



HMS Weekly Update

16 April 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer

Update on life in school

What a fast week that has been! It has been fantastic to welcome the children back to school and to see the sun shining. It has been a busy week at HMS with our extra-curricular clubs continuing and the pupils settling back into their learning routines after the holiday. We already have lots planned for the summer term and we will keep you updated with events as the term goes on. Next week, we are looking forward to the children being able to enjoy their social time on the fields – something they enjoy every year! We have also welcomed back Mrs Roff to the senior leadership team this week and welcomed new pupils to our school.

As we look ahead to the summer term, it is always a very busy and exciting time of year. We have now started our transition processes and are looking forward to meeting lots of year 4 children later this year who will be excited about joining HMS in September. We are also preparing our year 8 pupils for their move to high school and we will continue to liaise closely with staff at Queen Elizabeth. We are also building up to the move to our brand new school which is looking phenomenal - Mr Atkins will be sending home a further update soon.

To support learning, we hugely value your input at home. Please could we ask that you encourage your child to establish a routine whereby they are reading every day (either silently or aloud to someone at home), practising their spellings (this can link with handwriting) and learning their times table facts (they can use Times Tables Rockstars to help with this). A little and often approach to these key areas leads to success for all. It would also be appreciated if you could continue to check your child's planner and encourage them to use it to record tasks and messages and to maintain organisation – this is a key life skill. Thank you for your ongoing support.

HMS Chicks

Our chicks have enjoyed their Easter break at Mrs Curry's farm and have now moved back to HMS. They are currently spending their time in Orchard with year 5 and have been out enjoying the sun this week. They will soon be moving to their permanent home in our Beaumont quad where the children will learn more about caring for them. We are looking for items for their new area if anyone has anything they could donate or point us in the direction of. Here are some photos of our year 5 children with Bluey, Cookies and Cream, Jimmy, Midnight and Sun (*names chosen by the year 5 children themselves*).



Mandarin School is back at HMS!

We are delighted to inform you that our KS3 Mandarin after-school club will be starting on **20 April 2021**. We are pleased to be able to continue working in partnership with the Confucius Institute and Newcastle University to give pupils the chance to follow a programme of study of Mandarin.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the club will take place for each year group **every other** Tuesday evening from 3:40pm-4:40pm. This will give both year 7 and 8 pupils a chance to attend the club on alternate weeks. There will be a limit of 15 pupils for each year group. Once your child has a place in the club, it is essential that they are committed for the full duration. We will of course be aware of any pupils who are absent on the day.

If your child wishes to take part, please complete the permission slip (*sent out earlier in the week*) and return it to Mr Armstrong by **Monday 19 April**.

20 Apr	27 Apr	4 May	11 May	18 May	25 May	1 June	8 June	15 June	22 June	29 June
Year 7	Year 8	Year 7	Year 8	Year 7	Year 8	Half term	Year 7	Year 8	Year 7	Year 8

Newcastle University Maths Challenge

The maths department are very pleased to announce that **Daisy C** and **Alexis H-H** (in year 7) have won awards in the Newcastle University Maths Challenge. Mr Forster was thrilled with all of the entries which pushed students to think beyond the school curriculum. Competition was extremely tough with the children going up against 42 other schools in the North East. We are very proud to see the talent of HMS mathematicians being recognised by a top university, and are excited to see what the children will achieve in year 8 and beyond.



Uniform update

We sent home a message before Easter regarding ordering new items of uniform directly from Ian Millar (the current supplier) for the remainder of this term and we understand that some parents are struggling to get new uniform items. To support this, we will soon be asking for a collection of

old uniform items from parents which we will have available for collection from school should you need them. We also already have quite a good stock of items in school – please call the office if you'd like to request anything.

I also let you all know that we will have a new school logo **from September 2021** and jumpers with the new logo will be available to order from a new supplier in late April. We will not be changing any other aspect of the HMS uniform (including colours). I want to be clear that pupils **can** still wear their jumpers with the current logo for as long as they need to (into next year and beyond). The new logo jumpers will be available to order for new starters and those who wish to purchase them to wear from September onwards but they are not essential for current pupils moving into their next year group.

If you would like to chat to us about getting new/used uniform, you can do this in confidence by calling the school office - we are here to support you, as always.

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. Lots of pupils have enjoyed spending their P points in the Class Charts Rewards Store this week – please contact your child's form tutor if you need log-in details.

House Totals		Year 5		Year 6		Year 7		Year 8	
Aln	23,280	1	Gabriel W	1	Katie H	1	Brogan R	1	Jack W
Coquet	20,840	2	Archie D	2	Kenzie W	2	James T	2	Charlie C
Tweed	21,023	3	Thomas H	3	Robson B	3	Tess A	3	Corey N
Wansbeck	20,778	4	Michael B-P	4	Henry W	4	Megan H	4	Tyler J

Extra-curricular opportunities

As we move into the summer term and hopefully see more of the sunshine, our amazing [extra-curricular programme](#) continues. Please encourage your child to go along and try something new this term. Here's Mr Nichol's year 5 Quidditch Club enjoying their lunchtime earlier this week.



Year 5 Aztec Day

Hola, Mexico! On Monday 19 April, year 5 will be experiencing 'Aztec Day' and will be taken off timetable to experience how the Aztecs lived. They will have the opportunity to participate in four activities including: playing Aztec games, arts and crafts tasks, creating Aztec codices and Aztec maths strategies. All pupils will have the option to try some Mexican cuisine on Monday at lunchtime, courtesy of our fabulous kitchen staff. *Pupils need to have money on their account to purchase food from school.*



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](#).

Sanitary products: Just a brief reminder to all parents and pupils that we have an abundant supply of sanitary products available, free of charge, in school. Pupils can collect at any time from the main office or from Mrs Adams' office in Beaumont building.

Monday 19 April: Year 5 Aztec Day and Aztec Menu

Friday 23 April: Maths4Girls Workshop (Year 7)

Wednesday 28 April: UK Junior Maths Challenge

Thursday 29 April: Bags2School collection deadline (more info to follow)

Have a fantastic weekend everyone – the sun is shining and it is joyful!

Yours faithfully

Mr Watters

Deputy Headteacher

Mexican meatballs

Chilli beef tacos

Chicken quesadillas

Cheese fajitas

Served with Mexican rice or

potato wedges

Sweetcorn & selection of salads

Fiesta chocolate brownie