

5 November 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE

Update on life in school

Another week has flown by, and it's been great to welcome the pupils back to school following the half-term break. I hope you all managed to enjoy a lovely October holiday – it was great to see so many of the HMS community at the Hexham Spook Night. This week, our sports teams have been in action at various locations representing HMS brilliantly – well done to all involved. We also held our PTA AGM, and it was great to reflect on the achievements of the group despite the challenges posed by the ongoing pandemic. The PTA have lots of exciting events planned which we will keep you all updated on and have also agreed to fund lots of opportunities for pupils in school, including the development of our new Forest School area. To support the PTA, you can sign up to the 'HMS Lottery' by contacting Kate on hmsprizedraw@gmail.com. Next week is STEM week and Mrs Gregory will be leading the assemblies with a focus on how STEM impacts on all of our lives. We will also hold opportunities for reflection as we approach Remembrance Day on Thursday, and merchandise from the Royal British Legion can continue to be purchased at break times.



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 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

We are pleased to be supporting this year's '[Children in Need](#)' appeal. We have now set up the option for families to make voluntary contributions via School Gateway (we ask for a minimum of a £1 donation, if you can). Children should wear their PE kit on Friday 12 November and are encouraged to wear spotty/ Pudsey-themed accessories if they would like to. Children will enjoy the 'Pudsey Fun Run' in school throughout the day, as well as a 'Pudsey Sing-along' at lunchtime.



Hexham Middle School

Whetstone Bridge Road, Hexham, Northumberland NE46 3JB

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

Earth Shot Project/ Eco Schools



In conjunction with COP26, we have registered with Eco Schools. Moving into our new school building and grounds has provided us with a great opportunity to explore how we can operate more sustainably. We are calling upon a group of pupils from all year groups to become members of an 'Eco Schools Committee' to instigate local, pupil-led investigation and action. We are also starting up an Earth Shot extracurricular project. Useful links: <https://ukcop26.org/> and <https://www.eco-schools.org.uk/>. You can also check out this [video](#)..

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	Ollie P	Alex G	Nathaniel O	Leo C
Engage	Annabelle R	Thomas T	Jade L	Megan H
Aspire	Leo F	Phoebe S	Josiah I	Geoffrey B

Residential Visits

I am delighted to confirm that we will be offering residential visits to all of our year groups this year. These are being carefully planned in line with the latest COVID-19 guidance and we will keep parents/ carers updated as plans develop. For now, I wanted to give you an overview of planned visits with more specific information and sign-up information to follow in due course.



- Year 5: visit to Lockerbie Manor in February/ March
- Year 6: visit to Rock UK, Whithaugh in May
- Year 7: visit to France in the summer term and a visit to London
- Year 8: visit to High Borrans, Windermere in May

We are so excited about the above opportunities and look forward to sharing more news soon!

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Remote Learning

If your child is absent due to COVID-19 or self-isolation, please encourage them to access their learning remotely via Google Classroom when they feel able. It is essential that we know if your child does not have access to an online device. **Please let me know via email if this is the case and we will look to provide a device for your child to use for home learning.**



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	7,272	1	James L	1	Charlie T	1	Iris A	1	Beth R
Coquet	8,206	2	Noah W	2	Christopher S	2	Brooke C	2	Robert D
Tweed	7,852	3	Jakub M	3	Finley A	3	Bruce K	3	Arthur D-L
Wansbeck	8,454	4	Tyler B	4	Harvey C-F	4	Pia P	4	Ollie J

Attendance – top 3!

1	2	3
7AMH	6FHI	6JJO

Food Technology

Miss Kwella has set up a helpful page on our website where you can find upcoming food technology ingredients. Please follow this [link](#). We are delighted that practical food technology lessons are now underway! Please keep sending Miss Kwella your photographs of cooking/ baking at home.



Reminders/ Key Dates

- **Year 6 Parents' Evening:** Tuesday 9 and Thursday 11 November
- **Year 5 Aerospace STEM workshop:** Wednesday 10 November
- **Children in Need Day:** Friday 12 November for all pupils

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- **'Bag2School' PTA collection:** deadline for donations is Tuesday 23 November
- **Year 5 Parents' Evenings:** Tuesday 30 November and Thursday 2 December

Have a wonderful weekend!

Yours sincerely

Mr Watters

Head of School

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