

14 July 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE

An update on life in school

It's been another week to be proud at HMS! We have had the North East Raising Aspiration team in school working with Year 6 ahead of their transition to Year 7, a whole school 'Skills Builder Day', two very successful and inspiring Sports Days, reward afternoons and the Tyne Rivers Trust delivering workshops to enhance our geography curriculum. It's a busy calendar at HMS and it's exactly what we want our school to be – enriching, engaging and aspirational for all pupils. One more week to go of this term and it's another busy one with end of year visits, celebration assemblies, Year 8 leavers' events including our final assembly, special breakfast and, of course, the leavers' festival!

Year 6 SATs results were released this week. All of our Year 6 children have shown such a fantastic attitude to learning this year and we are so proud of each of them! They are a wonderful group of pupils, and their outcomes reflect their positive approach to school life. I am also very thankful to my Year 6 team who work so hard to not only deliver great outcomes, but to maintain the wider educational experience that we are so proud of at HMS. Thank you to them and the whole staff team for their continued support. Our outcomes are strong, and we are very proud of the achievements of the children. We are also so pleased that all of our pupils engage so well across all aspects of school life. We firmly believe in allowing HMS pupils to aspire and to shine across the curriculum and beyond the classroom. We want every single pupil to be proud of themselves and to celebrate that they approached the assessments with the most positive attitude and tried their absolute best - that is all we ever ask! Well done, Team HMS! You make me so proud every single day!

Sports Days

A rainy start to the day didn't dampen the spirits for KS2 as they set out for their Sports Day on Wednesday. We were so proud of each and every one of them throughout the day. Our values were on display loud and clear - the children supported each other, celebrated effort and success and demonstrated true teamwork and respect in every event.



The sun shone all day for KS3 on Thursday and what a day they had!

The sportsmanship, respect and true encouragement on display was a joy to see and there were some standout individual and team performances. It was fantastic to see



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Head of School: **Liam Watters**

Year 8 engaging so well with their final sports day at HMS and beaming with pride during the events and medal presentations.

All pupils engaged well in our 'Chance to Participate' activities before the 'Chance to Shine' events including the famous HMS relays in the afternoon. Pupils wore their House colours with pride. Well done everyone! Huge thanks must go to Mr Gaines and Mrs Stewart for their hours of planning which leads to a calm, structured and professional event for our pupils to enjoy! Mr Gaines was away with the QE rowers on Thursday leaving Mr Scott and Mr Cameron to lead their first sports day at HMS – both were very impressed.

Skills Builder Day

On Tuesday, Mr Freeman-Myers planned a whole school 'Skills Builder Challenge Day'. At HMS, we focus on building essential skills for life throughout our curriculum and this week allowed the whole school to work collaboratively with their form class on a focused 'Creative Spaces' day. The day further develops the skills of creativity and problem solving as pupils work together to design an art gallery space. Leadership and teamwork skills are applied as pupils build models of their spaces before sharing their designs with the rest of the class to strengthen speaking and listening skills. What a great day!



Next year, we'll continue to embed essential skills across our curriculum as we work towards the 'Gold Award' for schools. If you think you could support our wider personal development curriculum by sharing your expertise and experience, please contact Mr Freeman-Myers.

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	97096	1	Betty F	1	Sarah N	1	Robbie L	1	Ava C
Coquet	87939	2	Rufus A	2	Annabelle M	2	Madelyn C	2	Tiana M
Tweed	91762	3	James D S	3	Noah W	3	Dylan C	3	Anya C
Wansbeck	90370	4	Kosan N	4	Khloe M	4	Eliza R	4	Laura W

Water Safety Workshops



Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service visited Year 6 and Year 8 this week to deliver hugely important water safety sessions. The children listened with interest and asked lots of important questions. The fire service delivered essential messages on water and river safety, including their role in saving lives and pupils engaged in a practical session to learn life saving techniques. River safety is so important especially with the Tyne running through our town. Pupils must be aware of the very real dangers and how to keep themselves safe. Please could you support the sessions by following this conversation up at home.



Bastille Day Lunch



What a treat! Pupils and staff enjoyed a special Bastille Day themed menu today. We are so thankful to Mrs Satow and our amazing catering team who worked hard to produce a wide range of delicious food options including great main courses, tasty desserts, fresh salad and breads. Thank you to Mr Armstrong for organising the event once again. We love our themed menus at HMS - we can't wait until the next one! Mr Armstrong has just sent me a draft of next year's calendar – pupils are in for a treat!



STEM Club

KS2 STEM Club have been busy space scientists over the past few weeks, designing their own rockets. The sessions built on their knowledge of forces, particularly gravity and water pressure. Today was launch day – and every single one was a success! Special mention to Lucia Lloyd and Mollie Lennie, as their rocket flew about 20 feet in the air and nearly landed on the roof! Huge congratulations to the Space Team, and to all of those who have attended KS2 STEM club this year. They have worked hard and shown some excellent understanding of scientific concepts beyond their age and the curriculum. We celebrated our final session of the year, of course, with rocket lollies in the sun. What else?!



Attendance – top 3!

1	2	3
6RAL	8BLA	6FHI

HMS Library: Summer Book Swap and Bake Sale

Our fantastic Library Champions will be holding the HMS Summer Book Swap in the library at lunchtime on Tuesday 18th July. Please bring a book to exchange! There will also be a cake sale to help raise funds for new books for the library. We would be so grateful if you are able to bake or donate cakes for this. All biscuits/cakes must be nut-free.

Please see attached events lists from Hexham Library and Forum Books Corbridge for fun Summer Reading Challenges and summer events.

Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
Monday 17 th July	Year 5 End of Year Trip	Year 5
Tuesday 18 th July	HMS Library Book Swap (Lunchtime)	All years
Wednesday 19 th July	Year 8 End of Year 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
Friday 21 st July	Wear Your Own Clothes Day	All years
Friday 21 st July	Year 8 Leavers' Breakfast	Year 8
Final Week	Summer Celebration Assemblies Year 5/6 – Wednesday/ Year 7 – Tuesday/ Year 8 Leavers' Assembly – Friday	All years
Friday 21 st July	School closes at 1.30pm for all pupils – school transport has been arranged	All years

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).