

4 February 2022

Dear Parent/ Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE

Update on life in school

It has been so lovely to be sent lots of positive messages about the achievements of our pupils this week. Miss Kwella has been impressed with the cooking going on in Food Technology and Miss Taylor has loved seeing some year groups completing their recent projects. You can see some of the year 6 Cubism work above – well done everyone! Another huge thank you to Mr Armstrong, Mrs Satow and her team for preparing a wonderful Spanish themed menu on Thursday – the children absolutely loved it. *I think the churros and chocolate sauce will be requested again for sure!*



This week, we were pleased to welcome colleagues from across the Hexham Partnership to engage in a collaborative session focused on developing reading in our schools. It was great to welcome so many colleagues and to be able to discuss the great practice going on in all of the Hexham first and middle schools – it was also great to be able to do this face-to-face. Our staff team always hugely value working with other schools to learn and develop from each other.

We currently have a vacancy for a **Learning Support Assistant** to join our wonderful, dynamic and forward-thinking team. If you would like further information on the role or would like to visit us, please contact Mr Barry or Mrs Adams via the admin email address. We also have some further support staff vacancies, and more detail can be found on our [website](#).

Safer Internet Day 2022 is Tuesday 8 February. Mrs Tanner has planned an engaging assembly for the children to remind them of the importance of staying safe online, especially as most children now access technology on a day-to-day basis. We also teach online safety on a termly basis through our computing curriculum. Sadly, we were recently made aware of some incidents where children had been added to groups on WhatsApp groups without their consent – please could we ask that you discuss online safety at home on a regular basis and check your child's phone to ensure appropriate use of messaging and apps. Please also double check the age restrictions of some apps. More information and support can be found on our [website](#).

You can share our assembly resources at home if you would like to discuss weekly themes in more detail – resources can be found at [this link](#).

We sadly say goodbye to Mrs Harle today as she leaves HMS for an exciting new role. Mrs Harle has been a huge support to our staff, pupils and parents during her time in our admin team. We will miss her and wish her well.

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**

**Safer
Internet
Day 2022** | **Tuesday
8 February**

Coordinated by the UK Safer Internet Centre



Feel Good Friday

On Friday 11 February, to mark [Children's Mental Health Week](#), we will be holding 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. Mrs Curry will send home further information early next week.



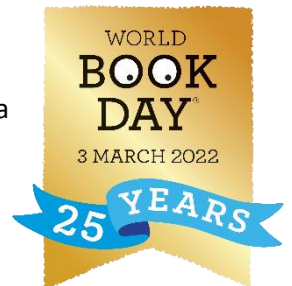
House Point Totals

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	24,454	1	Layla S	1	Abigail B	1	Brooke C	1	Olivia H
Coquet	27,336	2	Jyacinth B	2	Finley A	2	Louis R	2	George L
Tweed	25,386	3	Freddie W	3	Thomas W	3	Harrison P	3	Noah M
Wansbeck	27,136	4	Charlie M	4	Harvey C-F	4	Iris A	4	Aiden M-H

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.

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Forest School Update



I am delighted to say that Miss Kingett and Mrs Hall have both now qualified as Forest School Practitioners. Both have worked exceptionally hard to achieve the qualification and to develop the provision at HMS, alongside Mrs Gray and Mr Gaines. Our new Forest School area will continue to be developed throughout the year. This week, the after-school club recognised the Lunar New Year in their session by making sculptures from natural materials. Have a look at some of their work below.



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	Evie J	Archie D	Jamie A	Olivia H
Engage	Mary W	Beatrice W	Katie A	Noah M
Aspire	Nicholas Y	Charlie H	Ryan D	Aiden M-H

Attendance – top 3 form classes!

1	2	3
5FHA and 6FHI	6MDO	5EKI

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spes durat avorum



Reminders/ Key Dates

- 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
- Thursday 3 March – World Book Day

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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