

29 April 2022

Dear Parent/ Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE

Update on life in school

It has been great to welcome the children back to school this week – I hope you all had a lovely Easter break. We have a busy term ahead as we prepare for our residential visits, sports fixtures, events in school and the transition period – whether that transition be to a new school or a new year group. I will write to Year 6 parents/carers in more detail next week regarding the upcoming assessment week and I know Mrs Roff has already been in touch with helpful information. This week, we welcome many new pupils to the HMS community and I hope they have all settled in well and enjoyed their first few days with us.

On our website and social media, we have included a list of this summer's Jubilee Celebrations in Hexham. This includes our very own PTA Jubilee Fair on Saturday 11 June, organised by our wonderful PTA, so please save the date!



Congratulations

Huge congratulations to Miss Downes and Miss McGlasson who were both recently able to celebrate their graduations having had them postponed due to the pandemic. Both had a fabulous day with their loved ones and we are very proud to have them as part of team HMS!



Young Comics Maestro Award

Pupils may wish to take part in the 'Alison Brown Young Comics Maestro Award'. Pupils should send in their best comic strip (three A4 pages maximum) to enter the competition. Entries can be hand-drawn comics on paper or digital art. Judges will be from The Beano, The Phoenix and The Cartoon Museum. There will be one winner and two runners-up. The winner will receive a £200 prize and the runners-up will receive £50 prizes. This award celebrates Cartoon Museum staff member Alison Brown, who passed away from Covid in 2021 aged just 39. Alison loved comics and championed young comic artists.

Pupils can enter by sending their comic strip to either *The Cartoon Museum, 63 Wells Street, London, W1A 3AE* or hello@cartoonmuseum.org. The deadline for entries is Monday 30 May 2022. Pupils should include their name, age and contact details. If entering by email, a parent or guardian should send in the cartoon. If pupils post in their entries, these will not be returned. For some inspiration,

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pupils can [download free drawing resources from the website](#) to help layout draw cartoon faces. organised by our wonderful PTA, so please save the date



Peer Mentor Training

Our Year 8 pupils have now completed their Peer Mentor training and have also undertaken safeguarding training which will allow them to work with some of the younger pupils. They have all worked incredibly hard on this and are now keen to work with Mr Stephenson on ways to support the KS2 pupils. They will be helping out at the weekly drop in and we are looking at ways for them to support in the school yard.

Extra-curricular opportunities

Our extra-curricular list is on our school website

at <https://www.hexhammiddle.co.uk/index.php/extra-curricular-activities/>. Please note that:

- KS2 Football on a Wednesday night and Girls' Football on a Thursday night will **not** take place this term.
- Yoga will be restarting on a Tuesday night with a new yoga teacher. The club will now be open to Y5, Y6, Y7 and Y8. However, there will only be 20 places available.
- Molly's Dance club will continue on a Thursday. Molly teaches a variety of modern dancing. She has worked with us at HMS over the last few years and has a great teaching technique. We would like to open this club to Y5, Y6, Y7 and Y8 this term. If you would like to attend please speak to Mr Gaines next week.

Please encourage your child to participate in the range of activities we offer. We ask that you complete a consent form for all after-school activities (available on the website). This is managed by the staff member operating the club. All pupils who attend a club will receive a 'Participation P Point' on Class Charts, which they can use to cash in on a reward item or experience.

Forest School Update

Before the spring term break, we were the benefactors of some tree saplings from Tynedale Rotary Club, who kindly tended to these over the winter months. With moving on to our new school site this year, our Forest School team have really established themselves near the giant sequoia tree. We have great plans to develop this wider area of the HMS site. A range of saplings including birch, cherry and rowan tree species were planted by some Year 6 pupils after school in Forest School club. Harry Fawcett from Tynedale Rotary



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Club came along to help oversee the planting of the saplings. We are pleased to see that all the saplings have started to establish well and leaves are now bursting out of the protective guards.

We can also confirm that we have successfully bid for more saplings through the Woodland Trust and we will be planting a hedgerow in the autumn term along the Hydro Loop behind the Forest School base. This additional vegetation will provide an excellent protective screen and further habitat to bring pupils and nature closer together.

NU Futures - A careers education project for middle school pupils

Last week we saw our first session with Newcastle United Futures. This involves a pilot group of year 7 and 8 pupils. The project seeks to build aspirations, develop employability skills and engage with employers. The intention is for another group of pupils to take up this opportunity after the summer half-term break. We will update you on how this project develops and look to extend this further next year based on the feedback we receive from our engagement with Newcastle United Futures and the pupils involved.

Year 6 Food Sculptures

Last term, the engagement homework for Year 6 was to create a sculpture of their favourite food. They could build this from any materials and we had some amazing creations. Well done to Year 6!



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	41,997	1	Dylan B	1	Phoebe T	1	Tiana M	1	Anna C
Coquet	45,494	2	Jack H	2	Matthew E	2	Betsy B	2	Vinnie M-R
Tweed	41,938	3	Callum J	3	Hudson R-C	3	Arthur D	3	Julian B
Wansbeck	45,463	4	Wilf C	4	Hope C	4	Lorna D	4	James M D

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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	Lucia L	Poppy C	Robson B	Cora H
Engage	Finn C	Lucy H	Louis R	Charlie H
Aspire	Seb A	Annabelle O	Thomas S	Oscar F

Attendance – top form classes!

1	2	3
5FHA/7BLA	5HCO	8EST



Reminders/ Key Dates

Monday 2 – Friday 6 May	High Borrans Residential Trip	Year 8
Wednesday 4 May	Chief Constable of Northumbria Police Talk, P4	Year 7
Wednesday 4 May	Year 5 and 6 Residential Information Evening, 5-5.30pm, online (link to follow)	Parents/carers of Y5 and Y6
Monday 9 – Thursday 12 May	Year 6 SATS week	Year 6
Monday 23 – Wednesday 25 May	Year 6 Residential	Year 6

Have a fantastic weekend everyone!

Mr Watters
Head of School

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