



## HMS Weekly Update

10 December 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer



### Update on life in school

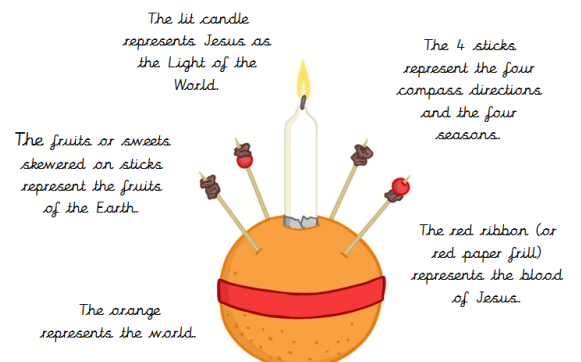
The penultimate week of term is flying by and Christmas has definitely arrived at HMS. The stage has been set for our Virtual Carol Service and it has been wonderful to hear the sounds of the orchestra playing and the small group choirs singing. I would like to say a huge thank you to Mr Holdsworth, Mr Lewis, Core Music and all of our amazing pupils for their hard work in putting the performance together. Thank you also to Mrs Satow and her hard-working catering team for preparing an amazing Christmas lunch today – the pupils and staff really enjoyed it. This week, Josh in year 8 lit the second candle on our Advent wreath.



Looking ahead to the rest of the term, I just wanted to summarise a few points below for easy reference:

**Friday 11 December: Santa Dash** - pupils should come to school in their **PE kit**. They can also wear **festive accessories** such as Santa hats and tinsel.

**Celebration Assemblies:** I will be sharing the subject and form tutor award winners in next week's update. We are looking forward to the festive assemblies all next week.



**Thursday 17 December: Class Christingles** - pupils will prepare their Christingle and enjoy a service with their form tutor this year. Please send an **orange and some sweets** into your school with your child.

**Friday 18 December: Christmas Jumper Day!** Pupils can come to school in their Christmas jumper. All other uniform should be worn as normal. If your child does not want to wear a Christmas jumper, they should wear their normal school jumper. *A reminder that school closes at 12.30pm.*

A **School Gateway link** has been set up to allow for an optional £1 donation to support both Save the Children (Christmas Jumper Day) and The Children's Society (Christingles). Thank you for your support as always.

### Year 5 'Winter's Tales' creative writing

Mrs Hinchcliffe's year 5 English class have been working in conjunction with 'Live Tales' to develop their own story with illustrations. The class have worked exceptionally hard to produce the story: **'Charlie De Fridgeo and the Labyrinth of Shadows'**. They will each receive their own copy of the book which we are so excited about! Their enthusiasm and excitement for their work was wonderful when I popped into their classroom last week.

I received this letter from Charlotte and Dulcie:



*Dear Mr Watters,*

*This week we have been creating characters for a story that will be published. This project is called Winter's Tales. We sent a picture of our main characters and we received a drawing done by a real illustrator.*

*So far, we are halfway through the story, which is about a skeleton called Charli De Fridgeo, and his pet yeti, called Snowball (who is covered in mint green spots). They wear matching Gucci baseball caps. Charlie has ripped jeans and wears Gucci socks and sliders. His heart changes colours depending on how he feels as well as Snowball's eyes.*

*Recently, we have been set the task of creating our own section of the story. Mrs Hinchcliffe has looked through our ideas and merged them all together to make the best collaborative story possible.*

*Dulcie M and Charlotte P*

Here's an extract from the opening:

***"Deep in the heart of a dense, snowy forest, the sort talked about in mythical tales, the season turned from autumn to winter. Close to a frozen lake, a small white and mint-spotted yeti was climbing a rickety ladder. As he climbed, his long, twisted horns and sharp claws ricochet off the ladder, which reached up to a cabin suspended in a Spruce tree.***

*Frustrated, Snowball pulled his head away from the steps of the dilapidated ladder. It began to creak; then, without warning, broke into several pieces and collapsed to the floor. This left the yeti buried in snow, with only his Gucci baseball cap showing.*

*The deafening crash woke a strange skeletal creature which stumbled to the entrance of the cabin. It was a bone-chilling sight. No really... his bones were made of ice; instead of eyeballs he had he had snowballs; from his rib cage hung long pointed icicles. Behind his ribcage his heart glowed jet black ... a sure sign that he was infuriated!*

*Wiping sleep from his snowballs, Charlie stumbled forward then ... "Aahhh!" started to fall. He hurtled towards the ground."*

### 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!

*The winning house for this half term is..... **Aln**. They will have 'bubble' movie afternoons next week!*

House Totals		Year 5		Year 6		Year 7		Year 8	
<b>Aln</b>	12,542	1	Lorien V	1	Ashton H	1	Sasha F	1	Daniel W
<b>Coquet</b>	12,011	2	Aidan T	2	Poppy A	2	Geoffrey B	2	David D
<b>Tweed</b>	12,008	3	Gabriel W	3	Katie H	3	Beth R	3	Lucy D
<b>Wansbeck</b>	11,566	4	Daisy W	4	Troy P	4	Robert D	4	Cade J-T

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

This week, tutors selected pupils who consistently promote the form group's values. Well done to all of the pupils below.



Year 5		Year 6	
<b>FHA</b>	Matthew E	<b>MDO</b>	Maisie Mu
<b>JNI</b>	Maddie E	<b>CPR</b>	Jamie P
<b>FHI</b>	Christopher S	<b>RAL</b>	Oliver B
<b>EKI</b>	Isla R	<b>JJO</b>	Josh C

### Year 8 Parents' Evenings



On Tuesday 19 and Thursday 21 January, we will be hosting virtual Parents' Evenings for year 8 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. **Appointments will open for bookings on Monday 4 January – I will send a launch email on the first day back after Christmas.**

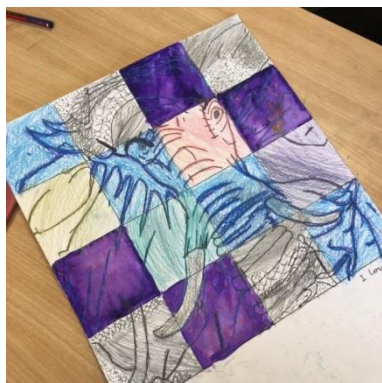
### Food Technology

Miss Kwella is delighted to announce that practical food technology lessons will be starting again after the Christmas break. Lessons will be conducted in conjunction with the latest safety guidance. Miss Kwella will be sharing further information in the new term. Look out for the first recipes! We are excited to smell the delights of the kitchen back in action!

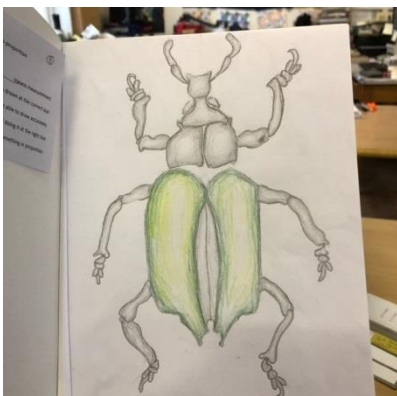


### Updates from Art

Pupils in year 5 have worked on a jigsaw artwork created with mixed media. Here are some elephants which have been made using wax resist technique, oil pastel blending, mark-making and 6B shading. Well done year 5 - super effort! We will get a year 5 display up in the art department as soon as possible. Miss Lawton would like to share the fantastic work with others.



Year 5 have also been exploring symmetry and shading and have produced the bugs below – how impressive! Year 8 pupils have also started to submit their home learning – see the fabulous example below. Miss Lawton has been so impressed and has been keen to share the work on our social media accounts and with other staff.





## PTA News



Thank you so much to everyone who was able to make a 'Christmas Gift' order. **The response was fantastic and the gifts will be delivered to pupils next week. Huge thanks to our very creative PTA members.**



## Reminders/ Dates

**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 (*information and link to follow*)

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

**Friday 18 December:** Christmas Jumper Day (*sparcs 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 4 January*)

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

Thank you for reading our weekly update. This is always a busy time of year but it is so lovely to see and hear the joy of Christmas in school.

Yours faithfully

Mr Watters

**Deputy Headteacher**

