

### HMS Weekly Update

12 November 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer

#### **Update on life in school**

Another week has flown by! All of our pupils have continued to work hard, focus in lessons and to engage with extra-curricular opportunities. We have posted a wide range of activities and competitions on our social media and websites; please encourage the children to get involved. As national restrictions continue, please also encourage your child to keep active – exercising in the garden or in the living room all support physical and mental well-being!

As you will be aware, we have had further confirmed cases of COVID-19 this week and, as a result, now have a number of KS3 pupils isolating at home. At each stage, we aim to communicate clearly and calmly with parents/ carers. We also aim to reassure our children to make sure that they understand the process. We understand that there is a lot of information to take in at the moment and that this can be very confusing, so please do get in touch with us at any point if you have any concerns or questions – we are always happy to support.

#### **HMS Remembers**



Thank you so much to Miss Lawton and the children who have worked very hard to create our Remembrance display. This was a whole school community effort. We also have an 'Honesty Box' for donations next to our display and pupils can take away one of our homemade poppies. Assemblies

this week have focused on the importance of remembrance and Armistice Day – thank you to Mr Johnson and Mr Nichol for sharing the important messages and values with our pupils.

### Children in Need



A reminder that tomorrow (Friday 13<sup>th</sup>), we'll be supporting 'Children in Need' in school. We have set up a donations link on School Gateway. We are suggesting a voluntary donation of £2 per child, but please feel able to donate whatever you can manage (be that less than or more than £2). On School Gateway, there will be an option of either £2 or 'other amount'.

We ask that pupils come to school wearing appropriate PE kit. **They can also wear Children in Need merchandise such as t-shirts, ears, bracelets, pins or capes.** During the day there will also be other year group activities, such as the 'HMS Children in Need Quiz', to raise awareness of the work undertaken by the charity and the impact it has on the lives of many children.

### Self-isolating pupils

If your child is self-isolating and completing home learning, there are lots of resources available to support them. If your child has access to a device such as a laptop or computer, they can complete their learning on Google Classroom. Codes have been shared (and will be sent again on notification of self-isolation). Google Classroom can be accessed via School 360 (more information is available on our website). Our teachers will set work for pupils and will try to link helpful videos and resources to support the tasks. We also have a wide range of online platforms which can support learning at home.

If your child does not have access to a device or only has a mobile phone (which can be tricky to work on), please let us know and we will put together a paper pack of resources and post it home.

Our staff will keep in touch with pupils who are self-isolating by providing feedback and comments on Google Classroom and also by making phone calls home. If you or your child would benefit from talking to a member of staff at any point, give the office a call or an email and we will get back to you.



### Lunch

We will be launching a new lunch time rota from Monday. The approach will extend the time available for our year groups to eat whilst ensuring that each year group has their full five lessons a day. Every year group will join the rota system so they will all have chance to be first sitting (which everyone loves!). It is still important that pupils focus on eating whilst in the canteen so that we can get all 470 pupils through in the time we have. We still have to get each year group in and fully clean the canteen before anyone else can enter. We believe in all children visiting the canteen to sit down at a table and enjoy their food. Thank you for your support in reinforcing this at home.

### Attendance (our target is 96% or higher)

Well done to 5EKI and 5FHA who achieved 100% attendance.

<b>5EKI</b>	<b>5JNI</b>	<b>5FHA</b>	<b>5FHI</b>		<b>6RAL</b>	<b>6JJO</b>	<b>6CPR</b>	<b>6MDO</b>
100%	98%	100%	99%		96%	99%	96%	94%
<b>7CCA</b>	<b>7CAR</b>	<b>7AMG</b>	<b>7IBO</b>	<b>8PGA</b>	<b>8SLA</b>	<b>8EST</b>	<b>8JKW</b>	<b>8IHO</b>
97%	97%	97%	94%	99%	97%	97%	97%	96%

### House Point Totals

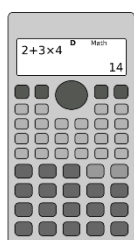
Pupils continue to respond extremely well to our updated approach to rewarding positive behaviour. Below are this week's House Point totals as well as the **'Top 4' pupils in each year group this week.** Well done to each and every one of you – the totals are increasing rapidly!

House Totals		Year 5		Year 6		Year 7		Year 8	
<b>Aln</b>	9528	1	Christian T	1	Halle P	1	Leo C	1	Lucy D
<b>Coquet</b>	9017	2	Aidan T	2	Archie H	2	Bailey P	2	Anna F
<b>Tweed</b>	8930	3	Alfie B	3	Lucy C	3	Arthur D L	3	Connie S
<b>Wansbeck</b>	8751	4	Lilly S	4	Robson B	4	Eve B	4	Daniel W

### Be Safe North East

KS2 were visited by Dave Burn from Be Safe North East on Wednesday 11 November. Year 5 listened intently as Dave educated our young people on how to recognise bullying, explore why behaviours such as these take place, find solutions to bullying and about reporting bullying to parents/carers and teachers. Dave's key message centred around the idea of "a problem shared is a problem halved". Also, pupils learnt about keeping safe online and cyber-bullying; how to prevent it, report it and not become a victim to it. Year 6's session explored keeping safe on the streets and online before concentrating on the choices students make as young people. It was another informative and engaging session. Thank you, Dave and Mr Stephenson for organising!

### Scientific Calculators



In Key Stage 3 pupils are required to use a scientific calculator during maths lessons and they are often required for homework. We strongly recommend that your child has their own as it is crucial that he/she is confident in their use and application throughout KS3 and GCSE. We are now in a position to offer a CASIO FX-83GTX Scientific Calculator at a hugely discounted price of £8.99 (RRP £14.99). These are available to order via School Gateway until Friday 27th November.

## A focus on... Science (from Ms Carruthers)

Get creative and submit an entry for the [BioArtAttack](#) competition!



Would you like to combine your artistic talent with your scientific knowledge? If so, you might like to enter the BioArtAttack competition! Full details can be found on the website. We have a good track record at Hexham Middle School, with one winner already in 2020 designing a winning climate change super hero. If you do enter, please also send photos of your masterpieces to school as well.

<https://www.rsb.org.uk/get-involved/biologyweek/bioartattack-competition>

## I'm a scientist – get me out of here!

This term KS2 pupils will be taking part ***I'm a Scientist- get me out of here!***



This is a safe and secure online STEM enrichment activity connecting our pupils with real-life medical researchers from the Medical Research Council. 6JJO got the ball rolling 'meeting' researchers working on a range of areas from Parkinson's disease and Alzheimer's disease, to looking at how social media can affect our mental health. Pupils had the chance to ask the scientists about their work and how they might one day become scientists.

## Year 6 Parents' Evenings

On Monday 16 and Wednesday 18 November, we will be hosting virtual Parents' Evenings for year 6 parents/ carers. We will be using a new online system which makes managing appointments easier for parents, pupils and teachers. The appointments can be made on your mobile or any other device/ computer and meetings are held online (with or without video).



To make appointments, please visit <https://hexhammiddle.schoolcloud.co.uk/> where you will be asked to enter your email address and child's details. If you have any questions or issues, please call the office who will be happy to help.

## Hexham Middle School PTA: Bags2School Collection



Last week, we sent home information on fundraising from home to support our PTA this year. We also sent a letter about the '[Bags2School Collection](#)'. The information is attached to today's letter update. Bags can be brought into school by your child any day and be left in their designated area (Orchard middle area for Y5; Fellside Hall for Y6 and Y7; Beaumont for Y8). If you would like to drop larger bags off, you can do so between 9.30 and 10.30 on Wednesday 18 November. Park in the car park and drop your bags off where they will be moved and stored (there's no need to come into the school buildings). Thank you for your support.

## **Class Charts: remember to spend your points!**



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**

**Children in Need Day:** Friday 13 November (see above)

**Year 6 Parents' Evenings:** 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> November

**Bags2School Collection Date:** Thursday 19 November

**Bikeability (Level 2):** Tuesday 1 – Friday 4 December

**Year 5 Parents' Evenings:** 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> December

It has been a very busy week at HMS and we thank you for your ongoing support. You should all be very proud of your children who continue to be adaptable and resilient. Wishing you a safe, happy weekend when it arrives.

Yours faithfully

Mr Watters

**Deputy Headteacher**