

HEADLINES

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Summer Term 2010 – April (1)

Happy St George's Day! The Homefield family has gone global this week with parents, pupils and (a very small number of) staff stranded in various locations worldwide. Happily the Homefield diaspora is now returning! It is surely a climatic conspiracy that the Spring Term was heralded with blizzards and the Summer Term with volcanic debris and dust!

During the start of term fallout, as a consolation, I entertained myself with the fantasy of Mr Dawson, in his holiday shorts and sunglasses, being diverted, to his peril, over Russian airspace. Meanwhile, in the real world, my daughter was on a warship involved in manoeuvres in the North Sea and Ms Kingsford, in the Early Years' Unit, was marooned beside the volcano itself! Hopefully more holiday updates will follow from the Homefield family next week.

As I write, the school awaits receipt of last term's inspection report. This appears to be caught up in the log-jam of inspections which evidently assailed the Independent sector last term. The report will be distributed to parents later in the term as soon as it is received!

This week, in the classroom, the boys in the 5th form are preparing for their KS2 examinations; the boys in the U6th form are preparing for their Scholarship and Common Entrance examinations.

In the country boys and politicians are rehearsing their forward defensives and pulls; whilst the population at large limbers up for General Election which, for the first time since my now long-distant childhood, now appears to be exciting God's exercise of free will! The school will enjoy a front seat in the process by serving as a polling station on May 6th!

I wish the Homefield community a very prosperous term!

Flower beds

As the Spring sunshine now warms the Homefield soil, I would ask parents of boys in the Early Years' Unit to protect the delicate flower-beds by ensuring that their sons walk on the pavement and not on the flowers or the walls.

Parking

The school has now installed erectable barriers to prevent parking on the school drive at set times during the school day.

From Monday, the barriers will be erected at each end of the drive between 2.00 pm and 4.30 pm. This will protect children leaving the school premises at the end of the day and allow children to safely board the minibuses for their homeward journey.

Smart Car

The local authority traffic control have informed us that the CCTV Smart Car will be patrolling the area at the start and end of day. Any parents parking illegally will receive a penalty notice.

Weekly Calendar of Events

The full range of clubs and music lessons is already under way throughout the school. Parents are asked to refer carefully to the weekly calendar of events, music timetable and clubs timetable for timings.

Calendar

A further, updated, copy of this term's calendar is attached for parental information.

The Homefield Association

The Homefield Association's Charity Fun Run in aid of 'Cancer Research' and 'The Royal Marsden Hospital', takes place on Saturday 15th May, from 11.00 to 1.00 pm at Sutton and Epsom Rugby Club. This event takes place regardless of the weather conditions! The main course is ½ mile with a shorter course for younger boys. Please refer to the attached flyer. Sponsorship forms will follow next week.

There will be an optional obstacle course including tunnels, water squirters, a cargo net and the chance to throw a wet sponge at a teacher on completion of each lap. The boys may wear fancy dress if they like and prizes will be awarded for the best outfit and the most laps in each department. Hot drinks and refreshments will be available for parents and children throughout the morning.

Fun Day Thursday 8th July

This day is for the boys to celebrate the end of a great year and to let their hair down after all their hard work. It will be held during school time between 12.30-4pm and the boys will be

allocated a time slot for their year group/department. The fun will include inflatables, ice cream, face painting, candyfloss, a merry-go-round, a fire engine and other games. Any parent volunteers who are able to spare half an hour to help supervise on the day please email me.

Bollywood Bash 26th June - 8.00pm -1.00am

Don't miss this one! An evening for parents and staff to enjoy – starting with a musical reception at the Diomed Suite of Epsom Grandstand, followed by a Curry Buffet. After the main course we will be entertained with a Bollywood Bonanza of dance from 'Tridhara', an Asian dance group who have previously performed for Tony Blair and the Queen! The evening will also include a raffle and disco.

Tickets will be available next term and great value at £50 (closing date 4th June). Tables are pre arranged (8, 10 or 12 people) so join with your year group or bring some friends. Dress code is smart evening wear or International dress (no jeans please). See you there!

The Early Years' Unit

Welcome back to school for the Summer Term. I hope you all had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday.

During the school holidays we have purchased an incubator, a brooder pen and some fertilised eggs and have based them in Kingfishers class. Hopefully, in three weeks we will hear the sound of cheeping and be able to watch some chicks hatching from their eggs. All the boys are very excited by the prospect so please feel free to come and see how things are progressing.



The EYU Egg Incubator

Please note the following dates for the diary this term:

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| Open Afternoon | 25 th May from 2.15 pm |
| New Boys' Day | 23 rd June |
| New Parents' Evening | 23 rd June |
| Sports Day | 24 th June 2.00 pm |

The Early Years' has decided to support Barnado's by holding a 'Bear Raffle' fundraising appeal, 'Making Home a Safe Place to Live'. To take part we want you to find our bear a safe place to live. We need to sell as many boxes on the fundraising grid as we can. There are 100 altogether. To buy a box please put £1 in the tin and write your son's name in a numbered box. If you choose the lucky winning number the bear is yours to take home and give him a nice safe place to live.

The Bear Raffle will be outside Kingfishers Class. Thank you for your support.

Mrs B Whiteway

Nursery

The topic for this half term is **Transport**. Next week's focus is 'Wheels'.

Some of the learning experiences planned include:

- ❖ Printing using wheels
- ❖ Making pinwheel sandwiches
- ❖ Jolly Phonic 'z' action, song and story.
- ❖ Using remote control vehicles
- ❖ Recognising numerals **0 – 10 and beyond**
- ❖ Learning about opposites

Miss Kingsford, Mrs Muller and Mrs Evans

Transition

The topic for this half term is 'Food' and we have begun by discussing sources: wheat to bread, cows to milk, milk to cheese and butter, chicks to eggs and bees to honey. We began by reading the story of the 'Little Red Hen' and then making our own bread which was delicious. We have also bought an incubator and some eggs and the boys and staff are looking forward to watching the process of hatching into chicks.

Next week we will be focusing on fruit, naming the different fruits and discussing the texture, shape, size and smell as we make a fruit salad.

In Literacy we are learning the diagraphs 'or' and 'ee' and finding words with them in. We will also be writing about the story of 'Oliver's Fruit Salad' and practising our handwriting.

In Numeracy we are making a block graph of our favourite fruit. We will be practising subtraction and counting in fives.

Mrs Whiteway and Miss Waddy

The Junior Department

The First Year

It has been lovely to have all the boys back and to hear about all the exciting things they have done in the holidays. We look forward to welcoming back the families who are still stranded abroad due to the lack of flights!

This term we are thinking about 'Opposites', and the boys have done some lovely black and white pictures for a display to launch this topic.

We have introduced the boys to our Summer Play "The Goblin Next Door" and they have started to learn the songs in their music lessons. Next week we will be sending home details of costumes and words to learn.

Can we please remind you that the boys only need their white kit for Games this term and they should have **sports caps in school at all times**. Thank you.

Mrs Gunningham, Mrs Goodbody and Miss Buchanan

The Second Year

We were delighted to have back most of our boys this week. An excellent start has been made on the 1st and 2nd year play, "The Goblin Next Door". The boys have been given their parts to learn and are very excited. Parental assistance in learning lines and cues would be greatly appreciated.

Spellings this week are er, ir and ur words that make the er sound.

We have introduced division and so continuing practise of the times tables will be really helpful.

Clubs have restarted. Well done to those boys who attend every week!

Mrs Burgess, Mrs Connaughton and Mrs Lyndham

Music

There will be year group concerts in the school hall for the L4th and U4th forms before half term. All boys who take individual lessons (in or out of school) need to start preparing a solo piece for their concert. (Boys who play two or more instruments will need to choose one on which to perform).

- **U4th Concert – Thursday 20th May at 6.30 pm**
- **L4th Concert - Monday 24th May at 6.30 pm**

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

Grade 1: (Distinction) - Giles Winterbourne, George Henning (Pass), Peter O'Brien.

Grade 3: (Distinction) - Marcus Melconian.

Mr A Meyers

Townsend Warner History Prize Success

Congratulations to Dennis Sun and Raymond Yip who both won certificates by finishing in the top 100 in the country. About 800 boys across Britain compete in Paper I; the top 200 qualify for Paper II which is a 2 hour essay based paper.

Mr C Lloyd

Beefy's 'Forget-Me-Not Walk' 2010

On Thursday 15th April 2010, I embarked on the 'Beefy Forget-Me-Not Walk 2010' for Leukaemia Awareness, along with seven other Under 12 Surrey cricketers at Epsom Racecourse.

The original plan was to give a guard of honour for Sir Ian Botham, who was arranging the walk for his charity, and then play Kwik Cricket, but we decided to join in on the five and a half mile walk.

It was extremely difficult, and I had no idea I was going to be walking, but after finishing, although exhausted, I was extremely pleased I had the chance to walk with such a legend for charity.

Apart from Sir Ian Botham, the legendary cricketer, there were a few other celebs: Helen Chamberlain, host of Soccer AM, Daley Thompson, Olympic legendry decathlon champion and Charles Collvile, cricket commentator.

After the walk we had a team photo with Sir Ian, who was very proud of the Surrey team's achievements!



Joshua Vincent with Sir Ian Botham

Reporter: Joshua Vincent L6H