

10 March 2023

Dear Parent/ Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE

Update on life in school

What a buzz we have had around school this week! We started the week with World Book Day, we've had our PTA Pop-Up Shops (which raised an amazing £640!) and pupils out of school representing in sports events – thank you for your support with all of this. It was great to see so many parents/carers at this week's London Trip session – there are lots of excited pupils and staff. Year 6 also had a very special breakfast treat and enjoyed waffles to say a huge well done for their positive attitude and hard work during their recent assessment week.

We are so proud of our vast extra-curricular offer but we are always looking to provide even more opportunities for our pupils. We are particularly interested in speaking to anyone with coaching experience who could come into school to lead further sporting activities. If you think you could, or have a contact, please get in touch with us via the admin email. Molly's Dance Club has now ended due to her maternity leave (good luck, Molly) and we are particularly keen to keep a dance club and/or sessions in school going.

Last week, we issued guidance on make-up in school. We were made aware that unfortunately some contradictory information existed in the pupil planners and on our website. After discussions, we will amend both to say that 'a reasonable amount of make-up may be worn'. We hope that this is a positive solution for those concerned.

Parent/Carer Feedback

This week, we shared our [Parent/Carer Survey](#) and would really value your responses if you have chance. We appreciate all feedback so that we can continue to develop our provision in school.

World Book Day at HMS

What a great day we had on Monday to celebrate World Book Day - there was such a buzz around school! A huge well done to the children and staff for their creative costumes and a great big thank you for the many donations we had towards our library provision.

The day included a wide range of activities including:

- A whole school 'HMS Big Lit Quiz'



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**

- Book Swap
- The Big Book Bake Off – see below!
- Design a new 'Must Reads' cover (entries to Ms Hayler by today!)
- Special 'Book and a Brew' gifts (kindly supported by our PTA)

Ms Hayler has booked some fantastic author visits in the coming months - we are so excited to welcome Phil Earle, LD Lapinski and Elle McNicoll - more information to follow! Special thanks to Miss Kingett and Ms Hayler for the day.

Book Bake Off

WOW! We were once again blown away by the phenomenal effort and creativity of our pupils who worked so hard on their entries for the 'HMS Book Bake Off'. The staff enjoyed judging the entries and tasting lots of delicious cake over lunchtime. To recognise the outstanding effort made, each pupil has received a Head of School Award, a P4 and a special HMS bookmark made by Miss Kingett - we are SO proud of all of you!



After much deliberation, the below winners from each Key Stage also received a voucher for local book shop, Cogito - happy shopping! For pictures of our entries, please see our [website](#).

- KS2: 1st - Amelia M / 2nd - Betty F / 3rd - Alex W
- KS3: 1st - Annabelle O / 2nd - Imogen S / 3rd - Jack M

Well done to each and every pupil involved!

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	67,501	1	Sinjin R	1	Brian T	1	Archie D	1	Nathaniel O
Coquet	62,180	2	Nicholas F H	2	Marc B	2	Jack M & Lizzie B	2	Josh D
Tweed	63,128	3	Ben S	3	Anna O & Tom P	3	Martha B & Lucy M	3	Brooke C & Harrison P
Wansbeck	62,464	4	Ida H	4	Stephen W & Alex W	4	Rose C & Alex L	4	Ollie G

Mothers and Others Pop Up shop



Once again we were overwhelmed by the donations to our Mothers and Others Pop up shop. We opened our pop up on Tuesday and Thursday this week and had two very busy lunchtimes of pupils browsing and buying gifts. The PTA and year 8 pupil volunteers were also on hand to gift wrap presents and advise on purchases! As always, we are very grateful to the PTA for organising this event and to parents, carers and pupils for their donations and purchases.



Red Nose Day

On Friday 17th March, we'll be raising funds for 'Red Nose Day'.

- If you are able, donations can be made via School Gateway for non-uniform (suggested £1 donation for non-uniform/red accessories).
- Pupils are encouraged to wear something red including small items such as hair clips/bands, red painted nails, red socks or hats or shoes (this is not compulsory).
- At lunchtime, we would also like to invite pupils to take part in a '**penalty shootout**', '**Teacher in the stocks**' (wet sponge), '**I'm a Teacher get me out of here**' (food challenge), **Just Dance/Karaoke** - the lunch time activities on the day will require cash donations to participate/observe. Alternatively, you could choose to make an additional online donation via the School Gateway.

Girls' Cricket Success!

Congratulations to the HMS Year 7 & 8 Girls Cricket Team for winning Tuesday's competition and qualifying for the Northumberland Indoor Cricket County finals! The girls won all four matches - an excellent team effort with some notable individual performances. Well done to all involved. The county finals will take place on the 31 March.



North East Festival of Languages

This month sees the return of the annual '**Express Yourself: North East Festival of Languages**'. The festival is a celebration of the diverse languages, cultures and communities in the region and our connections with the world. There are lots of free events, activities and resources introducing new and creative ways to learn, speak and teach languages. Why not get your household involved? Please visit <https://expressyourselfne.com/> for more information. See the attached summary document which shows how pupils are getting involved in school. There are also some suggested family activities that you could try out.

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	Edward S	Evie M D	Harvey C-F	Troy P
Engage	Lilly R-B	Anna O	Freddie H	Adelle F
Aspire	James D-S	James L	Zaid Z	Henry W

The Young Royal Academy of Arts competition deadline is approaching!

Pupils from Hexham Middle school have the opportunity to enter an art competition which could lead to their artwork being displayed in a London art gallery! Each pupil can submit **one** piece and there is no theme. The deadline to submit to Miss Taylor is the **23 March 2023**. When pupils enter, they will be asked to submit an image of the artwork plus some information about the piece such as title, size, and a little text about the

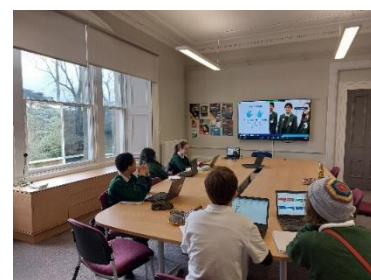
artwork and why they made it. The artwork can be made using any material: it can be a painting, sculpture, photograph, installation, video, drawing, or a combination.

Last year two HMS pupils, James V and Annabelle R, won, and their artwork was displayed in the London art gallery! If your son or daughter has any questions about the competition or their artwork, Miss Taylor can help.



EDT Industrial Cadets Bronze Award Programme

Five year 8 pupils took part in a virtual launch event last week for the EDT Industrial Cadets Bronze Award programme. They met their industry mentor and received their project brief. They are looking forward to getting started.



Attendance – top form classes!

1	2	3
6EKI	7JKW	7ETA / 5ABA



Reminders/ Key Dates

All week	Pupil Surveys	All years
Monday 13 March	KS2 Lego League Competition	Some Year 5 and 6 pupils
Tuesday 14 March	KS3 Junior Chess Competition, St Mary's School	Some Year 7 and 8 pupils
Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 March	NEU Industrial Action (see separate letter)	HMS
Thursday 16 March	KS3 French Trip – Parent & Carer Information Evening	Some Year 7 and 8 pupils
Friday 17 March	Red Nose Day	All years
Monday 27th – Friday 31st March	Return of the HMS Spring Games	All years (info to follow)
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).