

# Headlines

Autumn Term  
9<sup>th</sup> September 2022

"The quality of the pupils' academic and other achievements is excellent."

ISI inspection report December 2021

## Letter from the Headmaster

### Dear Parents

A warm welcome to all our new families and great to see our established community back to learning. I am going to stick with some timely and practical matters in this first bulletin:

As you can see, we finished our wonderful new build over the summer. Next week, weather permitting, we have the builders back just to lay a fancy polymetric surface over the new multi-use sport pitch. Like one of the boys informed me a while ago "It's like coming to school in a five-star hotel".

So, at some point next week, we will expect to be dismissing boys from the front of the School (outside the Main Entrance/Dining Hall). This will allow the builders to safely finish off our sports pitch to the rear.

'**Stop and Drop**' returned after a three-year pandemic/site rebuild hiatus! Since then, the Borough of Sutton have altered the road layout and we are noticing some traffic congestion.

So, we are establishing a few more rules to ensure that the service is efficient and safe. If you don't like using 'stop and drop' that's fine, but please do park up legally and safely in the neighbourhood.

### The Rules of Stop and Drop.

#### Please:

- **Only turn in from Tate Road** (from the direction of Gander Green Lane)
- **Do not enter via Western Road**, cutting across any queue: join from Tate Rd only
- **Move slowly**, no more than 5mph
- Your boy **must exit your car from the passenger side for safety**
- Please, wherever possible, **have bags ready to go** with your boy
- **Turn left** out of the site, keeping aware of pedestrians and other vehicles.

If we can all do this, the service will be far quicker and boys, staff and pedestrians will be safer. Thank you for your patience and care.

The only fly in the ointment of a super first week of term were some disappointing communications and service from the third party we use for our wrap around provision. I sincerely apologise for this. Unfortunately, 'Energykidz' did not inform the school that they were cancelling some sessions. We are now urgently looking to more sustainable reliable services and will update you soonest. In the meantime, we worked until the very last moment yesterday to add more after school clubs. I thank all parents who have engaged supportively with this: the senior leadership team will be running extra clubs to help out.

Finally, God Bless the Queen. We will be preparing for a special memorial assembly with the boys next Friday.

Have a great weekend.

**John Towers**  
Headmaster

## Lower School: Reception, Years 1 and 2

### Reception

Welcome to the start of a new academic year, and for many of our boys in Reception, their very first experience of Homefield Prep. Our new Reception boys have settled into the school remarkably well and we are so proud of them. The boys are already well underway with their new topic 'Me and My Community' and have been exploring not only their wonderful new classrooms and getting to know their teachers, but also the larger school community that they are an integral part of.

In Maths this week, we are working on counting, recognising and ordering numbers to 20. Our boys have demonstrated their excellent counting skills and enjoyed matching numbers to amounts of objects.



Our English focus has been on the text 'Have you filled a bucket today?' This text encourages the boys to think about what makes them happy, and what they can do to help others. We encourage you to ask your son what fills their bucket and what they can do to fill the buckets of others. We have also had a focus on name recognition and writing: it is wonderful to see our boys so motivated to become independent in their learning!



### Years 1 and 2

Year 1 have had a wonderful start to the new school year. The boys have all matured so much over the summer and have settled brilliantly into their new classes. We have been very busy this week and the boys have started using all their new subject books which is very exciting. Some things we have been looking at this week have been: 'The Colour Monster' story in English, number bonds in Maths, an introduction to the Monarchy in History, where we are from in Geography, British values in TPR and drawn lovely self-portrait pictures in Art.

Year 2 have had a wonderful start to the term after an amazing summer break. The boys have settled well into the school day and have shown immense enthusiasm during lessons. We have learned a little bit about each other and explored topics such as the Amazon Rainforest and Significant Explorers in our Geography and History lessons. Well done to all of Year 2 for being so brilliant and we are looking forward to the rest of our learning this term.



## Homefield Heroes

The following boys have been nominated as Homefield Heroes:

**RH – Roger** for settling in so well to life at Homefield

**RS – Clement** for making a great start to his Homefield career

**1H – Zaviyar** for settling into Year 1 so well and working hard all week

**1S – Kylesh** for starting Year 1 with such maturity and working so hard in everything we have done this week

**2H – Zaviaan** for being so polite and well organised

**2S – Zien** for consistently applying himself to all lessons this week

## Charity Event

### Jeans for Genes Day

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> September, all Homefield boys and staff will be able to take part in this charity event which aids in the research and support of those with genetic disorders.

As part of their uniform for the day, the boys can replace their school trousers with a pair of jeans.

We will arrange a collection box upon the boys' entry to school for their £1 contributions towards the charity.

Thank you for your support.



## Pastoral

### Homefield Heroes

The following boys receive a special mention this week:

#### Years 3 and 4

Year 3 and 4 have had a wonderful start to the academic year. A very warm welcome to Christopher, Edward, Keshav and James in Year 3, and Nathan, Harris and Theodore in Year 4. These boys have all received a Homefield Hero certificate for making a superb start at Homefield. A gentle reminder for all water bottles, stationery and clothing to be named over the weekend. In the interest of being environmentally friendly, could Year 3 parents look for your son's yellow reading record from last year and bring it in by Monday. If it has been misplaced, they will receive a new one next week.

*Miss I Alcobia – Head of Years 3 and 4*

## Parent News

Dear Parents,

It has been great to welcome back the children from the summer holidays as we start a new school year. The levels of enthusiasm and zest shown by the boys has been most enjoyable to observe. While there were a few 'bags-under-the-eyes' on day two, the teachers have coped admirably with being back too(!)

There have been several questions regarding uniform and consistency in presentation. Handily, there is an aptly named section (Uniform and Presentation) in the Parent Information Handbook on page 33. Please do have a read of this regarding all things ranging from uniform to hair length.

Please visit our website using the following links to view the Parent Information Handbook:

**Lower School (Reception, Years 1 and 2):**  
<https://rb.gy/7giwrđ>

**Upper School (Years 3 – 8):**  
<https://rb.gy/exbhsp>

#### Years 5 and 6

Welcome back to all pupils in Years 5 and 6. It has been great to see them again! A particularly warm welcome to our new pupils Harry (5H), Ian and Nittin (5P), Alasdair and Brendan (5S), Aden and Ben (6H), Arthur, Ryan and Zani (6P) and Gareth and Bryan (6S). They have all settled in very well, assisted by their 'buddies' as they get to know the school. I hope all Year 5 and 6 boys have enjoyed the first week back - I am really looking forward to working with them this year, as are their Form Tutors.

*Mr Smith – Head of Years 5 and 6*

#### Years 7 and 8

Congratulations to the following boys, nominated as Homefield Heroes this week

Kaichi in Year 7 for great attitude in lessons and towards his peers and Jonas in Year 8 for attaining the most housepoints in the year group.

*Mr K-W Leung – Head of Years 7 and 8*

#### Parent seminar 21<sup>st</sup> September 2022

Following on from the success of the last seminar led by Juliet and The Parenting Company, we have booked a follow-up seminar: **Managing behaviour and increasing cooperation**.

This will take place in the school's **Performance Hall on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September from 6.00 -7.30pm** with the final segment earmarked for any questions that you may have. Please follow the link below for further details and to book a place.

<https://theparentteam.simplero.com/page/256162-raising-boys-managing-behaviour-increasing-cooperation-for-homefield-prep>

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible. Please do note there will be no facility to record this seminar for those unable to attend.

All good wishes,

*Mr Zak Siva – Deputy Head Pastoral*

## Learning Technology

### TEAMS

We have reset the passwords to all existing boys in our school and have issued new accounts to our new starters. Your son will be coming home with his office 365 letter (Teams) with his username and password written on it. Please work with your son over the next week or so, to help him access this resource. Form teachers have a copy of this information. Any issues with passwords, please contact your son's Form Tutor in the first instance.



We have a dedicated Teams email address should you require some support using this platform: [teams@homefieldprep.school](mailto:teams@homefieldprep.school) and you need to get in contact. Please save or make a note of the Teams email address in your address book within your email account.

Homework for the Upper School is on a fortnightly rotation and next week will be 'week 2'. Boys' homework will be on their Teams tile. Queries about homework or subject related matters should either go to the Form Tutor or subject teacher in the first instance, please refer to the staffing and our email contact addresses within the Parent Handbook or on our website for further details.

### ISEB pre-test

A communication was sent out at the beginning of the week regarding the new format for ISEB pre-tests for those entering Year 9 in 2025.

We will schedule a day for the Year 6 boys who are taking the test at Homefield, before the Christmas break. Please do familiarise yourself with the new format by visiting the ISEB website: <https://www.iseb.co.uk/>

### Music

Music clubs start back up next week. Year 5-8 Senior choir will be an audition choir with auditions starting next week.



## Sustainability

The Homefield community were finally able to enjoy produce from the school garden in the salad bar this week. Obviously the most popular salad there! Thank you catering staff!



*Before*



*After*

## Tweet of the Week



Homefield Prep School @HomefieldSchool · Sep 5

First day of the new academic year and time to unveil our brand new building! So good to welcome back our boys and families and to see so many new faces too! #firstdayofschool #stopanddrop



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

