



HMS Weekly Update

21 January 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer

Update on life in school

We all continue to be immensely proud of all of our pupils who are accessing their live lessons and learning from home (and in school) so brilliantly. As we all establish our new routines, the teachers have been proud to celebrate the successes of their pupils and have been keen to share the very high standard of work being completed by their classes.

This week, we have enjoyed staff training to further develop our remote education provision. The move to our live lesson programme has meant that teachers have had to develop new approaches to teaching and learning suitable for a digital world. We want to keep our lessons engaging and interactive (even from a distance) and we have been exploring new strategies to allow this. Look out for new approaches in upcoming live lessons and encourage your child to keep up their excellent attendance.

You may now have heard in the media that the Government have announced that schools are not able to use lateral flow tests for daily testing of those identified as contacts of a positive case of COVID-19 (as first intended). Testing can still continue for staff and pupils but not for contacts. That is why we have had to ask some bubbles to self-isolate this week following some positive cases in school. We look forward to welcoming the pupils back as soon as they are able.

The positive community spirit continues to shine through loud and clear. This week, we have been contacted by a number of very generous people offering to make donations of IT equipment to support our pupils. A special thanks to the members of The Tynedale Rotary Club who have made a donation to school to enable us to purchase further devices – your kindness is greatly appreciated. Red Hot Property are also offering to print school work for anyone without a printer (contact: Philip@redhotproperty.co.uk) – such a great offer! We are awaiting confirmation of the delivery of the 4G routers we requested; we will keep you updated.

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.



Drop-in support sessions

On Friday 29 January, Mrs Toor and Mrs Haigh will be launching new 'Curriculum Support Drop-ins'. If your child has struggled with any of their English and maths work from the week (or their learning more broadly), they can 'drop-in' to access additional support.

- Year 5 and 6: Fridays 11.30 – 12.30
- Year 7 and 9: Fridays 1.30 – 2.30

To access the session, your child needs to join the 'Curriculum Support Drop-in' Google Classrooms – the class codes have been emailed home separately (with today's weekly update). Once in the classroom, the meet link can be accessed by all pupils.

In advance of the session, your child can send questions to Mrs Toor and Mrs Haigh via their School 360 accounts: bridget.toor@school360.co.uk and sarah.haigh9@school360.co.uk.

Overlay for screens

We know that some pupils will be struggling to read lots of text on the screen for a long period of time. We have been informed about a free overlay which could be downloaded for your child's screen. This may make reading easier for them. The information has been shared on our social media and website.



Maintaining contact

We are delighted that so many children are managing to join their live form times each morning – this is a really important way for teachers to maintain contact with their pupils and to check how they're getting on. We also have systems in place to ensure that we maintain regular contact with our pupils and target further support where it is required. If you feel that your child would benefit from a phone call from someone in school, please let us know at any time.

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	
Ain	15,206	1	Jessy A	1	Esme W	1	Beth R	1	Owen S
Coquet	14,460	2	Eliza R	2	Vanessa S	2	Daisy C	2	Romy K
Tweed	14,486	3	Thomas T	3	Betsy B	3	Callum H	3	TJ R
Wansbeck	13,944	4	Winnie L	4	Samuel F	4	Poppy F	4	James S

Star Bakers at HMS!

Miss Kwella has been so impressed by the effort being made with food technology and cooking at home. We have some very talented chefs at HMS! Year 6 pupils have been making rock buns over the last week; Year 7 pupils have been making soda bread and Year 8 have been creating their own recipes using leftover food. Please keep sending in the photographs – we love seeing them! Miss Kwella has posted a variety of recipes online on Google Classroom, if your children would like to have a go.



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 Kwella has set a new food technology [challenge with baked beans](#) which sounds very interesting!

New Yoga sessions

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.



HIIT sessions



Don't forget, the PE team are uploading [weekly HIIT \(high intensity interval training\) sessions](#) for the children to enjoy at home as part of their PE curriculum. These are uploaded to the social media and website pages every Monday morning. We hope you enjoy them!



Reminders/ Dates

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