



### **HMS Weekly Update**

4 March 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer

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

As we reach the end of this period of remote learning, I want to take the opportunity to reflect on everyone's achievements. The children have once again shown their resilience and positivity and got to grips with accessing live lessons and establishing their routines for learning at home very quickly (overnight almost!). They have engaged brilliantly with live lessons, remote learning and creative activities and we really have been able to feel the HMS community spirit from a distance! The whole staff team at HMS have risen to the challenge of teaching and working in new ways and have ensured that the children have felt connected to the school and their learning throughout. Finally, thank you to all of you at home for your ongoing support. We know these have not been an easy few months and we really appreciate the way in which you have embraced the remote learning provision.

Looking ahead to Monday, I think we're all ready for a break from the screen and I know that the staff team are so excited to welcome all children back to school. My letter earlier in the week contained all of the information you need outlining our approach to making the return to school a safe and happy one for all pupils. We know that there will be mixed emotions in many households this weekend but please know that we are here to support the children in any way we can. If your child hasn't watched the [Q&A session with Mr Barry and Mr Stephenson](#), this may help to answer some of their questions.

Already, the HMS team have events and activities planned to re-establish the 'buzz' of school life. We are all looking forward to seeing and hearing the classrooms busy with learning once again and to relaunch our extra-curricular provision as we know how much this supports wellbeing. We'll be focusing on re-establishing routines and settling back into the school expectations over the next few weeks. Based on our experience of the return in September, we know it will be a very positive time and that the vast majority of children will settle back in very quickly. Equally, there will be lots of support available for those who need it.

Finally, please don't worry about the need for children to catch-up. Our pupils have engaged with their learning so brilliantly over this period. The teaching team will be working hard over the next few weeks to prioritise areas of learning and will adapt the curriculum accordingly. We are ready to get back to learning in the classroom and are all looking forward to an exciting summer term at HMS.

## 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	18,715	1	Thomas T	1	Grace S	1	Sasha F	1	Lucy D
Coquet	16,816	2	Emilia S	2	Robson B	2	Olive T	2	Alex M
Tweed	16,988	3	Beth N	3	Lottie H	3	Alexis H-H	3	Lily-Rose W
Wansbeck	16,286	4	Alannah N	4	Maisie Ma	4	James R	4	Daniel W

## World Book Day 2021: Thursday 4 March

We are celebrating World Book Day today! We also enjoyed an assembly with **David Walliams** this week during form time.

Keep sending in the photographs of the book themed bakes and costumes from today! The efforts have been phenomenal – well done everyone (including the staff!).



**WE LOVE READING**



## [PE Podcast](#)

For this week's PE Podcast, Mr Barry was lucky enough to speak with Cristian Fernandez Martinez from NUFC. Cristian is the injury specialist for Newcastle United. They talked about life growing up in Madrid, careers and his favourite sporting moments.



## **Fabulous Food Technology (*at home!*)**

Miss Kwella has loved receiving so many photographs of cooking going on at home. Here are some of the creations sent in over recent weeks. Well done everyone!



## **Celebrating art at HMS**

Miss Lawton has decided to set up an Instagram page for KS2 and KS3 art at HMS. She has been delighted by the breadth of our talented and skilled pupils' work across the school and felt inspired to share the fantastic art. The link has only just gone live so new posts will be coming soon! We request that all pupils who engage on this platform do so respectfully. Pupils will all be asked if they are happy for their art to be shared over the coming week (faces will never be shown). Well done to all of the children for their online creativity!



Please follow the page - [@hmsartcraftdesign](#)

## **National Careers Week**

This week is National Careers Week. Pupils had a focused assembly and we asked them to consider potential aspirations. Our theme for Careers Education this year is 'A Brave New World'. Year 7 pupils are currently exploring the 'World of Work' as a unit in PSHE.

### It's good to talk!

We would like to invite you to have a conversation with your child about what their potential aspirations in life are including their hopes and dreams for the future! We are encouraging an open and broad-minded approach to this aspect of careers education and value the contributions you can make.

A good and staggered way to approach this activity is to ask the following questions:





1. What type of job(s)/career do you think you may potentially like to have when you are older? Although most of the pupils will not necessarily have a strong sense of what they may wish to do as adults, it is good to get them to start thinking about possible routes, linked to things they enjoy and like to do. For example, your child may say "I like to do trampolining, diving, producing artwork and my favourite subjects are maths and French." These could be starting points for particular jobs e.g. coaching, accountancy or creative entrepreneur. The following website is a great resource for pupils to complete some independent research and could be the starting point for a discussion: <https://www.firstcareers.co.uk/>.
2. What do you think is good about some of your potential career choices?
3. How could you reach the destination of a particular job? What different routes can you take for example, an apprenticeship, university or college course or other on-the-job training?
4. Which subjects would be useful to study or are relevant for a particular career choice? For example to be an architect, physics, mathematics, art and design technology are very useful subjects.

We feel it is important that your child has the opportunity to discuss potential career options in life with a trusted adult. Remaining impartial without projecting personal viewpoints is a crucial part of this process to help open up lines of potential enquiry for individual pupils

The Careers Team - Mr Freeman-Myers, Mrs Tanner and Mr Armstrong



### **Reminders/ Dates**

**Thursday 4 March:** World Book Day

**Friday 5 March:** First in-school COVID test for KS3 (no live lessons today)

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

**Monday 8 March:** Science Week begins

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

We are excited to see all of the children back to school on Monday. The appendix below contains further information on lateral flow testing available for households of children attending school. We will write to you next week with further information about home testing for KS3 pupils. For now, have a fantastic week!

Yours faithfully

Mr Watters

**Deputy Headteacher**

## Appendix 1: Lateral flow testing for households

On Friday 5 March, KS3 children will begin their in-school lateral flow testing. Once they have had three in-school tests, they will begin self-testing at home. ***We will send home more information on the home test kits and reporting results next week.***



**NHS Test and Trace and the Department for Education have asked us to share this message with you:**

Undertaking regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing helps reduce transmission of the virus. Parents and other adults in households with children at school or college, who do not have symptoms, can now access regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing. This includes childcare and support bubbles.

Tests are fast, easy and completely free. There are different ways for a household, childcare or support bubble to collect their test to take at home, twice-weekly:

- through your employer, if they offer testing to employees
- by collecting a home test kit from a local test site – anyone aged 18 or over can collect 2 packs of 7 tests
- by ordering a home test kit online – please do not order online if you can access testing through other routes, this frees up home delivery for those who need it most

If you have any queries about the tests, and you live in England, please call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day from 7am to 11pm.

Children of primary school age (and below) without symptoms are not being asked to take a test.

Testing is voluntary, but strongly recommended to all who are eligible. Alongside the vaccine, washing hands, wearing face coverings, and maintaining social distancing, rapid testing plays a vital role in reducing transmission rates. Getting into the habit of regular testing as part of our everyday lives will help us all to play our part and do what we can to protect each other.