

3 December 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE

Update on life in school

The festive season has started at HMS and the decorations are up around school. It has been such a great atmosphere; we have heard the wonderful sound of the choirs getting ready to record their virtual Carol Service and the PTA have been in school to allow pupils to browse the gifts available this year. Mr Nichol has also started the HMS 'Elf on the Shelf' and is sharing a new mystery location each day! Mrs Hayler has also set up new festive book displays in the HMS Library. Our



priority of maintaining the highest standards of teaching and learning continues to the end of term and I have visited lots of lessons again this week. I have discussed learning with lots of children and continue to be so impressed by their resilience and attitude. The Year 7 boys' rugby team competed in the Champion's Cup this week showing outstanding character and commitment: Mr Barry was exceptionally proud of them! The Year 8 boys' football team were out in County Cup action and put in a great performance to win in a 4-0 victory. Well done to Alex who was awarded 'player of the match'!

A reminder for KS3 pupils: if children wish to use the 3G pitch at lunchtimes, they must be wearing flat shoes. Most school shoes are absolutely fine, but even a slight heel will not be allowed. If your child's school shoes have a small heel, they can bring flat-soled shoes to change into for lunchtime only.

We will be closing school for all children at **12.30pm on Friday 17 December** (final day of term). We are liaising with NCC on the arrangements for school transport and will confirm details as soon as we can. Thank you for your continued support.



Hexham Middle School

Whetstone Bridge Road, Hexham, Northumberland NE46 3JB

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Head of School: **Liam Watters**



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.

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.

Hexham Christmas Lights Switch On

Last Friday, we were very proud to watch the HMS Orchestra (supported by former HMS pupils) playing at the Hexham Christmas Lights Switch On event. This is always the start of the festive season for me. Despite the freezing conditions, the pupils were an absolute credit to our school. Mr Holdsworth did a fantastic job, as always, and we were so pleased to represent HMS at this event once again.

PTA Christmas Gifts

The HMS PTA have launched their Christmas Gift Shop. After the success of last year's event, we decided to bring the gifts back and, thanks to the PTA's creative brilliance, we have some new gifts available. The children have had chance to browse the gifts this week and orders/payments should be returned to form teachers by Wednesday 8 December. Thank you for your support!



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.

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House Totals		Year 5		Year 6		Year 7		Year 8	
Aln	13,523	1	Dylan B	1	Imogen M	1	Katie G	1	Ben C
Coquet	15,454	2	Kaidyn B	2	Alfie B	2	Brooke C	2	Sasha F
Tweed	14,374	3	Emmie R	3	Gabriel B	3	Iris A	3	William S
Wansbeck	15,186	4	Cristina C	4	Thomas E	4	Gracie T	4	Hudson C

This week's assembly theme

Many thanks to Reverend Glover for supporting our Advent assemblies this week. He has kindly given permission to share this Christmas message with our school community. You can also check out our advent assembly slides which delve deeper into the significance of Advent wreaths.

The message can be seen [here](#).



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	Toby C	Lewis H	Emma A	Alexis H-H
Engage	Marc B	Agatha L	Tyler B	George J
Aspire	Wilf C	Maeve H-D	Betsy B	Olive T

Attendance – top 3 form classes!

1	2	3
8EST	8ETA	5FHA, 6FH and 5EKI

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Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who	Action
Wednesday 8 December	PTA Christmas Gift Shop – order deadline Respect Day: Kool Kids Performance	All years All years	Return orders and payments to form tutors
Wednesday 8 December	Y5 PTA Movie Night 6-8pm	Y5	Return form and payment
Thursday 9 December	Y6 PTA Movie Night 6-8pm	Y6	Return form and payment
Thursday 9 December	HMS Christmas Lunch	All years	See info sent home
Friday 10 December	Christmas Jumper Day	All years	Donations can be made via Gateway
Friday 10 December	Santa Dash	KS2	
Friday 10 December	KS3 Pantomime Visit	Y7 and Y8	Return form and payment
Final week of term	Christmas Celebration Assemblies	All years	
Thursday 16 December	Success Trip to Forum (invited pupils)	All years	
Friday 17 December	School closes at 12.30pm	All years	

Have a wonderful weekend everyone.

Yours sincerely

Mr Watters

Head of School

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