

Dear Parent/Carer

### **HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 9**

#### **Update on school life**

I hope you all had a lovely half term break despite the weather! It has been great to hear so many exciting Halloween, Spook Night and Bonfire Night stories this week. It has been a fantastic week with so much going on to enrich our school curriculum. This week, Year 5 have visited 'The Museum of the Moon', Year 7 had visiting Sikhism workshops focused on their learning in RE, our cross-country team enjoyed huge success in the regional finals and the Christmas music has started with rehearsals for our Carol Service (save the date: Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December at Hexham Abbey).

On Thursday and Friday, we launched our first REA DAYS and what a couple of days we have had. The school has been such a buzz of excitement and engagement and I'll send a full update in next week's letter.

#### **Museum of the Moon Experience**

We were delighted to take our Year 5 pupils to visit Luke Jerram's 'Museum of the Moon' at Hexham Abbey this week. Thank you to Queen's Hall and Hexham Abbey for inviting our pupils to attend an inspirational session with Ian Hall - the founder of The Avenger Scientist.

Our pupils were in awe when they returned to school. The children enjoyed a storytelling journey about The Moon, including information on when and how it was formed and why it orbits Earth. The children were able to explore our relationship with the Moon and how this was changed by the NASA Apollo missions. The pupils were also inspired to learn about the NASA Artemis missions. What a great experience for our Year 5 children! We are looking forward to linking this to our space learning in science lessons soon!



#### **Remembrance Day**

This week's assembly, led by Mr Johnson, has explored the very important theme of Remembrance. We have been focussing on what Remembrance Day is, what takes place and what the poppy represents. The assembly has covered what it means to show **courage** as well as **selflessness** and how people have shown this throughout history. This year is the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 'The Windrush Generation' and the focus of this year's Remembrance assembly was on those of Caribbean descent

#### **Hexham Middle School**

Whetstone Bridge Road, Hexham, Northumberland NE46 3JB

T: 01434 610300 E: [admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk](mailto:admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk)

[www.hexhammiddleschool.co.uk](http://www.hexhammiddleschool.co.uk)

Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

and looking at the history of black people in the services including the RAF and how people have displayed courage and selflessness throughout history, despite facing many social challenges and often racism throughout their lives.

The Head Pupils have been selling poppies and merchandise for The Royal British Legion and the school fell silent at 11am today following a message from Mr Atkins. The Head Pupils will join Mr Watters in the Hexham Remembrance Service on Sunday and will lay our school wreath.

### Library Champions 2023-24: Supporting reading at HMS

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who applied to be an HMS Library Champion. There were a record number of applications: all were thoughtful, expressed a desire to help others and reflected the enthusiasm for reading at HMS. Congratulations to the following pupils who will be Library Champions this year:



KS2		KS3	
Catelin D	Lachlan H	Poppy K	Charlotte K
Edward H	Ida H	Lavinia T	Freya B
Hattie D	Emily W	Noah H	Bella W
Evie R-C	Phoebe B	Bea S	Eve W
Anna F	Emily G	Bess D	Alastair W
Sofia O	Lizzie L	Clara H	
Katie R-B	Georgia O	Sarah N	

Please come to the library at lunchtimes to meet your new Library Champions. They will be ready to help you to find a book or recommend one to read. Please also watch this space for book-related events that they will play key roles in organising over the coming year!

### 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
Henry W	Tyler H	Kuba M	Leo B
Natalia S	Rose K	Joe M	Billy B
Mason M	Summer A	Sam B	Lucy M
Riley B	Daisy H-R	Ivy M	Lewis H
Jack L	Joseph H	Oscar D	Agatha L

## 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	
<b>Aln</b>	26,204	1	Evie L	1	Duncan G	1	Henry W	1	Charlotte K
<b>Coquet</b>	26,071	2	Ross N	2	Daisy HR	2	James V	2	Lilly S
<b>Tweed</b>	26,133	3	Jennifer V	3	James T	3	Ruby P	3	Robbie L
<b>Wansbeck</b>	25,137	4	Thomas G	4	Aurelia K	4	Kayden W	4	Oliver E

## Children in Need Fundraising

We'll be fundraising for BBC Children in Need on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November. We have an exciting day planned including:

- The return of our 'Big Children in Need Fair'
- Bearpees Challenge
- Wear spotty clothes and accessories (or your own clothes!)

To ensure the event is fully inclusive, we have set up an open donation on School Gateway. Our suggested donation is £2 per child - donations can be made from today. If you'd like to donate more, you can. If you don't feel able to donate, that is absolutely fine. All children will enjoy all of the activities on the day. Thank you for your support!



## Cross Country Success



After a fantastic day at the Regional Cross-Country finals yesterday, it was great to receive confirmation earlier this morning that our Junior Boys' Team finished joint 3<sup>rd</sup> and have now qualified for the National Final in Suffolk this December. There was such a team effort yesterday with each member of the team putting in huge effort and determination to succeed - great team spirit from all involved. A special mention and well done to Wilf P who won on the day - a huge achievement once again. We are very proud of the whole team!

### Attendance – top 3!

1	2	3
6YTA, 6FHI	8ETA, 7SFO	7JET, 8BLA

### Reminders: School Uniform

- Our 'HMS Go Green Uniform Recycling' service is always available and we have good stocks. You can request items via our online form or by emailing or calling the main office. We now accept school trousers; winter coats and school shoes so please get in touch with us.
- Our 'Boot Bank' service is always available and you can request items on our online form or by asking your child to speak to the PE team.

### HMS PTA Lottery

Don't forget about our HMS PTA Lottery which is 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: [here](#) or email [hmsprizedraw@gmail.com](mailto:hmsprizedraw@gmail.com) for more information.

### Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	Y6 football vs Valley Gardens	Year 6 team
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Author visit – Peter J Murray	KS2
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Author visit – Peter J Murray	KS3
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	KS2 football with NUF	KS2
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Chess Tournament	Chess Club
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> November	Y6 Parents' Evening (online)	Year 6
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in Need Fundraising Day	All
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> November	Bikeability (Cycling Training)	Year 5
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	Year 6 Height and Weight Checks (NHS)	Year 6

<b>Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November</b>	STEM: Chemistry Workshops	Year 8
<b>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Christmas Lights Switch On	Orchestra playing – all welcome
<b>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December</b>	PTA Festive Forest Evening, 5.30pm – 7.00pm	All welcome

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](mailto:admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk)).