

12 November 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE

Update on life in school

I say this every week, but I can't believe Friday has come around so quickly again. This week, myself and other leaders have had the opportunity to visit classrooms to see the brilliant teaching and learning going on day-in day-out across our school. This is one of my favourite aspects of my role as I get to celebrate the success of our staff and pupils and to talk to the children about their learning. It is so wonderful to be back in the classroom every day and to see the children thriving in school following the challenges of the lockdowns. We will be visiting more subjects next week and look forward to seeing more great learning. It's also been lovely to see the food technology room back in action – thank you to the year 7 pupils who brought me some scones on the yard!



On Thursday, we reflected with a silence to mark Remembrance Day. On Sunday, our Head Pupil team will join me and Mrs Curry in the Hexham Remembrance Service and will lay a wreath on behalf of the HMS community. Our assembly focus this week has been on STEM and the contribution it is making to climate-ready communities. Mrs Gregory shared an inspirational video of Vanisha talking at COP26 in Glasgow – what a brilliant role model for our young people! Our Eco Schools group will be following in Vanisha's footsteps and taking action alongside students at QEHS as the year develops. We ended the week with our Children in Need Day – thank you for your support of our fundraising efforts.

Thank you for your continued support with drop-off and collection arrangements. We ask that you are mindful of dropping off in the surrounding area and do not block our neighbours' driveways and parking spaces. You are able to drive into school in the morning to drop children off. With regards current COVID-19 restrictions, I would ask that you continue to remind children in KS3 to bring a face covering to school and to complete twice-weekly lateral flow testing.

Online Safety Reminder

Just a reminder to all parents and carers to please be vigilant in monitoring your child's use of the internet and apps. There are lots of fantastic apps available for young people to connect with others and the world around them. Please be mindful that some of these apps carry an age recommendation of 13+. We would generally advise parents to be checking their child's phone content once per week with the child. If you are concerned about anything on your child's phone, please get in touch so we can offer support. There is also some excellent advice for parents online [Thinkuknow - home](#)

Hexham Middle School

Whetstone Bridge Road, Hexham, Northumberland NE46 3JB

T: 01434 610300 E: admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk

www.hexhammiddleschool.co.uk

Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**



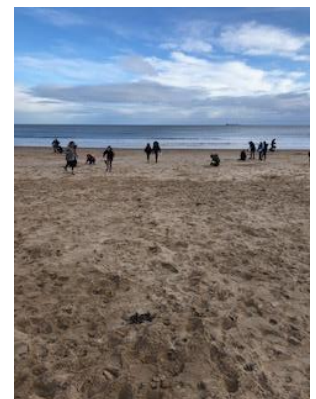
We will have a full week of online safety focus in February where students will have access to a range of useful resources and information. There is a national issue around the use of Tik Tok at the moment so we would urge parents/ carers to check their child's devices and accounts very carefully. Thank you for your support.

Anti-bullying Week

Next week we are promoting **Anti-Bullying Week** with a themed assembly led by the Pastoral Leaders. Pupils are also welcomed to take part in **Odd Socks Day on Monday 15th November**. Pupils know that they can always raise any concerns they have with any member of staff in school and that we'll always be there to listen and solve any issues. For more information and advice specifically for parents and carers about anti-bullying initiatives, please refer to the following link: <https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week/parents-and-carers>

Year 6 visit Tynemouth

Year 6 enjoyed a great day at the setting of their novel 'Kingdom by the Sea'. The children worked outside for the full day and enjoyed sculpture building on the beach, as well as poetry writing. I think the highlight for many was the chip shop delivery at lunchtime! It is always an inspiring day for the children, and it is great to see them reading with such enthusiasm. I was in classrooms this week and it made me really miss my English lessons – it is such an amazing story! Thank you to Mrs Alderson and Miss Kingett for their brilliant organisation.



Bag2School collection

The PTA have confirmed this term's ['Bag2School' collection](#). This is an opportunity for you to send in clothing items from home to be reused and recycled. This will support the fundraising of our PTA. Bags can be brought in by the children or, if it's easier for you, we will hold parent/carers drop-offs on

Hexham Middle School

Whetstone Bridge Road, Hexham, Northumberland NE46 3JB

T: 01434 610300 E: admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk

www.hexhammiddleschool.co.uk

Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**



Thursday 18 and Friday 19 November in the car park from 9.00-9.30am. **The deadline for drop off is 9am on Tuesday 23 November.** Thank you for your support.

Children in Need 2021

It was a joy to see the children enjoying the Pudsey Fun Runs today and the sing-along at lunch time sounded like great fun! Mr Holdsworth and the children were belting out an eclectic range of hits including Frozen, Rick Astley, Neil Diamond and Little Mix!



Respect, Engage, Aspire: Pupil Awards

To capture our school's ethos more prominently, we are now focusing on three key words: **Respect, Engage, Aspire.** Each week, staff will make nominations in recognition of pupils showing these characteristics in and around school.

	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
Respect	Callum J	Maeve H-D	Archie H	Alfie L
Engage	Dylan B	Olivia M	Arthur D	Frazer K
Aspire	Isobel S	Gabriel W	Adelle F	Max B



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	
Aln	8,719	1	Charlie M	1	Archie B	1	Iris A	1	Caleb R S
Coquet	9,833	2	Carrie G	2	Bella W	2	Robson B	2	Mack O B
Tweed	9,284	3	Shontelle B	3	Billy B	3	Archie R	3	Olive T
Wansbeck	10,107	4	Kaidyn B	4	Phoebe S	4	Bruce K	4	Thomas R

Hexham Middle School

Whetstone Bridge Road, Hexham, Northumberland NE46 3JB

T: 01434 610300 E: admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk

www.hexhammiddleschool.co.uk

Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**



Attendance – top 3!

1	2	3
7BLA (100%)	8IHO (99%)/5JNI (99%)	6JJO (98%)

PTA events



Reminders/ Key Dates

- **M and M Productions Visit KS2:** Monday 15 November
- **Year 5 Film Festival at Forum Cinema:** Friday 19 November
- **'Bag2School' PTA collection:** deadline for donations is Tuesday 23 November
- **Year 8 Chemistry Workshops:** Wednesday 24 November
- **Year 5 Parents' Evenings:** Tuesday 30 November and Thursday 2 December
- **Christmas Light Switch On:** Friday 26 November

Have a wonderful weekend everyone.

Yours sincerely

Mr Watters

Head of School

Hexham Middle School

Whetstone Bridge Road, Hexham, Northumberland NE46 3JB

T: 01434 610300 E: admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk

www.hexhammiddleschool.co.uk

Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**