

### HMS Weekly Update

14 May 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer

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

Another busy week has flown by – it really feels like the school calendar is very busy once again which is fantastic. This week saw the return of sports fixtures and there was lots of excitement in school on Monday ahead of the visit to Ovingham. There will be further updates about upcoming opportunities soon. This week we've had the year 8 HPV vaccinations – there was lots of bravery on display from some very nervous pupils. We also had a very important PSHE workshop for year 8 with Dave Burns from 'Be Safe'; we always look forward to welcoming Dave into school as his sessions enhance our PSHE curriculum brilliantly. On Tuesday, Mrs Curry had the chance to enjoy an afternoon tea with pupils who had purchased a ticket through our 'Rewards Store'. Thank you so much to Mrs Satow and her team for preparing such a fantastic treat!



I also wanted to say a huge thank you for our Golden Gnomie nomination. We received our own gnome and certificate to recognise the hard work and enthusiasm shown during the lockdown. I remain very proud of the entire HMS team for their contribution to our outstanding lockdown provision.

We are now also in planning mode for the end of term and the move to our new school. We will update you all soon with transition plans with a focus on how we plan to welcome year 4 children and how we will be supporting year 8 with their move to high school. The uncertainty around COVID guidance is making planning more of a challenge but the Hexham Partnership schools are working together to come up with a consistent plan.

#### **Face coverings update**

The Government has updated the COVID-19 guidance for schools. From **17 May**, the below changes around the use of face coverings will come into effect. The guidance states:

- Based on the current state of the pandemic and the positive progress being made, it is **no longer** necessary to recommend the additional precautionary face covering measures put in place from the 8 March. From 17 May, in line with Step 3 of the roadmap, face coverings will **no longer be recommended** for pupils in classrooms or communal areas in all schools.

- Face coverings will also **no longer** be recommended for staff in classrooms.
- In all schools, we **continue** to recommend that face coverings should be worn by staff and visitors in situations outside of classrooms where social distancing is not possible (for example, when moving around in corridors and communal areas).
- Pupils should **continue** to wear face coverings on both school and public transport unless exempt.

It is important to note that if pupils would prefer to wear face coverings, they can continue to do so.

### House Point Totals

Below are this week's House Point totals as well as the **'Top 4' pupils in each year group this week.** P points are awarded for character value such as **resilience, respect, engagement and responsibility.** Well done to each and every one of them.



| House Totals    |        | Year 5 |             | Year 6 |          | Year 7 |            | Year 8 |          |
|-----------------|--------|--------|-------------|--------|----------|--------|------------|--------|----------|
| <b>Aln</b>      | 28,486 | 1      | Michael B-P | 1      | Iris A   | 1      | Olive T    | 1      | Heidi S  |
| <b>Coquet</b>   | 25,602 | 2      | Aidan T     | 2      | Harry J  | 2      | Theo C     | 2      | Corey N  |
| <b>Tweed</b>    | 25,610 | 3      | Gabriel B   | 3      | Elsa B   | 3      | Geoffrey B | 3      | Cade J-T |
| <b>Wansbeck</b> | 25,641 | 4      | Alistair W  | 4      | Thomas H | 4      | Athon M    | 4      | Lucy D   |

### HMS PTA Lottery

Congratulations to the winners of this month's HMS PTA Lottery: Becky Elton and Ginnie O'Farrell. The Lottery raises money for PTA projects such as extra equipment, school trips and fun events. It has cash prizes of £25 and £15 monthly and tickets are only £1 each. You can set up your membership quickly online. If you would like to join the HMS Lottery or find out more, email Kate Robson at [hmsprizedraw@gmail.com](mailto:hmsprizedraw@gmail.com)



### New home for our chicks!

The HMS chickens have now made the move to their new home in Beaumont Quad. Thank you to Miss Kingett and Mr Freeman-Myers who have worked along with Tom H (year 8) to re-build the coop. The children are enjoying having our own chickens in school.



### KS3 Food Tech

It has been a joy to smell the delights of Miss Kwella's food tech room around the Beaumont corridors once again. Year 7 have been making sausage rolls this week. We've seen some wonderful flavours including pork and apple, pork and caramelised onion, vegetarian sausage and pork and bacon; year 8 have made some fantastic Toad in the Hole. Well done everyone!



### Walk to School Week

Our school is promoting Walk to School Week (17-21 May). The nationwide event is organised by walking charity 'Living Streets' and designed to help pupils experience first-hand the importance of walking to school. Children will be well on their way to reaching their recommended 60 minutes minimum of physical activity per day before even reaching the school gates! Not only will it set them up for a positive day in the classroom, but it will also help create healthy habits for life.

The theme of this year's event is 'Walking Superpowers' and we are encouraging families to travel sustainably (walk, wheel, scoot, cycle) to school during Walk to School week.



### Northumberland County Council CQC

Ofsted inspectors are visiting NCC. Inspectors are keen to review schools' provision for children with additional needs (SEND). The Local Authority has requested that we provide the opportunity for parents to provide their feedback and views regarding this area. We would be grateful if you could take time to complete the following [survey](#) and submit your views.

### Last chance for Year 8 [Fire Cadets!](#)

There are now just five places left on this exciting opportunity for pupils in Year 8 to join the Northumberland Fire Cadets. Some of our pupils have already signed up! This is a great chance for pupils to learn more about the Fire and Rescue Service and to develop a range of useful skills with others. Watch the link and express your interest by emailing [nfrs.cadets@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:nfrs.cadets@northumberland.gov.uk). You will need to fill out a short application form.



### **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](#).

**Thursday 20 May:** Zoolab Workshop for Year 6

**Year Group Photos (all):** Monday 24 May (*corrected day*)

Have a fantastic weekend everyone!

Yours faithfully

Mr Watters

**Deputy Headteacher**