

8 September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 1

Welcome to a new school year

It has been a joy to welcome our pupils back to school this week. After a fairly rainy summer, the sun has been shining and the atmosphere has been calm, positive and purposeful. I am so proud of our Year 5 pupils and the many other children who have joined HMS this week. A new start can cause a mix of emotions – lots of children felt excited, nervous and eager to find out more – and all of the children have settled brilliantly into our school, and we are excited for the year ahead! It's such a big change coming to middle school with a new timetable, new friends to make, new teachers and staff and finding your way around a new environment – we suspect there'll be some tired children on Friday night but they should be so proud of themselves! Today, Year 5 enjoyed a team building session with their new form class led by Full of Beans. Full of Beans come into HMS throughout the year to run extra-curricular clubs and we were delighted to welcome them back at the start of this term.



As well as new children, we welcomed new staff to our team this week. Miss Storey, as Subject Leader of Maths; Miss Tauk and Miss Scott as KS2 teachers and Ms Barrick who joined our Learning Support Team. I know you will join me in welcoming them to Team HMS – you will get chance to meet them at various events throughout the year.

Our upcoming 'Welcome Evenings' will provide more information on your child's learning for the year ahead. You can also read our ['Curriculum Overviews'](#) on our website – this will give you a summary of your child's learning journey for each subject. You can find out more information on how we build our curriculum here at HMS and more detail on [each subject here](#).

Over the next couple of weeks, our extra-curricular programme for this term will be released. Mr Freeman-Myers will share information on how children can sign up and how you can book places at after-school sessions. We will also be recruiting to various pupil leadership opportunities – Mr Scott and Miss Liddle will be sharing information in assemblies and form time. Opportunities include: House Captains (Year 8), Head Pupils/Deputy Head Pupils (Year 8), Kindness Ambassadors (Year 6), School Council Members (all years), Library Champions (all years), Peer Mentors (KS3) and Digital Leaders. We would encourage all pupils to listen out for more information and to put themselves forward for new exciting opportunities in school!

Thank you for supporting such a brilliant start to the new term and welcome to the HMS community!

Hexham Middle School

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

Welcome Evenings

We invite you to attend our upcoming 'Welcome Evenings'. These sessions set the scene for the year ahead with information on what your child will be learning, the routines of life at HMS and how you can support your child's learning at home. You will hear from Mr Watters, Mr Stephenson, Mrs Roff as well as Miss Little or Mr Scott. All information will be shared online too. To book a place, [please complete this short form](#).

Year 5	Thursday 14 th September 5.15pm
Year 6	Thursday 14 th September 6.30pm
KS3 (Years 7 and 8)	Tuesday 19 th September 6.00pm

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	1815	1	Isis T H	1	Eben S	1	Daysi B	1	Robbie L
Coquet	1714	2	Ruby D	2	Ollie E	2	Teddy D	2	Daisy L
Tweed	1721	3	Joey R	3	Amelie G	3	Kayden W	3	David T
Wansbeck	1616	4	Poppy M - B	4	Aurelia	4	Evie J	4	Vincent C

Access to school platforms

- **Class Charts:** login details for pupil and parent/carer accounts were sent home with Year 5 pupils this week (please check your child's planner). Please log into the Class Charts app to celebrate your child's success in school. You can also monitor any sanctions and homework set. We do encourage all parents/carers to access the app as soon as possible.
- **School Gateway:** we use this platform to manage payments in school. You can log in using your email address and phone number (it must match the details we hold on record for you). If you have any issues, please call or email the admin team who will help.



- **School 360:** teachers are busy creating new class groups on School 360. The children will use the platform each week in computing so will become familiar with accessing resources.
- **Other:** your child may get access to other online learning platforms. Class teachers will send home information in due course.

School Lunches

The school lunch menu has been shared with parents/carers today. We follow a three-week cycle and have a wide range of options available on a daily basis. Our school lunches include fresh, homemade options including main meals, jacket potatoes, pasta and sandwiches. We all sit down to eat at HMS – there is no ‘grab and go’! Children can also choose from our new salad bar which is included in the main meal cost. We would encourage your child to try school meals if they haven’t already – they really are delicious! Mrs Satow and her team plan exciting themed menus throughout the year – look out for more information very soon...

Attendance – top 3!

1 – 100%	2 – 99%	3 – 98%
5ZSC, 5EKI, 5MDO, 7EST, 7AMG	6JJO, 8BLA, 7JET	5JNI, 6MBE, 5FHA, 7PGA

Respect. Engage. Aspire Awards

Each week, teachers nominate pupils for awards to celebrate those who have demonstrated our school values and to recognise the brilliant achievements of our pupils. The awards celebrate children who have shown great respect, who have engaged well in all aspects of school life and who have shown high aspiration during lessons and around school.



Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
Isis T-H Damir P Alec W-W Sadie B Iris H	Harry S Cody R Oswald B Jacob A Matty M	Daisy B Teddy D Euan A Zoe G Evie J	Jack M Harry R Eliza F Cameron S Freya B

News from the community

Summer Reading Challenge



The Summer Reading Challenge had a record number of children taking part and Hexham Library would like to see a record number of children completing the challenge. The closing date is Saturday 9th September. It would be great to see lots of medals and certificates awarded to HMS pupils!

Royal Air Force Air Cadets: Open Evening

On Wednesday 13th September (7.30-9.00pm), **Year 8** pupils are invited to attend the Air Cadets recruitment evening. This is a great opportunity for those interested in a new challenge. You can find out more information on 07930386649 or by emailing rory.shearer@rafac.mod.gov.uk.



Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
Friday 8 th September	Year 5 Team Building with Full of Beans	Year 5
Monday 11 th – Friday 15 th September	Baseline assessments and reading fluency sessions	Year 5
Thursday 14 th September	Welcome to Year 5 Evening 5.15pm	Year 5 parents/carers
Thursday 14 th September	Welcome to Year 6 Evening 6.30pm	Year 6 parents/carers
Friday 15 th September	Extra-curricular programme shared	All pupils
Tuesday 19 th September	Welcome to KS3 Evening 6.00pm	Year 7 and 8 parents/carers
Tuesday 19 th September	Year 6 visit to the Discovery Museum	Year 6
Monday 25 th and Tuesday 26 th September	Year 7 Backstage Tours at Queen's Hall – Drama Launch!	Year 7
Thursday 28 th September	Meet the Tutor Evening (in school – information to follow next week)	All pupils

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 Miss Liddle

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).