

Dear Parent/Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 5

Update on school life

I am sorry for the late update today – we have had a great week holding our Open Evening and Open Day. It has been a joy to welcome so many children and parents/carers to our school – what a positive buzz we’ve had around school with so much to see and enjoy!

Year 5 have enjoyed their first session with Dave Burns this week. Dave visits our school on a regular basis throughout the year to deliver important PSHE sessions – the first one focused on anti-bullying. It has been great to see Arlo starting his work in our schools this week. Here’s Jack taking Arlo for a walk around our school. We are looking forward to seeing Arlo around school on a more regular basis.



Our newly appointed School Council will be meeting on Wednesday and will be visited by local town councilors to launch their work for the year ahead. We value pupil voice at HMS and we will be supporting our School Council to create school-based and community-based objectives, including selecting the charities we’ll be aiming to support this year.

House Captains

I am delighted to let you know that our new House Captains were elected last week. It takes real courage to stand up in front of your peers and staff and deliver a speech – a huge well done must go to all of the Year 8 candidates. After a whole school election, this year’s successful candidates were announced to school on Monday. Congratulations everyone!

| ALN | COQUET | TWEED | WANSBECK |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Tom S Emilia S | Anthony C Robert R | Patrick F Martha B | Callum B-S Isla M |

World Mental Health Day

World Mental Health Day will be held on Tuesday 10th October. Over the next few weeks, our assemblies will focus on mental and physical health and wellbeing. As a school, we are raising awareness with ‘Hello Yellow Day’ on Friday 13th October.



Hexham Middle School

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**


Head of School: **Liam Watters**


Children are invited to wear yellow clothing and accessories. It'll be a 'Wear Your Own Clothes Day' so pupils can wear non-uniform even if they have no yellow clothing. If pupils prefer to wear their uniform, that is absolutely fine.

 Try having the conversation whilst doing another activity e.g. the washing up.

 Start the conversation with open-ended questions like "What's on your mind?"

 Actively listen and leave room for them to speak. You don't need to fix all their problems immediately.

 Sometimes it helps to share personal stories or experiences to help put them at ease.

 If they don't want to talk, reassure them that the door is always open when they're ready.

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.

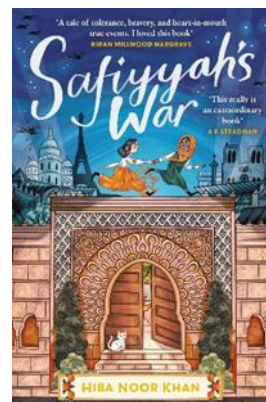


| Year 5 | Year 6 | Year 7 | Year 8 |
|--|---|---|---|
| Bailey-Rose B Catelin D Jessie T Leo B Molly C | Grace M Finn S Ianto T Jamie H Archie G | Hope B Ossie D Florence O Shontelle B Rosie P | Harry C Alex L Winnie L Isla M Sophie W |

KS2 author visit: Safiyyah's War by Hiba Noor Khan



We are very excited that Hiba Noor Khan will be visiting HMS on Tuesday 10th October to present to KS2. If you would like to order a copy of the book for your child, please pay via School Gateway by Wednesday 4th October.



The price is £7.00 (a discount on the RRP of £7.99). Orders and payment will open on Friday 22nd September and close on Wednesday 4th October to allow time for delivery. Please note that cash payments cannot be accepted. Copies will also be available to borrow from HMS Library. A huge thank you to Forum Books, Corbridge, for making this visit possible.

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 | 14,390 | 1 | Edward H | 1 | Artie O'B | 1 | Kayden W | 1 | Christian T |
| Coquet | 14,099 | 2 | Alexander E | 2 | Lewis T | 2 | William M | 2 | Theo H-G |
| Tweed | 14,337 | 3 | Claudia D | 3 | Kirstie A | 3 | Alivia A | 3 | Harry R |
| Wansbeck | 13,657 | 4 | Edward S | 4 | Alfie L | 4 | Ruby P | 4 | Isla R |

BBC 500 Words Competition

This week, Year 5 joined the live launch of the BBC 500 Words short story competition. Year 5 listened to this year's judges including Frank Cottrell-Boyce, Francesca Simon and Charlie Higson who shared tips and answered questions on the writing process. Our very own Miss Richardson is part of the competition judging team this year. The deadline for entries is Friday 10 November. We can't wait to read the brilliant entries from our pupils!



Attendance – top 3!

| | | |
|------|------|------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 5MDO | 7AMG | 6RAL, 6MBE |

Newcastle University: Girls in STEM

We welcomed Newcastle University again this morning to work with our Year 7 girls in a workshop focused on STEM. The session focused on careers in STEM and the power of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in opening up opportunities. It was great to see such positive engagement!

HMS PTA: Reminder

Our AGM will be held on Thursday 12th October at The County Hotel, Hexham – we would love to see lots of parents/carers there. We do need new members and supporters for our PTA as many of our key members are in their final year at HMS. We have such a brilliant team and we are a welcoming group – please come along if you can.



Don't forget about our HMS Lottery. Run by our PTA to raise funds for enrichment activities and equipment such as Forest School, author visits, playground equipment and new library books. Tickets are just £1 each and enrolment is easy. Just follow the link <https://forms.gle/a2gkWhkQJ9YwK6zw9> or email hmsprizedraw@gmail.com for more information.

News from the community

Request for Spook Night volunteers

Bettina Newton from the Hexham Community Partnership has been in touch looking for volunteers to assist with Spook Night. They would particularly welcome support as follows:

- assist for an hour or two on our Event Information table in the Queen's Hall foyer (2pm to 7pm)
- help to steward around the bandstand during the fancy dress competitions and dance displays (4.15-7pm)
- litter pick for an hour or so during the event or towards the end of it (7-10pm)

Please let Bettina know via admin@hexhamcommunity.net if you might be able to help.

Reminders/ Key Dates

| Date | Event | Who |
|------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Monday 9 th October | Manchester Trip – Information Session 6pm | Those attending the trip |
| Tuesday 10 th October | Hiba Noor Khan, Author Visit | Year 5 and 6 |
| Wednesday 11 th October | School Council Meeting (with visiting Town Councillors) | All years |
| Thursday 12 th October | HMS PTA AGM, County Hotel Hexham, 7pm | All parents welcome |
| Friday 13 th October | Hello Yellow Day (non-uniform) | All years |
| Wednesday 18 th October | Michael Morpurgo Storytelling Event – Queen's Hall | Year 5 |
| Monday 23 rd October | Skills Builder Day | Whole school |
| Wednesday 25 th October | PTA Discos | 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 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).