

HMS Weekly Update

15 October 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer

Update on life in school

Thank you for taking the time to complete our recent [remote learning survey](#). It is really helpful for us to have up-to-date access information so that we can best support each child moving forward. If you haven't had chance yet, please try to send your response back. It was fantastic to see our pupils in yellow last Friday to support World Mental Health Day. At HMS, we understand the importance of promoting positive mental health and well-being for our children and staff. The school raised a donation of **£496** which was fantastic! Thank you for your support.



New Build Update

We are pleased to report that building work on the QE site continues to progress well, despite challenges associated with the coronavirus pandemic, and we remain on track to move into our new accommodation in September 2021. The Grade II Listed Hydro building on the site is in the process of being fully refurbished and the steel structures of the new buildings to the rear of it are now in place, giving us an exciting sense of what it will be like when finished. We will update you on progress from time to time, but in the meantime, these pictures give you a sense of the progress being made.



Structure of the school day

After the half term break, we will be operating with new daily timings. We are continually reviewing our operational plan and we feel that these changes will further improve the school day. There will be no change to arrival and departure times (KS2 8.50 – 3.30/ KS3 8.40 – 3.25).



The main difference for pupils is that the school day will now commence with an extended form time until 9.15. This will allow for pupils to have more consistent, structured time with their form tutors and a longer assembly session to allow for combined themed and pastoral assemblies. Pupils will no longer have an afternoon form time session. We will communicate all changes to pupils before the half term break.

Curriculum

Our Curriculum Leaders have now updated the information regarding their subject areas on the school website. We have launched an updated '[Curriculum' area](#) where each subject has a home page. On this page, you will be able to read the intention of our curriculum in each subject and the sequence of teaching in each year group. This will help you to understand what we teach and when across the HMS curriculum. Each subject page will have helpful information added across the year including supporting documents. Should you have any questions about our curriculum, please contact the Curriculum Leaders via the admin email address.

Online Safety



Mrs Curry has been delivering assemblies about online safety to pupils all this week. This is a very important topic given the digital age we live in and the increased amount of time young people are spending online. We will be exploring this area further during our Safer Internet Week in February and pupils regularly cover e-safety in their computing lessons.

In the meantime, [this link](#) has some excellent resources and ideas which you can make use of to support online safety at home. The [NSPCC](#) have also produced lots of useful information and resources.

Parents' Evenings



Due to ongoing restrictions, we will be unable to host our parents' evenings in the usual face-to-face format this term. We are very excited to inform you that we now have access to a new virtual parents' evening platform. This online system will allow you to easily schedule and manage your appointments meaning the children will no longer need to remember to make an appointment on your behalf. The software allows you to meet our teachers (either on a video or audio call) at a time and location convenient for you. It's year 6 parents' evening first in November so I will contact all year 6 parents/ carers after the half term break with access details and would value your feedback.

PSHE Workshops

Mr Barry and Mr Stephenson have confirmed a number of important sessions with Dave Burns for after half term. Dave has visited HMS many times before and always deliver inspirational sessions for our pupils.

Wednesday 11 November

- Year 5: Anti-Bullying Workshop
- Year 6: Personal Safety/ Staying Safe Online

Friday 13 November

- Year 7: Staying Safe in the Community / Awareness of Knife Crime
- Year 8: Awareness of County Lines

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! **Well done to ALN who can choose to come to school in non-uniform next Thursday (22 October) as a reward!**

House Totals		Year 5		Year 6		Year 7		Year 8	
Aln	6674	1	Isla M	1	Harris N	1	Geoffrey B	1	Eve C
Coquet	6531	2	Agatha L	2	Poppy A	2	Ben C	2	Chloe C
Tweed	6397	3	Freya G	3	Josiah I	3	Beth R	3	Oliver P
Wansbeck	6359	4	Abigail B	4	Aimee S	4	Madeleine L	4	Ed R

Key Stage 2: 'Stars of the week'

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



Year 5		Year 6	
FHA	Thomas E	MDO	George S
JNI	Thea S and Freya G	CPR	Anya C
FHI	Anthony C	RAL	Maisie M
EKI	Lucy M	JJO	Natty O

The Great British Weather

We are now in the autumn months and the rain has set in this week. It is more important than ever that our pupils are outside as much as possible. We therefore ask that you make sure that your child has a waterproof coat with them every day. In addition, our classrooms



must be well ventilated (as per our risk assessment). As the colder months begin, please encourage your child to wear extra layers under their school sweatshirts if they wish. We will of course move pupils indoors if the weather is particularly poor and we always open the doors early in the morning on wet or frosty days. Please also remember to name all items to help reunite lost belongings.

Hexham Middle School PTA

HMS PTA is a community of parents/carers working alongside the school holding fun events for the children in order to raise money to benefit the school. If you would like to get involved but can't make the AGM, please get in touch with the email address above. We are particularly looking for people to help with social media and creative ideas for socially-distanced fundraising.



HMS PTA Annual General Meeting will be held online on **Tuesday 20th October at 7.30pm**. All are welcome - if you wish to attend, please email hmsptachair@gmail.com and a link will be sent to you.

Class Charts

Class Charts parent accounts are also available and can be accessed either by the website <https://www.classcharts.com/> or by downloading the free app.



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. **Available rewards include: queue jump passes (always a favourite!), stationery, USB memory sticks, movie afternoon and even an afternoon tea!**

Reminders/ Dates

Rescheduled Flu Immunisations (Y5, 6 and 7): Wednesday 21 October

House Non-Uniform Day (highest P points): ALN HOUSE – Thursday 22 October

School closes for pupils: Thursday 22 October (INSET Day Friday 23 October)

Individual School Photographs – Friday 6 November

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.

Have a safe, happy weekend everyone – thank you for your continued support of school life. I can't believe we only have one week of the half term to go!

Yours faithfully

Mr Watters

Deputy Headteacher