

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 22

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	50,236	1	Marko M	1	Finn R	1	Nancy M	1	Emily W
Coquet	50,698	2	Evie N	2	Heidi B	2	Martha G	2	Gwen C-W
Tweed	49,734	3	Milada D	3	Zach N	3	Ben R	3	Joanna R
Wansbeck	49,842	4	Hugo E	4	Scott B	4	Ben C	4	Etta L

Head of School Awards

Head of School Awards were awarded this morning with pupils being recognised for 'teamwork' – our key Skills Builder themes this term. Pupils were invited to join Mr Watters for breakfast – bacon sandwiches, pastries, hot chocolate and juice – and were presented with a certificate and P5 award! Congratulations everyone – well done for showing our skills and values every day!



Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
Nico E	Sophia B	Andre P	Mia R
Olive E	Libby C	Arthur C	Betty F
Imogen C	Agnes F	Molly C	Elsie L
Frank H	Ollie K	James D	Emily C
Adam A	James C	Charlie P	Amelie G

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.



Hexham Middle School

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
No assembly this week due to Ford Castle – back next week!	Gracie R Jackson E Eve G Jax M Lochie D	Ben R Alec W-W Jonathan F Jack L Natalia S	James T Karam D Sam L Rose K Etta L

Dining Hall Update



This week, we have unfortunately had to use disposable plates and cups in our dining hall due to an ongoing technical issue in our kitchen. An engineer has been booked to address the issue, and we should be back to normal by the middle of next week. A few pupils have raised concerns about the current situation and I appreciate their feedback. I will reassure those concerned that this change is only temporary early next week.

Next week, our catering team are preparing our special lunch to celebrate the Hindu festival of **Holi**. Lunch will be served on Wednesday 4th March and we are very excited. It's the usual daily lunch charge so no need for an extra payment. It's also **British Pie Week** and the catering team are offering a range of pies with chips on Thursday 5th March – what a treat next week!

HMS PTFA News

Mothers and Others Pop Up Shop – Tuesday 3rd March

- The Mothers and Others Pop-Up Shop will take place on Tuesday lunchtime in Fellside Hall.
- Gifts will be priced at £2 each (cash and card accepted on the day).

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.**



PTFA updates:

- After many years supporting the work of our PTA, Suzanne Cadge has now stepped away from her role as Treasurer. Suzanne has been an absolute star over the years and has been at the centre of our fundraising and many great events. She has been the queen of cash, and nothing has ever been an issue – her positive energy and laughs will be missed! Thank you, Suzanne.
- Dean Ellerby has very kindly joined our PTFA and has taken the role of Treasurer. We are delighted to welcome Dean to the committee and thank him for his enthusiasm so far.

Curriculum Spotlight: Art

Year 5 Year 5 pupils have been exploring 'still life' in their recent art lessons. After planning their compositions, they worked independently to take photographs of their chosen still life arrangements. Using these photos, pupils then began developing their own still life drawings, applying the skills taught during the lesson to work with increasing independence.



To celebrate their hard work, Miss Taylor awarded the Artist of the Week prize at the end of the lesson. She was particularly impressed with the outstanding quality of work produced by three boys in the class—well done to them for their fantastic effort and creativity!



Year 7

Year 7 pupils have been developing their watercolour skills this term - learning how to use watercolour materials confidently and effectively. As part of their studies, they have been exploring the work of **William Heaton Cooper**, focusing on his landscape techniques and use of light to inspire their own paintings. This unit will lead pupils into an exciting next step: discovering the work of **David Hockney**, particularly his transition into creating vibrant **digital artworks**. Pupils will compare traditional and digital methods, gaining a broader understanding of how artists adapt their practice across different mediums.

Year 6

Year 6 pupils have been exploring the world of Cubism through the work of Pablo Picasso. Inspired by contemporary street artist Belin, the children designed and created striking cubist masks based on a celebrity of their choice. They experimented with bold shapes, fragmented features and creative colour choices to produce unique and expressive pieces of artwork. The finished masks showcase both their artistic skills and their understanding of modern and historical art styles.

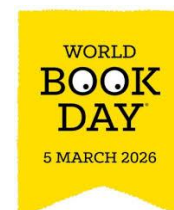


Royal Academy of Arts Competition – DEADLINE MONDAY!

Please ask your child to submit any remaining entries to Miss Taylor on Monday 2nd March.

World Book Day

Our exciting **World Book Day** plans have been shared. It would be great if you could encourage participation – it's always a fun day!



- **Great Book Bake Off** - cake/baked goods competition open to all pupils - reading/book themed cakes - prizes to be won!
- **Fancy dress** - optional for all pupils on the day
- **Review-athon** - pupils invited to submit book reviews for a display in our library - templates available from the library
- **Book Shop** - visit the library to swap £1 vouchers for books
- **Great Big Footy and Book Quiz** - whole school event - live virtual quiz
- **Author visits** - more exciting events planned by Ms Hayler for pupils to enjoy!

Personal Development Updates

Aspire Weeks (all year groups)

Our Aspire Weeks have now started. There is a draft timetable for parents/carers that have kindly offered their time and we will be contacting volunteers individually to confirm availability. This Careers and Aspire programme will involve parents giving a 20-minute talk followed by a Q&A and pupil reflection. We look forward to welcoming the parent community into the school to create some meaningful encounters for our pupils.



The **North East Raising Aspirations Partnership (NERAP)** team were in school this week delivering workshops for all pupils in Year 7 and 8. As part of our Aspire Weeks, this experience also linked with curriculum enrichment of STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics). These were interactive experiences seeking to raise aspiration for STEM subjects but also an awareness and understanding for pupils to demonstrate and master transferable Skills Builder skills. Well done everyone!



Attendance – Top 3!

This week's attendance remained at **95%** and we hope all our pupils will be able to return to school refreshed in the first week of the new half-term! 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%	2 nd form class – 98%	3 rd form class – 98%
5ZSC	8BO and 5EKI	6RAL

Sports News

Hockey

This week, the year 8 girls and boys took part in a triangular match v Ponteland and Corbridge. Due to sickness or injury, we didn't have enough year 8s which gave us the opportunity to pull up our year 7s and some 6s. Once again their positive attitude, team play and sportsmanship showed through and the children were a credit to the school. What was especially great to see was how the older players encouraged and supported the younger, less experienced. A great show case for hockey and HMS!



Online Safety Update

For Parents - Google Family Link

For children with Android devices, Google Family Link is a great way for parents to set restrictions. Last week Internet Matters released a brand new YouTube video showing how to set up Google Family Link to customise content and screen time restrictions: click to [Set Up Google Family Link](#)

Groundswell Digital Resilience Project



This term, we were very pleased to welcome the **Groundswell Project** into school to deliver a whole school **Digital Resilience Project**, with a strong focus on developing pupils' **critical thinking skills** in today's online world. This project includes assemblies for KS2 focused on respectful and responsible online behaviour as well as questioning what we see and hear online, as well as interactive workshops for KS3 focused misinformation, manipulation and evaluating online sources carefully. The project also included specialist training for all of our staff and an opportunity for parent/carer workshops. Further resources will be shared with parents/carers in due course.

Maths News



TTRS Update (Years 5 and 6)

Well done to all the winners of our Times Tables Competition! In the week before half term, our focus was on *accuracy*, while quick recall is valuable, developing accurate times-table knowledge is even more important. Congratulations to all of our winners for their fantastic effort and achievement. The competition starts again this week, with a new focus on *average speed*. Good luck to everyone taking part!

Rowan M, Matei T, Izobel O, Kit W, Jenson C, Hunter M, Esme H, Sophie C, Ruby P, Alice R, Skye K, Oliver M

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 23 Feb to Friday 6 March	Aspire Weeks (National Careers Week)	All year groups
Monday 2 March	HMS Parent/Carer Survey 2026 opens	All parents/carers
Monday 2 March	National Offer Day for Year 5 and Year 9 School Places	Year 4 and Year 8
Monday 2 March	High Borrans Information Evening, 5.30pm	Year 8 (group)
Monday 2 March	Staying Safe and Well – Cannabis Awareness	Year 7
Tuesday 3 March	HMS PTFA Mothers and Others Pop-Up Shop	All year groups
Wednesday 4 March	Holi Lunch	All year groups
Thursday 5 March	World Book Day	All year groups
Monday 9 March	STEM Week	All year groups
Monday 9 March	Exam Stress Parent/Carer Workshop, 4pm	All parents/carers

Have a great weekend everyone!

Mr Watters

Pupil Support and Safeguarding

Designated Safeguarding Leader: Mrs Mackenzie

Deputy Safeguarding Leaders: Mr Scott, Mr Rutherford-Orrock, 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-Orrock 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).