

30 June 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE

An update on life in school

WOW – what a week at HMS. The summer term is always action-packed and this year’s calendar is no different – there are so many opportunities for our pupils to engage with and enjoy – we wouldn’t want it any other way!

Last night, we hosted our Summer Music Evening and what an awe-inspiring, joyful event it was. The children showcased their phenomenal musical talents and we were so proud of each of them. It was a wonderfully varied show including solo and group performances, choirs, our truly outstanding orchestra and a set from our rock band. The level of dedication and enthusiasm shown by our pupils is staggering and I left feeling exceptionally proud of HMS once again. None of it would be possible without the hours of commitment and the inspirational hard work of Mr Holdsworth – I am so grateful to him and to all of the staff team for their support of the evening. Thank you also to the PTA who served refreshments on the evening, and to you for your continued support of our school.



Cricket Success

The girls travelled to Ovingham Cricket Ground to play in the Northumberland County Cricket Finals this week. In the group stage, they had three matches - winning two of them. The girls progressed to the semi-final, and this was a very tense, close match. Team HMS then progressed to the final against Ponteland, who had beaten them in the group stage. Yet another close and tense match with HMS in the lead right up until the last over, where we unfortunately lost two wickets - this meant that Ponteland won 251 to 244. Yet again, the team displayed our HMS values and worked brilliantly as a group. The team have now qualified for the next round - we couldn't be prouder of them!



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**

Form Classes – September 2023

Form classes for September 2023 are below. Pupils joining HMS from first school will meet their new class on Tuesday 4th July as part of their Transfer Day. Children currently in Year 6 will find out their new form class groups and teachers on Tuesday morning – parents/carers will also be emailed. The table below shows which form teacher classes in Year 5 and Year 7 will move to. There will be very few class changes in these year groups – individual parents will have been involved in discussions where relevant. If you have any questions, please just get in touch with us.

Key Stage 2 Head of Key Stage 2: Miss Liddle Deputy Head of Key Stage 2: Mrs Downes		Key Stage 3 Head of Key Stage 3: Mr Scott Deputy Head of Key Stage 3: Miss Lamont	
Form Class	Form Teacher	Form Class	Form Teacher
5FHA	Mrs Hall	7AMG	Mrs Gregory
5JNI	Mr Nichol	7SFO	Mr Forster
5ZSC	Miss Scott	7JET	Mrs Tanner
5EKI	Miss Kingett	7PGA	Mr Gaines
5MDO	Mrs Downes	7EST	Mrs Stewart
<i>Pupils joining Year 5 from first school will find out their new class groups on Tuesday 4th July on Transfer Day.</i>		<i>Current Year 6 will be placed into new form classes – these will be announced on Tuesday 4th July and sent home.</i>	
6FHI	Mrs Hinchcliffe (takes 5JNI)	8SRI	Miss Richardson (takes 7AMG)
6MBE	Miss Bell (takes 5ABA)	8ETA	Miss Taylor (takes 7ETA)
6RAL	Mrs Alderson (takes 5MDO)	8BLA	Miss Lamont (takes 7JKW)
6YTA	Miss Tauk (takes 5FHA)	8IBO	Mrs Bond (takes 7EST)
6JJO	Mr Johnson (takes 5HCO)	8IHO	Mr Holdsworth (takes 7JET)

Le Grande Weekend – what an adventure!

The four-year wait came to an end on Thursday 22nd June as 56 pupils and 7 members of staff embarked on their journey to France.

Friday

After arriving at the ferry port early on Friday morning, pupils were eager to get on the ferry and continue their journey across to France. During the 6-hour ferry crossing pupils were able to explore and enjoy the vast array of entertainment options including arcade games and cinema screenings. The long journey was worth it when we arrived at the château – what an amazing place! For the evening entertainment, pupils enjoyed working in teams to protect their eggs (laid by the resident chickens).



Saturday

On Saturday morning, we visited the hypermarket and traditional French market. Pupils enjoyed walking around the market looking at all the different stalls. Mr Armstrong was very impressed with all pupils' efforts to try and speak in French. The crêpes stall proved to be the most popular and pupils enjoyed a variety of crêpes. Pupils enjoyed an afternoon of activities at the château (including Zip wire, fencing, climbing and nightline). Saturday evening saw the highly anticipated French-themed evening. Pupils were able to try frogs legs (les cuisses de grenouilles) and snails (les escargots) as well as test their knowledge of France in a French quiz.

Sunday

On Sunday morning, we visited one of the most medieval castles in Europe. Pupils learnt about the history behind the 'Château de Fougères' and were given a tour by our fantastic group leader 'Louis'. On Sunday afternoon, we made our way to the magical 'Mont Saint Michel', on arrival pupils were in awe. After making our way to the top and visiting the abbey, pupils were given some time to explore 'Diagon Alley', where they enjoyed some retail therapy. Ice cream was the order of the day. On return to the château, pupils enjoyed an outdoor disco.

Monday

On our way back to the UK, we visited the Bayeux Tapestry and watched an awe-inspiring film telling the story of 'The 100 days of the Battle of Normandy'. Mr Johnson was so impressed with how sensitive pupils were and their level of engagement. After another journey on the ferry, there was a late-night trip to McDonalds, which was well received by pupils and staff alike.

Year 6 residential

What an amazing time KS2 had on their residential trips to Whithaugh! I was lucky enough to go with both the Y5 and the Y6 group and, as ever, I was so proud of our pupils' positive attitudes, exceptional behaviour and incredible determination. The weather was kind to us so the pupils were able to fully enjoy jumping in the lake after kayaking and canoeing; switching positions on rafts that they had built themselves; taking in the stunning views from the zipwire; building dens during bushcraft and so many other fantastic activities. I was particularly impressed to see so many Y5s reaching the top of the outdoor climbing wall and so many Y6s taking the high ropes leap of faith in their stride. The centre staff commented on how polite and engaged the children were throughout their stay and it was wonderful for us to see lots of new friendships being built. Although we won't be returning to Whithaugh next year, we have two new and exciting trips for Year 5 and 6 in the pipeline, watch this space...



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	93609	1	Ben S	1	Bess D	1	Sophie S	1	Laura W
Coquet	85622	2	Annabel H	2	Poppy K	2	Abigail B	2	Isobella S
Tweed	88521	3	Gwilym HD	3	Alex W	3	Lexy G	3	Josh J
Wansbeck	87175	4	Ben T	4	Cameron S	4	Evie W	4	Oli G

Respect Engage Aspire Awards

Each week, our form teachers recognise the success of the pupils in their form groups. In assembly, teachers read out their award winners and outline how each pupil has captured the school's core values – Respect Engage Aspire.

Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
Emily D Wilfy D Katie R B Sofia S Nico F H	William I Evie A Connie R	Rose C Alfie B Oliver E Carley B Grace B Abigail B Xavier F Charlotte P	Jamie A El B Vanessa S Brooke C

Attendance – top 3!

1	2	3
5MDO	6RAL	8BLA

Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
Friday 30 th June and Monday 3 rd July	Year 8 visit Safety Works (PSHE)	Year 8
Tuesday 4 th July	Transfer Day	All years
Tuesday 4 th July	Year 5, 6 and 7 meet their new form teacher	Y5, 6 and 7
Wednesday 5 th July Friday 7 th July	NEU Strike Days	TBC
Thursday 6 th July	STEM workshops	Year 6
Friday 7 th July	Theatre Sans Frontiere performance	Year 5
Tuesday 11 th July	Skills Builder Day	All years
Wednesday 12 th July	KS2 Sports Day	Year 5 and 6
Thursday 13 th July	KS3 Sports Day	Year 7 and 8
Friday 14 th July	Tyne Rivers Trust Workshops (Geography)	Year 6
Monday 17 th July	Year 5 End of Year Trip	Year 5
Wednesday 19 th July	Year 8 Leavers' Trip	Year 8
Thursday 20 th July	Year 6 End of Year Trip	Year 6
Thursday 20 th July	Year 7 End of Year Trip	Year 7
Thursday 20 th July	Year 8 Leavers' Party (please remember to complete the online form)	Year 8

Have a fantastic weekend everyone!

Mr Watters

Head of School

Pupil Support and Safeguarding

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

Heads of Key Stage: Mr Scott and Miss Liddle

SENDCo/Assistant SENDCo: Mr Stephenson and Mrs Adams

Academic Support Coordinator: Mrs Toor

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).