

11 November 2022

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE

Update on life in school

It's been another busy week at HMS and it feels like a bumper edition of the 'Weekly Update'. I always love collating the great news we have to share with you all. I hope you continue to find this a useful way of communicating with you. We mark Remembrance Day at HMS today to pause, reflect and honour those who lost their lives in the line of duty, and to think about those who continue to serve today. Mr Johnson has led assemblies across the school this week and school will fall silent later this morning. If you are able, donations to the Royal British Legion can be made via School Gateway. Our Head Pupils will be laying the HMS wreath at the Hexham Remembrance Service on Sunday.



We are delighted to announce that our PTA discos last week raised a huge **£523.69**, which is fantastic. They were so well attended, and we thank you for your continued support. We are so excited to announce that the PTA will be launching a brand-new Christmas event this year and invite you to attend our first '**Festive Forest Evening**' on Thursday 1st December. The flyer has been posted on our website/social media – please share it if you can. You and your families are invited to join us for an evening of festive crafts both in school and in our new forest school area – there'll be a wide range of craft activities, Christmas music and lots of refreshments – it promises to be a lovely start to the festive season!

Children in Need

On Friday 18 November, we'll be raising funds for 'Children in Need'.

- If you are able, donations can be made via School Gateway.
- Pupils may wear something spotty including small items such as hair clips/bands, spotty painted nails, spotty socks or hats or shoes (this is not compulsory). We ask that normal school uniform is worn on the day.
- At lunchtime, we would also like to invite pupils to take part in a **skip-a-thon** on the sand-based pitch or a **silent readathon** in Fellside Hall. Some pupils may want to acquire some [sponsorship](#) for this event. Funds raised can be transferred to our Children in Need school payment.



Learning Essential First Aid

Thanks to very generous funding from our PTA, KS2 were able to enjoy First Aid workshops this week as part of their PSHE curriculum. The sessions covered essential life-saving guidance on



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CPR and how to use a defibrillator. The children engaged very well and enjoyed learning such vital skills. KS3 will have their workshops in the new year.

KS3 Rugby Success



The KS3 (Y8 & 9) Rugby team won their tournament last week to become County Champions. The team played some excellent rugby. A huge 'Well Done' to the Y8 girls who played. A teacher from another school was hugely complimentary about the girls. One school had only part of a team, so some of our girls played for them. Our girls were amazing in the way they helped the other team - explaining rules and where they should be on the pitch. The staff couldn't believe that some of our girls were in Y8! They were a credit to the school and a delight to take to a fixture.

New Opportunity: KS2 Rugby Club

We are delighted to be starting a new KS2 Rugby Club for both girls and boys from Friday 18 November. This will initially run until Christmas. The club will be supervised by a visiting coach. If you would like your son or daughter to express an interest, please let us know by completing this [online form](#). We will need the expression of interest to be received by **Monday 14 November**.

Zoolab

On Wednesday 2 November, Year 5 had some exciting visitors in school. They met cockroaches, frogs, a snake, a tarantula and many more amazing creatures thanks to the ZooLab team! Each form class had the chance to see and touch each of the animals, as well as learning some incredible facts about them. Did you know that scorpions actually glow in the dark? It was a fantastic experience for all involved and we were very proud of the pupils, who showed great care and respect towards the animals.



Anti-Bullying Week

Next week (14-18 November) is Anti-Bullying week. At HMS, the wellbeing and safety of our pupils is a top priority so we will be providing a range of opportunities for pupils to engage with core anti-bullying messages, such as assemblies and class-based personal development sessions. We are also very proud of the excellent work our new 'Kindness Ambassadors' are doing at break times, ensuring that everybody can have an enjoyable play time with access to equipment. Additionally, we will soon be launching our peer-mentoring scheme for KS3, giving them the opportunity to engage with younger pupils and further develop our strong ethos of respect and kindness across the school.

Net Zero Project

During school last week, Hexham Town Councillor Michael Domingue delivered an assembly to every year group about a current project called [Hexham Net Zero](#) and a young person's vision for Hexham 2030. He has invited all of our pupils to take part in a competition to raise the profile of Hexham Net Zero – please see attached poster. Pupils



can create an A4 poster or even produce a short video clip. The [website](#) provides all the information including rules, clues, reading material and details of how to submit online or by post.

Reading and Wellbeing

This term we have been making progress to decorate and furnish our school library. Firstly, a thank you must go to a parent who responded to a previous request for plant donations. We have been slowly increasing the number of plants in our library. This has received lots of positive feedback from both staff and pupils.



Miss Kingett has also worked hard to create a cosy reading corner in the library, including sofa seating and a tree-themed reading display. These improvement projects help to link two very important aspects of school life: a positive reading culture and an environment that promotes social, emotional and physical wellbeing.

Online Safety Reminder

If your child plays FIFA 2023 and you have any concerns about online safety, please see the attached leaflet with information.

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	23,974	1	Cody R	1	Robbie S	1	Madelyn C	1	Charlotte A
Coquet	23,237	2	Ella R	2	Oscar D	2	Luke G	2	Betsy B
Tweed	22,667	3	Harris H	3	Harry J	3	Thomas E	3	Cori R
Wansbeck	22,757	4	Emily W	4	Benson H	4	Michael BP	4	Robson B

Attendance – top form classes!

1	2	3
5HCO	5ABA	7ETA / 6EKI

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	Wilfy D	Kayden W	Luke G	Katie A
Engage	Georgie W	Sam P	Eve W	Henry W
Aspire	Phoebe B	Callum J	Josiah N	Josiah I



News from the Community

Y5/6 Gymnastics	KS2 Christmas Card Competition
<p>There is a Grass Roots Gymnastics Day for Year 5 and Y6 pupils from 10am-2pm on Sunday 13 November, hosted at Corbridge First School, costing £16. This day will involve warm ups, games, exciting floorwork, apparatus, group work and will all be fun based. The course is suitable for beginners and regular gymnast. To book onto this course, please visit www.grassrootssports.co.uk and head to Gymnastics – 'Gymnastics Taster Days'.</p>	<p>Guy Opperman MP is running a Christmas card competition for all pupils in years 1-6 in his Hexham constituency. The winning design will be turned into his Christmas constituency card, which is sent to the Prime Minister and other members of the cabinet. The deadline for entries is Friday 18 November. Full details can be found here.</p>



Reminders/ Key Dates

Wednesday 16 November	Uniform Poverty Proofing – Pupil Voice with Children North East Charity	Selected pupils
Thursday 17 November	Year 6 Parents' Evening	Year 6
Friday 18 November	Children in Need Day	All
Monday 21 November	Supporting Reading: Parent/Carer Session	Information to follow
Monday 28 November	Emotion Coaching: Parent/Carer Session	All years
Thursday 1 December	Festive Forest Evening, 5.30pm – 7.00pm	All years and families
Thursday 15 December	Carol Service, Hexham Abbey, 7.00pm	All welcome

Mr Watters
Head of School