

17 February 2023

Dear Parent/ Carer

### **HMS WEEKLY UPDATE**

#### **Update on life in school**

Here we are at the end of another wonderful half term at HMS. I thank you all for your continued support of all we do in school. Please have a very a restful and enjoyable half term and we look forward to seeing the children back in school on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February at 8.40am.

#### **PE Uniform Reminder**

Could we please also ask that **Y8 girls bring studs and trainers** after half term as they will be moving onto lacrosse. Please also 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.

#### **Extracurricular Clubs Update**

Thank you to all pupils for their participation in the extra-curricular life of our school. It is excellent to see so many pupils now engaging. We are very fortunate to have a wide range of clubs and great experiences on offer at HMS. This does not happen by chance: it is down to the generosity of time and determination of our staff and visitors. We are also very appreciative of parents/carers who actively encourage participation. One of our recent additions to the club offer, Warhammer after school with Mr Nichol, is going well. We are also promoting our Climate Change Club at lunchtime, led by Miss Bell. Chess Club on Thursday lunchtime is thriving and is supported by Sixth Form chess mentors.

If you would like your child to take part in a club after school, please visit the personal development section of our website. We have a dedicated section for extracurricular activities including an online [form](#) to fill out. When these forms are received, we alert the relevant club leader, and you will receive a confirmation of a successful place. **We would prefer pupils to be collected outside the main entrance to the school for after-school clubs**, and not from the car park.

#### **KS3 Girls' Basketball Club**

After half term, Mr Drummond will be launching a new Basketball Club for Y7 and Y8 girls. The club will be on different Fridays after school, as some weeks the boys will be playing. Once numbers are known, we will let you know the specific dates for the next half term. The club will run from 3.20pm to 4.30pm and PE kit and trainers will be needed. We will be indoors. Please complete our extra-curricular consent form if your child would like to attend! <https://forms.office.com/r/q7sD8gAZvM>

#### **Hexham Middle School**

Whetstone Bridge Road, Hexham, Northumberland NE46 3JB

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

## PTA Easter Disco

The PTA would like to invite all children to this year's Easter Disco on Thursday 30 March.

- Years 5 and 6: 5.30pm - 6.45pm
- Years 7 and 8: 7.00pm - 8.15pm



If your child would like to attend, please complete this [consent form](#) and your child should bring the £3 payment to school in a named sealed envelope.

There will be a tuck shop selling sweets, treats and canned drinks, so you may wish to send your child with a small amount of spending money. Tap water and squash will be supplied free of charge. Please note ALL children must be collected at the end of the disco from the HMS school building entrance (to the left of the Hydro Building) by an adult who is named on the consent form - please notify school of any changes to this. ALL children will be signed out of the event by a member of HMS staff. On arrival children will be signed into the disco by staff and are able to come to the entrance without an adult if needed (e.g., dropped off at the car park).

In the event of an emergency during the event, we need to be able to contact home quickly. Please supply the name and contact number of an adult who can be contacted on the evening of the disco. We won't issue paper tickets for this event so once your child has submitted their form, they have a place! We're sure we have capacity for everyone who would like to attend however if we do reach the limit on numbers, we will contact you and tickets will be given on a first come first served basis. As always, the PTA thank you for your support and look forward to another enjoyable evening.

## 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	61,983	1	Emily W	1	Shontelle B & Wilf C	1	Ferdi U	1	Nathaniel O
Coquet	58,050	2	Betty F	2	Noah H & Brian T	2	Marnie C	2	Isabella S
Tweed	58,085	3	Rory A & Rosie O	3	Bess D	3	Leila S	3	Iris A
Wansbeck	57,025	4	Maddoc H & Kirstie A	4	Jaiden D	4	Phoebe T	4	Harrison P, Isobel C & Abbi M

## English Drop-In Sessions

This runs every Tuesday and Wednesday lunchtime, all lunchtime. This is open to all year groups, and pupils can drop in at any time and for any reason, i.e. completing homework, finishing classwork, asking questions or seeking feedback, getting extra help with something they find difficult, etc. Laptops will be available for those who need them. **Pupils who do not have access to a laptop/the internet at home should attend to complete their English homework whenever necessary.**

## KS2 STEM Club

This week was an exciting week for KS2 STEM Club. Over the past two weeks, pupils have designed, tested and refined boat designs, working to see how many pennies their boat could hold and still float! We discussed ideas of buoyancy, surface area, and balanced forces. On Monday, the true test began! All pupils succeeded in their boat holding the minimum cargo (25 pennies), with the winning group holding a whopping 90 pennies – Well done to Esme B in 6EKI!



## KS3 Football

Last Tuesday, three HMS teams went to play football against Corbridge Middle School. This was our first fixture this term and there was a great buzz on the bus as we left Hexham. Mr Gaines and Mr Blatherwick were trialling a new format for this fixture. The aim is to have more players being able to represent their schools. For this fixture, we took three mixed ability teams: two teams contained Y8 boys and one team contained Y7 boys. We had a great afternoon of sport on a dry pitch. The games were played in a good spirit and keenly contested. All three teams played three games against teams from Corbridge. Hexham Fellside lost one and won two; Hexham Causey won all three of their games; and Hexham Leazes drew one and won two. The new format proved to be enjoyable. We are now looking to organise a fixture using the same format for KS2 very soon!

## Y7 Rugby

The Y7 girls' team took part in the RGS Girls' 7s Rugby tournament last Friday. They played some excellent rugby and finished third behind Dame Allan's and RGS A teams and ahead of RGS B, Kings Priory and Ponteland. Isla Mitchell was awarded player of the tournament.



## Ally Zone

In Ally Zone this week we have chosen our winners for the LGBTQ+ mascot competition:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place – Etta L, 5ABA with Bonnie
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Agatha L, 7JET with Dekota
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place – Robert Renfrey, 7ETA with Colin



Etta's will be turned into a cardboard cut-out for the middle school mascot by allyzone. Well done to all. It was a hard decision to pick the winners as the entries were of such a high standard!

## HMS PTA Lottery Winners

Congratulations to our two HMS Lottery Winners **Emma H-M (£25)** and **Sarah S (£15)**! The PTA will be in touch to get your winnings to you. If you would like to find out more or join the Lottery contact [hmsprizedraw@gmail.com](mailto:hmsprizedraw@gmail.com) or follow the link: <https://forms.gle/miGYFUavx3NjrB18>

## Attendance – top form classes!

1	2	3
6EKI / 6FHI	8PGA / 5JNI	5FHA

## 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	Elsie-May P	Anna O	Dylan C	Robbie S
Engage	Leo H	Ellen B	Oliver W	Anya C
Aspire	Kirstie A	Jake D	Harry S	Jamie A

## News from the Community



### Blue Peter's 'Amazing Authors' competition with The Reading Agency and BBC Arts is now open!

This competition not only gives pupils the chance to become an amazing author, by writing their very own short story or poem, but also an amazing assortment of incredible money-can't buy prizes! The winner will meet one of the UK's biggest children's authors and pop royalty Tom Fletcher, go behind-the-scenes to see how books are published and receive their story or poem in print! Not only that, but Tom will also read their work and it will become an audio book on BBC Sounds. Their character's adventure will be animated by Aardman to create a wonderful story which will be shown on Blue Peter and CBeebies Bedtime Stories!

If your son or daughter would like to enter the competition, they need to:

1. Write an original short story or poem in under 400 words, which captures the idea of adventure and features exciting characters.
2. Use the online entry form to upload their entry, or download and print the postal entry form.
3. Have the permission of their parent/guardian to enter the competition.
4. Be aged 5 - 15 years old before the competition closes on Wednesday 8 March 2023.

Full details at: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/joinin/bp-competition>



### Reminders/ Key Dates

<b>Monday 27 February</b>	Return to school at 8.40am	All years
<b>All week (exc. Tuesday)</b>	Year 6 Assessment Week	Year 6
<b>Tuesday 28 February</b>	NEU Industrial Action	All years – <i>see separate communication</i>
<b>Monday 6 March</b>	HMS Celebrate World Book Day	All years
<b>Thursday 30 March</b>	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 half term 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](mailto:admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk)).