

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 24

Lego League Success

Our Lego League Teams (Piggy Power and Cave Challengers) took part in the Northumberland and North Tyneside First Lego League regional finals this week. The pupils represented our school brilliantly and demonstrated lots of the First Lego League values.

Piggy Power, who were using the Spike Prime robot, were commended for their robot design - the team won a trophy which is now proudly displayed in our trophy cabinet. The Cave Challengers performed brilliantly in their robot games with a top score of 185 points, coming overall second in the regional heat final. A huge thank you to Mr Nicholson for his relentless enthusiasm - he is a tremendous and invaluable coach for our teams. Well done everyone - we are very proud!



Year 6 Rising Stars



Mr Scott launched our 'Rising Stars' assembly series this week. As part of our special themed assemblies for Year 6 pupils, teachers nominate their 'Rising Stars' and share why each pupil has been recognised. The awards celebrate pupils who have shown a great attitude to learning, aim high, contribute positively to lessons and take real pride in their learning and achievement. Here are our first winners for this term - what a fantastic group of very hard-working and positive Year 6 children!

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 overall house totals for Aln, Coquet, Wansbeck and Tweed.

House Totals		Top 4 'P Points' in each year							
		Year 5		Year 6		Year 7		Year 8	
Aln	53,899	1	Lucy T	1	Heidi B	1	Will M	1	Etta L
Coquet	54,314	2	Beth D	2	Scarlet S	2	Charlie M	2	Artie O'B
Tweed	53,478	3	Lillian R-G	3	Alfie S	3	Arthur C	3	Monty C
Wansbeck	53,580	4	George W	4	Jake C	4	Romi F	4	Freddie H

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

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.



Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
Matei T	Felix H	Martha G	Jamie H
Colette M	Finn R	Sophia R	Freddie H
George N	Ella W	Noah R	Sam L
Hunter M	Grace F	William G	George F
Theo S	Ruby P	Arthur D	Ben N

Staffing update

Mrs Wade has now started her maternity leave. I am very pleased to say that we have appointed Mrs Suzanne Davison to join the HMS team - she is currently an English teacher at QEHS. Mrs Davison will join us from May half term.

- Until Mrs Davison joins us, Mrs Wade's KS3 classes will be taught by Mrs Whitmore (supply teacher) and Mrs George.
- Mrs Wade's Year 5 class will be taught by Mr Rutherford-Orrock. Her Year 6 class will join our other Year 6 classes and be taught one of the Year 6 team (parents have been contacted about this change).

Miss Richardson will be leading KS3 English while Mrs Wade is away from school. Mrs Ingledew will be the key contact for KS2 English during this time. We wish Mrs Wade and her family good luck and best wishes as they await the newest arrival to their family.

Personal Development News

Red Nose Day 2026 - Friday 20 March

We are delighted to be supporting Red Nose Day this year. To raise funds, pupils can enjoy:

- Soak the Teacher
- Teacher Challenges - always a great laugh!
- Penalty Shootout
- Other competitions



Pupils can wear their PE kit and red accessories on the day. Donations are welcome via MCAS - it's a cashless day so please try to donate online if you can.

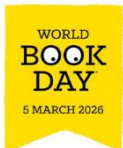
Library News

Year 6 Author Visit: Sam Sedgman

One author, one hall, one very fortunate Year 6! We were very lucky indeed to host an amazing author visit from Sam Sedgman this week. Sam presented 'Galileo Heist', the third in his 'Clockwork Conspiracy' action series featuring inspiring inventor Isaac Turner. Sam is inspired by all things scientific and mathematical. His writing combines this with mystery, adventure and discovery - perfect for celebrating STEM week and encouraging reading for pleasure. He gave us a high-energy masterclass in the pendulum effect, solar eclipses, gravity and resistance, mapping the world plus Renaissance Italy and art. Many Year 6 pupils said they loved the visit and cannot wait to read the books. Copies are now available to borrow from HMS Library (there may be a waiting list!). Heartfelt thanks to all at Forum Books in Corbridge and Sam's publishers for bringing him to us.



World Book Day Competition Winners



Thank you to all pupils and staff for making World Book Day such a success. The engagement was outstanding, whether it was reading, book reviewing, drawing, baking, quizzing or dressing up. Well done, everyone! Special mention also for Claudia D (Year 7) and Isla C (Year 5) for the Review-athon! Congratulations to the overall winners in each year group for The Great Book Bake-Off and Costumes as follows:

World Book Day Bake-off Winners

Year 5: Eden O
Year 6: Archie H
Year 7 joint winners: Dylan W and Jonathan F
Year 8: Elsie-May P

World Book Day Costume Winners

Year 5: Artie J
Year 6 joint winners: Ava N and Emily C
Year 7: Sadie B
Year 8 joint winners: Wilfy D and Phoebe B

PE Update from Mr Cameron

In recent times, PE lessons have been disrupted due to poor weather. We are often reluctant to take pupils outside in wet weather because they are already in their PE kit, and it would mean they would be in wet clothes for the rest of the day.



- From next week onwards, we are proposing that pupils bring in their dry school uniform to change in to on their PE days **if the weather forecast is looking poor.**
- This will allow us the opportunity to take part in PE outside, even when the weather is less than favourable and pupils will be able to change into their dry clothes for the rest of the day.
- PE staff will still make a judgement call on wet weather days, and if it is deemed unsuitable to go outside then we will still look for alternative arrangements to go indoors.

- Hopefully, these days will reduce as the weather improves! However, we all know that the British weather can throw up wet days even in the midst of summer! Thank you for your support.

Attendance – Top 3!

This week's attendance remained at 95%. We really value that our 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. We encourage pupils to be resilient to ensure that they don't miss out on great learning each day – especially as we enter the colder months. Thank you for your support.

1 st form class – 99.5%	2 nd form class – 98.5%	3 rd form class – 98%
5-YTA	8-ETA, 8-BLA	6-FHA

Maths News



TTRS Update (Years 5 and 6)

Congratulations to last week's TTRS winners for achieving the highest percentage completed. Your commitment and consistency are commendable. This week, our focus remains on percentage completed, and we encourage all pupils to log in and complete a five-minute Garage session each week. Regular practice, even in short intervals, makes a significant difference to times tables fluency and confidence. Keep up the excellent work.

Rebecca N, Hugo E, Jacob B, Finley P, Matilda H, Leo M, Phaedra Sun H-F

Clubs News

Homework/Study Clubs

At HMS, we have several opportunities for pupils to complete homework in school. Pupils may also need to complete online research or learning tasks. **NEW - After-School Study Club**

- Open to all year groups - Monday afternoons, 3.15 - 4.00pm
- No need to sign up but you should know whether your child will be attending or not each week
- We will send a text at 3.30pm to confirm that your child is at club with us.

Sports News

Y7 Rugby

Well done to our year 7 rugby lads who took part in the NSB Sevens competition on Friday. The event is a great opportunity for schools to come together and experience some competitive rugby sevens whilst demonstrating the core values of rugby; teamwork, respect, enjoyment, discipline and sportsmanship. Results weren't recorded on the day, but some really positive rugby was played by HMS (and they did manage a couple of brilliant wins along the way!) Thomas M demonstrated

his excellent skillset by scoring tries for fun, Aidan M was outstanding in both attack and defense, Theo B showed outstanding courage and technique in defense, Hayden M worked tirelessly carrying the ball and hitting rucks, Tommy G improved hugely throughout the day and scored his well-deserved first try for the school, and George T, Charlie P and Ross N also had great all-round performances. Player of the day went to Charlie C for his relentless intensity in defense, turning over the ball and scoring excellent tries. Well done boys!

Y6 Dodgeball

Well done to our Y6 dodgeball group who went to Wentworth Leisure Centre on Tuesday to take part in a dodgeball event with other local schools. The afternoon involved taking part in different dodgeball skill games and lots of competitive games! The event was more about engagement and participation, so no results were recorded, but our boys definitely showed competitive spirit as well as good teamwork and respect!



Year 5 Athletics

Well done to all our amazing Year 5's who competed in the regional indoor athletics competition on Thursday. All pupils competed in either a run, jump or throw (or a mixture of the 3!) against Corbridge MS. It was a fantastic morning of competition and great to see such a large group getting the opportunity to represent the school in a sporting event with 6 teams entered in total! All pupils competed valiantly, with many winning their individual events. Overall results are being collated and we will know more when they come in. The future is bright for our young athletes! A huge thank you to QEHS Y12 sports leaders

who helped manage our teams and run the events. They were real role models for our young athletes.

Online Safety Update

For Parents - YouTube Kids



One of the biggest frustrations I hear from parents of younger children is that the content on YouTube Kids is too childish or the content isn't what their children want to watch. The end result is that only a tiny minority of young children use YouTube Kids, with the majority on the main YouTube site. A feature that has been within YouTube Kids for years, but so very few parents know about, is called 'Parent Allowlisting'. This

does a number of things, but one of the most important and useful is that parents can keep their younger children within the safer environment of the Kids app, and parents can approve individual videos from the main YouTube service to that particular child's YouTube Kids account. This keeps younger children away from the dreaded recommender algorithms and allows parents to moderate what their children can or cannot see. I have linked a short video which is on YouTube to explain what Parent Allowlisting is and how it's used: Link: [YouTube Kids Parent Allowlisting](#)

HMS PTFA News

NEW EVENT – Games Night – Wednesday 1st April

- A brand new PTFA event – Games Night. Pupils are invited to bring their board games, card games, D&D, Warhammer etc. Tickets include a hot dog. Refreshments and sweets will be available to buy.
- [Please sign your child up here.](#)



Save the date – HMS Summer Fair – Saturday 27th June

- Our annual Summer Fair is back this year and we'd love you to 'save the date' – Saturday 27th June.
- Theme and more information to follow.
- **We are looking for a planning committee to help us as it takes a huge amount of time and energy to put on such a successful event. Please contact hmsptachair@gmail.com.**

Community News

Festival of The Girl Newcastle

This exciting festival is on Saturday 21st March at Newcastle University's Sports Hall. It's an opportunity for young girls to explore exciting activities, meet inspiring role models, and build confidence in a safe, inclusive space. Although designed for 7-11 year old girls, everyone is welcome. With a SEND zone, pay-what-you-can and group discount booking options we're hoping no girl will miss out. Learn more here: <https://www.festivalofthegirl.com/newcastle>

Bikeability - recruiting local cycle instructors

Bikeability is continuing to grow in popularity with more schools and pupils participating nationwide. To enable them to continue to meet demand, they need to recruit more local cycle instructors. A recruitment poster is attached. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Outspoken Training - [Outspoken Training](#).

Free School Meals

If you feel that your child may be eligible for free school meals, please read the criteria and make an application as soon as you can. Find out more on the [Northumberland County Council website](#). To apply, please [complete this form](#) via Northumberland County Council.

School Calendar

Date	Event	Who
Monday 16 March – Friday 20 March	Bikeability Week 1	Year 5

Monday 16 March – Friday 20 March	Year 6 Assessment Week	Year 6
Monday 16 March	Mini Olympics (Newcastle University Trip)	Year 5 – group
Thursday 19 March	U13 boys’ rugby county 7's tournament at Percy Park RFC	Year 8 – group
Friday 20 March	U12 boys and girls’ rugby Dame Allan's 7's tournament	Year 7 - group
Friday 20 March	Red Nose Day (<i>donations can be made via MCAS</i>)	All year groups
Monday 23 March	U11 girls’ tag rugby festival at Dame Allan's	Year 7 – group

Have a great weekend everyone!

Mr Watters

Pupil Support and Safeguarding

Designated Safeguarding Leader: Mrs Mackenzie

Deputy Safeguarding Leaders: Mr Scott, Mr Rutherford-Orrrock, Miss Lamont and Miss Bell

Heads of Key Stage: Miss Bell (Y5), Mr Scott (Y6 and Y7), Miss Lamont (Y8)

SENDCo/Assistant SENDCo: Mr Morgan, Mr Rutherford-Orrrock and Miss Poxton

Academic Support Coordinator: Mrs Toor

Pupil Support Workers: Ms Thompson and Mrs Richards

Attendance Officer: Miss Parradine

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).