



### **HMS Weekly Update**

8 January 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer

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

Well, this has definitely not been the first week of term we had planned for! Once again, our whole school community have shown their spirit, adaptability and resilience. I have written a few emails giving thanks since March last year and each time it is sent with genuine appreciation for your ongoing support of school life. I feel thankful again at the end of this challenging week. Our entire team of staff have worked tirelessly to get our provision set up and have got to grips with a whole new way of working and teaching. Their commitment and drive to support our pupils is nothing short of inspiring to me! Another huge thank you to all of you at home who are once again establishing home learning routines whilst juggling work and home-life commitments – this is not an easy task at all! Last but by no means least, a massive well done to the children who have shown their strength and resilience by responding to more last-minute changes and attending their live/virtual lessons with smiles and a determination to continue their learning. I feel a genuine sense of pride!

I read the term ‘School’s out’ in the media the other day and couldn’t help but feel a little sad about the misconception. School is far from ‘out’ or closed and we are all here to continue the education and pastoral care of the children whether that be in school or at home. We know this is a challenging situation and we understand the realities of everyone’s home circumstances being different. That is why we always stress that we are here at the end of the phone or an email to offer any support we can. We don’t want anyone to feel stressed or to struggle – no question is too big or too small.

Mrs Curry and the pastoral team will be writing a weekly newsletter for pupils and parents to promote positive mental health and well-being whilst the children are learning at home. It may be that your child would value a phone call with a member of staff – something as easy as this to arrange can often make a significant difference. We are also delighted to offer a daily live form time where the children can see their peers and their form tutors – we would really encourage all children to try to get signed in each morning to make a positive start to their day.

#### **Remote Learning and 4G Routers**

Our [‘Remote Learning’ page](#) is updated with lots of useful information including Google Meets and Classroom support videos.

The Department for Education will be delivering additional iPads to school over the next couple of weeks and we will be able to lend these to families who need them in due course.

We are also able to apply for 4G routers which can be used by children to give them access to the internet. This may be useful if you have a device but no or limited wi-fi/ internet connection. It could also help if your family are all sharing the wi-fi – it could make accessing lessons easier for the children. It could also be used to boost accessibility for a mobile device. If this is something you feel you would benefit from, please contact us via [admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk](mailto:admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk) with the subject '4G router'.

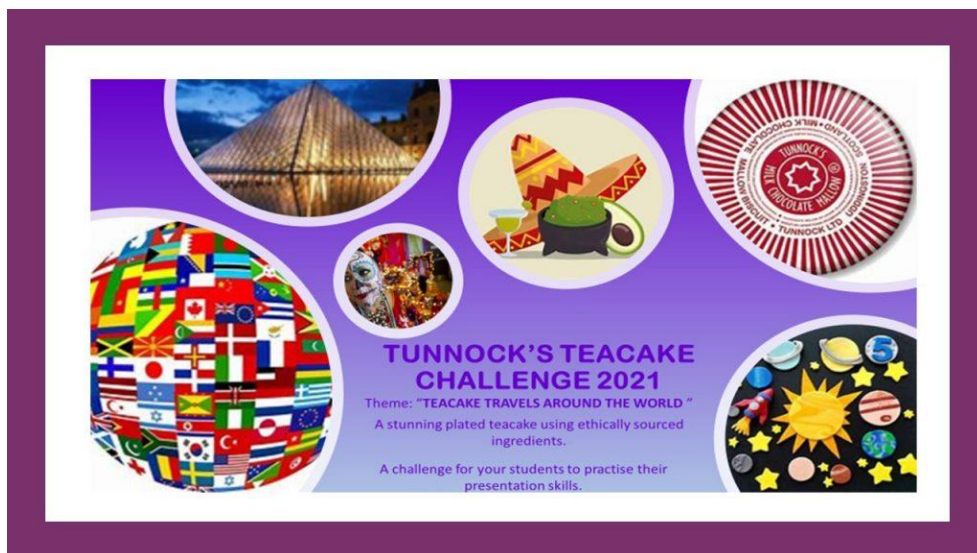
### Safeguarding

Mrs Curry has written to you all regarding safeguarding to assure you that it remains a top priority for us at HMS, despite most pupils not being in attendance. Our pastoral team are always available to support with any concerns or anxieties so please do not hesitate to email [admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk](mailto:admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk) at any time.

During this time, if you have any safeguarding concerns please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Curry at school 01434 602533. Concerns can also be reported to Children's Services on 01670 536 400.

### 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. Please email in or upload photos to our social media pages so we can see the fantastic creations. The first challenge from Miss Kwella is below:



### 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	
<b>Aln</b>	14,006	1	Thomas T	1	Robin B M	1	Eve B	1	Heidi S
<b>Coquet</b>	13,149	2	Amelia P	2	Louis R	2	Edie L	2	Joe E
<b>Tweed</b>	13,225	3	Winnie L	3	Logan L	3	Kade M	3	Ryan P
<b>Wansbeck</b>	12,789	4	Thomas W	4	John C T	4	Charlie H	4	Alex H

### 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.

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



We are still rewarding P points during the lockdown. 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.

**PTA Extraordinary General Meeting:** we will be holding an Extraordinary General Meeting on the 21st January to adopt a 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.



### Reminders/ Dates

**Tuesday 19 and Thursday 21 January:** Year 8 Parents' Evenings (*booking released 4 January*)

**Tuesday 26 January:** Year 6 SATS Information Evening (online) (*This event has now been cancelled due to the Government's cancellation of this year's KS2 Assessments (SATs)*).



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