



HMS Weekly Update

25 February 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer

Update on life in school

Welcome back to a new half term – I hope you all managed to enjoy the week away from the screens and home learning. It has been a week of announcements and amidst the ongoing challenging times, there seems to more hope of a return to our normal lives in the not-too-distant future. Mr Atkins has sent you an overview of our approach to the school return and I will write to you with lots of detailed information on Monday. I appreciate there will be lots of correspondence coming your way again, so please get in touch at any point with any questions or comments you have.

As we have returned to school this week, daylight hours are getting longer and it feels great to enjoy walks and exercise in the fresh air. For the next week (our final one working remotely), please ask your child to continue logging on to their live lessons and working really hard at home. Please also encourage them to enjoy exercise and activities which they enjoy. Next week, form tutors will be discussing the return to school with all of the children. Mr Barry and Mr Stephenson have already collated some frequently asked questions and will be sharing a 'Q&A' video to support the children with the return. Lots more detail to come on Monday and throughout next week so, for now, that's it from me! Have a great weekend all and stay safe.

Volunteers wanted

To assist with the asymptomatic COVID testing required for KS3 pupils, we are looking for your support. The COVID tests are self-administered by the children but we require assistance with administrating the process. As a volunteer, you will receive full training and appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). We already have staff members on site who have been testing staff in school and they will be on hand to offer advice and guidance. If you have availability on the following days, please could you let us know by completing this [form](#). Your support would be massively appreciated.



- Friday 5th March
- Monday 8th March
- Thursday 11th March

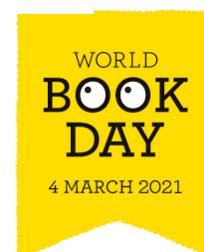
House Point Totals

Even through this lockdown, teachers have been 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	18,159	1	Jessy A	1	Ollie G	1	Anna C	1	Josh R
Coquet	16416	2	Olivia L	2	Rosie B	2	Ruby C	2	Matilda W
Tweed	16,510	3	Alannah N	3	Robson B	3	Lily-Ann B	3	Lucy D
Wansbeck	15,883	4	Robert R	4	Charlotte A	4	Olive T	4	Corey N

World Book Day 2021: Thursday 4 March

To celebrate World Book Day, Hexham Middle school would like to give all staff and pupils the option to come into school or to work from home in **fancy dress** - ideally sporting the attire of your favourite literary character! There will be a competition for the best fancy dress outfits both in school and for those working from home. Form tutors will be judging the fancy dress outfits in the morning form time sessions on Thursday 4 March.



In addition to the fancy dress competition, there will also be a **Bake-a-Book 'Bake-off'** - the challenge here is to bake and decorate the best literary-themed cake that you can. All entrants for the 'Bake-off' challenge must submit photographs of their cake creations to the admin email address before the end of the day on Friday 5 March. If anyone working in school wishes to bring in their cakes on World Book Day, they are more than welcome to do this.

There will also be a live **David Walliams assembly** on the Tuesday 2 March during form time, plus the opportunity on the afternoon of Thursday 4 March for students to spend some time away from their screens reading or completing one of our World Book Day creative challenges.

We know that this year's event won't quite be the same but we're still really excited to celebrate the day and we hope that everyone will join in with the challenges and competitions that we have planned!

Miss Prince

PE Podcast

Over half term, Mr Barry had the opportunity to catch up with former Newcastle United and current Nottingham Forest star Sammy Ameobi on the PE Podcast. This was a really exciting podcast for Mr Barry to film and I am sure you will enjoy watching the video at [this link](#). Thank you, Mr Barry!



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. The half term challenge was set by Miss Kwella to celebrate [Pancake Day](#). Here are some of the amazing entries she received...



Fabulous Crafting

Miss Lawton has been impressed by Maria G's and Matilda W's craft skills recently. Maria and Matilda have been sharing and making throughout the lockdowns we have all faced. Well done, girls - these are absolutely lovely! If you have any new skills or any achievements you would like to show us, we would love to see your photos. Please send them via the admin email.

Egg-citing news!

Mrs Curry and the year 5 pupils will be working on a special project over the next few weeks - they are going to try and hatch some chicks as part of Year 5's study of life cycles.

Mrs Curry will be providing the incubator and eggs, but we will need somewhere to keep the chicks if/when they hatch. Usually this would be a large box/hutch and some kind of lamp to keep them warm. If any parents/carers have previous experience of hatching or equipment which you would be prepared to loan us, please get in touch. If we are successful in hatching any chicks, we will be looking for suggestions of names from our pupils, so get your thinking caps on!

Reminders/ Dates

Yoga with Emily: [new video uploaded](#) (with extra Spanish this week!)

Thursday 4 March: World Book Day

Monday 8 March: Pupils return to school (KS3 8.40am/ KS2 8.50am)

I will be sending home very detailed guidance on the return to the school on Monday. If you have any questions or comments, please contact me via the office and I will get back to you. Have a great weekend everyone!

Yours faithfully

Mr Watters

Deputy Headteacher

