

Dear Parent/ Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE

Update on life in school

Welcome back to a new half term everyone! We have come straight back to an action-packed week with PSHE events for KS3, Zoolab for Year 5 and an English trip to Tynemouth for Year 6. We also had our first discos of the year which were very well attended – huge thank you to our PTA and the many volunteers/staff who supported the successful evening. This term is always a very busy one as we race towards December and the diary starts to fill up with festive events. Remember – children are in school until Friday 23rd December this year but we will be finishing at 12.30pm on that day.

This week, I have spent the week away from my desk and in classrooms across the school talking to pupils about their learning and visiting their lessons. What a positive experience this has been – it has been a joy to see the engagement and focus of our pupils and to hear how positively they talk about their learning. It is clear to me that our curriculum comes to life in the classrooms and that this is continued in our wonderful extra-curricular programme.

Road Safety

If you are collecting your children from school, please do park considerately and avoid parking around Maidens Croft, which is the collection of sheltered housing flats off the Allendale Road. Parking here means that residents are unable to gain access to their car parking spaces and the pavements. Please also remind your child about the importance of road safety when out in the community, particularly as the evenings are darker much earlier now. Bus drivers have reported that some children have been knocking on passing buses in town.

Kindness Ambassadors

Miss Liddle was delighted to re-launch our KS2 'Play' provision this week. Pupils will now enjoy new lunchtime equipment, reading benches and can access a new yard with games and line markings. This is in addition to our already packed schedule of extra-curricular opportunities. We have also recruited our wonderful 'Kindness Ambassadors' who enjoyed their first lunchtime in the new roles. They will be supporting positive play and acting as role models for pupils in their key stage. We loved their new hi-vis jackets too!



Hexham Middle School

Whetstone Bridge Road, Hexham, Northumberland NE46 3JB

T: 01434 610300 E: admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk

www.hexhammiddleschool.co.uk

Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

Uniform reminder

There has been an increase in the amount of jewellery, particularly earrings and bracelets, being worn by pupils. Our uniform policy states that "watches and one plain set of ear studs are permitted". Other jewellery including rings, bracelets or other piercings are not permitted. Please can I ask for your support in ensuring that these items are not brought into school. If they are brought in, staff will ask pupils to remove them, and we will keep them safe until the end of the day for pupils to collect.

Remembrance at HMS and Royal British Legion (RBL) donations

On Sunday 13 November, the Head Pupils of HMS have been invited to take part in the Remembrance Service in Hexham. Last year, our former Head Pupils began what we hope is a new tradition for the school. To support the charitable work of the RBL, we have set up an online payment on School Gateway, to allow our wider-school community to make a financial contribution. You may also choose to make a donation direct to the RBL using their own [website](#).



Poppies: Hexham has a tradition of showcasing knitted poppies in the town centre. This year, we are encouraging pupils to make their own poppies, which could also be from recycled materials. Poppies are allowed to be worn in school including any homemade poppies which should be no larger than those typically sold by the RBL. Here is a picture of a poppy knitted by Mr Freeman-Myers last year, made within just two hours using left over wool, a spare black button and a safety pin.

Poverty Proofing Uniform Audit

We are shortly undertaking an audit of our school uniform policy. This involves working with the charity Children North East. We will be asking small groups of each year group and staff to provide their feedback. We are also looking for a group of parents/carers to take part and we have allocated two slots: 11-11.30am and 3.30-4.00pm on Wednesday 16 November. If you would like to take part please complete the following [online form](#). We are looking for approximately 10 parents/carers in each session.

PTA News

Next Meeting: This takes place on **Wednesday 16 November at 7pm** in school. There is no requirement to commit to joining the PTA, but you may be able to support us with ideas or to support the running of events throughout the year. Any contribution would be appreciated. If you have any questions, please email hmsptachair@gmail.com. The PTA are a really friendly and welcoming group and do so much to support life at HMS. All are welcome – we'd love new members and helpers!

Lottery: Don't forget about our HMS Lottery. This is run by our PTA to raise funds for enrichment activities and equipment such as Forest School, author visits, playground equipment and new library books. Tickets are just £1 each and enrolment is easy. Just follow the link <https://forms.gle/a2gkWhkQJ9YwK6zw9> or email hmsprizedraw@gmail.com for more information.

Chess Tournament

We have had a very encouraging level of interest in a chess tournament opportunity later in November. We are currently looking at how we can select 12 pupils to represent Hexham Middle School in a potential chess match. To support the growth in a possible chess club at school, we were wondering if anyone in our wider-school community has a spare chess board and set lying in the back of their cupboard or games drawer. If the answer is yes, please could they be sent into school.

Pupil News

Great news! We are so proud of Alex G. He came fifth out of 72 entries at the British Indoor Karting Championship semi-finals. It was his first time competing and we couldn't be prouder of him! He is spending a lot of time practising and hopes to go to Europe in the near future.



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	20,545	1	Emily W	1	Tom N	1	Wilfred P	1	Charlotte A
Coquet	19,958	2	Betti F	2	Callum J	2	Alex G	2	Oliver B
Tweed	19,267	3	Rosie O	3	Magnus C	3	Bella W	3	Josh J
Wansbeck	19,364	4	Rufus A	4	Oscar D	4	Alastair W	4	Isabella S

Attendance – top form classes!

1	2	3
5FHA	5ABA / 5HCO / 6RAL / 7JKW / 7ETA / 7EST	5MDO / 6FHI

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	Robbie P	Sarah N	Alex L	Ava C
Engage	Cody R	Annabelle R	Saffron F	JJ W
Aspire	Tyler H	Alex G	Phillippa M	Abigail A

News from the Community



Tyne Green Junior Parkrun

Tyne Green Junior Parkrun is coming to Hexham! This will be every Sunday at **9am**, starting on **Sunday 27 November**. It is a **2km** course for children **ages 14 and under** and is free to participate! Meet just over the little footbridge next to the Children's Adventure Playground. First Timer's Welcome is at 8.50am and Warm Up at 8.55am. Each event is overseen by a DBS checked Run Director. Children can run with their adult or by themselves. There are volunteer marshals placed every 100 meters so that children are always in sight of an adult. Parkrun encourages parents and caregivers to register their children for free at the parkrun website: <https://www.parkrun.org.uk/register/>. Children are free to run, jog, hop, skip, and walk along the course. The goal is for children to **enjoy being active outdoors in a fun and encouraging environment**. Parents and children are also welcome to volunteer: all events are only made possible by a volunteers! Email tynegreenjuniors@parkrun.com to volunteer and visit the website to see what roles are available: <https://www.parkrun.org.uk/tynegreen-juniors/futureroster/>.



Reminders/ Key Dates

Monday 7 November	First Aid Workshops	Year 5
Tuesday 8 November	First Aid Workshops	Year 6
Wednesday 9 November	STEM Workshops with Newcastle University	Year 7
Thursday 10 and Thursday 17 November	Year 6 Parents' Evenings	Year 6
Friday 18 November	Children in Need Day	Information to follow next week
Monday 21 November	Supporting Reading: Parent/Carer Session	Information to follow
Monday 28 November	Emotion Coaching: Parent/Carer Session	All years
Thursday 15 December	HMS Carol Service, Hexham Abbey	All welcome

Have a fantastic weekend everyone!

Mr Watters
Head of School