

21 January 2022

Dear Parent/ Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE

Update on life in school

Another great week in school – I can't believe it's time to write the update again! We have been dropping into classrooms this week to look at how the pupils are learning and how we are establishing a positive climate focused on learning. We have all been delighted with our pupils – the engagement, positive attitude and resilience have been great to see in all subjects. A date for diaries...please note that school will be closed on **Friday 8 April** for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday replacement – this date has been agreed across the Hexham Partnership of Schools. Term dates can be found [here](#).

Last week, I launched our new '[HMS Go Green: Eco-friendly Uniform Recycling](#)' – thank you for the uniform items sent in so far. Please continue to send in jumpers, polo shirts and PE uniform with the school logo (**both current and old logos are accepted**). As part of our new uniform service, we would also like to **request donations of Christmas Jumpers** (ahead of Christmas Jumper Day!) and **any outgrown moulded stud football boots** to build up our PE uniform stocks. Please send in anything you can to either the Hydro or HMS offices. Thank you for your support!



A reminder that we would ask parents/ carers to only drop off and collect their children from the school site and surrounding streets where absolutely necessary – this helps to reduce the volume of traffic on Whetstone Bridge Road and the surrounding roads. Please could I also ask you to talk to your child at home about their road safety awareness and the safest walking routes to school, being mindful that the pavements on the Allendale Road are particularly narrow at certain points. School staff will continue to supervise the safe arrival and departure of all pupils from both of our schools.

Peer Mentor Training

At HMS, the mental well-being of our pupils is of utmost importance and some of our KS3 pupils commenced their training this week as part of the Peer Mentor programme. The group will undertake eight weeks of training which will include: learning the role of a peer mentor, understanding safeguarding procedures within schools, identifying personal skills and qualities, how to communicate effectively and will work together to develop a peer mentoring programme to be delivered in school. They will support the younger pupils and will be a listening ear, being able to offer support



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moving forward. This week we all worked together to put together our group agreement and they are all looking forward to being able to put their training into action.

Pupil Support Worker

I am delighted to inform you that we have appointed Miss McGlasson to the role of Pupil Support Worker. Miss McGlasson joined HMS earlier this year in our Learning Support Team and will now develop this new role in school. Miss McGlasson will provide behaviour, social, emotional and mental health support for our pupils, as well as working with parents/ carers and families and other supporting agencies.

Alongside Miss McGlasson's appointment, we will be developing a new space in school for pupils to access. Pending delivery of new furniture, **we are looking for a couple of sofas** which we could use in the space for the time being. If you happen to have one you are getting rid of, please could you get in touch.

PTA Update

The HMS PTA held their first meeting of 2022 this week. It was great to catch up and to discuss plans for the spring and summer terms. We are now collecting for this year's **'Mother's Day Pop-Up Shop'**. If you have any gifts at home suitable for any of the special women in the children's' lives, we would be grateful if you could send them into the school office. We will send out more information about the pop-up shop in due course, but for now, we will start to build a collection of gifts.

We also wanted to let you know that there is a **'Fitness in the Park'** session on the Sele at 9am every Friday. Sessions cost £3 and profits are very kindly donated to the HMS PTA. Everyone is welcome!



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	20,459	1	Callum J	1	Alannah N	1	Harrison P	1	Freddie C
Coquet	23,294	2	Emmie R	2	Poppy C	2	Vanessa S	2	Vinnie M-R
Tweed	21,627	3	Abigail H	3	Charlie T	3	Josh C	3	Ben C
Wansbeck	22,560	4	Dylan B	4	Lilly S	4	Charley H-M	4	Alani-Jo H

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COVID-19 update

- Children in KS3 are asked to continue taking **twice-weekly lateral flow tests** and reporting their results.
- Children in KS3 are asked to wear face coverings in communal areas unless they are exempt. Any exempt pupil should be wearing a blue badge which they can collect from the HMS office.
- Staff will continue to encourage KS3 pupils to wear face coverings in classrooms to help with reducing transmission.
- From Tuesday 11 January, the Government has announced that they will temporarily suspend the need for confirmatory PCR test following a positive lateral flow test. If your child tests positive on a lateral flow test, they should self-isolate.
- From Monday 17 January, the [Government has announced](#) that self-isolation can be ended after five full days, if an individual tests negative on a lateral flow test on days 5 and 6 and has no high temperature. If a child tests negative the morning of day 5 and day 6, they can return to school immediately on day 6.
- If the tests are positive, self-isolation should be continued until two negative tests are taken on two consecutive days, or until 10 days isolation has passed. Anyone unable to take lateral flow tests or who has a continual high temperature can not shorten the self-isolation period.

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	Lucas S	Leila E-W	Amy U	Julian B
Engage	Jyacinth B	Ella H	Tomas E	Callum C
Aspire	Gaby R	Harry R	Chloe W	Thomas R

Attendance – top 3 form classes!

1	2	3
8IHO	7AMG and 7BLA	6JJO

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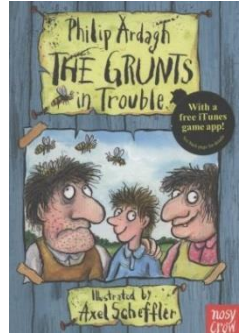
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We love reading at HMS... Miss McGlasson's Book Review

Book: 'The Grunts in Trouble' by Philip Ardagh



'The Grunts in Trouble' is about a family called the 'Grunts', who are rather unhygienic. They have a son called Sunny who is an unusual looking boy, who they in fact stole from a washing line! The Grunts go on many adventures, and they encounter some fascinating characters and animals along the way. Sunny tries to keep them out of trouble and ends up in some sticky situations!

Favourite character: **Sunny**

Favourite chapter: **Chapter 9 'One Rung at a Time'**

Reason I am reading this book: **It was recommended by the school librarian.**

Cool fact about the book: **There is an app/ website where you can play games about the Grunt family.**



Reminders/ Key Dates

- Monday 24 – Thursday 27 January – Year 6 Assessment Week
- Monday 7 February – Year 8 HPV vaccinations
- Wednesday 9 February – COVID vaccinations (for children aged 12 and above)
- Tuesday 15 and Thursday 17 February – Year 7 Parents' Evenings – bookings now open
- Wednesday 16 February – Year 7 Marine Engineering Workshops
- Thursday 17 February – Mid-year reports sent home

Residential visits

The staff team have worked exceptionally hard to plan a wide range of residential opportunities, despite ongoing restrictions. Sadly, the visit to France will no longer go ahead this year due to continued uncertainty around international travel. **We want all opportunities to be fully inclusive, so please contact me if you would like to discuss payment support and options.**

- **Year 5 visit to Whithaugh Park – 6th to 8th June**
- **Year 6 visit to Whithaugh Park – 23rd to 25th May**
- **Year 7 visit to London – 20th – 22nd June**
- **Year 7 visit to Manchester (football and rugby) – 19th – 22nd June**
- **Year 8 visit to High Borran, Lake District – 2nd – 6th May**

Yours sincerely

Mr Watters

Head of School

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