



HMS Weekly Update

1 October 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer

Update on life in school

Another week has flown by! The children are continuing to work very hard across the curriculum and it is great to walk around the school and hear the enjoyment of learning. This week, form tutors have held Pastoral Consultations. At this point in the term, it is important to understand how the children have settled into the new school year and to ensure that they are feeling safe and happy. Thank you for taking the time to complete the parent survey – it was brilliant to read such positive feedback which has been shared with the staff. The HMS team really have worked exceptionally hard to ensure that this year has started in a positive, calm manner and that our pupils have been welcomed back to a safe, happy learning environment.

Extra-curricular activities

Pupils now have a printed copy of our extra-curricular club offer - this should be glued into their planners. Please note that we now operate a Week A and B system; each form group has a sign on their notice board to alert pupils to which week it is. If a pupil has an idea for a club, we would recommend that they suggest this to their form group School Parliament Rep. These sessions will be starting next week (see the extra-curricular list for more details).

Registering/Expression of Interest

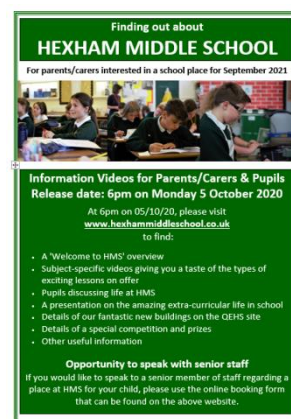
Some clubs will require **signing up**. Each teacher leading a club will be responsible for tracking attendance. Pupils need to visit the teacher leading the club to add their name to the list. If a club is over-subscribed, the teacher will plan a rota accordingly and update the pupils.

Remote Learning

This week, we sent home an updated letter containing Google Classroom codes. Your child's classes should be accessed if they are absent from school due to self-isolation, quarantine or other coronavirus related reasons. Should you have any questions or issues when accessing the resources, please don't hesitate to contact the office who will be happy to support you. There is also more information and helpful videos on our [website](#).

Virtual Information for Prospective Pupils

This year, we will sadly not be able to host our usual 'Open Evening' in school. We are disappointed that we can't meet prospective pupils and their families in person, but are working very hard to prepare informative and engaging virtual resources. Launching at 6pm on Monday 5 October, a [new website page](#) will have all of the information needed including: a 'Welcome to HMS' video tour; subject videos; interviews with pupils; Parents' Guide and Prospectus as well as lots of other useful resources. This event will be advertised on our social media and in the local press but please do spread the word if you can.



House Point Totals

Pupils continue to respond extremely well to our updated approach to rewarding positive behaviour. Below are this week's House Point totals as well as the **'Top 4' pupils in each year group this week**. Well done to each and every one of you – the totals are increasing rapidly!

House Totals		Year 5		Year 6		Year 7		Year 8	
Aln	4475	1	Sophie S	1	John C-T	1	Jackson B	1	Anna F
Coquet	4472	2	Lilly-May M	2	Ollie G	2	Alani-Jo H	2	Felix W
Tweed	4291	3	Christian T	3	Liam C	3	Ben C	3	Heidi S
Wansbeck	4313	4	Lorien V	4	Kenzie W	4	Hannah H	4	Antonia P

Key Stage 2: 'Stars of the week'

This week's theme was **pupils with a great attitude in maths lessons**. Well done to all of the pupils below.



Year 5		Year 6	
FHA	Harry H	LWA	Kenzie W
JNI	Sophie S	MDO	Laura W
FHI	Lewis P	RAL	Katie G
EKI	Finley A	PGA	Archie H
HCO	Christian T		

School Lunches

The catering team provide a wide range of hot food options each day. We have a selection of main course options (served with vegetables and/or fresh salad), jacket potatoes and sandwiches as well as dessert options. Fresh fruit and yoghurts are also available daily. The catering staff take real care to make sure that every child has something they can enjoy. **The canteen is also now open at break time so that the year group on fourth sitting can enjoy a snack.**

Some of the older pupils have expressed concern that year 5 are 'always on first sitting'. Please reassure them that this is not the case – they are indeed first in every day but year 5 now have an entirely different lunch time (12.10 -1.10) from the rest of the school to support the smooth running of the canteen. For years 6, 7 and 8, lunch time starts at 12.30 (and ends at 1.30) with three sittings (rather than four) and each year group rotates through the sitting times fairly. It is great to see so many pupils enjoying school lunches!

Intervention and Pupil Support

Mrs Toor and Mrs Adams have been busy preparing our comprehensive package of pupil support and intervention sessions. Our pupils highly value the support available to them with learning, well-being and personal development. Intervention may be offered throughout the year – it may be that a pupil is struggling to grasp a particular concept and just need a quick boost, they may be pushing to greater depth standard and need some support to 'unlock' certain aspects of learning or they may require a small group session to focus on their well-being and emotions. Whatever it may be, we are always here to support all children so they have the best possible school experience. Here are some of our approaches below:

- Fresh Start Reading
- Reading Plus
- Maths Whizz
- RAPID intervention
- Pre-teaching
- FRIENDS Resilience Programme
- Social/ Emotional Groups

Our sessions are planned and communicated to parents/ carers in advance. Each one runs for an agreed period with a review of impact held between staff and pupils.

Peer Mentors: Mental Health Champions

We are delighted to announce that for this academic year we have four fantastic Year 8 Peer Mentors who will work with our younger pupils to ensure their time in school is as enjoyable as possible. Research has shown that pupils often find comfort in talking to their peers and the four pupils who have been appointed to the role are caring, compassionate and very keen to help. Issy, Jessica, Lucy and Connie will work closely with Mr Barry, Mrs Adams, Mrs Henderson and Mr Stephenson to promote positive mental health and well-being throughout school. The Peer Mentors will be joining Mrs Henderson for training soon. Well done to all of you!



Class Charts: Reward Store



Our pupils have been working so hard this term and it has been fantastic to see many of them accruing so many **P points**. Currently there are almost 17,000 P points across the school!

Please remind the children that P points are 'spendable' in the **Classcharts Rewards Store**. This can be accessed by both parents and pupils via the web page or app. To purchase a reward, just select

the option your child would like and then follow the steps. Rewards will then be issued by form tutors within the same week. **Available rewards include: queue jump passes (always a favourite!), stationery, USB memory sticks, movie afternoon and even an afternoon tea!**

We are always keen to encourage and support positive behaviour and would like to widen the range of rewards on offer so have asked pupils for any suggestions. If you are aware of a local business which would like to contribute to the rewards store by donating a voucher or similar, then please let Mrs Curry know. We are delighted that **over 80%** of parents/ carers are now accessing Class Charts. We would really appreciate you downloading the app and regularly [accessing the site](#) so that we can keep you up-to-date with your child's time in school. If you struggle with accessing the app and/or site, please contact Mrs Curry.

Mobile Phones

The vast majority of our pupils are excellent in the management of their phones. Phones should be **switched off** for the entirety of the school day and kept with the pupil. If a pupil needs to contact home urgently, then we ask that they go to the office where they will be supervised in making a call.



From next Monday (5 October), if a pupil is seen using their phone during the school day it will be confiscated and kept in a secure box in the office until the end of the day when they can collect it. Pupils will also be issued a S3 detention. We know that this won't apply to most of our pupils but a reminder at home would be appreciated.

Reminders/ Dates

Y5, Y6 and Y7 Flu Immunisations will take place in school on Thursday 8 October. Please return the consent form as soon as you can.

Young Minds #HelloYellow Day (*promoting mental health and wellbeing for young people by wearing something yellow*) on Friday 9 October.



Individual School Photographs – Friday 6 November.

Reminder: School admissions

[Northumberland County Council's School Admissions Portal](#) opened on Saturday 12 September and will **close on Saturday 31 October 2020**. Parents/ carers must access the admissions form via the portal for applications for places in local middle, high and secondary schools. For Year 8 moving on to high school, please make sure you apply before the deadline as no pupil is guaranteed a place. For prospective pupils to HMS, please follow the above link and contact the school if you have any further questions.

Wishing you all a very happy weekend – thank you for all of your continued support.

Yours faithfully

Mr Watters

Deputy Headteacher