

HMS Weekly Update

4 February 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer

Update on life in school

As we reach another weekly update, we continue to be hugely impressed with the engagement of all of our pupils. The standard of work and enthusiasm for learning still shines through despite most of us not being in the classroom. We all continue to be inspired by the resilience and positivity of our school community. It is also important for me to say that I continue to be inspired by our team of staff at HMS... every day I hear of new approaches to remote teaching, learning, pupil support and extra-curricular activities.

This week is Children's Mental Health Week which was launched by [HRH The Duchess of Cambridge](#). As a school, we aim to place children's mental and physical wellbeing at the forefront of all we do. The pastoral team have planned our 'Feel Good Friday' event to raise the profile of children's mental health – we would encourage all children to engage with the day tomorrow. I think a day away from the screen will come at a good point in the half term – please send us lots of photographs of the children enjoying their day. Beyond tomorrow, it is also important to reinforce the messages of positive mental health and wellbeing throughout the year. Please encourage your child to do something that makes them happy every single day!

We were all very sad to hear that Captain Sir Tom Moore passed away this week. His fundraising, positivity and determination were an inspiration to all of us at a time when we needed it most. His story of hope is one we will undoubtedly share in school for many, many years to come.



Feel Good Friday!

**FEEL
GOOD
FRIDAY**

Mrs Curry has sent home our '[Feel Good Friday](#)' passport and an overview of the day we have planned. You can also still book check-ins with your child's form tutors [via School Cloud](#). Please send your photographs of the day to us via the admin email address.

Inspirational Pupil

Pia is in our current Year 6 and started working with fimo (polymer clay) when she was 9. She started by making miniature sweets and cakes for her toys. When she was around 10, she started making

'canes' – a technique for making patterns similar to how words go through a stick of rock. This led her to making beads, which then led to her making jewellery.

At the start of 2020, Pia was off school for most of the first term with post-viral fatigue. The only thing she could really focus on was her fimo. She spent many hours experimenting with designs and making literally hundreds of beads with a huge range of designs and styles. When lockdown happened, Pia decided to sell her jewellery so that she could raise money for the Hexham Foodbank.

Now 11 years old, in December 2020, Pia was invited to have a stall at a local craft fair in Hexham. It was an exciting and nerve-wracking experience as she was testing her jewellery on the public for the first time. By now, Pia was making her own designs – drawing on nature for inspiration – using imprints of oak leaves and the texture of wood imprint. She also made fridge magnets and keyrings. Pia only wanted to use her new designs for the fair as she felt these were truly her own ideas. It was a great experience for her to meet other craftspeople, and to talk to people about her work. She raised a further £120 for the foodbank, bringing the total proceeds and donation to £300. Pia has been invited back to have a stall at a summer fair and is coming up with lots of new ideas for that – including pen covers for biros, and she's come full circle and is making 'toy-food' again, which she plans to sell.



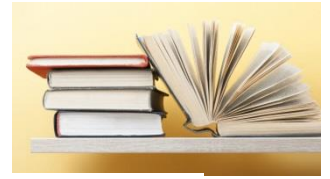
House Point Totals

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.

House Totals		Year 5		Year 6		Year 7		Year 8	
Aln	16,958	1	Thomas T	1	Tiana M	1	Ralph D	1	Kieran D
Coquet	15,381	2	Abigail B	2	Charlotte A	2	Anna C	2	Aidan K
Tweed	15,709	3	Lucy H	3	Sam B	3	Oscar F	3	Seth H
Wansbeck	14,910	4	Robert R	4	Imogen B	4	Poppy F	4	James S

Festival of Literature – all pupils can attend

On Tuesday 9 February (periods 4 and 5), all year groups will take part in an ‘off timetable’ session when they will be able to join one of the live author workshops taking place as part of the ‘Festival of Literature’. All of the information that students will need to be able to access these online sessions will be posted onto their English Google Classroom page on Tuesday afternoon. There will be a simple link for them to click that will take them to the event; they do not need to register.



Please encourage your child to join in with this event from home and the many more that are on offer until 12 February. All event details can be found on the school website and Google Classrooms.

School Parliament



All School Parliament Representatives are invited to attend our first virtual meetings on Thursday 11 February 2021. Even when working remotely, we want to hear feedback from our pupils to help shape school life. If your child is a rep, we would like them to join the ‘School Parliament’ online classroom (the code has been shared). KS2 Parliament: 1.00 – 1.30pm/ KS3 Parliament: 11.30 – 12.00pm.

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 been blown away by the creativity of the responses she has received to her fine-dining baked beans challenge! After a very tough decision, the below pupils have been chosen as the winners. Well done to everyone who entered – **we are SO impressed!**



1st Place: Ryan D (Year 6)

2nd Place: Elsa B (Year 6) and Abigail B (Year 5)

3rd Place: Adam W (Year 7)



A call-out to ‘experts’ in our local community: *what is your story?*

At HMS, we would like to invite our community of parents, carers and friends to contribute to our pupils’ learning. We are on the look-out for adults with a particular skill or expertise who would be willing to share this with our children. Are you one of them? Or do you know someone with a particularly fascinating job or skill? We are keen for people to share a 5-15 minute recording with us.

