



### HMS Weekly Update

19 November 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer

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

I almost forgot it was Thursday again – time really does fly by! Last week saw the school observe a two-minute silence for Remembrance Day and a brilliant day of fundraising on Friday. Coupled with important assembly messages around remembrance and respect, I have felt a sense of real HMS values coming through. The past two weeks have not been without their challenges and we are all exceptionally proud of the resilience and positivity our whole school community has shown once again. Thank you for the feedback and many positive messages we have received this week which have been shared with the wider staff team.

As mentioned a couple of weeks ago, the staff, alongside the brilliant PTA members, are turning their thoughts to Christmas with a determination to provide memorable festive experiences for our children in school. We will keep you updated as the term goes on.

#### **Children in Need**



Thank you so much to each and every one of you for your support of our Children in Need fundraising. Thank you to Mr Freeman-Myers, Mr Barry, Mr Stephenson and Mr Gaines who organised events in school including our Pudsey Run! We raised a huge **£663.72** – thank you all!

#### **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. This week, staff have also been exploring the use of 'Loom' and other screen sharing software to provide lessons for self-isolating pupils.

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.

**Activity of the Week: Self Portraits**

Draw a self-portrait (it doesn't have to be a great work of art!).

Draw a thought bubble, inside it write down all the things you are thinking/worrying about at the moment.

On the outside of the thought bubble, write down all the people around who can support young people to deal with these thoughts/pressures.

Take a photograph of your self-portrait and post it to the HMS Facebook page using the hashtag *#supportyourself*

The Pastoral Team have sent home their first newsletter focused on mental health and well-being. This includes tips, strategies and support information which could be useful for your child. This is Mrs Curry's first 'Activity of the week'.

Some useful links for you:

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/for-children-and-young-people/>

<https://www.youthaccess.org.uk/covid-19-resource-hub/for-young-people>

**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>	10,139	1	Gabriel B	1	Vanessa S	1	Alexis HH	1	TJ R
<b>Coquet</b>	9676	2	Imogen M	2	Iris A	2	Thomas R	2	Imogen H
<b>Tweed</b>	9593	3	Lilly S	3	Lucy C	3	Alex H	3	Joe M
<b>Wansbeck</b>	9310	4	Christian T	4	Harry J	4	Ralph D	4	Daniel W

**Key Stage 2: 'Stars of the week'**

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



Year 5		Year 6	
<b>FHA</b>	Emilia S	<b>MDO</b>	Archie H
<b>JNI</b>	Billy B	<b>CPR</b>	Harry J
<b>FHI</b>	Dulcie M	<b>RAL</b>	Grace S
<b>EKI</b>	Alex L	<b>JJO</b>	Lucy C

## Year 5 Parents' Evenings

We are pleased to report that we have received very positive feedback from our first online parents' evenings this week. On Monday 7 and Wednesday 9 December, we will be hosting virtual Parents' Evenings for year 5 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).



**Appointments can be made from Monday 23 November at 9am.** 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



**PTA Extraordinary General Meeting:** All parents, guardians or carers of any pupil currently attending the school and all teaching and non-teaching staff currently employed by the school are automatically members of the PTA. The PTA Committee would like to adopt a new constitution recommended by 'Parentkind' (the PTA Association) which brings us up to date with current best practice. As such, we will be holding an Extraordinary General Meeting on the 21st January to adopt the new constitution. All are welcome: please email [hmsptachair@gmail.com](mailto:hmsptachair@gmail.com) for the meeting details and/or to see a copy of the proposed constitution.

The leaflet is for 'Parentkind THE BIG PTA RAFFLE 2020'. It features a blue background with a white border and a red Santa hat at the top right. The text includes: 'Bring a little sparkle and festive cheer this year!', 'WIN UP TO £5,000', '£3 ticket enters you in all 12 draws', and a list of bullet points: 'Help boost PTA fundraising', 'Tickets cost just £3', '12 chances to win up to £5,000', and 'Tickets are limited so once they're gone... they're gone!'. There are also two star-shaped icons: a red one with '12 chances to win' and a purple one with 'Help raise funds'. At the bottom, it says 'To buy tickets, visit: [bigptaraffle.co.uk](http://bigptaraffle.co.uk) and search for: Hexham CM School'. A small disclaimer at the very bottom states: 'It is illegal for anyone under 16 years of age to purchase or sell raffle tickets. Anyone under 16 years of age who buys a ticket for the Big PTA Raffle 2020 will immediately forfeit the right to any prize. Closing date 7th Dec 2020. A raffle is a form of gambling. If you, or someone you know, needs information and/or help with a problem gambling, please call GamCare on 0800 6000 133 or visit [www.gamcare.org.uk](http://www.gamcare.org.uk)'.

**The Big PTA Raffle:** 'Parentkind' are holding a national PTA raffle. The leaflet has been sent home with this week's parent update. All of the information you need to know is included there. This raffle is not run by the PTA but by the national PTA organisation, though HMS will benefit from ticket sales! Good luck!

**Bags2School Collection:** A HUGE thank you from all of us for the amazing response to our clothing collection. The donations were collected today and we managed to gather a whopping 340kg! Thank you all.

## Year 6 Art

Year 6 are currently working on their Texture Project. This week our pupils have been testing out ideas by using a special type of printmaking technique called GyoTaku. GyoTaku was traditionally used by ancient fishermen in Japan to celebrate their catch! Pupils have tried out test-printing a fish at the front of the classroom.

Year 6 have also been printing with cabbage leaves and making a 'tree of life' prints. The cabbage leaves are the vegetarian alternative!



### Times Tables Rockstars

Please encourage your child to access Times Tables Rockstars regularly throughout the week. We recommend short 'Little and Often' sessions. They can challenge themselves and others to increase their 'Rock Status'! This can be accessed on most devices including smart phones.



### 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

**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. Happy weekend when it arrives everyone!

Yours faithfully

Mr Watters

**Deputy Headteacher**