

HMS Weekly Update

14 January 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer

Update on life in school

As we reach the end of another busy week, we have begun to be able to reflect on a start of term like no other! It is with enormous pride that I look at what has been achieved over the past two weeks from our pupils, our staff and our parents/ carers. Our live lessons have continued to be extremely well-attended – it is fantastic to walk around the in-school provision and to see so many different, creative approaches to online teaching and learning. This is a whole new world for everyone so to see the attendance figures and hugely positive engagement has been staggering.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank you all for taking the time to send us so many kind messages over the past two weeks. Each one has been shared with the whole staff team and they really are appreciated by everyone. Every single member of the HMS team has come together to establish ways of working and supporting our pupils with positivity and determination. Your messages mean the world!

Another weekend is fast-approaching and I hope it allows you and the children time to switch off and relax. All of the pupils are working so hard whether that be online or on paper and we know how much they want to continue their learning. Please pass on a huge well done from me and the staff in school. We are missing them but it is great to 'see' them every day when they log in. Keep up the hard work everyone and stay in touch.

Yoga returns to HMS

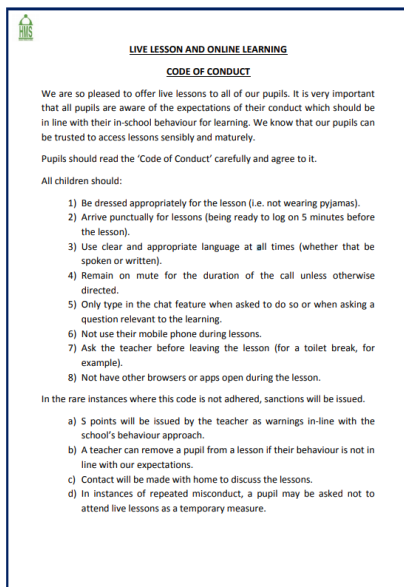
Our popular 'Yoga with Emily' sessions have returned to HMS and I think we can all agree that they have come at a good time. Emily has been busy pre-recording sessions for KS2 and KS3 and the links have been uploaded to the website and social media pages. We hope the sessions are something you could enjoy as a family to promote positive mental health and well-being.



Remote Learning Update

Our '[Remote Learning](#)' page is updated with lots of useful information including Google Meets and Classroom support videos. This includes a tutorial from Ms Carruthers on how to access Google Meets and videos from Mrs Tanner on how to upload work. We have also learnt that Google Classroom can be accessed through devices such as PlayStation and Xbox but pupils would need to use their School 360 accounts.

Code of Conduct



The image shows a document titled 'LIVE LESSON AND ONLINE LEARNING' with a sub-heading 'CODE OF CONDUCT'. It contains a message from the school, a list of expectations for children, and a list of sanctions for non-compliance.

LIVE LESSON AND ONLINE LEARNING
CODE OF CONDUCT

We are so pleased to offer live lessons to all of our pupils. It is very important that all pupils are aware of the expectations of their conduct which should be in line with their in-school behaviour for learning. We know that our pupils can be trusted to access lessons sensibly and maturely.

Pupils should read the 'Code of Conduct' carefully and agree to it.

All children should:

- 1) Be dressed appropriately for the lesson (i.e. not wearing pyjamas).
- 2) Arrive punctually for lessons (being ready to log on 5 minutes before the lesson).
- 3) Use clear and appropriate language at all times (whether that be spoken or written).
- 4) Remain on mute for the duration of the call unless otherwise directed.
- 5) Only type in the chat feature when asked to do so or when asking a question relevant to the learning.
- 6) Not use their mobile phone during lessons.
- 7) Ask the teacher before leaving the lesson (for a toilet break, for example).
- 8) Not have other browsers or apps open during the lesson.

In the rare instances where this code is not adhered, sanctions will be issued.

- a) 5 points will be issued by the teacher as warnings in-line with the school's behaviour approach.
- b) A teacher can remove a pupil from a lesson if their behaviour is not in line with our expectations.
- c) Contact will be made with home to discuss the lessons.
- d) In instances of repeated misconduct, a pupil may be asked not to attend live lessons as a temporary measure.

Please share the 'Live Lesson: Code of Conduct' at home so that all pupils understand the expectations of remote learning. We are so proud of each and every pupil who has managed to get their head around the live lessons whilst maintaining their sensible, focused and resilient approach to learning.

Please remind all children that mobile phones should not be used in lessons. Pupils should remain on mute throughout unless instructed otherwise. No photographs or recordings should ever be made in lessons. It is the choice of the pupil whether or not to have their camera on in lessons.

We definitely want to encourage questioning and pupils can use the 'Raise Hand' feature or the chat box to ask their teacher/peers questions relevant to the lesson. We can already see their confidence growing.

Managing expectations

We know that our pupils want to work hard and complete their home learning to a high standard which is commendable. We also know that this period can be a little overwhelming for some children. Please reassure your child that they have already achieved so much just by logging into their live lessons so brilliantly.

Where possible, they should follow their timetable to maintain a structure to their day, but this can be edited to fit around your own circumstances. If they do not complete all of the work set in the lesson time, they should think about how they can manage their time for the rest of the week, for example: if they have a second non-live geography lesson, they can save the work and come back to it then. If they can't get it finished, they can drop a message to their teacher to explain and that will be totally fine. Please ask them not to feel pressured – we are all getting used to this together!

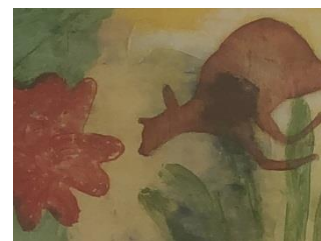
Encouraging self-regulation

We know that we are asking our children to respond to a totally new way of teaching and learning and we recognise that this requires support. Over the next few weeks, we will continue to provide guidance to help the children find a working routine and to self-regulate.

The first tip is to think about their **organisation**. They have already demonstrated this by attending their live lessons. They could also try to make sure they have a work area set up at home – ideally somewhere which allows focus and limited distraction. It would be great if they could have a notebook, paper, pens, pencils and maybe even highlighters/colours handy for their lessons as teachers will be encouraging them to take notes to support their memory.

Creative Challenges

It is so important that the children have a broad and varied curriculum experience when working at home. That is why we are covering our whole curriculum online and providing weekly creative challenges. Miss Lawton has set this week's activity and you can find more information on our [website](#).



House Point Totals

Even through this lockdown, teachers will be motivating pupils by rewarding them with P points! 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 them – P points from a distance is new one for everyone!

House Totals		Year 5		Year 6		Year 7		Year 8	
Aln	14,774	1	Thomas T	1	Maisie M	1	Anna C	1	Daniel B
Coquet	13,895	2	Emily H	2	Lottie H	2	George B	2	Josh N
Tweed	13,994	3	Lilly S	3	Jade L	3	Ralph D	3	Isabel H
Wansbeck	13,526	4	Christian T	4	Oliver B	4	Beth R	4	Joe M

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.

Reminders/ Dates

Tuesday 19 and Thursday 21 January: Year 8 Parents' Evenings

Thursday 21 January: PTA Extraordinary General Meeting (contact hmsptachair@gmail.com for the meeting details)

Tuesday 9 and Thursday 11 February: Year 7 Parents' Evenings (bookings released 25 January)

Yours faithfully

Mr Watters

Deputy Headteacher

