

9 December 2022

Dear Parent/ Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE

Update on life in school

December is always a joyful month at HMS with a calendar bursting with wonderful opportunities for our pupils. The orchestra, choirs and readers are busy preparing for the return of our HMS Carol Service at Hexham Abbey on Thursday 15th December. Last week's PTA Festive Forest Evening raised an **amazing £1,235** – we were so grateful for the support of the HMS Community – thank you so much for coming along.

We know that December is an expensive month and recognise that this year is more challenging than ever for lots of families. We also know that school trips and activities can be quite demanding at this time of year. Please contact me if you would like to discuss the support options that school can offer, as well as how to access other support channels locally.

Thank you for the donations we have received so far for West Northumberland Foodbank. They are under our tree for now. If you are able to support, the deadline for all donations is Friday 16 December. Thank you very much for your support. We have also been so thankful for the over 200 donations we have had for next week's Pop-Up Shops – these will be open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday lunchtimes and pupils can buy their gifts for special people in their lives (gifts are £2 each).

House Captain Assemblies

Our House Captains have been delivering assemblies this week on the theme of generosity. This is our half-termly focus in character education. They carried out their own research and presented as a team. We learned more about how generosity does not need to be tangible. We were treated to finding out more about the charitable work of 'The People's Kitchen' in Newcastle. Well done to them all for speaking and interacting with whole year groups for the first time. We value how they have developed their speaking skills, which is one of the key skills in our Skills Builder programme. Next term, we turn our attention to the character value of Justice.



Christmas Lunch

Next Wednesday, we are offering pupils the opportunity to have our delicious Christmas lunch with all the trimmings, or a vegetarian festive alternative, for a one-off charge of £3.50. For those entitled to free school meals, this will be covered by their daily allowance. If you have not already done so,

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**

we would appreciate it if you could complete the form at the link below to let us know if you your child would like a Christmas lunch or will be bringing a packed lunch.

- [Christmas Lunch – Wednesday 14 December 2022](#)

Being organised for school

If you are looking for some Christmas stocking filler ideas, please see **page 6 of your child's planner** for a list of equipment that they should bring to school each day. Whilst we always have spare equipment that pupils can borrow, there has been an increase in the amount of stationery essentials that we are providing to pupils.

It would be great if children could have a folder (like the one shown) so that their organisation is prioritised. I have noticed children carrying lots of loose books and sheets which could be stored in one place – please have a think about this over the festive break.



Year 5

Year 5 have had a very busy week! In maths, they have been investigating factors, multiples, prime and squared numbers. They enjoyed using counters to prove which numbers were square numbers and which weren't. In science, they have enjoyed learning about forces. This week, we were finding out about air resistance, exploring Galileo's experiments and then deciding how air resistance is affected by the area of an object by making parachutes! In Forest School, we had great fun learning how to use flint and steel to start our own fires! We found it tricky at first but, with perseverance and resilience, we managed to light the cotton wool. *This was a perfect winter warmer!*



Lego League



Lego League pupils have been busy designing robots, working with their Sixth Form mentors. We are getting closer to the competition in the spring term, but we are building our skills and knowledge every week. A huge thank you must go to our Sixth Formers Elspeth, Peter and Rhiannon, as well as Mr Nicholson (parent volunteer), who all help lead the extracurricular club. Their generosity of time, enthusiasm and effort is greatly appreciated.

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	37,608	1	Sinjin R Lewis T	1	Emmie R	1	Patrick F	1	Isobella S
Coquet	35,969	2	Monty C	2	Brian T	2	Alastair W	2	Betsy B
Tweed	35,633	3	Ben S	3	Callum J	3	Ferdi U	3	Iris A
Wansbeck	35,289	4	Callie T	4	Shontelle B	4	Madelyn C	4	Olivia A

Attendance – top form classes!

1	2	3
5ABA	7ETA	8PGA / 7JET / 7JKW

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	Dominique H	Evie Mae D	Jonah F H	Tom C
Engage	Freddie H	William M	Ivan P	Robin M-M
Aspire	India R	Abigail H	Lewis P	Rosie B

Elizabeth Tower Competition

UK Parliament have an exciting competition for pupils aged 7-12 to acknowledge the reopening of the Elizabeth Tower in the Houses of UK Parliament in London. All information and resources to support this competition can be found on this [link](#).

As a school, we are inviting pupils to complete this independently. The competition is to design a tower. Pupils can submit entries either as individuals or in groups. The deadline for all submissions is 30 January 2023. In particular, pupils will be able to show their creativity skills as well as possibly teamwork, should they choose to collaborate. We will be happy to display any towers and designs in a school exhibition.

News from the Community

There is a creative workshop at Hexham Library tomorrow (Saturday), 10am-12pm, looking at the changes to Hadrian's Wall over time. Please see the attached flyer for more information and a link to book a place!



Reminders/ Key Dates

Monday 12 December	Year 7 Christmas Trip	Year 7
Monday 12 December	Northumbria Police: Online Safety Workshop	Year 8
Tuesday 13 December	Year 8 Parents' Evening	Year 8
Tuesday 13, Wednesday 14 and Friday 16 December	PTA Christmas Pop-Up Shop (open at lunchtimes)	All years
Wednesday 14 December	HMS Christmas Lunch	All years
Wednesday 14 December	Pedestrian / Road Safety Workshops	Year 8
Thursday 15 December	HMS Carol Service, Hexham Abbey, 7pm	All welcome
Friday 16 December	Deadline for Christmas hamper donations – thank you very much for your support	All

Have a fantastic weekend everyone!

Mr Watters
Head of School