

8 October 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE

Update on life in school

Another week has flown by and there's been lots going on in school again. It was brilliant to see so many pupils meeting Peter J Murray and ordering lots of his books – the children have loved reading them around school this week. Clubs have started this week and the children have been loving getting involved lots of varied activities. Next week, after-school clubs will start, and we will contact you on Monday to confirm your child's place. Thank you for your support of **Hello Yellow Day** for Young Minds – this event marked [World Mental Health Day](#) and this week's assemblies have focused on wellbeing strategies. Thank you for attending our Pastoral Evening this week – it was great to welcome so many families into our school and to hear lots of positive stories about the start of term. Mrs Tanner is currently recruiting for Digital Leaders – please watch the video at this [link](#) to find out more about the application process.

Here is a [useful link](#) with information for supporting your child's mental health. As always, if you are concerned about your child's mental health, please contact school and we can arrange further support. As a parent or carer, looking after your own wellbeing is also important and Every Mind Matters enables you to get tailored wellbeing support. Use the [Mind Plan](#) to see what works for you.

Punctuality

Now that we are settled into the routine of the new school term, we ask that pupils are arriving on site **by 8.40am**. We understand that some bus routes are still running behind schedule due to roadworks and we are liaising with NCC to find solutions. Most pupils already arrive on time ready for the day, but we really want all children to be in school and settled ready for form time. Please encourage your child to make sure that they are on time each morning. We understand that there'll be things which come up or one-off issues; we are always supportive and flexible around these. From Monday, we'll be monitoring lateness more closely. If children (**except those on late buses**) are late to school three times, they will receive an S4 detention. Thank you for your support with punctuality.

COVID-19 update

We have been advised that there has been some confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the school. NHS Test and Trace will contact any individuals who have been identified as close contacts to let them know if they are required to self-isolate, and to provide further advice. **The school remains open, and your child should continue to attend if they remain well.** Please be assured that we shall continue to follow

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**



the guidance both in relation to dealing with individual cases and in relation to wider control measures in school.

A reminder that we ask children in years 7 and 8 to take twice-weekly tests at home and report all results at this [link](#). It is important that your child builds testing into their weekly routine. If you need more test kits, please contact the school office.

House Captains and Head Pupils

Today we held our House Hustings for the new school year. The long-standing HMS tradition of house elections took place with outstanding candidates submitting their speeches via video allowing the pupils from across the school to vote for their new leaders. We are delighted to announce that this year's House Captains and their Vice Captains are:

	Ain	Coquet	Tweed	Wansbeck
Captain	Theo C	Oliver K	Alex M	Martha C
Vice-Captain	Anna C	Edie L	Poppy F	Alfie L



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	
Ain	3,662	1	Leo F	1	Charlie T	1	Jade L	1	Olivia H
Coquet	4,070	2	Bess D	2	Emilia S	2	Imogen B	2	Freddie C
Tweed	3,841	3	Cameron S	3	Alfie B	3	Chloe W	3	Nate T
Wansbeck	4,132	4	Ossie D	4	Hudson R-C	4	Louis R	4	Megan H

Attendance – top 4!

1	2	3	4
5FHA	6JJO	5JNI	7IBO

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**



Hexham Middle School

spes durat avorum

Harvest Festival

This year, we are collecting for West Northumberland Food Bank as part of our acknowledgement of Harvest Festival. We will also have a themed assembly. We would like to provide parents and pupils with the opportunity to make any donations they can by bringing items into school. **We will be collecting items from Monday 11 - Friday 15 October.**

The following items are in shortage: toiletries, tinned meat, tinned vegetables and tinned fruit. Pupils will be able to bring any items into school and deliver them to their form tutors. Crates from **West Northumberland Food Bank** will be collected from school on Friday 15 October. You may prefer to drop off any donations to locations in Hexham including: Tesco, Co-op and Waitrose. For more information about West Northumberland Food Bank: <https://www.westnorthumberlandfoodbank.org.uk/>. Huge thank you for your support!

A focus on... PSHE

Year 5 and Year 6 are studying 'Being me in my World'. This unit encourages pupils to consider the year ahead (setting targets inside and outside of school); explore their place in modern Britain; examine their responsibilities in school and wider society and recognise the necessity of rewards and sanctions in school. Additionally, Year 6 will explore their place as a citizen of the wider world.

Furthermore, Year 5 and Year 6 have this week enjoyed workshops with Dave Burns from 'Be Safe'. Year 5 have explored anti-bullying and Year 6 cyber-crime and online safety.

Year 7 are studying 'Identity and Community'. This unit encourages pupils to consider their individuality; explore gender equality; explore self-esteem; examine family life and understand prejudice and discrimination.

Year 8 are studying 'Financial Literacy'. This unit includes lessons on group culture, budgeting, money management and shopping essentials.



Reminders/ Key Dates

- **HMS Open Evening (for prospective parents and pupils):** Wednesday 13 October 6.00pm
- **HMS Open Days:** Thursday 14 and Friday 15 October (bookable tours for prospective parents)
- **Individual Photographs (Year 5 and new pupils):** Tuesday 12 October

I hope you all have a fantastic weekend. Thank you for your continued support of school life.

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**