

1 March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 22

Update on school life

Welcome back to a new – very short – half term everyone – I hope you all enjoyed the break. It has been lovely to welcome pupils back to school – we have such a busy few weeks ahead across all year groups. It has been ‘Aspire Week’ across school with a focus on careers and futures. We have also had our second Bikeability course of the year which Year 5 have enjoyed. On Monday, our Year 5 children depart to Ford Castle for their adventure residential – we know they will have a wonderful time away and can’t wait to see the photographs – we will try to keep you all updated during their time away.

This week, KS3 had the opportunity to experience democracy in action as they cast their votes in the NCC Youth Cabinet Elections. A huge well done must go to Alastair W from our Head Pupil team who helped to coordinate the election. We were all very proud to see an ex-HMS pupil on the ballot paper and look forward to seeing the results.



Looking ahead to next week...

- [Spring Games](#) – in PE lessons, pupils will commence their Spring Games House competition next week – they will be earning points for their house group – good luck everyone!
- [Mothers and Others Pop Up Shops](#) – now happening next Thursday and Friday lunchtimes in the hall – gifts will be £2 each. Huge thank you for the donations!
- [World Book Day](#) – our exciting activity schedule has been sent home – pupils will get a paper copy on Monday morning. Please encourage pupils to get involved and enter the competitions – we can’t wait to see the ‘Book Bake Off’ entries!
- Aladdin at Sunderland Empire – a group of year 6 pupils will head to Sunderland to watch the Aladdin West End show on Wednesday. Pupils must be collected from school by an adult at 6pm.

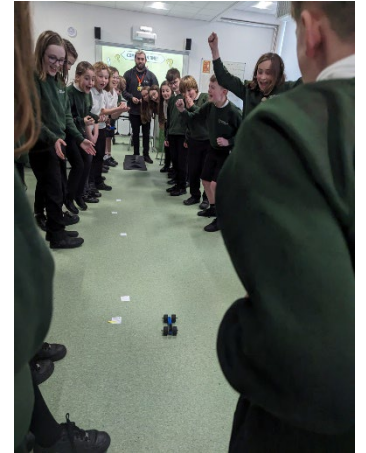
Staffing update

You may have noticed that we have advertised for a Head of Key Stage 2 to join our team. Miss Liddle will be leaving HMS at the end of the school year and moving to an exciting new teaching role in London. We will be very sorry to see Miss Liddle leave us but wish her well for the future and her new adventure. Mrs Tanner will also be leaving HMS at the end of this term (Easter holidays). Mrs Tanner is moving on to an exciting new job opportunity. We will say proper farewells and ‘good lucks’ towards the end of term but we are delighted for both colleagues. I will keep you updated with staffing news in due course.

Aspire Week

As part of our careers education and raising aspiration programme, we have had a series of workshops in school this week. Pupils have engaged brilliantly across the week. Huge thanks to the North East Raising Aspirations Partnership for their sessions and for spending time at HMS this week. Pupils have focused on our key skill - 'Aiming High'! Well done everyone!

Thank you to the North East Raising Aspiration Partnership who have led some of our workshops this week. Our Year 5 and 6 have all had a great opportunity to explore careers and what life could be like in further education including university. Our Year 7 pupils took part in an engaging lego-engineering STEM workshop, developing lots of Skills Builder Skills. The overall winners were The Duck Brigade from 7PGA!



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
Talia C Lucy G Alex T Eva M Aidan M	Matty M Niamh K Tobias S Luke B Emily G	Auryn B Bess D Bobby E Ruby P	Noah A Evie T Oliver H Phoebe T Tom T

Cyber Security Finals



This week, we took four pupils to the Regional Technology Centre (RTC) North in Sunderland for the Cyber First Girls' Regional Competition. The day was a fantastic opportunity for the team who made it through to the regional final. The girls competed in a carousel of activities focusing on cyber security, coding and programming. This meaningful experience gave our pupils a great opportunity to connect with the world of work and real-life employers. There was also a key note speaker sharing her entrepreneurial skills, reiterating the need for determination, resilience and a positive mindset. Well done to our girls who represented HMS so brilliantly!

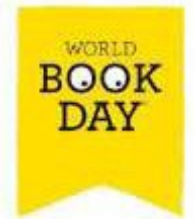
House Point Totals

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	56,761	1	Edward H	1	Mia R	1	Marc B	1	Abigail B
Coquet	57,081	2	Lauren D	2	Harry S	2	Clara H	2	Freddie Y
Tweed	55,544	3	Adina C	3	Charlie P	3	Summer T	3	Evie T
Wansbeck	53,688	4	Lucy G	4	Leon B	4	Sarah A	4	Jack M

World Book Day – 7th March

Next Thursday, HMS will celebrate World Book Day – you can see the programme of activities attached to today's email. Please try to share this at home.



To coincide with World Book Day, we will be welcoming the Scholastic Book Fair to HMS next week. The Fair will be held in HMS Library at lunchtime on Tuesday 5th, Wednesday 6th and Thursday 7th March. For an idea of the prices and sorts of books that will be available to buy, please follow the links here. **Cash payments only please**. Some books are likely to be very popular - please be understanding if they sell out!

All pupils will receive a World Book Day token in school on Thursday 7th March. This will enable pupils to receive either £1 off a book of their choice at the Fair or they can use it at participating bookshops. A limited supply of tokens will be available on Tuesday 5th and Wednesday 6th at the Fair.

British Science Week

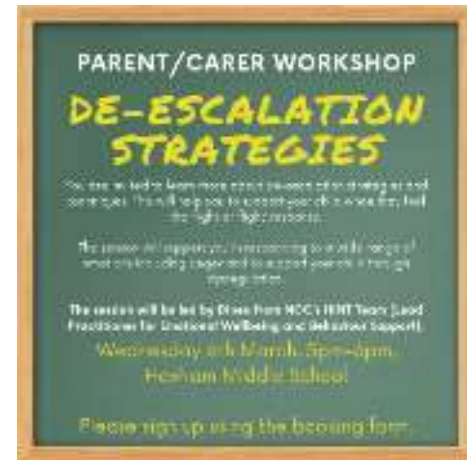
HMS pupils will celebrate British Science Week from Monday the 11th of March. The theme this year is time. As part of our celebrations, pupils will be working in science lessons to design and build a balloon car racer. Please could you support us by collecting the following items and sending them into school with your child before the 11th of March: **plastic bottles and plastic bottle tops, card packaging such as cereal boxes**. Thanks in advance for your support.

Call for Cereal Boxes - Design Technology Project

If you have any spare cereal boxes, these will be most helpful for our Year 6 pupils to model their playground models. If you are a parent of year 6, please get them to bring in boxes where possible. Any additional boxes would be useful so that all pupils can model. This material is extremely useful and easier to use with craft knives.

Parent/Carer Workshop

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.](#)



Attendance – top 3!

1	2	3
6-FHI	7-PGA	6-MBE

Online Safety

Interactive Stories

Internet Matters have put together some great interactive stories/lessons covering a range of issues from self-image and identity, online bullying, relationships and more. The interactive stories can be used in the classroom and would also be really useful for parents to go through with their children.

More information can be found [HERE](#)

News from the community

- Northumberland Police - County Lines Information – attached to today's email.
- [Autism family drop-in sessions – information attached and on our website.](#)

Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
w/c Monday 11 th March	HMS Spring Games	Year 6, 7 and 8
Monday 4 th March – Wednesday 6 th March	Ford Castle Residential	Year 5
Tuesday 5 th March	Year 8 – Transition and Future Studies Assembly	Year 8
Wednesday 6 th March	Skills Builder Careers Workshop	Year 8
Wednesday 6 th March	Aladdin, Sunderland Empire	Year 6 (50 pupils)

Wednesday 6th March	Parent/Carer Workshop – De-escalation Strategies, 5-6pm, HMS Fellside Hall	All welcome
Wednesday 6th March	Y8 – Girls’ football fixture vs Highfield (H)	Year 8 (selection)
Thursday 7th March	World Book Day	All year groups
Thursday 7th March	Mothers and Others Pop Up Shop	All year groups
Friday 8th March	Mothers and Others Pop Up Shop	All year groups
w/c Monday 11th March	British Science Week	All year groups
Tuesday 19 March	Year 7 Parents’ Evening (re-scheduled)	Year 7

Have a great weekend!

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).