

28 January 2022

Dear Parent/ Carer

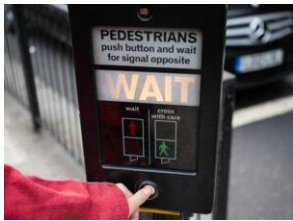
HMS WEEKLY UPDATE

Update on life in school

A huge well done to our year 6 pupils who have worked so hard this week on their assessments. We are super proud of each and every one of them – a great attitude all round! Well done to everyone for another busy but excellent week in school.

Punctuality is really important for a positive start to the day. The vast majority of our pupils are in school on time for the morning bell; we also understand that, on occasion, circumstances may prevent this. I just wanted to remind everyone that we ask pupils to be on the school site for **8.40am**. NCC have worked hard to ensure that that school transport is arriving earlier so that all pupils can make a positive start to the day. Thank you for your support.

Road and Pedestrian Safety



With new guidance and regulations regarding The Highway Code, Northumberland County Council have released some useful guides that advise different stakeholders how to use our roads safely.

In helping to support the personal development of our pupils, we will continue to educate them about their responsibilities and expectations when using roads. Opportunities during the school year in form time and assemblies will help to remind pupils of key knowledge in this area of personal safety. At Hexham Middle School, we have also recently engaged with a survey by Northumberland County Council to understand, from pupils' perspectives, their knowledge of The Green Cross Code. We are hoping to benefit from further training and pilot studies relating to pedestrian and road safety.

Please see below details of the different Road Safety books that you can access through Northumberland County Council: <https://northumberland.goodeggsafety.com/>

We are also continuing to remind our pupils about choosing the safest walking routes to school (in discussion with parents/ carers). It has been brought to my attention that some children have not been crossing some roads in Hexham safely – I will issue reminders in my assembly next week, but it would be great if you could reinforce this message at home.

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**



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	22,264	1	Mia S	1	Freddie Y	1	Tiana M	1	Ben C
Coquet	24,922	2	Paloma P	2	Lucy H	2	Darcy S	2	Sasha F
Tweed	23,244	3	Evie J	3	Eliza R	3	Brooke C	3	Olive T
Wansbeck	24,753	4	Noah W	4	Max H	4	Harrison P	4	Mack O'B

Feel Good Friday

On Friday 11 February, to mark Children's Mental Health Week, we will be holding a version of our 'Feel Good Friday' which was such a success last year during lockdown. We will focus on mental health and wellbeing throughout the day with various activities and resources. Children may come to school in their PE kit on this day.

Mandarin Club update

This week, as part of our Chinese New Year celebrations (which takes place on Tuesday 1st February), Mandarin Club pupils have enjoyed learning about and making Chinese dumplings. Following a demonstration from our Mandarin teacher, pupils were able to decide how to shape their dumplings. The crescent-shaped dumplings symbolise the **brightness of the moon** and the promise of a bright and prosperous year ahead. Pupils demonstrated their excellent listening and cooking skills, and Miss Kwella was very impressed!



If you would like to try and make your own dumplings, click the link below:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes/porkpotstickerdumpli_90878

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.

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**



	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
Respect	Charlie M	Eve W	Brooke C	Dennis D
Engage	Florence O'B	Georgie R	Amelia S	Geoffrey B
Aspire	Harry J	Thomas E	Elsa B	Anna C

LGBTQ+ Month

Next week we will mark the start of LGBTQ+ month. Mr Barry has prepared next week's assembly for pupils in all year groups. Celebrating diversity is an important part of school life and our ethos of 'Respect'. Feel free to review some of the below resources. We would also like to give pupils the opportunity to take part in an art competition for a badge design for next year: the theme for 2023 is Art - Behind the Lens.

Individual Resources for parents: <https://lgbtplushistorymonth.co.uk/resources/for-parents/>

Individual Resources for pupils: <https://lgbtplushistorymonth.co.uk/resources/for-students/>

Badge Design Art Competition: <https://lgbtplushistorymonth.co.uk/badge-comp/>

Attendance – top 3 form classes!

1	2	3
7BLA	6JJO	5HCO

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.



Reminders/ Key Dates

- Monday 7 February – Year 8 HPV vaccinations

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

- 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
- Thursday 3 March – World Book Day

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!

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**