



HMS Weekly Update

3 December 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer

Update on life in school

As we enter the season of Advent, we have been delighted to share assemblies from Rector David Glover from Hexham Abbey. The key themes shared with our children were waiting, journeying and sharing. To celebrate, Lucy C lit the first candle in Fellside Hall. As you can see below, the Fellside stage is looking beautiful ahead of our recording sessions as we prepare our first Virtual Carol Service. Mr Freeman-Myers and Mr Holdsworth have worked very hard to make sure the hall looks magical.



I have visited classrooms this week and have been delighted to see focus, resilience and determination to succeed in every lesson. The atmosphere around school is excellent with a real emphasis on high-quality teaching and learning. I was particularly excited to hear about the 'Winter's Tales' project in Mrs Hinchcliffe's English class and I can't wait to share more of the pupils' hard work with you all soon (I hear they will all receive a printed copy of their story – fantastic!).

As national restrictions return to the tier system this week, we look forward to sharing more details on our planned after-school extra-curricular provision. We continue to remind pupils of the importance of adhering to COVID safety guidance including regular hand-washing and are proud of

how they continue to respond. Teachers of year 5 are looking forward to their parental consultations next week – if you have any questions about the system, please let me know. Please remember to return the [online form](#) for Christmas Lunch ordering – we have planned an extended timetable to ensure that the staff and pupils have enough time to enjoy their festive feast!

Another very busy week here at HMS – it's certainly an exciting place to be! Thank you to all of you for your continued support of school life. We all continue to be very proud of how our entire school community is responding to the ongoing challenges.

Final day of term

School will close for all pupils at **12.30pm** on Friday 18 December. Children who travel on school transport will be collected by the bus companies. Your child can follow their usual arrangements for getting home from school whether that is walking, being collected or travelling by other means. Arrangements will be made to ensure that pupils in receipt of free school meals will be provided with lunch before they leave.

Bikeability

Year 5 pupils have enjoyed their 'Bikeability: Level 2' training course this week. The instructors have been very impressed with their focus, listening skills and attitude throughout the sessions. Well done to all who took part. Here's Wednesday morning's group ready to get started!



Pupil Success: Ski Superstar

We are extremely proud of Harriet S in Year 8. Harriet is a fantastic example of the sporting success of the students at HMS. Harriet has been skiing from a young age and over the past year, she has achieved some incredible sporting success. Her commitment and determination are to be commended.



Some of Harriet's achievements include:

RTR Club National - 1st U12 Girl, RTR National Champion

NESA National - 1st U12 Girl, North East Champion

Anglo-Welsh Indoor Championships - 1st English U12 Girl, English Indoor Champion

British Outdoor Champion - 1st U12 Girl, British Outdoor Champion

Selected for **English Schools Ski Association** U14 Junior Squad

RTR Winter Series - Winner U12 Girl, U12 Winter Series Champion

British Alpine Championships Bormio - Top 10 Giant Slalom

All of us here at HMS wish Harriet the best of luck in her upcoming Winter Training Camp!

Harry Potter Club

Mr Nichol has been overwhelmed by the popularity of his Year 5 Harry Potter Club. So much so, that he has to offer sessions to each of the four form classes separately. Each group will enjoy a sorting ceremony, wand making, sweet tasting and a game of Quidditch. How magical!



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!

Remember: the winning house will enjoy a movie afternoon treat before Christmas!

House Totals		Year 5		Year 6		Year 7		Year 8	
Aln	11,541	1	Lilly S	1	Lucy C	1	Ruby C	1	David D
Coquet	11,060	2	Thomas T	2	Katie G	2	Geoffrey B	2	Tom H
Tweed	11,095	3	Christian T	3	Aimee S	3	Bailey P	3	Ryan P
Wansbeck	10,621	4	Jenson C	4	Maisie M	4	Gabi K	4	TJ R

Key Stage 2: 'Stars of the week'

This week's theme was **attitude to learning in music**. Well done to all of the pupils below.



Year 5		Year 6	
FHA	Emelia S	MDO	Katie G
JNI	Thea S	CPR	Daisy W
FHI	Marnie C	RAL	Maisie M
EKI	Evie N	JJO	Vanessa S



Northumberland School Games: Santa Dash

As an addition to our festive calendar, we will be taking part in the 'Santa Dash' fun run event. On Friday 11 December, each year group will take part in a fun run. Pupils should wear their PE kit and a Santa hat (and/or accessories). We are looking forward to getting out in the fresh air to raise the profile of physical and mental well-being. *Staff will be taking part too!*

Be You Mentor Training

Our new 'Peer Mentors' had their first training session this week focused on supporting the mental health and well-being of their peers. Well done to all of the pupils involved.



Year 5 Parents' Evenings



Thank you for logging in and arranging your appointments for our upcoming Year 5 Parents' Evenings. If you have any issues, please call or email the admin team who will be happy to support. Please note: we have now **extended the Monday and Wednesday evenings** to

open appointments from 3.45 until 7.00.

Re-design Pudsey Challenge

Mr Stephenson wishes to thank all KS2 pupils for taking part in the "re-design" Pudsey challenge. The designs captured a wide array of creative ideas and thoughtful messages. Here are just a few of the winning designs.



PTA News



HMS PTA Christmas Gifts



Things are a little different this year...we can't do our usual PTA Pop-Up Shop but we still wanted to give all pupils the opportunity to buy a small gift for a friend or family member, whilst also helping to raise funds for the school. As we are unable to ask for gift donations this year, we have put together a small selection of new gifts for all pupils to choose from, at a cost of £2 per gift.

Please enclose £2 per gift with your order and hand in form & money in a sealed envelope to your child's form teacher (cash or cheque made payable to Hexham Middle School PTA)

If your child is absent, you can email their order to hmsptachair@gmail.com and we will arrange how to collect payment. Please include your child's **Name, Class and the Gift Code**.

Your child's gift order will be given to them in class from week commencing 14th December. If they are not in school that week then we will get their gift to them before the end of term.

Order forms will be sent home with pupils and also sent to parents electronically. Orders must be placed before 3pm on Monday 7th December. Thank you for all of your support!

Reminders/ Dates

Monday 30 November: Advent Assemblies

Year 5 Parents' Evenings: 7th and 9th December

Thursday 10 December: Christmas Lunch (*please complete the [online form](#)*)

Friday 11 December: Santa Dash (*Pupils are asked to wear PE kit and a Santa hat or festive accessories*)

Wednesday 16 December: Virtual Carol Service

Thursday 17 December: Class Christingles (*orange and sweets should be sent in, please*)

Friday 18 December: Celebration Assemblies and Christmas Jumper Day (*sares available – if needed, please let me know*)

Friday 18 December: School closes to all pupils at 12.30pm

Tuesday 19 and Thursday 21 January: Year 8 Parents' Evenings (*booking released 5 January*)

Tuesday 26 January: Year 6 SATS Information Evening (online)

Lots to share with you all – thank you for reading our weekly update. Have a great weekend everyone!

Yours faithfully

Mr Watters

Deputy Headteacher

