

10th May 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 30

Year 6 SATs update

As you know, our Year 6 pupils will sit their 'End of Key Stage Assessments (SATs)' next week. We are exceptionally proud of all of our Year 6 pupils. They have all worked incredibly hard this year and continue to achieve brilliantly. All we can ask is that they continue to maintain their outstanding efforts over the next week and that they try their absolute best in the assessments. As always, we are here to support them with anything they need. Please try to put your child's mind at ease if they're feeling unsure about any of the arrangements and encourage them to talk to their teachers in school to address any questions/concerns.

At HMS, we encourage our pupils to thrive and achieve their full potential at all times - we want our pupils to aim high and be ambitious for themselves. We also know that assessments are a snapshot of a child's learning at a certain point in time - we know our pupils have such a wide range of talents, interests, and values that make them unique, and we have so much to celebrate and be proud of at HMS. Homework this weekend is to get outdoors, enjoy the fresh air (and hopefully the sunshine), laugh and have fun with loved ones, and get to bed at a sensible time on Sunday night! On Friday 17th May, there'll be a special treat day for the children to reward them for their huge efforts and resilience! Miss Liddle will share more information with you.



Thank you so much for your continued support. We wish all of our pupils the very best of luck next week and know that they'll be amazing as always!

Royal Academy of Arts Success

We are delighted to announce that Billy in Year 7 has been successful in having his wonderful artwork displayed in this year's Young Artists' Summer Show at The Royal Academy of Arts in London. The artwork entries were judged by a panel of artists and professionals, and he is one of the chosen winners from across the UK. This is a phenomenal achievement for Billy – we are all so proud of you! Miss Taylor is so proud of this year's entrants. It is the third consecutive year that HMS pupils have had their work selected for the exhibition. We couldn't be prouder!



Hexham Middle School

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Executive Headteacher: Graeme Atkins

Head of School: Liam Watters

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
Heidi B Natalia S Mason M Nathan G Sofia L	James C George C Etta L Florence B Cody R	George W Sophie A Zach D Rosie P Annabelle R	Leila EW Xavier F Eliza F Libby P Callum B-S

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	75,824	1	Ben C		Amelie G		Clara H		Sophie S
Coquet	76,750	2	Kai B		Emily C		Evie A		Dylan C
Tweed	74,389	3	James D		Oskar P		Henry W		Isla M
Wansbeck	72249	4	Laila B		Rosie O		Esme B		Theo H-G

Newcastle University Maths Challenge

Huge congratulations to Noah, Lucia, Sarah and Evie who were winners in this year's Newcastle University Maths Challenge. Earlier this week, the children were presented with their certificates at the university. We are so proud of them all – what an achievement! Well done for getting involved in such a great competition.



Ski Trip 2025

Mr Gaines now has two places on next year's ski trip due to pupils giving up their reserved places. If any child in current Year 6 or 7 would like more information, please email Mr Gaines via admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk.

Sherlock Holmes Workshop

Grace Kirby came to school to give 60 Year 7 pupils the opportunity to engage with Sherlock Holmes – our class text - through games and drama activities focused on getting into character and playing a part accurately. The pupils were fantastic and often very funny! I think it's safe to say we all had a lot of fun.



High Borrans Residential Review from Mrs Stewart

We are thrilled to share with you the exciting adventures and memorable experiences our Year 8 pupils had during their recent residential trip to High Borrans in the breathtaking Lake District. This expedition was an enriching journey filled with outdoor activities, team-building exercises, and opportunities for personal growth.

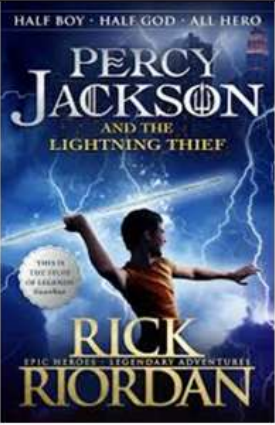
The students were split into four groups and did a rotation of different activities during the week. Including an exhilarating kayaking session on the serene waters of High Borrans Tarn. They also embarked on a thrilling Ghyll scrambling adventure up Stickle Ghyll. Negotiating rocky terrain, cascading waterfalls, and natural obstacles. Pupils climbed Side Pike, which offered panoramic views down the Langdale Valley. They also had the opportunity explore the underground wonders of the Yorkshire Dales. Equipped with helmets and headlamps, they navigated through winding passages, cavernous chambers, and intricate rock formations. Caving provided a unique opportunity for our pupils to conquer fears, embrace challenges, and develop valuable problem-solving skills in a dynamic and unfamiliar environment.



The residential trip to High Borrans in the Lake District was an unforgettable experience for our Year 8 pupils, providing them with a unique opportunity to connect with nature, challenge themselves, and forge lasting friendships. We are immensely proud of their achievements, resilience, and positive

attitudes throughout the expedition. Thank you to all the staff, instructors, and pupils who made this incredible trip possible. We look forward to more adventures in the future.

HMS Library Champions 'Must Reads'

	HMS Library Champion book review
	<p>Title: Percy Jackson And The Lightning Thief</p> <p>Author: Rick Riordan</p> <p>This is a book full of adventure and discovery as the main character Percy realises who he is. Percy makes friends along the way but also enemies. His funny personality makes the book 10 times better. This is a feel-good book for people who enjoy Greek mythology and also for people who want to learn more without being bored to death.</p> <p>Review: Eve W, Y8</p>

Attendance – top 3!

1	2	3
6-FHI, 6-RAL	8-IBO, 6-YTA	5-EKI, 5-ZSC

Online Safety Updates

Teens and AI - Virtual Girlfriends and Boyfriends

The US Cyberbullying Research Centre have put out a really interesting article related to AI chatbots as girl/boyfriends. These chatbots are apps, freely available for download where you can interact with messages, voice messages and in some cases, image exchanges. Given the curiosity of young people in particular there is a likelihood that some teenagers are interacting with these chatbots so it's important to be aware of what they are and the risks they pose. You can see the full article [HERE](#). (For Parents by Alan Mackenzie, online safety advisor.)

Important Reminder

HMS is a nut-free school. We have several children and staff members who have severe allergies, and it is important that we work together to maintain a safe environment. A reminder that products containing nuts such as chocolate spreads with hazelnut and pre-filled praline crepes etc. are not allowed in school for snacks. Thank you for your support.

News from the community

- Attached to this week's email: Hexham Wombles - Litter Pick Flyer – support from the HMS Community would be really appreciated!

Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
Monday 13 th May – Friday 17 May	Year 6 Assessments (SATS)	Year 6
Tuesday 14 th May	Athletics Competition	KS3 group
Friday 17 th May	Year 6 Celebration Day	Year 6
Monday 20 th May	Careers Wave Assembly (Preparing for Careers Guidance sessions)	Year 8
Monday 20 th May	NU Futures Programme	KS3 group
Tuesday 21 st May	London Trip – Information Evening, 6.00pm	London Trip Group
Wednesday 22 nd May	Year 4 SEND Information Evening	Year 4 Parents/Carers
Thursday 23 rd May	SEND Coffee Morning	Parents/Carers
Friday 24 th May	Year Group Photographs	Year 5 and Year 8
Friday 24 th May	Head of School Award Breakfast	Monthly Winners
Friday 24 th May	House Winners – special breakfast!	Winning House
Friday 24 th May	School closes for half term at 3.20pm	All pupils
Monday 3 rd June	Great North Museum Visit – Space	Year 5
Monday 3 rd June – Friday 7 June	Spain Residential Visit	Year 7 and Year 8 group
Tuesday 9 th July	Hexham Transfer Day	Year 4 and Year 8

Have a fantastic weekend everyone!

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).