



24 March 2023

Dear Parent/ Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE

Update on life in school

Lots of great news to share with you from another busy week at HMS – I will keep my message brief as there's lots of information below. We are racing towards the Easter break and our residential visits kick off next week with the Year 7 London Trip – I can't wait to hear all about it.

I am delighted to say that Mrs Roff (Assistant Headteacher) and Mrs Wade (Subject Leader of English) will be returning to school in June following their maternity leave. Mrs O'Farrell will be leaving school at Easter, and I thank her for her contribution to HMS this year and wish her luck in her future roles. Mrs Taylor (Learning Support Assistant) will also be leaving HMS at Easter to take up a new teaching post – I want to extend huge thanks to Mrs Taylor for her wonderful contribution to HMS during her time with us.

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	71,561	1	Duncan G	1	Cory S	1	Ferdi U	1	Isobella S
Coquet	65,374	2	Daniel B-M	2	Bess D	2	Archie D	2	Laura W
Tweed	66,872	3	Sinjin R	3	Layla S	3	Alastair W	3	Iris A
Wansbeck	65,374	4	Archie D	4	Evie A	4	Alastair W	4	Archie R

Red Nose Day

WOW! The HMS community spirit shone through once again last Friday as we raised vital funds for Comic Relief. Mr Scott planned a great range of exciting events – there was a real buzz around school.

Hexham Middle School

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

The children (and staff!) enjoyed 'I'm a teacher . . . get me out of here!' tasting challenge (they were very brave!!), Teachers in the Stocks, Karaoke and Just Dance and Penalty Shoot Out. Team HMS raised a phenomenal **£801.45** – thank you to all of you, the pupils and our staff team for all of the support and positivity!

West Northumberland Food Bank Donations Appeal



We have been liaising with the West Northumberland Food Bank (WNFB) on how best to support them and to signpost their services. First, if you are finding things difficult, their key message is please don't struggle alone, as they are here to help. If you require food support, please contact them directly during their office hours which are **Mon - Fri 10am - 2pm** by either:

- Calling on [01434 700068](tel:01434700068) (please leave a message if it's busy, they will call you back). Calling or texting on [07958000719](tel:07958000719): If texting please include your name as they will call you back.
- Emailing at getintouch@westnorthumberlandfoodbank.org.uk
- Using the form on their [contact](#) page.
- Contacting them via their [Facebook](#) page.

Their office in Hexham is staffed by a team of friendly support workers between 10am and 2pm Monday - Friday. If you call or contact outside of these hours and leave a message they will attempt to contact you when next in the office. Please note, WNFB is a delivery-only service and their office is not open to the general public. For more details, please see [Get-help - West Northumberland Foodbank](#). Second, the WNFB have been dealing with a big spike in demand over the winter and have started to run low on stock. If you are able to, they would very much welcome donations via their donation points around West Northumberland. For details of your nearest donation point, please check their website at <https://www.westnorthumberlandfoodbank.org.uk/donations.html>.

Parking Notice

We have been contacted by the sergeant of Hexham Police Station about large numbers of parents/carers blocking station exits and damaging staff vehicles when dropping off/picking up students before and after school. Please be mindful when dropping off/picking up students before and after school and don't enter the police station grounds or stop in front of the police vehicle car park exit. Access to the grounds is only available to the public if they are attending the police station. Please do not enter the police station grounds or stop in front of the police vehicle car park exit while dropping off or picking up students; the exit is used by police vehicles when attending emergencies, and blocking it prohibits the police from travelling to incidents.

HMS Easter Decorated Egg Competition!

Pupils are invited to get creative and enter our Easter Decorated Egg Competition! Entries should have an imaginative theme of the pupil's choice. Pupils can enter one egg or make a scene! There is a separate category for KS2 and KS3. Entries should be submitted on Thursday 30 March to the main reception area in Fellside. Judging will take place on Friday 31 March.

Earth Hour

Don't forget that Earth Hour takes place on Saturday 25 March between 8.30 and 9.30pm. We would like to encourage pupils and their families to take part by switching off all electronics for 1 hour. The WWF is also asking people to use their hour to do something positive for our planet, such as having a clear out and donating items to charity or going for a walk and picking up litter.

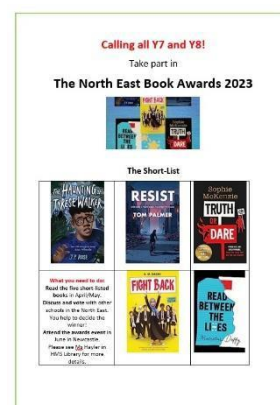


Before you switch off your phones/cameras please take an image of your Earth Hour and share it with us by email to admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk. You can also share your images online with the hashtag #BiggestHourForEarth and #MyHourForEarth. If your family would like to join in a WWF national event, there is a night-time walk being hosted by the North Tyne and Redesdale climate action group. The walk starts at the Roundhouse, Rochester, in Kielder National Park at 8.30pm, finishing at 9.30pm at High Rochester, stopping at points to hear the unfolding story of our universe from its beginnings to the present day. At High Rochester, hot chocolate will be provided whilst sharing favourite poems and quotes about our amazing planet.

Calling all keen readers in Y7 and Y8!

HMS would like to take part in The North East Book Awards 2023. The Awards are the North East's version of the Carnegie Greenaway Medal: children read a shortlist of five nominated books and vote for the winner. Last year, Phil Earle won with 'When The Sky Falls'. This is a really exciting opportunity to read a range of books, take part in discussions and be the judge. The timeline is swift with reading/reviewing in April, students then voting for their favourites and winners announced mid-June. Participating schools are invited to the event in Newcastle. The short-list has just been announced:

- *The Haunting of Tyrese Walker* – J P Rose
- *Resist* – Tom Palmer
- *Truth or Dare* – Sophie McKenzie
- *Fight Back* – A M Dassu
- *Read Between the Lies* – Malcolm Duffy



Click on this link for further information: <https://www.nebookawards.org.uk/ne-book-award/shortlist>. Please see Ms. Hayler in HMS library for more details. There will be a meeting for all those interested on Tuesday 28th March at 12.30pm in the library.

Miss Richardson is Recruiting English Subject Representatives

Miss Richardson is recruiting for English subject representatives. These students will help to maintain classroom displays and equipment, help with resources, and nominate fellow students for achievement awards (amongst, I'm sure, other duties that come up along the way!). Applications are welcome from any student from any year group - **it doesn't matter whether Miss Richardson teaches you or not**. I've attached an information form/application form. Interested students should see Miss Richardson **before Easter**.

HMS 'Must Reads' Cover Competition 2023 – WINNERS

Thank you so much to everyone who took part in this competition as part of HMS's World Book Day celebrations. All the entries were imaginative, creative, eye-catching and promoted a love of reading! Congratulations to all of you!

The winners are 1st Clara H (Y6), 2nd Wilf C (Y6), 3rd James T (Y5). Clara's fantastic design will be printed as part of the 'Must Reads' booklet and will be available in the library. All entrants will be awarded a certificate and the winners will also receive a book token for Cogito Books in Hexham.

1st: Clara H (Y6)



2nd: Wilf C (Y6)



3rd: James T (Y5)



English Drop-in Sessions

Following success so far, English Drop-in sessions will continue to run in FB13 in the summer term. Anyone is welcome for any reason: completing homework, getting help with homework, silent reading, revising, catching up on work missed, etc. Miss Richardson is here to help and laptops will be available. This is the ideal time for students to get their homework done if they struggle to do it at home for any reason.

Shakespeare Week

In recognition of Shakespeare Week, Miss Richardson is running a competition for key stage 3 students to illustrate/decorate a quotation from Shakespeare to be used in a classroom display. These should be submitted by **Tuesday 28 March, period 4** for each entry and Easter egg prizes for the best! Miss Richardson is happy to help students source quotations.

Express Yourself: North East Festival of Languages

This month sees the return of the annual '**Express Yourself: NorthEast 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.

Attendance – top form classes!

1	2	3
7RAL	6EST / 8 BLA / 6FHI	6EKI

Reminders/ Key Dates

Monday 27 – Wednesday 29 March	Year 7 London Trip	Pupils attending
Tuesday 28 March	Year 8 First Aid Workshops	Year 8
Wednesday 29 March	‘Where can languages take me?’ webinar	Year 8
Wednesday 29 March	Thunder Cup Rugby League	Selected Year 8
Thursday 30 March	PTA Easter Discos Years 5 and 6: 5.30pm - 6.45pm Years 7 and 8: 7.00pm - 8.15pm	All years (KS2 and KS3 separate)
Friday 31 March	Year 7 First Aid Workshops	Year 7
Friday 31 March	Easter Celebration Assemblies	All years
Friday 31 March	KS2 Cross County at Haydon Bridge	Selected KS2

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).