

Dear Parent/Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 8

Update on school life

As we reach the end of the first half term, it is a great opportunity to reflect on the successes of the past 8 weeks. I am so proud of all of our pupils and their positive engagement in school life and feel particularly proud of our Year 5 children – they have settled into HMS so brilliantly and it is great to see them embracing the opportunities available at middle school. HMS is such a busy and exciting school – it has been fantastic to see the engagement in and out of lessons and with the many enriching experiences on offer. Thank you to all of you for your continued positivity and support – it is appreciated by everyone in school. The PTA discos were a great way to end the half term – it was lovely to see such a high turnout and everyone enjoying themselves – huge thank you to the PTA and the many volunteers who supported the event. I am delighted to welcome Miss Gray to the HMS team. Miss Gray will be teaching food technology across all year groups between now and the end of the summer term. Miss Gray will be commencing practical lessons after the half-term break.

A few 'save the dates' for your festive diaries – our Carol Service at Hexham Abbey will take place on Monday 18th December at 7pm – all welcome. The PTA will be holding our second 'Festive Forest Evening' on Tuesday 5th December at 5.30pm – this is a great event for the whole family to enjoy. If you are able to support at this event, please contact hmsptachair@gmail.com.

After half term, we will be extending our morning break time by 5 minutes. There will be no change to the start of the school day, and we look forward to welcoming pupils back to school on Monday 6th November at 8.40am.

Manchester Experience



On Sunday evening, our group returned from their weekend in Manchester and what a weekend it was! From start to finish, the children engaged brilliantly in every opportunity, and we never stopped! The whole group were a credit to our school and a joy to take away for the weekend.

On Friday, we made our way to Manchester and managed to miss the worst of the weather. Our first stop was Old Trafford - the home of Man Utd - where we enjoyed lunch in the club's Red Cafe. After this, we explored the club's rich history in the museum and enjoyed a workshop with club staff focused on the skills of high-performing teams. We were collected for our full stadium tour and learned more about

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**

the history and achievements of the club as well as going pitch side, in the dugout and into the dressing room - we even got chance to walk down the famous tunnel! After a visit to the club store, we got back on the bus and checked into our hotel for the weekend. After dinner, we made our way to the Trafford Centre for a night of bowling and amusements!

On Saturday, we were up very early for a buffet breakfast before heading off for a coaching session with staff from the Man Utd foundation. After that, it was into the centre of Manchester to visit the National Football Museum. The children explored the museum and enjoyed playing the retro games in the exhibition. After a lovely lunch at Pizza Express, we made our way to the Etihad Stadium. We had a visit to the Man City club store, purchased our hats and scarves, had some photo opportunities at the famous Colin Bell entrance and made our way into our seats. It was a great opportunity to see Man City play Brighton and to see the team win (even the NUFC fans enjoyed it!). The children enjoyed seeing Erling Haaland score!! We spent the evening at Adventure Golf and exploring the Trafford Centre before returning to the hotel! On Sunday, we enjoyed the hotel breakfast (very good!), packed up and made our way to Zip World Manchester for a great course in the high ropes and zip lines. The children absolutely loved this and showed great determination and teamwork! After the rain, the nearby park was very wet which provided an even faster slide - hours of fun! We visited the nearby cafe and animal farm before heading off for lunch. We then made tracks North before arriving back at school with lots of very happy and very sleepy pupils!

Huge thank you to Mr Scott, Mrs Alderson and Mr Drummond for joining the trip - it is hugely appreciated. Thank you to GB Sports for their organisation and the opportunity. Another GREAT experience for our pupils! I am delighted to say we'll be offering this experience next year!

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	23,481	1	Iris H	1	Henry L	1	Henry W	1	Luke G
Coquet	23,437	2	Adina C	2	Emily W	2	Sophie A	2	Lorien V
Tweed	23,516	3	Katie C	3	Robin W	3	Kayden W	3	Sophie S
Wansbeck	22,528	4	Isabelle C	4	Kosan N	4	Clara H	4	Robbie L

100% Attendance Celebration

On Wednesday, we celebrated pupils who have had 100% attendance to date. All pupils who have achieved 100% were placed into a draw and 12 pupils from each year group were chosen at random. They thoroughly enjoyed their unexpected treat of pastries and juice! These reward breakfasts will be held at the end of each half-term this year, so keep that attendance up for your chance to win!



Whole School Author Visit: Peter J Murray on tour!

KS2: Tuesday 14th November

KS3: Wednesday 15th November



'SPOOKY, HEART-THUMPING STUFF' THE OBSERVER

'SERIOUSLY SPOOKY...CRAFTED TO ENGAGE AND INSPIRE' TEACH PRIMARY

We are very excited to announce that Peter J Murray will be visiting HMS after half-term. He is on tour with his latest spine-tingling book 'The Darker Side of Wight'. Peter is a regular visitor to HMS and we can't wait to welcome him back this autumn. Please note that Peter will be bringing copies of his book for purchase for £10 and signing. For this event, it will be cash or cheque only (no advance online purchase; cheques made payable to 'Mokee Jo Promotions' please). Copies of 'A Darker Side of Wight' will be available to borrow from HMS Library.

West Northumberland Food Bank Collection

Our food bank donations were collected this week and West Northumberland Food Bank were very thankful for the support from the HMS community. Thank you for your contributions.



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
Annabelle L Ewan W Alex T Mollie P	Elsie May P Josie A Josh D James T Henry L	Marc B Jyacinth B Paloma P Hayden D Brian T	Lucy H Lorien V Gabriel B Eve W Imogen W

Skills Builder Day – ‘Game On!’

On Monday this week, we had our first whole school Skills Builder Day. The ‘Game On’ day allowed pupils to collaborate in groups within their form class to develop an idea for a new game/sport. It was wonderful to hear the buzz of discussion around school while pupils planned their ideas, the rules and the safety guidance. Creativity and teamwork skills were shining through on the day in every classroom. Based on votes in classes, the winning ideas will be built into an upcoming House Competition.



Attendance – top 3!

1	2	3
5FHA	6FHI	6MBE, 6JJO

Residential Opportunities Overview

We are so proud that we are able to offer such a wide and varied range of great experiences. Understandably, the cost of these opportunities has significantly risen over the past year or so and we are always working as a team to find more varied opportunities with lower costs where possible. Our staff team work exceptionally hard to provide the below events throughout a typical year. We hope this will support all families in planning for the opportunities ahead. As a school, we are fully committed to making all opportunities as inclusive as possible. You can read more about the support we can offer in our ‘Charging Policy’ and we are now able to fund a significant part of the costs for eligible families. You can also access our ‘Pupil Support Fund’ here. We are always happy to discuss more flexible payment plans where they would be helpful.

Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
Ford Castle March Approximate cost: £300	Newby Wiske Hall July Approximate cost: £300	London July Approximate cost: £800	High Borrans May Approximate cost: £400 Manchester October Approximate cost: £400
		Skiing February Approximate cost: £1000	Spain or France June Approximate cost: £800

Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
Monday 6 th – Friday 10 th November	UK Parliament Week – Democracy Focus	All years
Monday 6 th November	School re-opens at 8.40am	All pupils
Monday 6 th November	RE: Sikhism Workshops	Year 7
Tuesday 7 th November	The Museum of the Moon visit (5EKI, 5MDO, 5JNI)	Year 5
Wednesday 8 th November	The Museum of the Moon visit (5ZSC and 5FHA)	Year 5
Thursday 9 th November	Year 6 Parents' Evening (face-to-face)	Year 6
Thursday 9 th November	Cross Country Qualifiers	All years (qualified pupils)
Thursday 9 th November/ Friday 10 th November	RESPECT ENGAGE ASPIRE DAYS Enrichment Event	Thursday AM – Year 8 Thursday PM – Year 5 Friday AM – Year 7 Friday PM – Year 6
Monday 13 th November	Year 6 Football vs Valley Gardens Middle School	Year 6 team
Wednesday 15 th November	KS2 Girls' Football with N U Foundation	KS2
Tuesday 14 th and Wednesday 15 th November	Author visit – Peter J Murray	KS2 Tuesday / KS3 Wednesday
Wednesday 15 th November	Chess Tournament (St Mary's High School)	All years
Thursday 16 th November	Year 6 Parents' Evening (online)	Year 6
Friday 17 th November	Children in Need Fundraising Day	All years
Friday 17 th November	KS3 Hockey Tournament	Year 7 and 8 teams

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).