

10 December 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE

Update on life in school

The festivities have continued at HMS this week and it has been great to see and hear the enjoyment of our pupils across the school. Mr Holdsworth, Mr Freeman-Myers and Mrs Tanner have worked exceptionally hard to plan and record our virtual carol service; we can't wait to share the final edit with you all next week. The children had a great time recording it and we could hear the singing and music throughout school!



Yesterday, our catering team did a phenomenal job to prepare a lovely Christmas lunch for pupils and staff. Mr Barry set up the festive music in the dining hall and it was a great atmosphere. Huge thank you to Mrs Satow and her team.

Mr Barry and Mrs Southern had the Y8 and Y9 rugby teams at the Champion's Cup qualifiers in Ponteland yesterday. The year 8 team qualified in second place and the year 9 team, who are looking to defend their North East title, won all of their games. Huge well done to all involved!

School will close for all pupils at 12.30pm on Friday 17 December. We can confirm that all school transport will be provided as usual and will collect children at 12.30pm. Please could you make sure that your child knows the arrangements for getting home safely. For children in receipt of free school meals, packed lunches will be available to take home. Thank you for your support.

Another huge thanks to our PTA who have organised two Movie Nights this week which KS2 absolutely loved! Nativity was the winning film on both nights and it was lovely to see everyone enjoying themselves. The PTA have also been amazed by the number of orders for this year's gift shop – they are busy behind the scenes wrapping and preparing gifts which will be delivered to pupils next week. Thank you for your ongoing support of school events and fundraising.

One week to go until the Christmas holidays... this term really has just flown by! Children can wear their Christmas jumpers and accessories next Friday (17th) if they wish.



Hexham Middle School

Whetstone Bridge Road, Hexham, Northumberland NE46 3JB

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

www.hexhammiddleschool.co.uk

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Head of School: **Liam Watters**



Arrival and departure reminders

- **We expect children to be on the school site by 8.40am.**
- We are working with NCC to ensure that school transport arrives at school on time – we will update you in due course.
- For those children arriving late, 'late to school' points will be issued. We will not issue late points to those children on buses or taxis.
- If you are dropping off in the car park, we ask that you drive to the drop-off point and leave the car park without parking up. We have noticed more children moving around the car park from parked cars.
- Please be mindful of your speed on the school site – this should be less than 10mph please.
- Please continue to be mindful of our neighbours by:
 - Not parking in front of driveways and gates.
 - Minimising traffic movement in the surrounding streets.
 - Switching your engine off whilst parked up.

Thank you again for your understanding and support.

COVID-19 update including testing

As you know, we had already asked KS3 children to wear face coverings in communal areas in school; this will now continue in line with national guidance. We will continue to remind pupils about the safety measures in school and ask for your support in ensuring that children in KS3 bring a face covering to school. We are having to remind lots of pupils and do have spares available throughout school, but a reminder at home each morning would be appreciated.

The Government has instructed schools to be prepared to test children on return in January. Pupils in year 7 and 8 will be tested on **Tuesday 4 January (first day of term)** and the school will have an extended form time to allow this to take place. We will base consents on those collected in September. If you would like to change or withdraw consent, please email us via admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk. Equally, if you'd like to give consent where it previously hasn't been, please also contact us as soon as possible. If you are able to support with the running of our test site, please [complete the online form](#). We have really valued the amazing support of our parents/ carers when we have set up our test centres previously – thank you again!

Children in KS3 are also asked to continue taking **twice-weekly lateral flow tests** over the festive holiday and to take a lateral flow test before attending school on Tuesday 4 January. **We will be issuing more test kits before the end of term; we also always have these available from the office.** If you have any questions about any of the above, please contact us. Thank you for your support in keeping the school community as safe as possible.

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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	14,767	1	Ollie P	1	Jack M	1	Iris A	1	Zak R
Coquet	16,952	2	Alfie R-W	2	Gabriel B	2	Brooke C	2	Robert D
Tweed	15,728	3	Lyra R	3	Aidan T	3	Chloe W	3	Alec C
Wansbeck	16,517	4	Lily B	4	Olivia L	4	Bruce K	4	Lucas J

This week's assembly theme

Mrs Curry has led this week's assembly on 'Jane Austen'. The assembly focused on her literary work and her influence on literature to the present day. Mrs Curry also explored her character, her values and celebrated her inspiration on the generations that followed. It was a really interesting assembly which the children enjoyed. Mrs Curry also encouraged the children to choose more classic literature from our library.

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	Alex G	Alistair W	Tiana M	Violet B
Engage	Hayden T	Alannah N	John M	Mack O'B
Aspire	Noah S	Eliza R	Imogen S	Molly B

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Attendance – top 3 form classes!

1	2	3
5FHA/7BLA	5JNI	8IHO

Pokemon cards

Pokemon cards always seem to come and go. At the moment, they seem very popular in KS2. We are more than happy for pupils to bring them to school on the understanding that they are personal property and must be looked after carefully. We have reminded children that:

- They are not to be out in classrooms.
- They are not to be out in school buildings including the dining hall (and the queue).
- They are to be looked at on the yard only.



Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who	Action
Final week of term	Christmas Celebration Assemblies	All years	None
Thursday 16 December	Success Trip to Forum (invited pupils)	All years	Complete permissions
Friday 17 December	School closes at 12.30pm Pupils can wear their Christmas jumpers!	All years	None

Have a wonderful weekend everyone.

Yours sincerely

Mr Watters

Head of School



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