

Dear Parent/Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 31

Well done, Year 6!

We are all so proud of our Year 6 pupils for their amazing efforts during the assessments this week. They have all worked extremely hard, tried their best every single day and shown an outstandingly positive approach throughout the week. We couldn't be prouder of them! The pupils and staff have had a very well-deserved treat day today - they've just enjoyed a visit from Tyne Valley Ices - happy smiley faces all round!

Huge thank you to the pupils for their excellent efforts, the parents/carers for your ongoing support, and, of course, the amazing team at HMS who have made the whole experience a positive one for our Year 6 pupils. Well done everyone!



The HMS Way 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. Well done – we are very proud of you!



Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
Ted P Charlie A Owen F Phaedra H-F Heorhii Maslikhin	All of Year 6 for their phenomenal efforts in SATs week – well done everyone!	Robin W Callie T Ted W Etta L Oliver D	Lyra R Joe M Noah W Magnus C James V

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**

House Winner

This half term's winning House is Wansbeck with the most P-points awarded. Wansbeck House can wear non-uniform on Friday 23rd May if they would like to – well done everyone!

Bikes and scooters

It's great to see many pupils using bikes and scooters to get to and from school. However, we are noticing a number of pupils don't have helmets with them despite several reminders. Please ensure your child has a helmet and wears it (some are often in bags!). If helmets aren't worn, pupils should not bring their bike or scooter with them to the school site.



There have also been reports about dangerous usage in the streets around school - going too fast and weaving in and out of busy roads/traffic. If we see specific examples, we will contact parents/carers. Please have a general discussion at home about your safety expectations and we will continue to do the same in school. Thank you for your support.

House Point Totals

Each week, we celebrate our P Point (positive point) total across the school. We include the 'Top 4' pupils in each year group, as well as the house totals for Aln, Coquet, Wansbeck and Tweed. Well done everyone for such a positive start to term this week.

House Totals		Top 4 'P Points' in each year							
		Year 5		Year 6		Year 7		Year 8	
Aln	60,772	1	Alba B	1	Jessica De	1	Joseph S	1	Sarah N
Coquet	61,558	2	Madeline M	2	Aoife B	2	Joseph D	2	Sophie A
Tweed	62,239	3	Sophie W	3	Sophia R	3	Rose K	3	Callum J
Wansbeck	62,133	4	Libby C	4	India S	4	Lily H	4	Joe M

Scholastic Book Fair: Tuesday 20th – Thursday 22nd May

We will be welcoming the Pop-Up Scholastic Book Fair to HMS before we break up for half-term. This will be held in HMS Library at lunchtimes on Tuesday 20th, Wednesday 21st and Thursday 22nd May. Our fantastic Library Champions will be helping to run the event. **Cash payments only please. Thank you!** For an idea of the prices and sorts of books that will be available to buy, please follow the links [here](#) and [here](#).



Attendance – top 3!

Attendance was very good this week with 95% of pupils being in school. However, our school target is **97%**. It's so important that pupils and parents have a positive attitude towards school attendance – pupils should be in school every day, ready to learn and to make the most of their school opportunities.

1st form class 99%	2nd form class 98%	3rd form class 96%
6-FHI, 6-MBE	6-RAL, 5-FHA, 5-ZSC	6-JJO, 6-YTA



Tomato Plant Challenge!

Year 5 pupils have been set the challenge to grow a tomato plant. Pupils learn about plant life cycles in science, and what a great way to bring that learning to life - a fantastic sustainable approach to life and learning. Each tutor group has been given a plant (donated from one of Mr Freeman-Myers' neighbours), a cane, a pot and some peat-free compost. The challenge is for each group to grow a vibrant plant with lots of juicy fruit which pupils can taste. Pupils will have to ensure their tomato plant receives enough nutrients to help it grow. We look forward to showing some photographic updates as we go through the term. Best of luck to our green-fingered Year 5 pupils!

Sports News

Cricket opportunity

Is your child in Year 5 or Year 6, and has an interest in playing cricket? On **Tuesday 3rd June**, we have an opportunity to take a group of boys and girls cricketers to Stocksfield Cricket Club for a day of cricket. There will be two separate events running to cater for all abilities, and they are:

1. An inter-school competition running for those who have experience of playing cricket, and they will compete for HMS.
2. A 'development festival' for pupils who maybe want to try cricket for the first time, or to develop their skills.

The development festival is aimed at anybody who wants to enjoy playing cricket and developing their skills (but not ready for competition) alongside other schools and excellent coaches. **If your child is interested, they should pass their names to their form tutor who will pass on to Mr Cameron in the PE department.**



Congratulations!

Congratulations to Hexham Santos U13 who won The West Divisional Cup against Prudhoe Youth Club FC last night. The team won 7-0 in a fantastic display of team spirit! It was an outstanding effort from each and every one of the boys on the team and we are very proud that 8 of our Year 8 pupils were part of the team. Huge well done to Auryn, Benson, Brodie, Isaac, Kuba, Owen, Ossie and Kyle!

Rugby News

Another successful day down at Kingston Park for round 2 of the Inspiredby9s Rugby League Festival. The girls were able to field a total of 18 players making up two teams across years 7 & 8 which was fantastic. They were strong once again, with both teams winning and managing to play some friendlies amongst themselves. It looks promising for these girls who should advance to the next round of the competition - watch this space!



The Year 8 boys enjoyed two wins, a draw and a narrow defeat in their efforts, rounding off what has been an excellent couple of years playing rugby (both league and union), showing superb development along the way. The year 7 boys won two of their games, and drew the third against a strong Park View team. We think both boys' teams came 2nd in their competitions, but results are TBC! Well done to all. It was fantastic to take away 44 players today competing and enjoying rugby with great spirit and representing our school in an excellent way!

Tennis

Well done to our Y7 and 8 boys' tennis team – Kayden W, Joseph D, Ben N and Ivor T who won their match against St. Cuthbert's on Thursday. The players won all of their singles and the doubles to complete HMS's first tennis victory for a few years! Well done everyone!

HMS PTA – next meeting Tuesday 3rd June 5.30pm – all welcome!

Summer Fair 2025 – support needed!

We really value the support from our whole school community. Please have a read about how you can help below:

- **Raffle** - we would really appreciate any donations of raffle prizes. If you or someone you know may be able to make a donation, please could you get in touch with us via hmsptachair@gmail.com.
- **Tombola** - we would also really appreciate donations of tombola prizes. Donations can be sent into school at any time and we'll have a non-uniform event in due course to generate donations if you feel able to support.
- **Cakes/bakes** - if you are able to bake some cakes and sweet treats for us to sell on the day, we'd really appreciate that. Cakes can be dropped off on the Saturday morning.
- **[Support on the day](#)** - we can't run our events without our amazing volunteers - if you can help out on the day, please sign up using the below form. New volunteers more than welcome 😊



<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F084FAAAC28A6F85-56756474-summer>

Online Safety Update

For Parents - How to Report Online Harm

There are so many apps with different reporting functions, organisations, helplines and more it can be really frustrating for parents to get help. Internet Matters have a really useful page which details some of these organisations and what they can do, how to report specific issues, how to report on many of the social platforms and games and where to go for more help. You can see all the details [HERE](#). (by Alan McKenzie, online safety advisor)

Free School Meals

Free School Meals

You can find the eligibility criteria for free school meals here. If you think your child may be eligible, please make an application to the local authority who review your request. You can find out more [here](#).

Plant Initiative



We would like to revisit an indoor plant drive at HMS to help support mental and physical health, putting at least one plant in each classroom as well as communal spaces. Although we are blessed at HMS with some wonderful landscape views, putting some plants indoors can have additional health benefits. Of particular note, Spider plants, English Ivy, Snake plants, Lucky Bamboo, Peace lilies, Aloe Vera and Parlour Palms and pothos are all shown to add benefits.

If you have any pre-loved plants that you would like to donate, we would like to give them a new home at school. Alternatively, you can make a donation to our new plant initiative fund, accessible via your MCAS app. If you have any plant pots and/or saucers we will also gladly receive these.

Pupils in tutor groups will also be able to become Plant Monitors for plants in their room to help ensure these are cared for. We would also like to extend the challenge of pupils caring for a plant at home in their bedroom. The plants already mentioned can improve sleep quality. We look forward to pupils sharing images of their own plants in due course. Many thanks.

Upcoming Dates

Date	Event	Who
Saturday 17 May	Uniform Pop-Up Shop, 9.30-12.30 (QEHS Winter Gardens)	All welcome
Monday 19 May	Cuppa and a Catch-Up, 9.30am – Mr Watters/Mr Stephenson	All welcome
Monday 19 May	Ben's Charity Cake Sale, morning break (cash only)	All welcome

Monday 19 May	<u>KS2 Music Showcase – 6pm</u>	All welcome
Tuesday 20 May – Thursday 22 May	Scholastic Book Fair – lunchtime (cash only)	All welcome
Tuesday 20 May	Year 5 and Year 8 - Year Group Photographs	Year 5 and Year 8
Tuesday 20 May	Year 4 SEND Welcome Evening	New Year 4 parents/children
Wednesday 21 May	Year 6 Ozbit Careers Visit	Small group
Wednesday 21 May	HMS Council Meeting	Council Reps
Thursday 22 May	Year 8 PSHE Workshops – CSE and Healthy Relationships	Year 8
Friday 23 May	Head of School Award Breakfast	Winning pupils
Friday 23 May	House Prize – non-uniform day	Winning House
Friday 23 May	School closes at 3.20pm	All year groups
Monday 2 June	School re-opens at 8.40am	All year groups
Monday 2 June	HMS Talent Show	All welcome
Saturday 21 June	HMS PTA Summer Fair, 12-3pm	All welcome

Have a great weekend!

Mr Watters

Head of School

Pupil Support and Safeguarding

Designated Safeguarding Leader: Mr Stephenson

Deputy Safeguarding Leaders: Mr Scott and Mr Rutherford-Orrock

Heads of Key Stage: Mr Scott and Mr Rutherford-Orrock

SENDCo/Assistant SENDCo: Mr Morgan and Mrs Ballantyne

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).