

22 July 2022

Dear Parent/ Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE

End of year reflection

Here we are at the end of another school year... I always say this, but this one has really flown by! It does not seem like a year since we were packing up our old school into 1000s (literally) of crates to move to our new site. What a year it's been for our school community... we have successfully moved into our amazing new school buildings and have enjoyed a great first year here – I definitely look back on the year with a huge sense of pride at how much we have all achieved.

I want to extend huge thanks to my team who have worked tirelessly this year to provide the very best educational experience for our pupils. As always, they have shown positivity, energy and a drive to find new approaches and opportunities for the children at HMS to engage with – it is this vibrancy that makes HMS such a special place to learn and work. Thank you to the children who have had a fantastic year: they moved in to their new school with confidence, settled very quickly and established themselves for a great year ahead. There have so many successes and highlights day-in day-out and it has been a joy to see them engaging in their learning experience so brilliantly – I can't wait to see this positive engagement continuing into next year. Finally, I want to extend thanks to you – our school community – for your continued support of school life. HMS is a busy place and we know there's always lots going on and lots to remember so we really do appreciate your positivity and support. Special thanks must go to our wonderful PTA and the volunteers who support their work, as they have been dedicated to fundraising for HMS once again and have hosted so many brilliant events for the children this year.

Earlier in the term, I sent home an update regarding staffing and recruitment. It is always a week of mixed emotions as we say farewell to much-loved staff members and also wish them well for their next steps. Mrs Morgan, who joined our Learning Support Team earlier this year, will be leaving us and we wish her well in her next post. Mrs Curry will also be moving across to the high school. Although we'll still be working closely, I want to take the opportunity to thank Mrs Curry for her huge contribution to HMS over the past two years. Mrs Curry has led the pastoral domain with energy, drive and dedication and has been a huge support to our children and many families. We will really miss her being here with us on a day-to-day basis but wish her every success in her new role.

Finally, we say a very sad farewell to Mr Barry. There were lots of tears in our final staff meeting this week as we reflected on his years at HMS. Since joining as a newly-qualified teacher, Mr Barry has gone above and beyond for the children in the school. He is passionate, committed and approaches

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everything with positivity and 100% energy. He has dedicated hours of his time in providing wonderful opportunities for our pupils and has travelled locally, nationally and even internationally to ensure that HMS sport is on the map! He quickly moved into the role of Head of Key Stage before also becoming the school's SENDCo, and he has approached all of these roles with the same enthusiasm. I know that he will be greatly missed by all of the children and the whole school community. Mr Barry moves on to a very exciting, much-deserved senior leadership role in Newcastle where we know he will make the same positive impact he has made here. I can't really sum up Mr Barry in this short paragraph, but he knows what he means to us all and how much we will miss him – he really is a unique teacher and an all-round brilliant person, and he deserves every success!



I think that's it from me for another year... it's been my first year as Head of School and I can't thank you enough for the support you continue to show me and the team here in school. Have a great summer break everyone and we'll see the children back on **Wednesday 7 September** (all year groups).

Year 8 Leavers



What an amazing night we had last night for our Year 8 Leavers' Festival! It was honestly such a brilliant atmosphere – smiling happy faces all round for the whole night. We had a DJ, live music from our outstanding 'HMS Rock Band' and electronic pop group, sweets and drinks from our PTA, festival make-up by Miss Taylor and Miss Lamont and lovely food prepared by Team HMS! It was a joy to see the children enjoying themselves so much for one of their final HMS events.

This followed a great day down at Tynemouth beach which the children absolutely loved. Today, the year group have enjoyed an action-packed last day with us starting with Leavers' Brunch in the dining hall, shirt signing, end of year quizzes and our Leavers' Assembly – Mr Barry's final one as Head of Key Stage 3. They have been a wonderful cohort and we all wish them every success as they move on to the high school. We know their time at HMS has been disrupted due to the pandemic, but they have always responded to every situation with positivity, and they have so many successes to be proud of. It is always a joy to see how much the pupils grow in confidence from Year 5 and this was exemplified perfectly on Thursday evening with the outstanding performances from our bands and the general atmosphere around



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the whole year group – what a great group they are! Good luck to each of them – we will be kept updated on their progress and achievement as they move to high school.

Sports Day Results

Mr Gaines, Mrs Stewart and Mr Barry worked very hard to plan our first Sports Days on our new school site. The days were a huge success and the children loved being outside engaging and competing with their House Team! There was lots of brilliant support on display and a real team spirit shone through.

The eagerly-anticipated results were announced on Friday:

| | Aln | Coquet | Tweed | Wansbeck |
|-------|-----|--------|-------|----------|
| KS2 | 410 | 429 | 399 | 413 |
| KS3 | 344 | 390 | 297 | 402 |
| Total | 754 | 819 | 696 | 815 |

Y5 Trip

Year 5 had a fantastic day at Kirkley Hall. We were treated to meerkat feeding, a walk with wallabies, the aquatic experience and stroking snakes amongst other activities! "The best school trip we've ever had" was the general agreement!



Y6 Trip

On Monday Year six had a fantastic trip to Haltwhistle Leisure Centre. The sun was shining, and they all made the most of the amazing outdoor swimming pool to cool down. In the sports hall there was lots of competitive football: Mr Stephenson, Mr Johnson and Mr Drummond all enjoyed the opportunity to show off their skills! Everyone also enjoyed the wonderful pool grounds to spend time with their friends and take photographs in the selfie booth. It was a lovely way to round off a hard-working year with an outstanding group of people.

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Y7 Trip



On Tuesday, Year 7 went on their 'End of Year Reward' Trip to Whitley Bay Ice Rink and Waves Swimming Pool. It was great to cool down on the ice where some hidden talents were unearthed! This was followed up by lunch in the sunshine, then a brilliant afternoon in the pool. A well-deserved treat for a fantastic year group!



Skills Builder Award

We are pleased to announce that the school was awarded a Bronze Award for Skills Builder. This year, we aimed to achieve this accreditation. Form tutors have introduced the Skills Builder programme this year and we recently celebrated this with a Challenge Day. Next year, we are aiming for a Silver award with plans for further Challenge Days, allowing pupils to apply their knowledge and understanding.

This week's assembly theme

This week, we held our termly 'Celebration Assemblies'. It is always a difficult decision to select nominees and winners and we emphasised our pride in all of our pupils for their hard work this term. It was such a lovely atmosphere, and it was great to see and hear the warm, celebratory atmosphere between the year groups. Well done everyone!

| | Y5 | Y6 | Y7 | Y8 |
|----------------|--|---|---|---|
| English | Winner: Noah H Runner up: Clara H | Winner: Harry H Runner up: Saffron F | Winner: Lorna D Runner up: Natty O | Winner: Isaac H Runner up: Molly L |

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|---------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| Maths | Winner: Shona R Runner up: Marc B | Winner: Ferdie U Runner up: Eliza F | Winner: Olivia A Runner up: Luke B | Winner: Poppy F Runner up: Artem C |
| Science | Winner: Connie R Runner up: Sam P | Winner: Madeleine C Runner up: Ferdie U | Winner: Ryan D Runner up: Imogen S | Winner: Kai F Runner up: Eve B |
| Art | Winner: Matilda S Runner up: Noah W | Winner: Alistair W Runner up: Sylvia D | Winner: Callum R Runner up: Esme W | Winner: Ziena W Runner up: Alani-Jo H |
| Music | Winner: Gabby R Runner up: James L | Winner: Philippa M Runner up: Alastair W | Winner: Natty O Runner up: Josiah I | Winner: Hudson C Runner up: Callum H |
| PE (joint winners) | William M Annabel M | Michael B-P Lily S | Lewis D Abby A | George L Daisy C |
| Computing | Winner: Harrison E Runner up: Evie W | Winner: Winnie L Runner up: Dylan C | Winner: Troy P Runner up: Abbie M | Winner: Elvis W Runner up: Lucas J |
| Design Technology | Winner: Florence O'B Runner up: Jakub M | Winner: Emilia S Runner up: Jack M | Winner: Elliot Y Runner up: Anja B | Winner: Freddie C Runner up: Imani F |
| Food Technology | Winner: Anna M Runner up: Harrison E | Winner: Daisy B Runner up: Annabelle O | Winner: Tegan C Runner up: Daisy W | Winner: Charlie H Runner up: Gabi K |
| History | Winner: William M Runner up: Alice B | Winner: Emily H Runner up: Phoebe T | Winner: Imogen S Runner up: Ava S | Winner: Sasha F Runner up: Arthur D L |
| Geography | Winner: Ollie P Runner up: Lyra R | Winner: Hope C Runner up: Freya B | Winner: Robin B-M Runner up: Maisie M | Winner: Theo C Runner up: Hudson C |
| French | Winner: Tom N Runner up: Sarah N | Winner: Daisy B Runner up: Christian T | Winner: Jade L Runner up: Harrison P | Winner: Isaac H Runner up: Georgia L |

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|---------------------------|--|--|--|---|
| Spanish | | | Winner: Lorna D Runner up: Josh C | |
| RE | Winner: Hayden T Runner up: Isobel S | Winner: Xavi F Runner up: Alistair W | Winner: Anja B Runner up: Ollie P | Winner: Athon M Runner up: Katie H |
| PSHE | | | Winner: Beau F Runner up: Maisie M | Winner: Oliver K Runner up: Lexi G |
| Form Tutor Award | 5EKI: Noah H Mila B 5FHA: Daysi B Jack H 5HCO: Jessie W Freddie W 5JNI: Annabelle R Alfie M | 6FHI: Abbie W Jack D 6JJO: Olivia M Archie D 6MDO: Daisy L Oliver H 6RAL: Alistair W Lucy H | 7AMG: Charlotte A Thomas W 7BLA: Luke B Abigail A 7JKW: Charley H-M Amy U 7IBO: Tegan C Cameron B | 8EST: Orla O'F Anna C 8IHO: Geoffrey B Farah A 8PGA: Oliver S Alex H 8ETA: Kai F Molly B |
| Head of Year Award | Winner: Dylan B | Winner: Hope C | Winner: Josh C | Winner: Sasha F |

'ACT Early' Safeguarding Information

Please see attached a letter and flyer from Northumbria Police's Counter Terrorism Division. The content is designed to provide support around the risks prevalent over the long summer break.

Safeguarding over the summer

If you have any safeguarding concerns regarding your child during the holidays, then you can email Mrs Curry directly at hcurry@hexhammiddle.org.uk. She will be checking emails periodically through the holidays.

For any urgent safeguarding concerns, please contact Children's Services directly on 01670 536400. We wish all our children and families a safe and happy summer!



House Point Totals – End of Year Totals!

Below are this year's House Point totals as well as the **'Top 4' pupils in each year group this year**. P points are awarded for character value such as **resilience, respect, engagement and responsibility**. Well done to each and every one of them.

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| House Totals | | Top 4 'P Points' in each year | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|--------|-------------------------------|-----------|--------|------------|--------|----------|--------|---------|
| | | Year 5 | | Year 6 | | Year 7 | | Year 8 | |
| Aln | 57,986 | 1 | Layla S | 1 | Alfie B | 1 | Laura W | 1 | Ben C |
| Coquet | 62,150 | 2 | Charlie M | 2 | Imogen M | 2 | Iris A | 2 | Beth R |
| Tweed | 57,993 | 3 | Carrie G | 3 | Hudson R C | 3 | Darcy S | 3 | Anna C |
| Wansbeck | 62,454 | 4 | Callum J | 4 | Ella H | 4 | Imogen S | 4 | Olive T |

Attendance – top form classes!

| | | |
|-------------|--------------------|-------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 5FHA | 7BLA / 6RAL | 5EKI |



Reminders/ Key Dates

| | | |
|------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| Wednesday 7 September | Start of term | All year groups |
| Wednesday 7 September | New Year 5 Team Building Day | Year 5 |
| Tuesday 13 September | KS2 'Welcome Evening' 6.30pm Curriculum and Pastoral Information | Year 5 and 6 |
| Thursday 15 September | KS3 'Welcome Evening' 6.30pm Curriculum and Pastoral Information | Year 7 and 8 |
| Thursday 6 October | Meet the Tutor Evening (more info to follow for bookings) | All year groups |

Have a fantastic summer holiday everyone!

Mr Watters
Head of School

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