

27 January 2023

Dear Parent/ Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE

Update on life in school

Time has flown by once again this week, and it has been lovely to get out and about around school and in classrooms. It has been wonderful to see such a positive atmosphere in lessons and to see such brilliant attitudes to learning. At HMS, we place emphasis on showing pride in our work and striving for the highest standards in presentation and handwriting. Over the next few weeks, teachers will be nominating pupils for 'Head of School Awards' to recognise their efforts and there will be a special gathering of nominated pupils before the half term.

I have now sent information about our in-school provision for Wednesday 1 February. Please read the letter which was sent home earlier today and contact us via admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk if you have any questions about the day.

Miss Liddle included a reminder about water bottles in last week's update. Please could I ask that pupils all have a water bottle (which they can fill up throughout the day). Pupils do not need to bring 'Prime' bottles to school, and I have asked staff to confiscate these if they are brought in. Although a much sought after product, children are only allowed to drink water and the reputation around 'Prime' only creates unnecessary competition between pupils. Thank you for your support with this.

The HMS Curriculum

Want to know more about what your child is learning in school? You can find this information on our school website. For each year group, a [long-term overview](#) is available so you can see what pupils will be learning when. You can also dive deeper into each [subject](#) for more detailed curriculum information. If you have any questions, please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance, or direct questions to the Subject Leader.



Art



Computing



**Design
Technology**



Drama



English



**Food
Technology**

Reading

The more children read, the more confident they become across the curriculum in every subject.

It is hugely important that all children (in every year group) read every day. Please can you support us by working with your child to build positive reading routines. Children should read (either on their

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**

own or with an adult) every day for at least 15-minutes. In KS2, children should update their reading records (in their planner).

All children visit our amazing library on a weekly basis where they are supported to choose a wide range of genres and have access to a wonderful range of non-fiction and poetry texts. You can also find the list of '[HMS Must Reads](#)' for each year group here and in your child's planner (all texts are available to our pupils in the HMS Library).

Spelling

We would really appreciate your support to encourage pupils to practice their spellings at home.

The statutory spelling lists (words the children must be able to spell) is available [here](#). It would be very helpful if Year 5 and 6 pupils can be engaging with these words on a regular basis – we include words from the list in our weekly homework.

School Uniform Recycling

At HMS, we have a 'School Uniform Recycling' service which has been hugely popular. If you would like to request any recycled school uniform, you can request items [here](#). To support the work of the HMS PTA, there is a suggested completely optional donation of £1 per item which can be sent to the school office. This will never be checked or chased up.

To help us build our stocks, we are looking for your support. Please could you send any branded items i.e. HMS school jumpers, polo shirts, PE hoodies and t-shirts to the HMS Office.

We are now also taking donations of warm coats which can be requested. Please send any winter coats you no longer need to the HMS Office and we will be able to re-use them.



Year 6 SATs Information Evening

Our 'Year 6 SATs Information Evening' takes place next Tuesday, the 31 January, at 6.30pm in the HMS Hall. If you would like to attend, please confirm how many seats you will require on this [form](#). Children may attend this event if they wish, although they will get lots of information in school as we move towards the assessment period in May. The evening will have helpful information about what the assessments are like, when they are taken and how you find out about your child's results. There will also be information on how we help the children with their learning and ways you can further support your child's learning at home.

Board Games

Mrs Adams and her team are hoping to run board game sessions in 'The Base' at lunchtime and would be grateful if anyone has any games they would like to donate to the school. If you do, please could you send them in with your child – they can be dropped off at The Base on B floor.

Chinese New Year Lunch

As part of our commitment to valuing and celebrating other cultures, pupils enjoyed a Chinese New Year themed lunch in the dining hall this week. The food was delicious! Thank you to our catering team who did an excellent job. We are looking forward to more themed menus during the school year.



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	52,894	1	Gwilym H-D	1	Harrison E	1	Dylan C	1	Isobella S
Coquet	49,794	2	Sinjin R	2	Devin R	2	Ferdi U	2	Anya C
Tweed	49,271	3	Amelia P	3	Stephen W	3	Thomas T	3	Elsa B
Wansbeck	48,614	4	Georgia O	4	Emmie R	4	Wilfred P	4	Daisy W

Attendance – top form classes!

1	2	3
6FHI / 5ABA	8IHO / 6EKI / 5JNI	7EST

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	Lilly R-B	Poppy K	Jessica J	Tiana M
Engage	Ben S	Tom N	Phillipa M	Poppy A
Aspire	Lily A	Alice B	Robert R	Abigail A

News from the Community

Parents' Mental Health Day



There is a huge focus on the mental wellbeing of children but, as parents/carers, it is also important to look after your own wellbeing. Today is Parent Mental Health Day with the focus this year on resilience. Parent Mental Health Day (PMHD) encourages understanding and awareness of the importance of the family as a system where parent and carer mental health is as important a focus as young people's mental health. This link may offer some strategies and support: <https://stem4.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/stem4-PMHD-Resilience-Pack-2023.pdf>

Hexham Library – Pokémon Card Swap

Hexham Library are hosting a Pokémon Card Swap for children on Saturday 18 February at 2pm. Please see the attached flyer for details.



Reminders/ Key Dates

Monday 30 and Tuesday 31 January	KS3 First Aid Training Workshops	Year 7 and Year 8
Monday 30 January	Year 8 Football at Corbridge	Year 8 (selected pupils)
Tuesday 31 January	Year 6 SATs Information Evening	Year 6
Wednesday 1 February	NEU Industrial Action – restricted attendance	All pupils
Thursday 9 February	Road Safety Workshop	Year 7
Thursday 9 and Thursday 16 February	Year 7 Parents' Evenings (bookings now open)	Year 7
Thursday 9 February	Mid-Year Assessment update sent home	All pupils
Friday 10 February	Girls' Rugby Competition	Year 7 (selected pupils)

Pupil Support and Safeguarding

Designated Safeguarding Leader: Mr Stephenson/ **Deputy Leaders:** Mr Scott and Mr Freeman-Myers

Heads of Key Stage: Mr Scott and Miss Liddle

SENDCo/Assistant SENDCo: Mr Stephenson and Mrs Adams

Pupil Support Workers: Mrs Dodds and Mrs Richards

Please remember that we are here to support you and your child at any time. You can contact us via the main office (phone) or by email (admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk).

Have a fantastic weekend everyone!

Mr Watters
Head of School