

## **HMS Newsletter December 2017**

### **V.E. Day celebration**

On Thursday 14th December Year 6 celebrated the end of their World War II topic in Explore with a VE Day party. We welcomed parents, grandparents and family friends to help celebrate in style; the hall was decorated with "Make Do and Mend Bunting" in keeping with the theme. The pupils came dressed in their World War II costumes, supplied a plentiful buffet and provided entertainment by singing famous World War II songs and displaying their sequence dancing skills that they had learned during PE lessons.

We have had some lovely comments from visitors on the energy in the room, the fun they had joining in with the singing and indeed the facts that children have been discussing at home throughout the topic and around their homework tasks.

We'd also like to say a big thank you to the ladies from the PTA who poured many cups of tea and coffee on the afternoon; your support was very much appreciated.



### **Happy Puzzle Company**

Our Key Stage 2 pupils welcomed staff from the 'Happy Puzzle Company' on Monday 11 December. The aim of the session was to develop practical problem solving skills as well as team work, communication and resilience - all key skills needed for success in mathematics!

### **Year 5 Mexico Day**

On Tuesday our year 5 pupils enjoyed a Mexico day. Over the course of the day they were treated to shield making, Aztec toy making as well as learning about Codices and the Spanish language. Many pupils had created and designed fantastic headdresses; we all enjoyed the parade as they proudly showed them off. Lunch in the canteen was another hit of the day with a range of Mexican foods served. Thank you everyone that took part in what was a very enjoyable day.



### **Year 6 Safety Works visit**

Over the course of two afternoons, our year 6 pupils travelled to Benwell to attend an event run by Tyne and Wear Fire Brigade but also supported by Northumbria Police, The British Transport Police, the NHS, St John's Ambulance Service and Road Safety services. It was a very informative afternoon where pupils were given valuable advice on how to stay safe in a range of different situations. As ever, our pupils were a credit to the school.

### **Judaism morning**

On Friday 15th December we welcomed Deanne van Der Welde from Gosforth Synagogue into school. Throughout the morning the children worked around a carousel of activities: Judaism and the synagogue, celebrating Shabbat and making Jewish artefacts including Hanukkah cards to celebrate the current Jewish festival. The pupils then created fact files about all that they had learned on Friday; their collective knowledge was impressive and a testament to the value of the visit, hearing first-hand about Jewish life and getting a sense of respect that Deanne has for the synagogue and all the artefacts that she brought for the children to see, touch and (for the boys) wear. Deanne was thoroughly impressed not just by the behaviour and manners of our pupils, but in particular by the quality of their questioning. The pupils were extremely engaged and asked very probing questions.

It was fascinating learning about a different religion, understanding the significance of the various symbols and artefacts around Shabbat. Thanks also to Mrs Marks who sent into school a freshly baked Challah loaf for Hanukkah; the aroma during lessons was fabulous, awakening our senses.

Year 6 will continue with Judaism after Christmas, as we touch on the Holocaust and the story of Anne Frank.



### **U13 Indoor Cricket County Champions**

On Friday 8th December, HMS beat off competition from Ponteland, Gosforth and George Stephenson to be crowned County Champions at U13 level in softball cricket. Playing for HMS were Will M, Jake R, Seth R, Andrew C, Jack M, Dan C, Dan S, Luke R and Max B.

In the morning, the teams played in a group format, winning all their games and resulting in a ranking of 1. The afternoon saw Hexham play George Stephenson in the semi-final, and then go onto the final against Ponteland. Ponteland batted first scoring 103-5 from their 8 overs. In reply, Hexham were 95-5 off 7 overs needing 9 runs to win. Dan S hit a six before his wicket fell, leaving Seth and Dan C to score the winning runs with only two balls remaining. Dan C, won the match by hitting a 6 to secure victory for HMS!

Other great performances were from Will with his three wickets in 5 balls, Max and Jake's economic bowling, and Andrew and Jack's great batting.

### **Year 7 Indoor Football**

HMS were invited to play in an indoor friendly tournament at Prudoe. The girls played brilliantly in all their matches, considering they had never played indoor football before. Jenny P marshalled the defence with some

brilliant tackles. Lila, Margarida, Sienna pressed from the front and created some good chances. Player of the tournament was awarded to Megan C!

### **Tynedale Sports Council Awards.**

It's our great pleasure to report that Year 8 boys won the Middle School Team of the Year (David Thompson Cup). The boys performed well in an athletics competition held last summer when they were in Year 7. They won the Northumberland Schools Year 7 competition at WLC. Also nominated from HMS was a Y6 Netball team, a Y6 Kwick sticks Hockey team and a Y6 Rugby team from last year. The prize giving was on a Sunday night and was well attended by pupils and parents. It was great to see the stage covered with twenty two pupils in HMS sweatshirts. Thank you to all who attended.

### **Tynedale Area Cross Country Championship.**

This race was held at Ovingham Middle School at the beginning of December. We took 45 pupils from Y5, Y6, Y7 and Y8 to compete. The weather for this year was kind and gave ideal running conditions. In the Y5 and Y6 races Ayala came 6th and Lawrence M 9th. We had five qualifiers from the older age groups who will go on to represent Tynedale at the County Championships at Temple Park South Shields. These pupils are: Matilda A Y7 girls, Megan C Y7 girls, Hugo M Y7 boys, Sam H Y7 boys and Nathan A Y8 boys. Well done to everyone who competed and keep up the training over Christmas.

### **Fantastic Fundraising**

Since September, HMS pupils have raised the outstanding total of £1812.95 for charity! Thank you to all those who have contributed generously to the following charities:

Children in Need - £519.37  
 Josie's Dragonfly Trust - £519.37  
 Breast Cancer Now - £90.50  
 Jeans for Genes - £438.08  
 Poppy Appeal - £170.64  
 St. Joseph's School for the hearing impaired (in Sierra Leone) - £74.99

### **Upcoming dates for diaries:**

**15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> January:** Holocaust memorial event in KS2 and KS3  
**23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> January:** Year 7 parents' evenings  
**24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> January:** Peter J Murray author visit for KS2 and KS3  
**6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> February:** Year 8 parents' evenings

### **House Totals**

| <b>Aln</b> | <b>Coquet</b> | <b>Tweed</b> | <b>Wansbeck</b> |
|------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 603        | 593           | 556          | 499             |

### **Attendance**

| <b>Year 5</b> | <b>Year 6</b> | <b>Year 7</b> | <b>Year 8</b> |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 97.7%         | 96.7%         | 96%           | 94.7%         |

### **Thanks to the PTA**

Very many thanks to our hardworking PTA who have organised and supported a number of excellent events over the course of this term.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our carol service at Hexham Abbey on Monday evening and to families and friends who have supported the school throughout the Autumn Term.

On behalf of the staff of Hexham Middle School, we would like to wish everyone a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

**School will close for Christmas on Friday 22 December 2017 and will re-open on Monday 8 January 2018.**

