

25 November 2022

Dear Parent/ Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE

Update on life in school

It has been lovely to hear the HMS Orchestra and choirs rehearsing this week as they prepare for both the performance at tonight's 'Christmas Light Switch On' and our Carol Service at Hexham Abbey. Mr Holdsworth has been very pleased to see a great turnout at lunchtime rehearsals so well done to all of the children who have got involved.

This week, Year 8 pupils have enjoyed chemistry workshops with Newcastle University and a performance to promote career opportunities in the NHS. As I type, KS2 are enjoying a presentation from author Cressida Cowell – I look forward to hearing all about it. Mrs Hayler has lots of Cressida's books in the HMS Library and will be ordering copies of her latest publication soon. With rugby, cross country and chess events scheduled for next week, on top of festive rehearsals and our wide range of extra-curricular opportunities, it is safe to say that HMS continues to be a vibrant and busy environment.

HMS Carol Service

We would like to invite you to the return of our annual HMS Carol Service at Hexham Abbey 7pm Thursday 15 December. The service will feature the HMS orchestra, choir and readings. Please join us for this musical celebration of the festive season. All are welcome.



Character Virtue: Generosity

This half term, we have focused on the virtue of generosity in our assemblies. We have discussed what it means to be generous and recognised the importance in not only associating generosity with giving. We have discussed that whilst you can be generous by giving things and money to support others; you can also be generous with your time, attention, hard work, patience, kind words and talents to help and encourage others. As we approach the festive season, this message is more important than ever.

We are once again asking for the support of the HMS community to send in donations to support both our 'PTA Christmas Pop-Up Gift Shop' and our appeal to produce Christmas Hampers for those most in need in our local community. We would really appreciate any donations you can send in – we understand that you may not feel able to do so at this time, and that is absolutely fine. Please mark your donations as PTA or Christmas Hamper and ask your child to drop them at the HMS Office.

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

HMS PTA Pop-Up Gift Shop	Christmas Hamper Appeal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sweets, chocolates and food items • Toiletries • Items suitable for Christmas gifts • All donations would be gratefully received • Pupils can browse and buy gifts which will be wrapped up to take home! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toiletries • Christmas items • Tinned fruit and veg • Tinned desserts • Sugar/Coffee/Tea • Cereal and biscuits • Pasta and sauces

Children in Need

We are delighted to let you know that HMS raised a grand total of **£591** for Children in Need! We had an absolutely 'spotacular' day. It was wonderful seeing so many children in their spotty clothing and accessories. Mr Freeman-Myers even painted his nails with colourful spots! Thank you so much for your support.

Festive Forest Evening



Our first 'Festive Forest Evening' will take place on Thursday 1 December, 5.30 – 7.00pm. Please come along with your family and friends to kickstart the festive season. The event will be held in the HMS dining hall and in our new Fellside Forest area. There are no tickets – please just come along and enjoy the evening. All events are individually priced between £1 and £3 – you can pay at each activity but please note **the event is cash only**. On the night, you can:

- Visit our Forest School area for campfire, hot chocolate, s'mores and festive crafts
- Enjoy indoor craft activities including 'Wreath in a Jar' and 'Hug in a Mug'
- Enjoy refreshments including homemade mulled apple juice, mince pies, cakes and hot dogs!
- Listen to Christmas songs from our Orchestra and join in with some carol singing!

Emotion Coaching: Parent/Carer Session

We have had a great level of interest shown in Monday's parent/carers information session. If you have signed up, we look forward to welcoming you to school (in the HMS Hall) on Monday 28 November at 5.30pm. This event is for parents/carers only. If you can't attend, we will send home the information so that you can have a read in your own time.



School Uniform

If you are purchasing school uniform, please note that our uniform provider, Michael Sehgal, is moving premises so the shop will be closed while they relocate. [Website](#) ordering continues as normal. They hope that their new premises, which will be at Kingston Park, Newcastle, will open on the 3 January.

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	30,621	1	Annabelle H	1	Emmie R	1	Archie B	1	Thomas W
Coquet	29,736	2	Finlay H	2	Callum J	2	Charlie H	2	Charley H M
Tweed	29,205	3	Lily H	3	Shontelle B	3	Daisy I	3	Arthur D
Wansbeck	29,135	4	George C	4	Nicholas Y	4	Sophie W	4	Sam B

Attendance – top form classes!

1	2	3
7EST	8PGA / 6EKI	7ETA

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	Amelia P	Sarah N	Alex G	Beau F
Engage	Esme C	Khloe M	Jack H	Oliver B
Aspire	Jacob A	Nicholas Y	Sophie S	Imogen S

Reading at HMS



We are currently replenishing our stocks of non-fiction texts. As part of this, if you feel you have any non-fiction texts (covering all subjects/topics – history, languages, sport, technology, science etc) that you could donate to the school, please ask your child to drop them off in the library. We are also keen to build up our stock of recipe/cookbooks

in the food technology kitchen – if you have any you could send in, please ask your child to drop them with Ms Kwella. Thank you in advance for any support.

News from the Community

The Social Prescribing Service aims to offer non-medical support with your health and wellbeing and can help to connect you to a range of services. If this would be of interest to you, please see the attached flyer.



Reminders/ Key Dates

Friday 25 November	Hexham Christmas Lights Switch On, 4.30pm	Orchestra playing/all welcome
Monday 28 November	Emotion Coaching: Parent/Carer Session , 5.30pm	All years
Thursday 1 December	PTA present...Festive Forest Evening, 5.30-7pm	All welcome
Tuesday 6 December	STEM: Marine Engineering Workshops	Year 5
Thursday 8 and Tuesday 13 December	Year 8 Parents' Evenings – bookings now available	Year 8
Friday 9 December	KS3 Flu Immunisations	KS3
Tuesday 13, Wednesday 14 and Friday 16 December	PTA Christmas Pop-Up Shop (open at lunchtimes)	All years
Thursday 15 December	HMS Carol Service, Hexham Abbey, 7pm	All welcome

Update to Year 6 SATs Week 2023

The DfE has confirmed that KS2 SATs will now take place on the following dates in May 2023:

- Monday 8th – Additional Bank Holiday
- Tuesday 9th – EGPS (or SPaG)
- Wednesday 10th – Reading
- Thursday 11th – Maths Paper 1 and 2
- Friday 12th – Maths Paper 3

Have a fantastic weekend everyone!

Mr Watters
Head of School