

25 October 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 8

We have reached the end of the first half term and what a great start to the year we have had. Our Year 5 pupils have settled into life at HMS brilliantly – we are so proud of each and every one of them. It takes a lot of courage to start a new school and we know it's a big step up with lots of our pupils coming from much smaller feeder schools...they have been phenomenal - well done, Year 5! We also welcomed new pupils in other year groups who have all settled in brilliantly and have been a great addition to our school community.

We have so much to be proud of already this half term. Around school, there is a buzz of great learning day-in, day-out and pupils are calm, focused and ready to learn. Outside of class, our calendar has been bursting with extra-curricular and enrichment opportunities and it has been great to see our pupils getting involved and trying new things. As we look ahead to the next half-term, we're starting to plan our 'Festive Calendar' which we'll share with you in due course. We have lots to look forward to... Children in Need Day, Zones of Regulation Workshops, theatre visits, UK Parliament Week, Christmas Trips for every year group, our Carol Service and much more! Thank you your support.



Head of School Awards

The first Head of School Awards were awarded this morning with pupils being recognised for showing 'courage'. 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
Erin M	Jess De	Lizzie L	Tom W
Nella A	Orla P	Niamh K	Zach D
Harry D	Kieron S	Oliver D	Charlie M
Amelia F	Philippa U	Harry G	Esme B
Alfie S	Archie S	Zahra W	Alfie M
	Isabella S		
	Isabelle C		

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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. Well done – we are very proud of you!

Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
Jackson K	Lottie H	Ollie E	Sam B
Jackson L	Annabelle L	Ida H	Evie T
Tabby B	Lauren D	Anna F	Harry J
Ruairi C	Jesse C	Etta L	Hope B
Elliott W	Jacob B	Isla N	Will T

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.

House Totals		Top 4 'P Points' in each year							
		Year 5		Year 6		Year 7		Year 8	
Aln	18,567	1	Heidi B	1	Jennifer V	1	Sofia O	1	Teddy D
Coquet	19,065	2	Sebastian D	2	Noah R	2	Lily H	2	Alex W
Tweed	19,157	3	William R	3	Sadie B	3	Thomas I	3	Sarah N
Wansbeck	19,184	4	Sophie C	4	Jess De	4	Neve B	4	Esme B

HMS Reward Store

HMS Reward Store – re-launch!

After half term, we'll be re-launching our Rewards Store with pupils across the school. This will include an all-new 'Rewards Shop' which pupils will be able to visit in school to 'purchase' rewards using their points. The shop will include stationery items, queue jump passes and other popular items. Our House Captain Team will be running the new shop and details will be shared in assemblies.

For our 'Reward Sessions', children will be able to sign-up in form time each half term based on their points and choice of reward activity. Sessions across the year will include: afternoon tea, Forest School, gaming, movies, crafting, trampolining and many more! Details to launch in assemblies very soon!

KS2 Golden Time

KS2 enjoyed Golden Time rewards this week to recognise the form classes with the highest percentage of reading records complete each week, the highest attendance for the half term and the greatest number of P Points. Well done to the below classes!

Category	Year 5	Year 6
Reading Records	5MDO	6MBE
Highest Attendance	5FHA	6JJO
Highest P Points	5JNI	6RAL

Remembrance Day

Pupils will be able to buy poppies and other merchandise during break times from Monday 4th November. On Remembrance Sunday, our Head Pupils will be laying a wreath as part of the service in Hexham. In preparation for Remembrance Day, pupils are invited to make their own poppy. We will be decorating our school again with a sea of poppies. The challenge is an opportunity for pupils, staff and members of our wider school community to be creative. Suggestions for poppy creations include:

- knitted or crocheted poppies
- making a poppy out of card
- using other resources such as tissue paper or fabric
- using upcycled products
- digital poppy creations



Pupils can submit their creations to their form teacher in the first week back after the holidays - no later than Wednesday 6th November. If a pupil would like their poppy returned after Remembrance Sunday, they must label it on the back with their name and tutor group.

HMS Residential Updates

High Borrans – Year 8

Miss Lamont will be sending home details about the Year 8 High Borrans residential after half term. There will be a £75 deposit required to secure a place on the trip which will be needed by 18th November. We wanted to give parents/carers advance notice of this.

Ford Castle – Year 5

Information was sent home yesterday. If anyone would like to discuss this opportunity or payments for the trip further, please contact Mr Rutherford-Orrock.

Attendance – top 3!

Attendance has been excellent this week with 96% of pupils being in school. 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. Thank you for your support.

1 st form class 99%	2 nd form class 98%	3 rd form class 97%
5-FHA, 5-MDO	5-ZSC	5-JNI, 5-EKI, 7-PHA, 7-AMG, 6-JJO, 6-MBE, 7-PES

HMS PTA Updates

PTA AGM and next meeting

Our PTA AGM will take place on **Thursday 7th November** at The County Hotel 7pm – all welcome to join us. Huge thank you to the many new members who came along to our last meeting.

PTA Disco Night

What a night we had for our first HMS PTA Discos of the year...and the first one for our Year 5 pupils! It was a packed night of singing, dancing and joy – everyone had a great time! Huge thanks to our PTA for giving up their time to support the event – it was another huge success!

News from the community

Find Festival – Take-over event

The Find Festival take-over event is a free event that is taking place at Queen's Hall on Wednesday 30 October – ran by young people and includes free workshops and music. The flyer has also been posted on our Facebook page. <https://www.queenshall.co.uk/whats-on/find-festival-takeover>



Hexham Spook Night

The event takes place on Saturday 26th October from 2pm – 9pm around Beaumont Street, Market Place and the Abbey Grounds with fairground rides, hot food, fancy dress competitions for all ages, pumpkin and turnip carving, spooky photo competition and spooky dancing around the bandstand. Look out too for shocking shop windows, spine-chilling storytelling, foul face-painting, a petrifying skull trail at The Old Gaol and Spooky films at The Forum. See you there... if you dare! <https://www.visitnorthumberland.com/explore/things-to-do/events/family-events/hexham-spook-night-2022>

Hexham Fireworks Night

Hexham Fireworks night is on Saturday 2nd November 2024. The display starts at 7pm on The Sele. A brilliant, family-friendly event and one of the biggest nights of the year in Hexham. It is an un-ticketed event but a £3 donation per person

would secure the event for 2026. Raffle tickets for £5 (voluntary donation). Please bring cash. <https://www.visitnorthumberland.com/explore/things-to-do/events/outdoor-event/hexham-fireworks-2024>. Organised by Hexham Town Council with the support of Hexham Rotary, Tynesdale Lions and Hexham Community Partnership.

Rotary Competition

The Rotary competitions give participants the chance to express themselves through art, photography and writing, the competitions are run over three stages, club level, district and culminating in the national final. The theme for 2024-25 is 'Wonderful Water'

The competition is open to three age groups:

- Junior Up to 10 years
- Intermediate 11 – 13 years
- Senior 14 – 17 years

Click [here](#) for more information. All entries will be collected from school, the deadline for collection of entries is Tuesday 10th January 2025.

Online Safety Updates
<p>For Parents - My Family's Digital Toolkit</p> <p>There are so many really good resources out there for parents/carers about how to help keeping children safe online, but it can quickly become really overwhelming. Internet Matters has a really great resource for parents called My Family's Digital Toolkit. This is a personalised resource which gives age-specific advice, advice to deal with specific concerns, recommendations for digital tools to support children's interests and more. The toolkit is free and you can find more details HERE. (by Alan McKenzie, online safety advisor)</p>

Upcoming Dates

Date	Event	Who
Monday 4 November	School re-opens at 8.40am	All year groups
Tuesday 5 November	SEND Coffee Morning 10.00am	All welcome
Tuesday 5 and Thursday 7 November	Zones of Regulation Workshops (for pupils)	Year 5 and Year 7
Thursday 7 November	Zones of Regulation Parent/Carer Workshop, 5.30pm, HMS Hall	All parents welcome
Wednesday 6 November and Thursday 14 November	Year 6 Parents' Evenings (<i>bookings now open via MCAS</i>)	Year 6

Thursday 7 November	HMS PTA AGM and next meeting (all welcome), The County Hotel, Hexham, 7.00pm	All welcome
Friday 8 November	Wansbeck Non-Uniform Day	Wansbeck Pupils
Sunday 10 November	Remembrance Sunday	Head Pupils
Monday 11 November	Anti-Bullying Workshops	Year 5
Wednesday 13 November	War Horse, Sunderland Empire	Year 7
Thursday 14 November	Watch House, Queen's Hall	Year 8
Friday 15 November	Children in Need Fundraising Day (info to follow)	All year groups
Wednesday 27 November and Tuesday 3 December	Year 7 Parents' Evenings (face to face) – bookings open from 4 th November on MCAS	Year 7

Have a fantastic half term holiday everyone!

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).