will he be back?"

"They never come back."

This is what happens when you treat people like labels,

When you rip people from the earth,

When you tear them,

When you burn them.

Six million Jews.

Seventeen million enemies.

One more uncle.

I wrote this poem to remember my uncle. His name was János Kovács which means "John Smith" in English. He was a trade unionist who was taken away during the Nazi occupation of Hungary. He never came back.



Tweet of the Week



Chess Success

National Primary Schools Team Chess Championships

Once again, Homefield fielded a team of exceptionally talented young chess players in the National Primary Schools Chess Championships. The school was represented in the U11 section by Ben (3.5/5), Prabodha (3), Sivan (3.5), Nishad (5) and Krish (3.5) (see the group photo), in the National Primary Schools' Team Championship at Eltham College on Saturday 2nd February, and we won by half a point in a very close contest that was only secured on the very last match of the day with at least a draw needed to win the tournament.

A fantastic team win for Homefield with every boy making a huge contribution.

All the boys played superb chess including beating Dulwich 'A' 4 - 1 in the final round in a real pressure match.

They also behaved impeccably all day and made all the parents very proud.

Final results:

1st Homefield 18.5, 2nd The Pointer School 18, 3rd Eltham College 'A' 16.5 ... 12 teams played.

Well done to all the players. Everyone contributed in so many ways as it is not possible to have such a good result without keeping team morale high through all the 'ups' and 'downs' during such a long day. It was also good to see some boys who are quite new to chess at this level playing so well alongside some of our more seasoned campaigners.

Thanks for the support from all friends and family members.

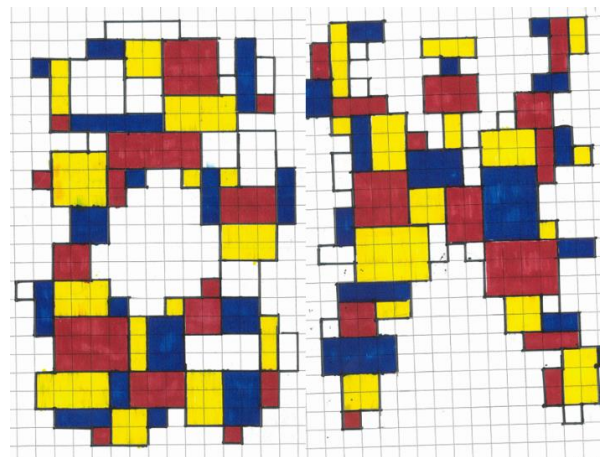
Idhant must also get a mention for his success with the England squad and we wish him the best of luck as he travels to Liverpool shortly.

Classics – STOP PRESS

As one student has withdrawn from the summer Italy trip, we now have a place available. The visit is for any boys between Years 4 – 8, and will take place between the 14th – 19th July. The party will fly to Italy and stay for two nights in Rome and three in Sorrento, visiting locations such as the Forum Romanum, Pantheon, Palatine Hill, Colosseum, Ostia Antica, Hadrian's Villa, Herculaneum, Mt. Vesuvius, Cumae, Oplontis and Pompeii. The cost of the trip is £840 (an immediate £200 non-refundable deposit is required, with the balance to be paid at the end of April). **For any further details or to discuss the trip, please contact Mr McCaffery: mmccaffery@homefieldprep.school.**



Homefield Art Gallery



Ohki. Year 6 - Pixel Initials

Fantasy Football - Game Week 25 winners:

League	Most Points	Team	Manager
Pupils, Parents & Staff	107	Alex's Armadillos	Alex P
	107	Seb!	Seb H
Year 7 & 8	96	Athletico Wombles	Rafael A-H
Year 6	107	Alex's Armadillos	Alex P
Year 5	106	Stealth Climbers	James O
Year 4	92	Mushroom	Musa S
Junior	107	Seb!	Seb H
Parents	99	Gadger's Badgers	Terry Gager
Staff	89	Smith's Super-Subs	Mr Smith

Keep abreast with Homefield news as it happens... 