

Dear Parent/Carer

**HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 13**

**PTA Festive Forest Evening**

What a huge success our Festive Forest Evening was last night. Thank you all SO much for your support of this wonderful event. It was great to see so many of you enjoying the evening - the festive atmosphere was a joy to see and hear. The children were loving the wide range of craft activities and visiting the forest school area to keep warm by the fire. It was wonderful to have live festive music from our talented HMS Orchestra - they braved the cold to perform on the night.



None of this would have been possible without the hard work and hours of dedication from our PTA and the many supporters who helped to put the event together. It has taken weeks of work to prepare and it is massively appreciated! It was great to see many new helpers at this event - thank you for giving up your time. Huge thanks must also go to Team HMS who, once again, stayed late to support the event - leading craft activities, making s'mores, supervising the forest school and even working on the tills. A great team effort once again! What a way to start the festive season.... thank you all!

**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
Sofia P George R Ross N Jess D Arthur D	Elsie L Rose K Ben T Emily G Oliver B	Mollie L Jyacinth B Jake D Isaac K	Alex G Alex L Esther A Platon D Olivia M

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

## Year 5 visit Beamish



When it rains, it pours... but nothing stopped HMS from having the most wonderful time at Beamish Museum his week. Year 5 had an excellent day visiting all areas of the museum. A massive thank you to our wonderful pupils who represented HMS exceptionally well. Additionally, a big thank you goes to all the staff who supported the children to have *“one of the best days and the best trips ever”*, despite the very chilly conditions!



All pupils had the chance to visit the 1940s farm to see the very adorable piglets and the sleepest pigs and the 1900s town, with most taking an interest in the Jubilee Sweet Shop and the bakery! We were also able to explore the bank and the hall. The children also visited the 1820s landscape and finally the pit village and colliery. Pupils were able to take part in the James White investigation, using their speaking and listening skills to interview a range of people in the local village. Pupils independently explored the 1900s pit village, checking out the local school, the village church, and the miners’ houses. What a fun, jam-packed day we had!

## 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>	36,281	1	Catelin D	1	Lilly RB	1	Evie A	1	Ferdi U
<b>Coquet</b>	36,214	2	Adina C	2	Ted W	2	Beatrice S	2	Freya B
<b>Tweed</b>	35,975	3	Edward H	3	Dominique H	3	Marc B	3	Archie B
<b>Wansbeck</b>	34,561	4	Jack B	4	Betty F	4	Cory S	4	Sophie S

## Attendance – top 3!

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>8-ETA</b>	<b>5-JNI</b>	<b>5-EKI</b>

**Pupil Success**

We continue to be SO proud of Alex. In a recent event, Alex narrowly missed out on first place on the first day before winning the second day and winning the autumn cup! Alex was handed three trophies over the weekend and entry to a championship next year! Alex continues to go from strength-to-strength and we can't wait to see him competing at a national and international level next year. Well done, Alex - this is a phenomenal achievement!

Kirstie recently competed in the Scottish Cyclocross Championships in a stunning setting. Despite the very frosty winter's morning, Kirstie finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the under 12 category from a large field of riders. We were delighted to hear how successful Kirstie had been at this event. Everyone at HMS is very proud of you! Well done on a fantastic achievement - your hard work, effort and commitment continue to bring success!



Please continue to send us this great news - we know how engaged our pupils are in events, activities, and interests outside of school. We love to hear about their achievements!

**Katherine Rundell webinar: impossibly good!**

*'There was Tolkien, there is Pullman, and now there is Katherine Rundell'* Michael Morpurgo

Navigating the Amazon, learning to tight rope walk, becoming a trapeze artist, and meeting wolves, Katherine Rundell is undoubtedly thorough in her research when writing her stories. She presented live and online to schools across the country, captivating us all with her wit, enthusiasm and fierce imagination.



We were delighted that the first part of her presentation focused on her book that Y5 have been studying this term, 'The Explorer'. She described how she takes a real-life situation or incident, 'twists and enlarges' it and then includes it in her fiction. She went on to focus on her latest book, 'Impossible Creatures' which is possibly her best yet. HMS Library has a copy (already on loan but more are on their way) and copies of her other books are available to borrow. Many thanks to Waterstone's Bookshop for inviting HMS to this event.

**Reminders**

Forest School	After School Clubs Collection
<p>If your child has a Forest School session, please can you try to make sure that they come suitably dressed for the cold weather. Pupils should have legs and arms covered, a waterproof coat, a change of shoes, a hat, and some gloves. We will be out in all weathers, even if it's very cold, snowy or raining.</p>	<p>Please can we remind parents/carers come to the bottom of the front steps or to the HMS door when picking children up from after-school clubs. When it is very dark, pupils are unable to recognise the cars and may not know you are waiting. Thank you for your support.</p>



### Congratulations

Huge congratulations to Miss Tauk who was able to enjoy her graduation ceremony this week alongside her family. We hope you had a fabulous day!

### Thank you, Tesco!

A huge thank you to Amanda at Tesco in Hexham for her generous support of our PTA. Tesco donated hundreds of buns and hot dogs for our Festive Forest Evening. It is great to have such brilliant support available in our local community and everyone at HMS really appreciates it! Thank you again!



### Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	STEM: chemistry workshops	Year 7
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 8 Christmas Trip: Centre for Life	Year 8
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	PTA Christmas Pop-Up Shop ( <i>gifts are priced at £2 each</i> )	All welcome
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	U14 Girls' Rugby Competition	KS3 girls' team
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	HMS Christmas Lunch	All year groups
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	PTA Christmas Pop-Up Shop ( <i>gifts are priced at £2 each</i> )	All welcome
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	KS2 Christmas Trip: Pantomime	Year 5 and Year 6
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 7 Christmas Trip	Year 7
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Carol Service Rehearsals	All pupils who are involved
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	<a href="#">HMS Carol Service at Hexham Abbey</a>	All welcome
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	End of Term Celebration Assemblies	All year groups
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Christingle Services Christmas Jumper Day	All year groups
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	School closes at 1.30pm (lunch will be provided) Non-uniform or Christmas Jumpers Welcome!	All year groups

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)).