



### HMS Weekly Update

19 March 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer

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

As we reach the end of another week, it has been a joy to see the children settling back into the school routine and enjoying their learning. This week, I spent time dropping into lessons across the curriculum and talking to pupils. The atmosphere around the school was wonderful and lots of staff took pride in telling me how hard the children are working. I want to say a huge well done to all of them and I look forward to speaking to them in our live assembly on Monday. It has also been fantastic to see the extra-curricular provision starting again – the children have been so excited to attend the many opportunities in school. Thank you to the staff for working so hard to provide these.

This week marks one year since most pupils began working from home during the first national lockdown. It has undoubtedly been a year of challenges and, for many, a year of sadness and worry. But I feel, as a school community, we still have lots to reflect on and to be thankful for. The sense of togetherness and community spirit has shone through and has continued through the many challenging periods the last year has presented. Although the challenging times continue, I am certain we can look ahead to much brighter days as we start to enjoy the summer term in school.

We now enter the final week of term (*can you believe it?*) and look forward to seeing the children in their 'Spring Celebration Assemblies'. The staff have been making nominations across the curriculum and I look forward to sharing the successes next week. Thank you to the PTA for delivering lots of Easter eggs to school ready to give out as prizes next week.

I would also like to thank parents of KS3 children for their support with home testing. It would be great if you could support your child to establish a testing routine (Monday and Thursday mornings, for example) and to continue this home testing over the Easter break (more tests will be issued next week). A letter from Northumberland County Council is attached to this week's update email. Please take the time to share this information with your child at home. Thank you for your support.

It has been great to see the children enjoying Red Nose Day today. The rounders competition is still ongoing as I type – it sounds like great fun. Assemblies this week have focused on the children and organisations your donations will support. We have also had joke competitions, special biscuits in the canteen and even an edible red nose design challenge! We will update you on the total raised next week.



## House Point Totals

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	
<b>Aln</b>	20,453	1	Aidan T	1	Chloe W	1	Kai F	1	Cade J-T
<b>Coquet</b>	18,405	2	Thomas E	2	Betsy B	2	James T	2	Amy J
<b>Tweed</b>	18,470	3	Lilly S	3	Thomas S	3	Leo W	3	Katie B
<b>Wansbeck</b>	17,968	4	Imogen M	4	Katie H	4	Jasmin J-T	4	Matilda W

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

This week's theme was **settling back into the school routine.** Well done to all of the pupils below.



Year 5		Year 6	
<b>FHA</b>	Phoebe T and Lilly S	<b>MDO</b>	Katie H
<b>JNI</b>	Archie B	<b>CPR</b>	Sienna H
<b>FHI</b>	Sam M	<b>RAL</b>	Henry C
<b>EKI</b>	Thomas H	<b>JJO</b>	Betsy B

## The Great Big Art Exhibition

HMS pupils are currently taking part in **'The Great Big Art exhibition.'** Pupils have brought in artwork made as part of live art lessons and artwork created independently at home.

Here is the first piece that has been showcased in Hexham town centre in Costa. This is the artwork Year 6 created with visiting artist Sam Douglas. It was a project the art department organised with VARC (Visual Arts in Rural Communities) as part of their Arts Council Funded Project 'Entwined.' The art department are looking forward to inviting other VARC artists into school in the summer term.

Thank you to all the pupils who have brought their artwork into school. It will be going into many other Hexham Independent stores in the next week or so... please do look out for the amazing work!

Miss Lawton sends huge thanks for the wonderful creativity!



## A focus on... Languages

Next week marks the start of '*The Express Yourself: North East Festival of Languages*' which takes place between the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> March. The festival is a celebration of the diverse languages, cultures and communities in the region and our connections with the world. There are lots of free events, activities and resources introducing new and creative ways to learn, speak and teach languages. Why not get your household involved? Please visit <https://expressyourselfne.com/> for more information.

To celebrate the festival in school, KS2 will be looking at fairy tales and KS3 will be using the knowledge of French language and culture to see if they can 'escape' successfully. Prizes will be awarded for teams who do this in the quickest time.

**We will also be launching two In-school competitions – an Easter card and languages bake off competition (more on our website).**



### **Reminders/ Dates**

**Home testing (KS3):** a reminder that we are asking KS3 children (with consent) to take twice weekly lateral flow tests at home. Results should be reported to school at this [link](#) and to the [Government](#).

**Friday 19 March:** Red Nose Day (more information to follow)

**Monday 22 – Wednesday 24 March:** Level Bikeability Course (for years 6, 7 and 8)

**Tuesday 23 – Friday 26 March:** Spring Celebration Assemblies (one year group each day)

**Friday 26 March:** School closes at 3.30pm

**Monday 12 April:** All children return to school

Have a fantastic weekend everyone. I hope we get to enjoy some more early spring sunshine!

Yours faithfully

Mr Watters

**Deputy Headteacher**