

Headlines

Summer Term
10th May 2019

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

ISI inspection report

Year 5 boys take to the River Darent

Letter from the Headmaster

Dear Parents

A perennial conversation I have with parents is around the value of private tutoring, or more often the tutor/testing centres popular in recent years. To use a crude analogy: the farmer wants his prize pig nice and fat for the market. In order to get there, he needs to feed the pig, not just weigh it. A lot of the growing tutoring market seems to hinge on such with children tested *ad nauseam* in one way or another. Of course, being rather more complex than livestock, children can end up being entirely bored and switched off from learning if they sit doing past papers every day, even when jazzed up in some online tuition centre. They also get stressed out by the pressure. Talking to parents a common theme is that 'everyone is doing it' therefore we must have a competitive edge. I disagree; I feel you would get far more out of investing in learning, in 'feeding' rather than 'weighing', after all we are doing plenty of assessment in school as it is. So in terms of feeding the boys some good learning this week we can celebrate:

Year 3 enjoyed the, now annual, popular trip to Hindleap Warren; a first taste of independence for many being away overnight and a great chance for some exciting teambuilding, albeit in the rain, before they enter the Senior Department after the summer. Thanks to the staff for their TLC across all this.

In Music, our Choir competed well at the Charterhouse School Choral event on Tuesday; the boys really had to 'raise the bar' as they took on some girls' choirs and serious competition.

Year 5 combined both Geography and Classics study with a field trip to Kent to study the River Darent and visit Lullingstone Roman Villa.

Also worth a mention, the Year 2 visit last week to Sutton Ecology Centre to push forward their scientific knowledge; and also rounding off the week today, our Senior Boys' House Golf Tournament.

And finally, many congratulations to Oscar who is our Head Boy for the Summer Term. We look forward to him displaying his officer credentials over the forthcoming weeks.

Enjoy the weekend

John Towers
Headmaster



Outdoor Learning:
Homefield 'Adventurers'
at Hindleap Warren and Lullingstone

Early Years Department

Last week, Reception had such a great time at Pizza Express in Banstead. The staff were so good with our boys who really listened well and showed off some impressive pizza-making skills.

Nursery have enjoyed learning all about spiders this week as part of their Minibeasts topic. They have been busy using their counting skills to work out how many legs an insect has, if any, and count the total number.

In Reception, we have been practising money this week. With the ever-changing technology these days and the introduction of contactless payments, it is hard for the boys to understand the value of money and the skill of working out how much change they will need.

However, this is an important life skill to learn and one that will aid the boys' maths skills. If possible, please could you encourage your son to experiment with coins this weekend, working out the total number of coins then role-play shops and work out how much change he needs?



Our Special Award go to:

Aidan in Elephants for settling in so well.

Our Students of the Week are:

Gabriel in Tigers for forming his letters in cursive so neatly.

Edward in Tigers for such a huge improvement in his independent writing.

Abbas in Monkeys for his knowledge and understanding of repeating patterns.

Peter in Monkeys for an improved effort in his Literacy skills.

Junior Department

Rick and Nick from Sutton Schoolswork visited us last Monday to take our assembly on the theme of leadership and the boys all loved joining in with the action song. We also welcomed Mrs Hilton who gave us an update on our Guide Dog Collection, ably assisted by 1H who helped deliver an informative assembly about guide dog facts.

This week 2S's assembly was about hobbies and interests that we have which don't involve electronic gadgets. The boys came up with lots of interesting ideas that would be really good for activities during weekends and the half term holiday.

On Thursday 2nd May, Year 2 went along to Sutton Ecology Centre as part of their Science topic on 'Habitats'. Having previously walked around the school grounds to look at the local environments, they had the pleasure of studying a pond habitat at close quarters and what exciting 'beasts' they found in the ponds at Sutton Ecology Centre! They discovered a wide array such as newts, caddis fly larvae, dragonfly nymphs, tadpoles, pond skaters and many other fascinating creatures. All of this, following a delicious packed lunch from school, meant that a good time was had by all!

The highlight of this week has to be the Year 3 residential trip to Hindleap Warren, which went extremely well and the boys had a wonderful time, despite a little rain! They loved taking part in all the activities and having a sleep over with their friends! They behaved beautifully and were a pleasure to take away. Our thanks to Mrs Lyndham, Miss Mayes, Mrs Burgess, Miss Gaworzewska, Mrs Bartlett and Miss Breach for accompanying the trip.



Year 2 at Sutton Ecology Centre

Homefield Heroes

1H Zachary for good contributions to our class discussions and **Oliver** for working hard and making good choices.

1S Sabir for making fantastic progress with his reading and **Hanchen** for excellent presentation of all his work. Well done, boys!

2H Ethan for always being positive and enthusiastic in lessons and **Saaketh** for his amazingly positive attitude and enthusiasm.

2S Arthav for great effort and concentration in lessons and **Calum** for being organised and following instructions promptly.

3H Vedanth for always demonstrating good manners and **Prayaan** for demonstrating excellent listening and communication skills during the activities at Hindleap Warren.

3S Lucas for his fantastic behaviour and attitude at Hindleap Warren and **George** for working incredibly hard as Form Captain for 3S. Well done, keep it up!

Parents' Association

It was a pleasure to speak to the Class Reps at our meeting last week. A big thank you to every one of them for their involvement and help this year. Your Class Rep will soon be asking for help on the stalls at our **Cricket World Cup Summer Fun Day on Saturday 6th July** 11.00am – 3.00pm. Make sure the date is in your diary!

Tickets are still available on Classlist for the **Summer Party on Saturday 8th June** at Cuddington Golf Club. Don't forget to send us your menu choices and song requests!

The Homefield Association has now registered as a charity on **Amazon Smile**. Amazon Smile looks like your usual Amazon portal but donates 0.5% of your purchase value to your designated organisation. Please consider setting "The Homefield Association" as your chosen charity and start purchasing through <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/>

Many thanks for your support!
The HA team

Fantasy Football League

Gameweek 36:

League	Most Pts	Team	Manager
Pupils, Parents & Staff	116	Homefield Academy	PE Dept
Year 7 & 8	85	The Champions	James
Year 6	100	Tos Terrific Team	Tosan
Year 5	96	The Fireballs	Oliver
Year 4	112	Star Troop	Jake
Junior	112	Daniel's Dranners	Daniel
Parents	105	Mo' Selecta!	Nick H
Staff	116	Homefield Academy	PE Dept

Gamesweek 37:

League	Most Pts	Team	Manager
Pupils, Parents & Staff	89	Sivan's Superstars	Sivan
Year 7 & 8	60	Justin's Lucky Lads!	Justin
	60	Victorious Vinicius	Vinicius
Year 6	89	Sivan's Superstars	Sivan
Year 5	73	Fiery Fiends	Xavier
Year 4	78	Star Troop	Jake
Junior	76	Daniel's Dranners	Daniel
Parents	69	Ludere Vincere	M S Lavan
Staff	77	Homefield Academy	PE Dept

Football Mascot for the Day

My dad got a call from Arsenal Football Club over 5 weeks ago informing him that I had been selected as a club mascot for the game against Leicester City FC on Sunday 28th April. My mum shared the news with me that evening when she came to pick me up from school. It was an amazing feeling when I found about this opportunity, especially the fact that I was the only one selected in a ballot amongst 40,000 junior members!

My family and I travelled to Leicester a day early and visited the National Space Centre, which was extremely interesting, and I learnt many facts about the first moon landing.

On the Sunday, I dressed in the Arsenal kit that the club had supplied and before the game, my dad and I were given a stadium tour. I also had the opportunity to have numerous photos taken with famous football stars and I had a brief 30-second introduction video made which was played on the big screen prior to kick-off. When the Arsenal team bus arrived I was introduced to the manager and the players.

When it was time to emerge from the tunnel onto the pitch, loud cheers greeted both teams. I lined up beside Granit Xhaka and the Arsenal team and we shook hands with the referee, the Leicester mascots and the Leicester team.

Lullingstone Geography and Classics Trip

On Wednesday, Year 5 survived the heavy rain and enjoyed a day at Lullingstone Country Park! Even though very wet, the boys worked extremely diligently; showed team work, practical investigation skills and excellent knowledge! They worked together to measure the River Darent and explore the Roman Villa. An excellent day of Geography and Classics - well done, Year 5!



I then retired to my seat alongside my family where we watched the game which Arsenal sadly lost 3-0.

This has been a dream come true for me, something I will share with my friends and family for the rest of my life.
Krish G Year 3



Sport

U10 Cricket v Lanesborough

On the very last day of April, the U10 'A' team began their cricket season with an emphatic win against Lanesborough. The visiting team won the toss and elected to bowl first. Homefield went into bat looking to score quickly but several wickets fell in quick succession. Rory was caught out having just hit a super four then Dron was bowled despite just cutting the ball to the boundary. Robert, Rishab and Prabodha steadied the ship with some sensible batting but runs off the bat were rare and fielding mistakes by Lanesborough led to Homefield posting a low score of 87 runs off of 16 overs. Homefield showed that they are a very good bowling team and with Shankar playing very well at wicket keeper, the fielding was superb. Oliver B bowled a maiden over with his first six balls, Prabodha secured a very good wicket, Dron threw in a super run out and Cass got a wicket with his first ball. With the score so close it was down to Zain I to bowl the last over with Lanesborough needing 6 to win. They managed to scramble three runs with just one ball remaining. The tension was mounting as the visiting team hit the last ball and it flew to third man, Dron, who managed to get it in quickly resulting in a run out. Homefield had won the game by one run!

All the team got to bowl, bat and play in a really fun fixture, full of superb sportsmanship. Well done, boys.

U10 Cricket v The Mall

On Tuesday 7th May, the U10 'A' team played cricket at home against The Mall. Homefield lost the toss and were put in to bat. The fast bowlers of The Mall really tested our opening batsmen and very few runs were scored early on. However, Rory P and Zain started to hit the ball and Zain scored a super 16 before getting clean bowled middle stump. Shankar batted very well but the bowlers were very fast and many Homefield runs were actually byes going to the boundary. Homefield posted 110 runs off 16 overs and felt that was a good score. However, the Mall proved too strong for our bowling attack and were scoring with ease, giving us a lesson in how to get runs quickly. They scored 25 off the first three overs! Prabodha and Robert bowled very well but it was not quite enough and the opponents reached 111 with four overs to spare.



Table Tennis Ambitions

Over the last few months, I have been fortunate to win several regional and National Table Tennis competitions and I am currently ranked No 6 in my age group by Table Tennis England.

I am now preparing for the National Championships, which are to be held in June. Last year, I won a bronze medal so I am aiming to improve my standing this year with the aim of receiving sponsorship and playing for England at some point in the near future.

Daniyal P Year 6



Music

Charterhouse Choral Event

The Homefield Chamber Choir joined forces with six other prep schools and the Charterhouse Choir to give an inspirational concert to parents in the splendid Charterhouse chapel on Tuesday 7th May.

The pupils sang movements from Faure's *Requiem* and spirituals arranged by John Rutter along with solo items from each prep school choir. The Homefield choir sang *The Sound of Silence* in a three-part arrangement accompanied sensitively by Mrs Walker.



The Chamber Choir Alto section

Music Success

Oliver and Sam (Year 6) who have both made fantastic progress on the trumpet passed Grade 6 with merit.

Congratulations to the following boys who took piano exams at the end of last term:

Eric S, Year 7 passed Grade 6 (Distinction)

Zain M, Year 5 Grade 5

Sam S, Year 6 Grade 3 (Merit)

Adrian C, Year 7 Grade 2 (Merit)

James S, Year 8 Grade 2 (Distinction)

Ronak N, Year 5 Grade 2

Henry P, Year 4 Grade 1 (Distinction)

Special mention is due to Vansh (Year 6) who has exceptionally passed his Grade 8 violin with distinction and who also holds Grade 8 in piano, and also to Ansh (Year 4) who has passed his Grade 5 violin with distinction.

Music Festival and House Music Competition

The Music Festival and House Music Competition will take place on Friday 17th May, with a first round for Grade 2/3 piano or strings on Thursday 16th May. Please see the attached poster for timings of the sections. The sections will be watched by other pupils and parents are also welcome to come and listen – the percussion section will not have an audience of pupils but a few parents should just about fit in!

Vikings invade Homefield

On Monday 29th April, Year 4 had a Viking Workshop Day. Our uniforms were left at home and Year 4 became Vikings for the day!

'Bjorn the Viking' visited the school and helped us with numerous activities to learn more about the Vikings, all of which was enormous fun! I really enjoyed my first Monday of term, it started the week off with a very high, happy note.

The first activity of the day was about the Viking invasion. Bjorn told us that the first part of the Viking invasion went like this: *"There were rumours of dragons flying in the sky. The King was having a walk on the beach (this walk was said to be his last ever happy walk, but it didn't turn out happy for him!). As he looked out in the mist a dragon head appeared, soon he realised it was attached to a boat. With shouts from the boat and screams from the Anglo-Saxons, he knew they were invaders at once".*

After this, we made a certificate about our name in Viking runes, nicknames and jobs. The third activity for my group was to wear some Viking clothes and necklaces. A lot of them were itchy! The fourth activity was to grind some grains and to see, feel and smell items that Vikings used.

Bjorn asked us if we wanted to do some stick wrestling, most of us were excited to take part. The Vikings used to do this to determine who was the strongest.

The next activity was to pass around items that Vikings used and to guess their uses. We had the opportunity to examine Viking armoury and weapons before we broke for lunch.

Once refuelled, we were bursting with energy! We were placed into new groups, either The Ravens or The Badgers, to learn about Viking battles. I was in The Badgers. We learnt some Viking commands and formed a shield wall. We had three rounds to determine which groups were the best at doing the commands in the quickest amount of time. The Ravens had a slight advantage because they had fewer people. 4H's scores were The Ravens 1 - The Badgers 2.

The penultimate activity of the day was to lift chainmail and some of us were surprised at how heavy it was! We ended the day with lots of questions and answers. It was a thoroughly enjoyable day.

Rayyan C (4H)



Maths Competition

On Thursday 2nd May, four boys (Idhant, Ohki, Qasim and Prabodha) represented Homefield at the Quiz Club Maths Competition. They came second with an impressive score of 1655 points; narrowly missing out on first place by 155 points. The boys are through to the next round and we are confident they will build on their successes in these heats.

This competition is an exciting way to challenge pupils' mathematical ability, speed and mental agility, all within an environment that is exciting and great fun.

Chess News

There are a number of Megafinals at this time of year and this gives the boys a chance not only to play a tournament outside school, but it also gives them the thrill of trying to qualify for the next round: the Gigafinal.

To play in a Megafinal is an achievement in itself and qualification for the next round is difficult. Six Homefield boys played in the West Surrey Megafinal on Sunday 28th April, at Tormead School in Guildford. Raghav, Prabodha (2nd in the Under 10 section), Benjamin (2nd in the Under 11 section) and Keshav (3rd in the Under 12 section), all qualifying for the Gigafinal in July in their respective age group. We understand that Kavin (U8) and Tim (U9) might also have qualified – further news to follow.

The latest local Megafinal took place at Sandown racecourse on Saturday 4th May and a number of Homefield boys took up the challenge by taking advantage of their qualification for it. Vinicius, Kwame (both U12-U18 mixed), and Rishan (U9) all played. In addition, Sivan (U11), Nishad (U10 1st) Leonardo (U9), and Zayn (U8) did so well they have qualified for the Gigafinal in July, the latter two named boys won bronze medals for finishing particularly high in their age group.



Tweet of the Week





Homefield Prep School @HomefieldSchool · 21h
#Year3 @HindleapWarren #CreatingMemoriesSince1870



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Homefield Art Gallery



Year 8H, The 'Megacity' Under Construction