

Dear Parent/Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 21

Update on school life

This week, Year 6 have had their assessment week. We have been so proud of their positive approach and attitude all week – they have all been stars! The week aims to mirror the real assessment week in May so that our pupils feel prepared with the timings, rooms and logistics. The rest of the school have supported Year 6 with a slightly altered timetable this week and we appreciate everyone’s support in allowing our Year 6 pupils to shine! Year 6 enjoyed an ice lolly treat from Miss Liddle yesterday afternoon to end the week!

Co-crew workshops

As part of our 'Stay Safe and Well Curriculum', all year 5 pupils took part in interactive workshops to learn about the dangers of carbon monoxide and how to stay safe. We used drama skills to explore the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning and learn about how to protect ourselves and our homes. Pupils can enter a competition to spread the word about carbon monoxide safety. Visit www.thecocrew.co.uk/competition



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. **Pupils in COQUET were our House Champions this half term and enjoyed an extra hour of break time yesterday afternoon.**

House Totals		Top 4 ‘P Points’ in each year							
		Year 5		Year 6		Year 7		Year 8	
Aln	54,517	1	Adina C	1	Duncan G	1	Beatrice S	1	Jenson C
Coquet	54,750	2	Alexis L	2	Katie R-B	2	Jessica P	2	Phoebe T
Tweed	53,406	3	Jennifer V	3	Wilfy D	3	Ben F	3	Winnie L
Wansbeck	51,661	4	Frank K	4	James C	4	Edward C	4	Oliver H

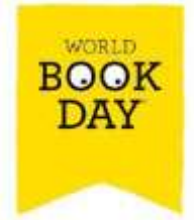
Hexham Middle School

Whetstone Bridge Road, Hexham, Northumberland NE46 3JB
 T: 01434 610300 E: admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk
www.hexhammiddleschool.co.uk

Executive Headteacher: Graeme Atkins
 Head of School: Liam Watters

World Book Day – 7th March

Last week, we shared our plans for World Book Day this year and we can't wait! There is so much excitement for the day and we hope there is something for everyone to get involved with and enjoy!



The 'Book Swap' will return to our library following the success of last year's events. If pupils would like to, they can bring in a book that they have finished reading and think others would enjoy. Pupils can bring their book to HMS library on Wednesday 28th February at lunch time and swap if for a new one.

Hockey Success

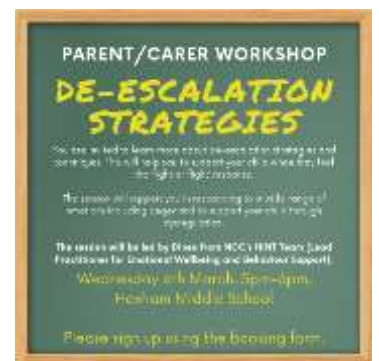
The hockey team had a great afternoon and the boys were a real credit to the school against strong opposition. Zach, playing in goal for the first time was amazing, saving some really strongly hit shots, some high shots with his hands and some quick reaction saves.

They started off with a draw against Dame Allan's. The boys played with high energy - Cory, James and Finn worked well together and were an attacking threat. Tom ran miles as central midfield; Sam, Peter and Oliver shared the defensive duties between them. They never let their heads drop and worked extremely hard. We had a smaller squad than the other schools - RGS, Yarm and Kings Tynemouth so tired towards the end of the afternoon but kept going. Maggie was a very proud coach.



Parent/Carer Workshop Invite

Over the course of the year, we will be holding parent/carers workshops covering a wide range of interesting topics and providing an opportunity for parents/carers to meet together in school. Mr Scott has arranged our next session which will focus on **de-escalation strategies on Wednesday 6th March, 5-6pm at HMS**. The session will give you practical strategies and techniques to support when your child may be dysregulated or feeling angry, frustrated or overwhelmed. We are delighted to confirm that Dineo, who is Lead Practitioner for Emotional Wellbeing and Behaviour Support in Northumberland, will be coming along to lead the session. We will also be joined by the Be You Mental Health Team who will be available for Q&A. [Please sign up here.](#)



Festival of Languages

Friday 1st March 2024 sees the return of the annual 'Express Yourself: North East Festival of Languages'. The festival is a celebration of the diverse languages, cultures and communities in the region and our connections with the world. There are lots of free events, activities and resources introducing new and creative ways to learn, speak and teach languages. Why not get your household involved? Please visit <https://expressyourselfne.com/> for more information. See the attached summary document which shows how pupils are able to get involved in school. There are also some suggested family activities that you could try out. We have been fortunate to secure places at both a Futbol Lingo event (selected pupils only) and Welcome to China event (All KS3 pupils are able to express an interest in attending).

HMS PTA Lottery Winners

Congratulations to this month's winners of the HMS PTA Lottery. They are Genevieve Crosby and Sarah Spears, winning £25 and £15 respectively. If you aren't familiar with the Lottery, it is an easy, low cost way to support the PTA's fundraising efforts for our pupils. Tickets are just £1 per month. Sign up and payment can all be done online. If you would like to sign up or find out more information follow this [link](#) or email hmsprizedraw@gmail.com.

Attendance – top 3!

1	2	3
6-JJO, 5-JNI, 6-MBE, 8-ETA, 6-FHI	5-MDO, 7-AMG	8-BLA, 7-JET, 6-RAL,

Online Safety Updates

Snapchat - New Parental Controls

In April 2023 Snapchat introduced My AI, essentially a chatbot. There was no choice, it was an embedded feature, and whilst many users are reporting a positive or mixed experience there have been some significant concerns over the advice being given to younger users (see [HERE](#) and [HERE](#) for examples). Last week Snapchat expanded their Family Centre tools which, amongst other features, allows parents to restrict the ability for My AI to respond to chats. Further details of these new features can be found [HERE](#) and the full list of teen protection features can be found [HERE](#).

News from the community

- [DISH](#) is back this half term at Hexham Trinity Methodist Church providing free lunches for families in Hexham – thank you so much to everyone at Trinity for this great offer.
- Stardust and Stories at Hexham Library this half term – events include Dark Skies Family Crafts and Lego Programming – information is on our Facebook and website.

Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
Monday 26 th February	Bikeability (all week)	Year 5 (group)
Monday 26 th February	Aspire Week - Exploring Careers	Year 5
Tuesday 27 th February	Aspire Week - Moving Up	Year 6
Tuesday 27 th February	NCC Youth Election Day - postal votes	Year 7 & 8
Wednesday 28 th February	NCC Youth Election Day - postal votes & ballot station open	Year 7 & 8
Wednesday 28 th February	Cyber First Girls Competition	Year 7 & 8 (group)
Thursday 29 th February	Aspire Week - LEGO Engineering	Year 7
Thursday 29 th February	Aspire Week - Step into the NHS	Year 8
Thursday 29 th February	U13 Boys' Rugby 7s Tournament at Northern RFC	Year 8 (selection)
Friday 1 st March	Aspire Week – Step into the NHS	Year 8
Friday 1 st March	U12 Boys' Rugby 7s Tournament at Northern RFC	Year 7 (selection)
Friday 1 st March	U13 Girls' football fixture vs Corbridge MS	Year 8 (selection)
Monday 4 th March – Wednesday 6 th March	Ford Castle Residential	Year 5
Tuesday 5 th March	Mothers and Others Pop Up Shop	All year groups
Wednesday 6 th March	Aladdin, Sunderland Empire	Year 6 (50 pupils)
Wednesday 6 th March	Parent/Carer Workshop – De-escalation Strategies, 5-6pm, HMS Fellside Hall	All welcome
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day	All year groups
Friday 8 th March	Mothers and Others Pop Up Shop	All year groups

Have a fantastic half term break 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 Morgan 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).