

Dear Parent/Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 10

Sad news

We are very sad to report that Neil Morrison, former Federation Headteacher across QEHS and HMS, passed away on Wednesday morning. It was unexpected and has come as a real shock. As well as being a thoroughly nice person, Neil was an excellent leader of the schools, having previously been deputy headteacher and headteacher of QE. He was also headteacher at Whickham School in Gateshead. Neil maintained a keen interest in Hexham following his retirement in 2014 and continued to be a trustee of Hexham Youth Initiative. Neil is fondly remembered at both our schools and our deepest sympathies go to his wife Julia and their two sons.

Children in Need



Wow - school has been absolutely buzzing today! Classes in KS2 and KS3 paired up to plan a wide range of creative stalls for the return of our 'Big Children in Need Fair'. The children planned each stall brilliantly and it was great to see the whole school working together to raise funds. The fair has been packed during lunchtime with everyone having fun for a great cause. We had spotty biscuits at lunchtime - thank you Mrs Satow and team! The children have been in spotty clothing and odd socks and we've had a 'Bearpees' challenge. All while highlighting the hugely important charities and organisations that BBC Children in Need support. We have so far raised a brilliant £735, and donations can still be made via School Gateway. Thank you to our amazing pupils and staff, and to you for your support!



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UK Parliament Week

To mark UK Parliament Week, we had the pleasure of inviting Lord Hutton of Furness to speak to our Year 5 pupils about his life and work as a Lord. During a 25-minute presentation and Q&A session, Lord Hutton explained how he has a special connection to Hexham Middle School with his children and grandchildren coming to this school.

Our pupils learned about his journey in life in becoming a lord, as well as explaining how Parliament works. Lord Hutton also talked about how the 8 essential skills we learn about in school can be applied to his life and world of work. Lord Hutton explained how certain positive moral traits such as honesty and humility are so important in his

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

work. We are hoping that our Year 5 pupils get the chance to meet Lord Hutton in person if he is able to visit the area soon.

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	28,692	1	Edward H	1	Joshua D	1	Evie A	1	Alastair W
Coquet	28,542	2	Tom G	2	Joseph B	2	Sam P	2	Ferdi U
Tweed	28,507	3	Adina C	3	Bertie T	3	James V	3	Martha B
Wansbeck	27,591	4	Jessica C	4	Ted W	4	Summer T	4	Phoebe T

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
Fern R	Lucas C	Lily B	Evie W
Alfie B	Joanna R	Poppy H	Robbie L
Jessica D	India R	Evie Mae D	Emily B
Iona R	Neve B	Isobel S	Agatha L
Isla Y	Doran K	Alice B	Alfie B

Peter J Murray: 'The Darker Side of Wight' whole-school author visit

A combination of fact, legend and myth, then taken up several notches by the author's own imagination, Peter's latest collection of spooky stories had all HMS pupils on the edge of their seats. He built the suspense to a point where we could actually have heard a pin drop. Spine-tingling, dramatic, humorous at times, and full of Peter's personality, his presentations have inspired us to read his new book and explore other gothic fiction. We can't thank Peter, and his wife Kath, enough for visiting us at HMS and taking us on



a journey to the Isle of Wight (or the Isle of Fright, as Peter puts it). Several copies of the book will be available to borrow from HMS Library – we may have to create a waiting list!

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 75th anniversary of 'The Windrush Generation' and the focus of this year's Remembrance assembly was on those of Caribbean descent 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 were joined by Mr Watters in the Hexham Remembrance Service on Sunday where they laid our school wreath.



Lace Up and Keep It Up!

We would like to give pupils in school the opportunity to swap their normal trainer/boots footwear for PE to rainbow lessons, celebrating 10 years of the Rainbow Lace campaign with Stonewall. Pupils may already have some laces. If not, Stonewall are offering a 15% discount and they can be ordered from their [website](#). This campaign is optional for pupils but it has been endorsed by the PE department. Pupils are able to wear them for lessons in PE only, linking with the movement of 'making sport everybody's game'.

Attendance – top 3!

1	2	3
8-BLA	6-YTA	6-FHI, 6-RAL

Children's Commissioner for England - The Big Ambition

Dame Rachel Da Souza (Children's Commissioner for England) is promoting this year’s [‘The Big Ambition’ survey](#). We would like to bring this to your attention so you can complete this as a parent/carer. You can go through these questions from the perspective of a parent/carer or pupils could complete the questions themselves. We will be promoting this with pupils in school via a notice in an assembly.

News from the community

Hexham Christmas Market – request for volunteers

The Hexham Community Partnership is currently finalising preparations for Hexham Christmas Market, which will take place on Saturday 9th December. The market runs from 9am until 3.30pm but there is a lot to do outside those hours, so they are looking for some volunteers who might be able to help with the following duties:



- Car park stewarding from 6am to 9am
- Providing event information at our event info table in the cloister porch from 9am to 3.30pm
- Car park stewarding from 3pm to 5pm
- Litter picking from 3pm to 5pm

If you think you might be available for an hour or two to help make this popular event run extra smoothly, please let Bettina Newton, Office Administrator for the Hexham Community Partnership, know via admin@hexhamcommunity.net.

Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
Monday 20 th – Friday 24 th November	Bikeability (Cycling Training)	Year 5
Tuesday 21 th November	Mixed football tournament with NU Foundations	KS2
Wednesday 22 th November	Year 6 Height and Weight Checks (NHS)	Year 6
Wednesday 22 th November	STEM: Chemistry Workshops	Year 8
Thursday 23 th November	Ski trip - parent information evening	Ski trip participants
Friday 24 th November 4.15-5pm	Hexham Christmas Lights Switch On – HMS Orchestra playing	All welcome
Thursday 30 th November & Thursday 7 December	Y5 Parents' Evenings	Year 5
Tuesday 5 December 5.30- 7.30pm	PTA Festive Forest Evening	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).