

1 April 2022

Dear Parent/ Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE

Update on life in school

It's been another busy week in school and HMS pupils have been competing in the regional chess championship as well as the Year 8 girls competing for their spot at the national stages of the Champion Schools Cup in rugby. We also had our PTA discos which were a huge success – it was an absolute joy to see everyone enjoying themselves and having a great time! I was particularly pleased to see such great enthusiasm for the KS3 disco! Huge thank you to our PTA for their support on both evenings.

Please could I ask for your support in supporting high standards of punctuality, organisation and preparedness for school life. The Easter holiday is a good opportunity to ask your child to get organised for the summer term. If you have any concerns about the below and would value further support, please contact me.

- Pencil cases should be well stocked and pupils must have pens, pencils, a ruler and glue (among other items).
- Uniform expectations can be found [here](#). It's important that this is followed consistently to instil high standards and a positive culture. Please check your child's uniform against this list – we will be auditing this on return to school. Our Eco-Friendly uniform service is open for requests for used items of items with the logo.
- Please ensure your child has a water bottle with them every day, especially as we approach the summer term.

Thank you for your support.

Chess at St Mary's School

A huge thank you to Mr Freeman-Myers for organising this event. Three HMS teams entered the chess championships and it was an outstanding opportunity for the pupils to test their skills against some of the best players in the area. It was a very tough day against the RGS Sixth Form 'A' team in the first round but the team of Freddie, Geoffrey, Oliver and Arthur managed to record two team victories in the competition to secure an impressive run of results, with Geoffrey winning all but one of his matches! Game of the day however went to Kaeden who took the RGS top seed down to the wire with a brilliant showing. A huge well done to all involved!



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Y8 Girls Rugby League

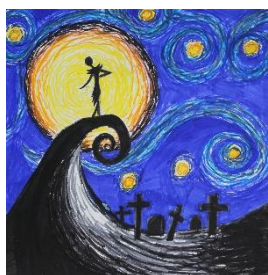
Simply put, what a performance! The girls travelled to Ponteland on an afternoon that saw hail, snow, rain and swirling winds to play for a place in the next round of the national competition. In the opening moments, Tiana (playing a year up) combined with the ever impressive Molly B to put on two monstrous hits and we knew this was going to be a physical game. The girls shone with dazzling footwork from Anya, Tess and Charlotte to take the team forward. Tenacious defence from Molly L, Alani and Tiana helped keep the opponents at bay. Daisy scored 6 tries on her way to a player of the match performance, Sophia scored her first try for school and Phoebe yet again proved to be a catalyst for the team driving forward. Abby showed sheer bravery diving into tackle after tackle and captain Martha led by example from the first whistle. The final score was 17-3 to HMS! Player of the match, as voted by the opposition, was Daisy Carr. **The girls are now champions of the North East! Both Y7 and Y8 girls are North East champions and will get their trophies in celebration assembly next week!**

KS2 author talk: Vashti Hardy visits HMS!

Vashti Hardy visited HMS on Wednesday and delivered an engaging, inspiring talk to KS2. Vashti explored her own writing process and described how she accesses her imagination. She also revealed her five top tips for creative writing! There was a lengthy Q&A session at the end and there has been lots of enthusiastic feedback from our pupils.



A wide selection of Vashti's books has been purchased for the HMS library and will shortly be available for borrowing by all. Many thanks to the Hexham Book Festival and HMS PTA for making Vashti's visit possible.



Royal Academy Art Competition

We have received some fantastic entries into the Royal Art Gallery competition! The artworks are judged by a panel of passionate artists and arts professionals, with selected artworks displayed online and on-site at the Royal Academy of Arts in London. Judging takes place in May with the online exhibition launching on 19th July 2022. A full gallery of the entries is on our [website](#).

Carbon Monoxide (CO) Awareness Initiative

Next week and after Easter, the pupils in Year 5 will benefit from a special safety session. It is all about carbon monoxide (CO), understanding what it is and how we can keep ourselves safe. The CO Crew will be visiting each class in Year 5. There is more information about CO in the carbon monoxide

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booklet that you will receive, or you can visit thecocrew.co.uk, which is full of fun activities for your child to take part in.

We are aware that safety information can be quite alarming for children and have therefore made a great effort to package all of the information in a child friendly way. That said, if your child does have any concerns about CO, please allay fears. It is highly unlikely that CO is present in your home but nonetheless, we must work to educate ourselves about its dangers and take precautions to keep ourselves safe, such as fitting a CO alarm. If you have any concerns, please don't hesitate to get in contact.



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	
Aln	38,247	1	Mia S	1	Phoebe S	1	Betsy B	1	Sasha F
Coquet	41,537	2	Estella F	2	Olivia L	2	John M	2	Anna C
Tweed	38,269	3	William I	3	Robert R	3	Lottie H	3	Kai F
Wansbeck	41,488	4	Marc B	4	Hudson R C	4	Imogen S	4	Robert D

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	Callum J	Pippa B	John M	Elvis W
Engage	Lucas S	Lilly M M	Lottie H	Oscar F
Aspire	Shontelle B	Matthew E	Jamie P	Arthur D L

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Attendance – top form classes!

1	2	3
5HCO	6RAL	7IBO



Reminders/ Key Dates

Monday 4 April	Y7 Success Assembly	Year 7
Tuesday 5 April	Y8 Success Assembly	Year 8
	CO Crew Workshop/Bonanza Creative – Drama Workshop about Carbon Monoxide	5FHA and 5EKI <i>(rest of Y5 after Easter)</i>
Wednesday 6 April	Y5 Success Assembly	Year 5
Thursday 7 April	Y6 Success Assembly	Year 6
	End of term	All years
Monday 25 April	School reopens after the Easter break	All years

Have a fantastic weekend everyone!

Mr Watters
Head of School

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