

NEXT WEEK IS TIMETABLE WEEK 1

NEXT WEEK IS MENU WEEK 1



Dear Parent/Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 12

Update on school life

'Tis the season and the festive spirit arrived at HMS today. The decorations are going up and the class wreaths are being displayed on classroom doors. I shared our festive calendar last week – if anyone needs a copy, please let me know – I will also include key dates in my updates throughout December as usual. It's always a joyous month at HMS with so much going on – we also know it can be a challenging time for some pupils and families so please let me know if school can support in any way at all. If you have any questions, please get in touch with us via the admin address and one of the team will get back to you!



I was very proud to hear about the team spirit and positive energy on display at Monday's Sports Hall Athletics event – HMS pupils were a credit to the school. On Tuesday, Dave Burns was back in school delivering a PSHE workshop with Year 6 on staying safe in the community – this was a powerful message as part of our Personal Development Curriculum. It was great to welcome so many Year 5 parents/carers into school for Parents' Evening last night – I hope this was a useful session for you all.

We were blown away by your generosity once again today – thank you for your kind donations towards our upcoming PTA Pop-Up Shops – we received so many gifts which will make the event a success for another year. It's our 'Festive Forest Evening' on Tuesday next week – it's cash and card and no tickets are necessary. It's an event for the whole family to enjoy – we look forward to seeing you at 5.30pm on Tuesday!



Christmas Lights Switch On



We were so proud of our orchestra who performed at this year's Christmas Lights Switch On in Hexham on Friday. Thank you to Hexham Town Council for inviting us once again. The orchestra members worked so hard to rehearse for the evening and sounded magnificent - we are always so proud of them. Despite the very chilly evening, they sounded amazing and helped everyone to mark the start of this year's festive season. Well done, everyone - you were a joy! A huge thank you to Mr Holdsworth for his hard work and support.

Hexham Middle School

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

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
Ruby D Ed S Martha G Tommy G Henry C	Finlay H Ryan S Etta L Arthur G Georgie W	Tyler B Auryn B Finn C Tristan J Lavinia T	Leila E-W David T Hannah C Leila S Livia M

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	34,116	1	James D	1	Dominique H	1	Lily B	1	Theo H G
Coquet	33,971	2	Ruby D	2	Lily A	2	Kayden W	2	Sarah M
Tweed	33,854	3	Adina C	3	Lauchlan H	3	Jakub M	3	Evie W
Wansbeck	32,548	4	Mason M	4	Artie O'B	4	Euan A	4	Lilly S

Tynedale School Games Sports Hall Athletics

We were delighted to host the Tynedale School Games Sports Hall Athletics on Monday morning. It was a delight to see our pupils engaging so brilliantly in all of the events. The HMS team spirit was on show with pupils supporting their peers in all competitions. Well done everyone - we are proud of you!



Arlo update



We just wanted to give you a little update regarding Arlo and the great work he completes with our pupils every week. Arlo comes into school every Tuesday and Thursday and works with lots of different pupils to support them in school. He loves to sit with pupils in Restore helping them to regulate before walking them back into lessons. He is always on hand for pupils who need a bit of time, space and comfort during their busy days. He loves his work and is always so excited to see so many pupils during his day - although I must admit, we've never had a staff member who naps so often on the job!



Chocolate, chat and cards club...

We are so pleased to see such a large number of pupils attend our latest lunchtime club - Chocolate, Chat and Cards. Working alongside Hexham Abbey, our pupils have the opportunity to come out of the cold, enjoy a hot chocolate, play some games and catch up with friends or make new ones. We are delighted to be creating such a lovely community link with Hexham Abbey and really appreciate their time supporting the pupils at HMS and the wider Hexham community.

HMS Christmas Lunch

On Wednesday 13th December, pupils will have the opportunity to enjoy our delicious Christmas Lunch with all the trimmings or a vegetarian/vegan festive alternative. Please ensure £3.50 is pre-paid onto your child's school meals account if they wish to have the Christmas lunch. For those entitled to free school meals, this will be covered by their daily allowance. If your child has a food allergy or special diet and doesn't normally have a school lunch, please contact the school office in advance. If your child does not wish to have the Christmas lunch, they can bring a packed lunch to school as usual.

After school clubs update

We would like to provide an update on arrangements for after school clubs during the final week of this autumn term. We appreciate that the festive period will bring various commitments for lots of people, including our own Christmas Carol Service and various reward trips. We will therefore be **cancelling after-school clubs in the final week** (Monday 18 - Friday 22 December). We will also be communicating this update with pupils in assembly and tutor notices nearer the time.



Attendance – top 3!

1	2	3
5-ZSC	8-IBO	8-BLA

News from the community

- The one-way system in Hexham is to be temporarily lifted from Saturday 2nd December so that traffic arrangements can return to normal during the Christmas trading period. The one-way system will be re-instated by Monday 8th January 2024 to enable the final phase of work to take place, focused on the north side of the street, and this is likely to remain until early Spring 2024. Once the scheme is complete the affected area will return to two-way traffic with no permanent change to highway arrangements.

Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
Monday 4th December	Beamish Visit	Year 5
Monday 4th December	Tynedale Area Cross Country Championships	XC team
Tuesday 5th December	Festive Forest Evening 5.30-7.30pm	All welcome
Wednesday 6th December	Katherine Rundell, Virtual Workshop	Year 5
Wednesday 6th to Friday 8th December	Safety Works Visit (PSHE)	Year 8
Thursday 7th December	Y5 Parents' Evening (online)	Year 5
Monday 11th December	STEM: Chemistry Workshops	Year 7
Monday 11th December	Year 8 Christmas Trip	Year 8
Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 13th December	PTA Christmas Pop-up Shops	All
Wednesday 13th December	HMS Christmas Lunch	All year groups
Thursday 14th December	KS2 Pantomime Visit	KS2

Friday 15th December	Year 7 Christmas Trip	Year 7
Monday 18th December	HMS Carol Service, Hexham Abbey, 7pm	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).