

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 38

End of term arrangements

It's our final week of term next week and school will close for the summer break at **1.30pm on Friday 17th July**. Next week, we'll be celebrating a very successful year at HMS and making sure our Year 8 pupils and departing colleagues have a fantastic send-off. For pupils in Year 8:

- Tuesday 14th July: Year 8 Leavers' Trip – Tynemouth
- Thursday 16th July: Year 8 Leavers' Festival – 6-8pm – [please sign up here](#)
- Friday 17th July: Year 8 Leavers' Assembly, breakfast, shirt signing and celebration

We really encourage all of our Year 8 pupils to attend on Thursday night – it's all provided by school and supported by the PTFA and it's always a joyful end to their time at HMS!

Year 6 Newby Wiske Adventure



Our very excited Year 6 pupils set off for their Newby Wiske adventure last week. Led by Mr Scott, Miss Bell and the team, everyone was very much looking forward to the challenges and fun ahead. During the visit, the group have enjoyed a wide range of activities including archery tag, climbing, quick jump, zip wire, sensory trail, trapeze, challenge course and orienteering! Mr Scott was so proud of the group - their engagement, teamwork, resilience and positive approach was great to see. More pictures are



on our [website](#).

Head of School Awards



This month's Head of School Award theme was 'leadership' - one of our core Skills Builder themes. I was delighted to see the children being recognised for their wonderful approach to school life. It was great to celebrate the positive contribution each pupil makes to our school community - I am very proud of them all. Pupils in school today joined me for a special breakfast earlier (breakfast sandwiches, pastries and hot chocolate) and received a certificate and P5 award!

Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
Oliver L Chris F Lucia F Hamish B-S Jac S Alfie M	Nella A Alice E Lauren H Millie W Brianna G	Andrei P Eva G Thea H Sofia P Archie S	Esme C Ester C Maja M Ollie E Archie D

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

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	75,955	1	Nola P	1	Eve G	1	Andrei P	1	Gruffydd T
Coquet	76,971	2	Harrison A	2	Amber S	2	Archie S	2	George F
Tweed	76,350	3	Theo S	3	Heidi B	3	Charlie C	3	Ben S
Wansbeck	76,518	4	Alexander H	4	Ollie K	4	Emilia F	4	Ed S

Drama Update

Year 7 Matilda Project

Year 7 drama students have been working on an exciting project centred around the Musical 'Matilda'. This involved them being part of a professional theatre ensemble and they worked as a whole class - putting together scenes involving everyone, as well as smaller group scenes. They responded so well to direction and were able to watch filmed versions of their work in progress at the end of the project. Some of them also took on technical and directing roles, planning ideas for lights, costume, set and sound. I have been very impressed with their amazing team working skills and look forward to seeing what they do in year 8!



Update from Languages

La Petite Creperie Experience



Last week, all Year 5 pupils took part in a very exciting Crepe Workshop. All workshops included a short cultural presentation where pupils learnt more about France. Pupils were also able to put their learning into practice when they ordered their own crêpe in French. It was a lively and engaging way to bring language learning to life and Guy was very impressed with pupils' knowledge of France as well as with their language skills. Special thanks to Mr Armstrong for organising an exciting experience, and to our PTA for their generous support towards the overall cost.

Attendance – Top 3!

This week's attendance stayed steady at **94%**. 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 – 98%	2 nd form class – 97.5%	3 rd form class – 97%
6-FHA, 5-ZSC	6-FHI	5-YTA

News from Food Technology

Tunnock's Tea Cake Challenge

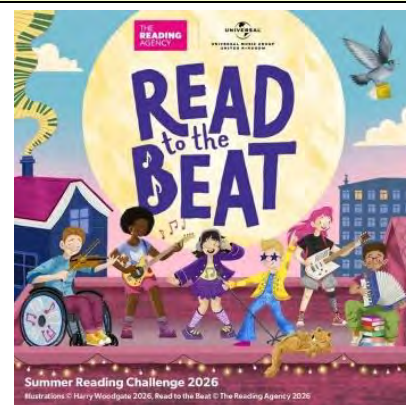
Year 8 have been taking part in the Tunnock's Tea Cake Challenge in food technology lessons. They have been practising their food styling skills using a variety of ingredients and techniques. We've had some fantastic outcomes! Look [here](#) for more delicious pictures.



Get Involved: Summer Reading Challenge

HMS has a strong tradition of taking part in the UK-wide Summer Reading Challenge each year. The Challenge encourages children to keep reading during the summer holidays, ensuring they are ready for a great start to the new term in the autumn. Children can **sign up at their local library or online**, and it is **free** to take part. The launch this year is on Saturday 4th July.

The programme is fun, flexible, designed for all levels of ability, and open to all children aged 4-11. Children set a reading goal and collect rewards for reading anything they enjoy. Libraries will be running a programme of free themed events and activities over the summer. Children who complete the Challenge are presented with a certificate and a medal! Sing from the rooftops! The theme for the **Summer Reading Challenge 2026 will be music**. The focus is on books about musicians, characters discovering music, sound science, cultural traditions, rhythm, storytelling through sound, breaking down barriers to music, creative expression and following your dreams. For more information, please see the attached flyer or follow: <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>



Clubs Update

Extra-curricular Clubs - final week of the summer term

As the academic year ends, there will be **no after-school clubs during the last week of the summer term**. We have had an excellent year of engagement from pupils with our extra-curricular offer. The MCAS app should not be showing any after-school sessions for the final week of this term. Some lunchtime clubs in the final week may also be cancelled due to the different trips and events that are taking place. *Our new clubs list will be shared in September!*

Community News

Summer Holiday Activities

There's lots going on in our community this summer, have a look at this [overview](#) on our website. There's something for everyone!

Autism Family drop in sessions

Dates for September and October are up. Please see [here](#) on our website.

Gardening volunteers

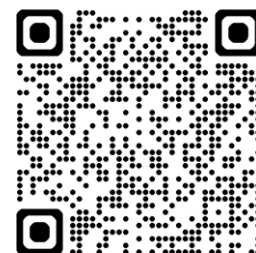
Elm Bank Care Home is seeking volunteers to help our Gardening Club prepare the garden for their Open Day and Summer Fair on 1st August. If you, a family member, or someone you know has some gardening experience and could spare a little time to help with tidying, planting, and general garden maintenance, they would be very grateful. Any support, no matter how small, will make a real difference to our residents, who take great pride in their garden. Please get in touch if you would like to help. T: 01434 606767 E: wellbeing.elmbank@martoncarehomes.co.uk.



PTFA News

Join the HMS PTFA! Could you spare a little time to help make a big difference at HMS?

We're looking for friendly volunteers to support our PTFA. Whether you can help organise events, share ideas, assist with fundraising activities, or lend a hand at events, we'd love to hear from you. No experience is needed, and every contribution big or small, helps create fantastic opportunities for our pupils. Get involved, meet other parents, and help support our school community!



To sign up/register your interest in being part of the PTFA <https://hmsptfa.org/get-involved>

The Big Future: National Children and Young People's Survey

The Children's Commissioner is asking for all children and young people to complete the new survey, [The Big Future](#). The Commissioner wants to make sure that she hears from as many children and young people as possible, aged 0-18, from all backgrounds, in all schools and colleges, and in every part of the country. She is asking them about the changes they want to see in their communities, their biggest concerns and their hopes for the future. More than anything, she wants to know what they think a good childhood should look like today.



We will be promoting this in school but, if your child hasn't yet submitted a response, please ask them to complete the survey via this link: <http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture>. The findings will be published next year and they will be used to advocate at the highest level for solutions that children want to see to the problems that they say are most important to them.

Free School Meals

Free School Meals

From September 2026, the Government is making changes to the eligibility criteria for Free School Meals. Notably, it is expanding eligibility to all children from households in receipt of Universal Credit. For further information on the changes, how to check eligibility and to apply for Free School Meals go to: <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/education-skills/schools/school-meals>. We encourage parents to check their eligibility online via Northumberland County Council's Citizen's Portal. 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. To apply, please [complete this form](#) via Northumberland County Council.

School Calendar – the final week of term!

Date	Event	Who
Monday 13 July	Year 7 End of Year Trip – Newburn	Year 7
Monday 13 July	Year 5 End of Year Trip – Beamish	Year 5
Tuesday 14 July	Vincent Van Gogh Immersive Experience	Years 5 and 6 group
Tuesday 14 July	Year 8 End of Year Trip - Tynemouth Beach	Year 8
Tuesday 14 July	Bastille Day Themed Lunch	All years
Wednesday 15 July	Vincent Van Gogh Immersive Experience	Years 7 and 8 group
Wednesday 15 July	Year 6 End of Year Trip – Haltwhistle Pool	Year 6
Thursday 16 July	SATS results day	Year 6
Thursday 16 July	Summer Celebration Assemblies	Year 5, 6 and 7
Thursday 16 July	Year 8 Leavers' Party, 6pm-8pm	Year 8
Friday 17 July	Year 8 Leavers' Assembly	Year 8
Friday 17 July	Year 8 Leavers' Breakfast – 9am – dining hall	Year 8
Friday 17 July	Non-Uniform Day <i>Please try to send in donations for our used uniform service!</i>	All years
Friday 17 July	School closes at 1.30pm for all pupils	All years
Wednesday 2 September	School re-opens for all pupils at 8.40am	All years

Have a great weekend - thank you for your continued support.

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 Year: Miss Bell (Y5), Mr Scott (Y6 and Y7), Miss Lamont (Y8)

SENDCo: Mr Morgan (*Mr Walton from September 2026*)

Academic Support Coordinator: Mrs Toor

Pupil Support Workers: Ms Thompson and Mrs Richards

Attendance Officer: Miss Parradine

Inclusion Administrator: Mrs Armstrong

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).