

September 2017

**Head teacher's message**

Welcome to our first newsletter of the new academic year. In this and other editions to follow (as well as in the News section of our website), you will find out about all the wonderful enrichment and extra-curricular opportunities on offer to our young people throughout the year. A key message we give to them is to participate, to take part, to get involved – please echo this message at home, as full engagement with the wider life of the school adds enormously to a child's enjoyment of their time with us. It also enables them to have experiences and to develop skills and qualities that will stand them in great stead in later life.

With best wishes for the year ahead.

**Mr Atkins**

**New year five pupils**

Mrs Cave would like to extend a special welcome to our new year five intake who have settled extremely well in to Middle School life. We wish you a successful and enjoyable first term at HMS.

**New 'Explore' lessons in Key Stage Two**

An exciting new initiative has been introduced at HMS which the children will see on their timetables as 'Explore' twice a week. Throughout these sessions, we will learn about a particular topic which will involve historical and geographical understanding, religious education and Modern Foreign Languages linked to the subject matter. Our first Explore topic in Year Five is 'Frozen Kingdom' and in Year Six is 'A Child's War'. Full details of topic coverage can be found on our school website.

**Year Six are Evacuated!**

During 'Explore' on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September, Year Six pupils were invited to come to school dressed as World War Two evacuees. Children arrived carrying their evacuation boxes containing all manner of items which a child at the time would have packed. We enjoyed a fun-filled day of evacuation themed activities, involving experiencing a busy, bustling train station in Fellside Hall and thinking about how evacuees would have felt when separated from friends and family. Our thanks go to Mrs Phillips and the rest of the Year Six team for organising such an engaging and exciting activity, and to all the children and families who created such authentic costumes!





### **Jeans for Genes Fundraiser**

On Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September, pupils may wear jeans in exchange for a £1 contribution for the Jeans for Genes charity. Assemblies next week led by Mrs Gregory will inform the children about the charity and the work it does in raising money to support families of children born with life-altering genetic disorders.

### **Sponsored Read and Review**

Many thanks to the pupils who participated in Mrs Roff's Read and Review challenge over the summer holidays. So far we've raised over £50 for the school's libraries and Mrs Jackson, Beaumont librarian, is looking forward to purchasing many of the titles you've recommended for our book shelves. Should anyone else have sponsor money and book reviews, please could they be handed in to Fellside Office no later than Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September. Your ongoing support is greatly appreciated.

### **Make your mark campaign**

On the 10<sup>th</sup> November the UK Youth Parliament will come together in the House of Commons to debate and decide on the most important issues to campaign on for the year ahead. Pupils at Hexham Middle School will have their chance to vote on these top issues during UK Parliament week in November. More details will be coming to pupils during form time and within PHSE lessons soon.

### **Tynedale football – Year 8**

On Thursday 14 September, year eight boys participated in a football tournament with other schools in the Tynedale area. We took two teams to the event: Hexham 1 came second to Corbridge Middle, losing only on points; Hexham 2 won two games and lost three. Both teams played really well and represented HMS impeccably. This is a strong start to their season which bodes well for the league games we'll be starting soon.

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

19<sup>th</sup> September – House Hustings to decide on our House Captains and Vice Captains for this year  
22<sup>nd</sup> September – Jeans for Genes day  
22<sup>nd</sup> September – KS2 have a visiting theatre production of Pinocchio and a workshop afterwards  
25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> September – Peter J Murray (author) will be visiting school to present to all year groups  
26<sup>th</sup> September – European Day of Languages  
28<sup>th</sup> September – Conrad Dickinson (polar explorer) visiting Y5  
4<sup>th</sup> October – No Pens Day

### **Attendance**

| <b>Year 5</b> | <b>Year 6</b> | <b>Year 7</b> | <b>Year 8</b> |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 99.4%         | 97.3%         | 97.6%         | 96.5%         |