

10 February 2023

Dear Parent/ Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE

PE Uniform Reminder

Please ensure that Y5 and Y6 have boots and trainers for PE. Year 5 are doing tag rugby and Year 6 are on football, both of which take place on the 3G pitch. Could we also please ask that **all year groups** bring suitable clothing for outdoor PE. Our sports hall is currently being used for mock exams and so PE lessons are taking place outside, so please do send your child in with warm clothing. Support for football boots is available via our boot hire service – please contact us via admin.

Wear Your Own Clothes Day to support the PTA Mothers and Others Pop Up Shop

On **Thursday 16 February** all students are able to wear their own clothes. To support our upcoming 'Mothers and Other Pop Up Shop' led by our PTA, please try to bring in a small gift donation on the day. Gifts should be suitable to sell for loved ones including sweets, chocolates, beauty products, smellies, small gifts - no alcohol donations, please. The 'Pop Up Shop' will be held in March. If you can't send in a gift, please don't worry about it. If your child would prefer to wear uniform, that's totally fine too. Thank you for your support!

Y8 Athletics and Y7 Cross-Country Success!

Our Year 8 athletics teams had an incredibly successful day at the Northumberland Sports Hall Athletics County Finals at Blyth Sports Centre last Friday. The Year 8 girls won gold and are now the county champions. The Year 8 boys' teams also put in an excellent performance, securing a bronze medal. Well done to all involved – you are a credit to the school!

Four Y7 pupils from HMS qualified to represent Northumberland Schools Athletics last weekend at Farringdon School. This was the Inter County event where the HMS pupils competed against pupils from Cumbria, Durham and Cleveland. Wilfred and Billy ran in the Y7 boys' races. Wilfred finished an excellent 18th place with Billy finishing strongly in 41st place. We also had two runners in the Y7 girls' minor race. Emilia finished in an excellent 24th place with Beth coming home in a strong 54th place. This was a fantastic achievement for these four athletes in their first season of cross country. Mr Gaines and Mr Scott are now looking forward to them performing well on the track in the summer term.



Hexham Middle School

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

KS2 Climate Change Club

Is your child interested in finding out more about how the Earth's most beautiful biomes are being affected by human actions? Are they passionate about looking after the spectacular species that we share Earth with? Miss Bell is holding the KS2 Climate Change Club every Wednesday lunchtime in FA7. As well as being fun and informative, joining this club will help children learn problem solving, teamwork, and speaking skills.



Mandarin Club

This week in Mandarin Club pupils were able to finish their Chinese lanterns and got the chance to practise their paper cutting skills. The results were fantastic!

World Book Day

At HMS we will be celebrating World Book Day on **Monday 6 March**. Please see the attachment for full details of our book-related activities. These include:

- The **HMS Big Lit Quiz** during form time on Monday 6 March – the whole school will be able to enjoy this and we will have a separate quiz for KS2 and KS3!
- The **'Book Swap'** – this returns to our library following the success of last year's events. If pupils would like to, they can bring in a book that they have finished reading and think others would enjoy.
- **Themed fancy dress or 'wear your own clothes day'** on Monday 6 March (totally optional!).
- The much loved **'Great Book Bake Off'**, returning after last year's success! Pupils can bake a cake on a theme of their favourite book or character. Entries should be submitted to Miss Kwella on Monday 6 March.
- **Competition time!** Pupils are invited to design a new cover for the 'HMS Must Reads' brochure. All entries to Ms Hayler in the HMS library by 9am on Monday 6 March!
- **Book and a Brew!** On Monday 6 March we will have a special reading gift for each child, along with a little chocolate bar and a hot chocolate to make at home.

Ms Hayler has also planned some other exciting events:

- KS2 will have a visit by author Elle McNicoll on Tuesday 25 April as part of Hexham Book Festival.
- KS3 will have a visit by author L D Lapinski on Wednesday 26 April as part of Hexham Book Festival.
- Years 6 and 8 will have a visit by author Phil Earle on Tuesday 13 June, supported by Forum Books.

Pupil Book Review

Thank you to Christian T in Y7 for this book review of **'The 1,000-Year-Old Boy' by Ross Welford**.



This story is about a boy called Alfie Monk. He takes a magical potion called the 'liveperler' or 'life pearl' which lets you live forever as a 'neverdead', keeping you at the same age. The tale, set in Whitley Bay, is about Alfie's adventures over the past 1,000 years right up until the present day. This is when the most terrible tragedy occurs and he meets up with Aidan and Roxy, who quickly become his best friends and protectors. Alfie needs to find the very last 'liveperler' for any hope of anonymous and normal life. However, Aidan's evil Uncle Jasper (a murderous 'neverdead' from Alfie's past) wants the precious life pearl for himself. This is a funny and exciting book but with some sad moments. I love this book and would definitely recommend it for others to read.

PTA Lottery

Don't forget about our HMS Lottery. 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.

Mental Health Support

With a focus this week on mental health in form time, we would like to share a [link](#) to Place2be's website. It includes some really useful reading links written by mental health experts on parenting advice. It could be a great go-to resource for some who may like a little clarity on specific topics. We hope this will be of use to you.

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	59,144	1	Daniel B-M	1	Emmie R	1	Ferdi U	1	Isobella S
Coquet	55,304	2	Sinjin R	2	Harriet A	2	Abigail B Sophie S	2	Josh J
Tweed	55,287	3	Annabel H	3	Jake D	3	Charlie S	3	Elsa B
Wansbeck	54,315	4	Ianto T, Ella R & Betty F	4	Ruby P Callum J	4	Luke G	4	Betsy B

Attendance – top form classes!

1	2	3
7EST / 6EKI	5FHA / 5HCO	6FHI / 5ABA

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	Lucas S	Annabelle M	Logan L
Engage	James D-S	Evie A	Amber L	Halle P
Aspire	Ollie E	Kyle R	Luke G	Freya Mc-P

News from the Community

Half Term Picnic

Please see the attached flyer for a free family picnic on Saturday 25 February at Trinity Methodist Church. For enquires or bookings, please contact holidayclubhexham@gmail.com.



Reminders/ Key Dates

Monday 13 – Thursday 16 February	Pupil Voice Panels with Mr Watters	All years (selected pupils)
Tuesday 14 February	KS3 Boys' Football, Corbridge	Years 7 & 8 (selected pupils)
Wednesday 15 February	Youth Cabinet & Parliament Elections	Years 7 & 8
Thursday 16 February	Y7 Parents' Evening	Year 7
Thursday 16 February	'Wear Your Own Clothes Day' (to support our PTA Mothers and Others Pop Up Shop)	All years (optional)
Friday 17 February	INSET Day – School closed to pupils	All years
Monday 27 February	Return to school	All years
Monday 6 March	HMS celebrate World Book Day – see attached	All years
Thursday 30 March	PTA Easter Disco Years 5 and 6: 5.30pm - 6.45pm Years 7 and 8: 7.00pm - 8.15pm	All years (KS2 and KS3 separate)

Have a fantastic weekend everyone!

Mr Watters
Head of School

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).