

20 May 2022

Dear Parent/ Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE

Update on life in school

Hello everyone – I hope you have had a great week. We are getting ready for a busy final week of the half term with lots of year 6 pupils heading off on their residential visit – I know they will have a brilliant time. Next Friday is ‘Wear your own clothes day’ for pupils who wish to take part and we ask that the children bring in a prize for the Summer Fair tombola, if they can. Our Summer Fair raffle tickets have been sent home and we thank you for your supporting in asking your family and friends to purchase these. There are some wonderful prizes very generously donated by local businesses and members of the school community – we are so grateful! Thank you for your support, as always.

As it’s getting warmer, please could you check that your child has a refillable water bottle in school each day which they should fill up at break and lunchtime. We have lots of requests for plastic cups which we can’t sustain so please remind the children to bring their bottle in. I have some spares in my office if needed.

Queen’s Jubilee Preparations

Next Friday, we will recognise the dedicated service of Her Majesty The Queen.

HMS Street Party: Before all the official celebrations get underway in early June, we are taking the opportunity at lunch time on Friday 27 May for pupils to participate in a picnic-style lunch. We are doing something a little different in the dining hall to highlight this special day. The servery area will be closed to hot food and there will be a line of tables dressed with picnic platters. Pupils will purchase their picnic lunch platter at the tills and have a choice of sandwiches. The dining hall will be filled with music and decorated with bunting. Pupils that typically bring a packed lunch are still able to eat with those friends that will purchase a picnic lunch.

Form Time - Thursday 26 May: Next Thursday, our pupils will also have the opportunity to take part in activities learning more about the life and reign of Her Majesty The Queen. *Assemblies:* Mr Atkins will be leading assemblies next week to bring all pupils together and to reflect on this special occasion.

Summer Jubilee Jamboree: Please see attached a poster for our Summer Jubilee Jamboree on Saturday 11 June from 12-3pm. A full list of raffle prizes is on our PTA’s Facebook page – link [here!](#) We are very much looking forward to the day and hope to see as many of you there as possible.



Hexham Middle School

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Hexham Middle School

spes durat avorum

Forest School

As part of our PSHE curriculum, year 5 have started their forest school block. This week, we have been exploring fire safety. We discussed the fire triangle, first aid for burns and were able to cook s'mores safely on an open fire. We also began collecting materials for and building bug houses in preparation for insect week in June. There are some brilliant bug hotels in the making! We are focusing on developing character skills in the outdoors and the children are loving it!



We were also able to involve our pupils in planting some lemon balm, with help from Dr Nicolette Perry, the Director at Dilston Physic Garden. This followed on from a workshop last term led by staff from Dilston Physic Garden, which explored the medicinal benefits of plants including lemon balm and sage. Pupils also made some naturally scented bath bombs. *Looking ahead...* We have plans to develop the space between Forest School and the landmark sequoia tree. We are exploring the possibility of planting an oak tree to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The oak tree is cherished across the world with wisdom, strength and endurance; how fitting to acknowledge the service of her Majesty.

Indoorplants@HMS is another project that we are keen to grow. Indoor plants offer two potential benefits for us all: **improved psychological (mental) well-being and improved physical human health** (i.e. they support fitness and general health). The psychological benefits of indoor plants have been shown to improve mood and reduced stress levels. If you would like to donate an indoor plant and pot, please get in touch with Mr Freeman-Myers.

Healthy Living Update

Please see [here](#) the link to the NHS website on healthier lunchboxes. As a school, we promote healthy diets as part of the PSHE curriculum and wider personal development programme. This website contains some good ideas. We are currently looking at our healthy living strategy including physical and mental health. This will include more educational signposting in our dining hall when pupils make choices about their purchases.

Research does state that a healthy diet has a positive impact on our wellbeing. We understand that the economic climate and inflation is making it very difficult for some households. In some situations, it can require great creativity to make a packed lunch that is both nourishing and filling. If you have any concerns about your child's diet and would like to discuss this, please do not hesitate to get in touch with their form tutor in the first instance.

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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	47,419	1	Robbie S	1	Michael B P	1	Ollie G	1	Eve B
Coquet	50,916	2	Jack H	2	Marnie C	2	John M	2	Ben C
Tweed	47,384	3	Estella F	3	Sarah M	3	Arthur D	3	Oliver S
Wansbeck	50,471	4	Hayden D	4	Imogen S/Oliver S	4	Laura W	4	Cora H

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	Brodie G	Ellie B	Isobel C	Anna C
Engage	Brian T	Sam M	Nathaniel O	Eve B
Aspire	Sarah N	Gabriel B	Tegan C	Saul B

Attendance – top form classes!

1	2	3
6MDO	8IHO	6RAL / 5JNI

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Design a Comic Strip Competition

We are not running this in school, but this may be of interest to your son/daughter to take part in at home.

To celebrate 10 years since the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the supermarket Aldi are challenging pupils to enter their **Design a Comic Strip Competition**. They want pupils to showcase what the future of the Games will look like and to use their creativity and imagination to illustrate their vision! The winning design will be selected by a judging panel – including Aldi Athlete Ambassadors from Team GB and ParalympicsGB. To stand out, designs will need to be inventive, exciting and eye-catching! Find out more [here](#).



Reminders/ Key Dates

Monday 23 – Wednesday 25 May	Year 6 Residential Visit	Year 6
Thursday 26 May	NHS Height and Weight Checks (please email admin if you wish to withdraw consent)	Year 6
Friday 27 May	Road Safety Workshop	Year 7
Friday 27 May	Non-uniform day, Jubilee picnic lunch and school closes for half-term	All

Have a fantastic weekend everyone!

Mr Watters

Head of School

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