

11 February 2022

Dear Parent/ Carer

### HMS WEEKLY UPDATE

#### Update on life in school

We end Children's Mental Health Week with our 'Feel Good Friday' today to raise the importance of mental health and wellbeing with the theme ['We all have mental health'](#). It is so important for our pupils to know the importance of talking about their feelings. Without doubt, the past two years have impacted children and young people in very different ways – we are here to support our pupils as we get a gradual sense of 'normality' in our lives.

It's the final week before a half-term holiday next week – a reminder that school is closed for pupils on Friday 18 February. Next week, we will be sending home mid-year reports for all children. We are looking forward to another great week in school.



#### 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		Top 4 'P Points' in each year							
		Year 5		Year 6		Year 7		Year 8	
<b>Aln</b>	26,548	1	William M	1	Alfie B	1=	Laura W / Arthur D	1	Kade M
<b>Coquet</b>	29,548	2	Brian T	2	Imogen M	3	Robin B M	2	Ralph D
<b>Tweed</b>	27,368	3=	Jake D / Caitlyn H / Carrie G	3	Christopher S	4=	Josh C / Iris A	3	Olive T
<b>Wansbeck</b>	29,287			4	Gabriel B			4	Daisy C

#### Uniform

After half term, we will be doing a spring audit of school uniform. The vast majority of our pupils look very smart every day. Pupils should be wearing black/grey school trousers or skirt, white polo shirt and green HMS school jumper as well as black polishable shoes. Please note that leggings and trainers are not part of our school uniform. We acknowledge that children grow, and it can be difficult to keep

#### Hexham Middle School

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up with these growth spurts! We now have a growing stock of logo'd uniform and are working with Rosie's Corner in Hexham, so if you need support with accessing uniform, please do let us know.

### School Parliament

As part of our commitment to promoting British Values, the School Parliament meet on a regular basis with Miss Downes and Mr Johnson. Representatives from each form class take forward ideas, questions and discussion points to review at the sessions. These are passed back to senior leaders and I was pleased to update the children recently to show that their voices are listened to and that action is taken in response to their views. A summary of the recent discussion points:

What the pupils love about school	What could be even better
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Great learning facilities: general classrooms, art, music, food technology and science labs.</li> <li>• Amazing sports facilities and opportunities to compete.</li> <li>• A wide range of extra-curricular activities.</li> <li>• Closer together in the school buildings.</li> <li>• More choices of space for social times.</li> <li>• School feels very safe and warm.</li> <li>• A very welcoming environment for pupils.</li> <li>• Lots of help and support for new pupils, particularly pupils who join the school throughout the year.</li> <li>• Class Charts is very popular.</li> <li>• Dining hall seating and food choices.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 8 pupils requested two first sittings for lunch (as has been tradition) – <b>this is now in place.</b></li> <li>• More girls' sport fixtures – <b>these are planned for the spring term.</b></li> <li>• Even more options in the dining hall – <b>special theme days are now planned, such as the recent Spanish Day!</b></li> <li>• To complete further work on our eco-policy – <b>new eco-group established who now collaborate with QEHS students.</b></li> <li>• A cosy reading area in our new library – <b>new sofas will arrive soon, and Mrs Hayler has plans for a new reading corner.</b></li> <li>• More equipment on the KS2 yard – <b>once we get our new MUGA area, we will review how the space is used and have plans for line markings.</b></li> <li>• More peg space for storage – <b>more being fitted asap!</b></li> </ul>

### Year 7 – The Speckled Band – Queen's Hall

On Wednesday 9 March, Year 7 will visit the Queen's Hall as part of their English curriculum. They will watch a performance of 'The Speckled Band' which we are all very excited about. This visit has been kindly funded by the PTA and the Queen's Hall, and organized by Mrs Maurice. Information and consent forms will be sent home very soon.



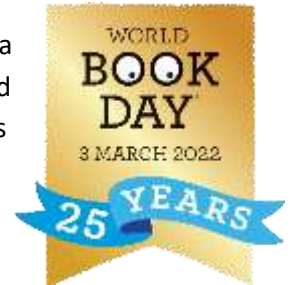
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## World Book Day 2022

World Book Day is being held on Thursday 3 March (the first week after half term). As a school where reading is hugely valued, we always like to celebrate the day. Mrs Curry and Mrs Roff have been working hard on exciting plans for the day. A separate overview has been sent home alongside today's update, but pupils can enjoy:



- *We love reading so much at HMS, we even read...* photography competition
- Book swap shop
- Book Bake Off
- £1 book tokens
- Fancy dress (*optional*)
- There'll also be reading quizzes and activities in form time, alongside our usual whole-class reading.

## 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
<b>Respect</b>	Clara H	Freddie Y	Darcy S	Kade M
<b>Engage</b>	Jake D	Marnie C	Eaden B	David C
<b>Aspire</b>	Daysi B	Hope C	Tom C	Sophia R

## Attendance – top 3 form classes!

1	2	3
5EKI	5FHA	6 JJO / 5JNI / 6FHI



## Reminders/ Key Dates

- Tuesday 15 and Thursday 17 February – Year 7 Parents' Evenings – bookings now open

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- Wednesday 16 February – Year 7 Marine Engineering Workshops
- Thursday 17 February – Mid-year reports sent home
- Thursday 3 March – World Book Day

#### **COVID update**

- KS3 pupils should continue to take twice-weekly lateral flow tests at home. More test kits can be collected from form teachers.
- We will be supporting personal choice with regards the wearing of face coverings in school.
- We will continue to remind pupils about the importance of hand hygiene and ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’.
- We will continue to closely monitor case numbers and have our contingency plan in place should numbers rise.

We recently 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!

Have a fantastic weekend everyone!

Mr Watters

**Head of School**

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