

17 December 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE

Update on life in school

Here we are at the Christmas holiday and what a fantastic term it has been. Despite a delayed start to the year, the whole school community has moved into our wonderful new school with positivity and resilience. The pupils have, once again, been an absolute credit to you and the school. They have worked exceptionally hard, shown high levels of respect, engaged in the many varied opportunities on offer and had high aspirations for their own success. I am very proud of them all!



The staff team at HMS have gone above and beyond to ensure that we have settled into our new school and that we have established the same positive atmosphere we had before. As well as teaching brilliant lessons and providing tailored support for pupils, they have established a wide range of varied clubs, enrichment activities and opportunities which make HMS such a vibrant place to learn and to work. I want to thank each of them for their huge contribution to school life – I am very thankful for their continued dedication.

I also want to send thanks to our parents, carers and school community who support school life so brilliantly. Whether that be through supporting your child's learning at home, sending positive feedback, or supporting fundraising opportunities including PTA events – you are always so supportive, and it is hugely appreciated. Your patience at the start of this term was valued by all of us, and we hope that you are pleased with how the first term has gone.

I also want to send further thanks to our wonderful PTA who have worked so hard to plan events and opportunities for our children, despite ongoing restrictions and challenges. The recent Christmas Gift Shop was so well supported, and the children loved receiving their gifts. These things, as well as all events in school, don't happen by chance – they take a huge amount of time and effort – thank you again to all of the volunteers.

The recent Christmas Jumper Day raised £261 for Save the Children – thank you! Attached to today's update email is the link to this year's [Virtual Carol Service](#) – it is fantastic! Huge thank you to all of the very talented children, Mr Holdsworth, Mrs Tanner, Miss Lamont and Mr Freeman-Myers – it is a wonderful service. We are looking forward to being back in the Abbey next December.

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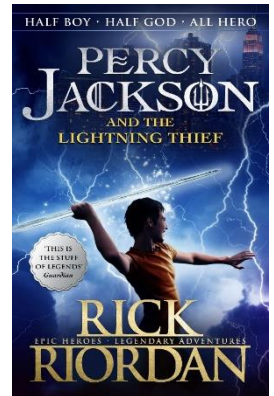
For now, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and we will hopefully see you in school over the spring term. I hope all of the children have a very happy festive period and we will see them back in school on Tuesday 4 January at 8.40am.

Book review by Mrs Box

Percy Jackson and The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan

If like me, you like stuff to do with the past – myths and legends and other historical stories – you will love the Percy Jackson series by American author Rick Riordan.

Until I read the books, I had no idea that the Greek gods were still alive and living among us. Just think! This is what Percy Jackson discovers in 'The Lightning Thief'. Not only that, but he finds out that his Dad is actually the Greek God, Poseidon. He is the God of the Sea which explains why water behaves strangely around Percy (whose full name is Perseus).



In 'The Lightning Thief' Percy and a couple of new mythical friends set off on an adventure to recover the lost lightning bolt of Zeus, King of the Gods. It is full of action and peril.

There is a whole series of books in which we get to know all the Greek Gods and other characters from Greek mythology. Best of all, the series is in HMS library.

I found the stories fast-paced, exciting and un-put-downable (have I just invented a word?). Rick Riordan actually started writing them for his son who has dyslexia; so if you are not a keen reader, why not give them a go?

The first two books in the series ('The Lightning Thief' and 'The Sea of Monsters') have also been made into films and I always like to compare books with films to see what differences there are.

Happy reading!

COVID-19 update including testing

- 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.

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- Thank you for the support from our amazing volunteers who will help us run the test site in January – this is hugely appreciated and will allow us to complete testing at both schools in one day.
- 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.
- 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.



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	15,943	1	Lyra R	1	Alistair Wi	1	Lorna D	1	Beth R
Coquet	18,200	2	Shona R	2	Alfie B	2	Imogen S	2	James M-D
Tweed	17,027	3	Ben F	3	Harry R	3	Jade L	3	Ziena W
Wansbeck	17,961	4	Ailsa S	4	Evie S	4	Alex M	4	Olive T

Christmas T-Shirt Designs in The Base



Mrs Adams and the team had some fabulous entries and the top four were able to turn their designs into a t-shirt. The pupils had great fun designing their t-shirts and loved being able to see their design on print with the help of Mrs Dodds. Our overall winner was Laura W who was delighted to show off her t-shirt and collect her prize. They finished off their session with some Christmas games and quizzes – happy smiley faces all round!



This week’s assembly theme

This week, we held our termly ‘Celebration Assemblies’. It is always a difficult decision to select nominees and winners and we emphasised our pride in all of our pupils for their hard work this term. It was such a lovely atmosphere, and it was great to see and hear the warm, celebratory atmosphere between the year groups. Well done everyone!

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	Y5	Y6	Y7	Y8
English	Winner: William M Runner Up: Matilda S	Winner: Eve W Runner Up: Benjamin H	Winner: Troy P Runner Up: Daisy W	Winner: Imani F Runner Up: Molly L
Maths	Winner: Seb A Runner Up: Stephen W	Winner: Saffron F Runner Up: Oliver S	Winner: Janey A Runner Up: Robbie S	Winner: Ollie J Runner Up: Amelia F
Science	Winner: Harrison E Runner Up: Harry J	Winner: Maeve H-D Runner Up: Sam McC	Winner: Anya C Runner Up: Cameron B	Winner: Saul B Runner Up: Megan H
Art	Winner: Nicholas Y Runner Up: Robyn C	Winner: Archie D Runner Up: Dulcie M	Winner: Jamie P Runner Up: Rosie W	Winner: Vinnie M-R Runner Up: Martha C
Music	Winner: Bess D Runner Up: Jakub M	Winner: Billy B Runner Up: Lucy H	Winner: Abbi M Runner Up: Arthur D	Winner: Anna C Runner Up: Alexis H-H
PE (joint winners)	Noah W Jessie W	Winnie L Callum B-S	Ollie G Rosie B	Callum C Phoebe P
Computing	Winner: Alfie R-W Runner Up: Brian T	Winner: Imogen M Runner Up: Philippa M	Winner: Adelle F Runner Up: Morgan W	Winner: Hudson C Runner Up: Violet B
Design Technology	Winner: Jyacinth B Runner Up: Tristan J	Winner: Grace B Runner Up: Joseph O	Winner: Tegan C Runner Up: Thomas H	Winner: Dennis D Runner Up: Kai F
Food Technology	Winner: Connie R Runner Up: Hayden T	Winner: George H Runner Up: Emily H	Winner: Archie R Runner Up: Bradley C	Winner: Lucas J Runner Up: Athon M
History	Winner: William I Runner Up: Anna O	Winner: Jack M Runner Up: Matthew E	Winner: Bruce K Runner Up: Julietta O	Winner: Bailey P Runner Up: Georgia L
Geography	Winner: Florence O'B Runner Up: Sam B	Winner: Charlie S Runner Up: Ellie B	Winner: Katie G Runner Up: Cole H	Winner: Zak R Runner Up: Freddie C
French	Winner: Mia S Runner Up: Dylan B	Winner: Georgie R Runner Up: Lewis P	Winner: Olivia A Runner Up: Liam C	Winner: Sophia R Runner Up: James M-D

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Spanish			Winner: Lucy C Runner Up: Oliver G	
RE	Winner: Alex G Runner Up: Ollie P	Winner: Marnie C Runner Up: Robert R	Winner: Summer W Runner Up: Lincoln S	Winner: Max H Runner Up: Mack O'B
PSHE			Winner: Aaron B Runner Up: Lorna D	Winner: Jamie A Runner Up: Seamus R
Form Tutor Award	5EKI Winner: Tom N 5EKI Runner up: Evie J 5FHA Winner: Alex W 5FHA Runner up: Mary W 5HCO Winner: Devin R 5HCO Runner up: Ellen B 5JNI Winner: Brodie G 5JNI Runner up: Paloma P	6FHI Winner: Agatha L 6FHI Runner up: Alastair W 6JJO Winner: Patrick F 6JJO Runner up: Rose C 6MDO Winner: Michael B-P 6MDO Runner up: Imogen S 6RAL Winner: Max H 6RAL Runner up: Emilia S	7AMG Winner: Darcey S 7AMG Runner up: Oliver B 7BLA Winner: Harry J 7BLA Runner up: Lucy C 7JKW Winner: Imogen B 7JKW Runner up: Chloe W 7IBO Winner: Lorna D 7IBO Runner up: Josiah I	8EST Winner: Thomas R 8EST Runner up: Anna C 8IHO Winner: Isaac H 8IHO Runner up: Olive T 8PGA Winner: Lexie B 8PGA Runner up: Lucas J 8ETA Winner: James T 8ETA Runner up: Violet B
Head of Year Award	Winner: Carrie G	Winner: Phoebe S	Winner: Henry W	Winner: Poppy F

Attendance – top 3 form classes!

1	2	3
8EST	8IHO	8ETA/6MDO



Reminders/ Key Dates

- Wednesday 12 January – Year 6 SATs Information Evening – info to follow
- Tuesday 18 and Thursday 20 January – Year 8 Parents' Evenings – bookings open

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- Friday 28 January – Year 8 PSHE Road Safety Workshop
- Tuesday 15 and Thursday 17 February – Year 7 Parents' Evenings
- Wednesday 16 February – Year 7 Marine Engineering Workshops
- Thursday 17 February – Mid-year reports sent home

Have a wonderful Christmas everyone and we look forward to seeing you all in the new year.

Yours sincerely

Mr Watters

Head of School



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