



8 July 2022

Dear Parent/ Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE

Update on life in school

Sorry that I didn't get chance to send out last week's update – I hope you are all well. I really can't believe that we are racing towards the end of term! Please see [here](#) a link to our updated School Information Guide for 2022-23, where you can find up-to-date guidance on school life.

Next week, the children will find out their new form classes and teachers for September. As I explained in my update earlier this term, we are making significant class changes to our increasing pupil numbers. You can see that we will have five form classes in Years 5 to 7 next year which is fantastic and we are looking forward to meeting our new pupils. On Monday, children currently in Years 5, 6 and 7 will spend the morning with their new form class/teacher. On Tuesday, we will welcome our new Year 5 children for their Transfer Day. We are delighted that Miss Liddle (new Head of KS2) and Mr Barrass (new teacher in Y5) will be joining us on Tuesday. It's a time of change and staff are working exceptionally hard to ensure that the transition is as smooth as possible, but please know that we are here to discuss any questions or concerns you have at any point – please get in touch if you need us. The September form classes are below:

Head of Key Stage 2: Miss Liddle		Head of Key Stage 3: Mr Scott	
Year 5		Year 7	
5FHA	Mrs Hall	7ETA	Miss Taylor
5MDO	Miss Downes	7AMG	Mrs Gregory
5JNI	Mr Nichol	7JET	Mrs Tanner and Miss Richardson
5HCO	Mrs Coldwell	7EST	Mrs Stewart
5ABA	Mr Barrass	7JKW	Ms Kwella
Year 6		Year 8	
6FHI	Mrs Hinchcliffe	8IBO	Mrs Bond
6JJO	Mr Johnson	8PGA	Mr Gaines
6RAL	Mrs Alderson	8BLA	Miss Lamont
6EKI	Miss Kingett	8IHO	Mr Holdsworth
6MBE	Miss Bell		

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Summer Music Concert

I think last night's Summer Music Evening demonstrated that music is absolutely at the heart of life at HMS and is a vital part of our educational offer. I was beyond proud of the 97 musicians, vocalists and performers who took to the stage to bring us a wonderful evening of music. It was a true celebration of the commitment and participation of pupils in our school, and to the dedication and passion that Mr Holdsworth shows to developing music on a daily basis. It really was a special night and a showcase of the musical talent at HMS. Following an absence of music events during the pandemic, it has not been easy to re-build the children's confidence and engagement so it is credit to Mr Holdsworth, the peripatetic music teachers and parents/carers for their support and encouragement. Thanks to all of the staff who supported the evening and to our PTA who served refreshments. Once again, I left feeling exceptionally proud of the HMS children and staff.



Spelling Bee

Last Friday, some KS3 pupils took part in a French Spelling Bee competition against Corbridge Middle School. In rounds one and two pupils had to spell learnt words using the French alphabet. In round three, pupils were really put to the test as they had to spell unseen words – they coped fantastically with this. Stand out performances have to go to Elsa B in year 7 and Beth R in year 8. Pupils also enjoyed their biscuits and juice as a reward for their efforts. Although pupils didn't win, they did themselves proud and showed excellent linguistic ability. Thank you very much to all pupils for taking part and for representing the school so well.



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	56,257	1	Genevieve T S	1	Marnie C	1	Robin B M	1	Phoebe P
Coquet	60,480	2	Layla S	2	Joseph O	2	Tom C	2	Annie W
Tweed	56,287	3	Charlie M	3	Eliza R	3	Luke B	3	Alani-Jo H
Wansbeck	60,414	4	Hayden D	4	Freya B	4	George S	4	Molly B

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KS2 author visit: Piers Torday

We were delighted to welcome the widely acclaimed, and Hexham-born, author, Piers Torday, to Hexham Middle School on Monday. Piers charted his childhood reading journey from 'Where The Wild Things Are' to that 'violent and gory' book about rabbits, 'Watership Down'. In describing his writing process, including the importance of doodling and staring out of the window until the ideas come, he skilfully wove in climate change, environmental threats and animal extinction. He has brought to Hexham Middle School an even heightened awareness of how important we are to the survival of all species and how we must have hope.

His series of 'Wild' books is based on these themes and the full set will be available in HMS Library. Thank you so much to Piers for coming to see us and for imparting his love of reading. Thank you also to Claire Grint of Cogito Books, Hexham, for supporting us and fulfilling our book orders. And, once again, thank you to HMS PTA for agreeing to fund this visit.

KS2 Writing Competition Winners

As part of her Arts Award, QEHS Sixth Form student, Edie M, ran a KS2 writing club in HMS Library at lunchtimes and also held a writing competition. All the competition entries and illustrations were amazing. The winner was Noah H whose story was praised for a unique concept, bright, interesting characters and a strong storyline. Highly commended was awarded to Annabelle M. Runners-up were Billy B, Wilf C, Zoe G, Jack H and Tom W. Congratulations to all! Thank you to Edie for her brilliant workshops and to all pupils who took part. A booklet of the competition entries is available in HMS Library.



Climbing Success

HMS pupil, Winnie, came first as an individual entrant in the Inter-School Climbing Competition last month. She gained so many points that she managed to get HMS into second position as a team! Team positions were based on the average of the top three entrants from each age group from each school. Well done, Winnie. We are so proud of you!

Attendance – top form classes!

1	2	3
5EKI	6JJO / 5FHA	7BLA

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County Athletics Championships

Pupils from HMS gave an outstanding performance at the Northumberland Schools County Championships!

- Isla M, Yr 6, came second in the girls' 80m.
- Patrick F, Yr 6, came fourth in the boys' long jump
- Abby A, Yr7, came second in the girls' javelin
- Theo C, Yr 8, came third in the boys' 200m
- Magnus R, Yr 8 came first in both the boys' 300m and boys' 800m



Well done, everyone. We are super proud!

HMS PTA Games Evening

Following the success of last year's events, we are delighted to announce the return of our HMS PTA Games Evening! This will take place on **Thursday 14 July**, with Years 5 and 6 from 5.30-6.45pm and Years 7 and 8 from 7-8.15pm. Please see the attached letter with full information. As always, we thank you for your support and look forward to an enjoyable evening. Please complete the [online permissions form](#) by **the end of today**.



Reminders/ Key Dates

Monday 11 July	Transfer Day for new Y6, 7 and 8 pupils	New classes for all pupils
Monday 11 July	NU Futures Programme	Years 7 and 8
Tuesday 12 July	Transfer Day for new Y5 and Y9 pupils	Year 4 and Year 8
Wednesday 13 July	KS2 Sports Day (separate letter sent home)	Years 5 and 6
Thursday 14 July	KS3 Sports Day (separate letter sent home)	Years 7 and 8
Thursday 14 July	PTA Games Evening, KS2 from 5.30-6.45 and KS3 from 7-8.15	All years (separate KS2 and KS3)
Friday 15 July	End of year reports sent home	All years
Friday 15 July	Trampolining afternoon (P Point reward)	Selected pupils
Friday 22 July	<p>'Holiday Reading' Book Swap Shop</p> <p>This will take place on the last day of term, Friday 22 July, at lunchtime in the HMS Library. Please bring in a book to exchange – either fiction or non-fiction. All years welcome!</p>	All years

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Hexham Middle School

spes durat avorum

Community Links

Hexham Abbey Choir

Please see the attached flyer with details of the Abbey Choir Open Days for boys (Wednesday 13 July) and girls (Thursday 14 July).

Hexham Holiday Club

Please also see the flyer with details of the Hexham Holiday Club. This has taken place every summer for more than 50 years and this year will run in the first week of the holidays, 25-29 July. Children will meet at Hexham Bandstand every day at 10am, before going to venues between 10.30am and 12.30pm for fun, games and crafts. Holiday Club is provided by Churches Together in Hexham and is completely free of charge.

Have a fantastic weekend everyone!

Mr Watters

Head of School

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