

29 November 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 12

A huge thank you for your generosity in supporting our PTA Pop-Up Shop donations today – we have been blown away by the number of gifts we now have to sell in our shops. Your kindness and support of school is appreciated by all of us – thank you!

December begins...

Next week, December begins and the festive calendar will be underway across the school. We'll be welcoming Reverend Glover into school for our themed assemblies and will focus on Advent. We will be lighting the Advent wreath in assemblies all week and throughout December. Each form class will have their own calendars to open throughout December and Mr Nichol will be launching our 'HMS Elf on the Shelf' – *where will the elf be hiding around school this year?!*

Our KS2 Christmas Card Postbox will open on Monday. If pupils want to, they can write cards for their friends (please ask them to include full name and form class). Our Year 5 festive elf helpers will deliver the cards to classrooms each morning throughout December!



Head of School Awards

The first Head of School Awards were awarded this morning with pupils being recognised for showing great speaking skills. 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
Harry M Archie H Laurence H Jackson E Ruben B	Doug B Damir P Arthur C Mollie P Isla Y	Oswald B Ida H Ollie E Duncan G Etta L Ted W	Kuba M Magnus C James H Noah H Ruby C

Hexham Middle School

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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
Oscar N Sebastian M Alba B Alex G Sequoia D-G	Ed S Will M Hazel L Charlie H Henry W	Monty C Aria H Wilfy D Effie R-B Tilly C	Kaidyn B Aleah L Callum J Florence O'B Jess P

House Point Totals

Each week, we celebrate our P Point (positive point) totals 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. Well done everyone!

House Totals		Top 4 'P Points' in each year							
		Year 5		Year 6		Year 7		Year 8	
Aln	28,161	1	Bertie L	1	Tabitha S	1	Effie R-B	1	Sarah N
Coquet	28,499	2	Charlie A	2	Alexander T	2	Zahra W	2	Dylan N
Tweed	28,745	3	Ava B	3	Micheal C	3	Summer A	3	Sophie A
Wansbeck	28,857	4	Ruben B	4	Jessica Do	4	Oswald B	4	Teddy D

Hexham Christmas Lights Switch On

We were delighted to take part in this year's 'Christmas Lights Switch On' in Hexham on Friday evening. Our orchestra and choir sounded wonderful as they performed a range of festive songs before Santa arrived. It was a chilly evening but our music spread festive joy across the park and it was great to see so many people supporting our pupils. Well done to everyone who took part – we were all very proud of you – you all sounded magnificent!



Special thanks must go to Miss Tindall and Mrs Rowell for their hours of dedication in supporting the children – it was their first community event as our new music team and they did a superb job! Thank you to Kevin, Joanne and Christopher for their support too – it’s a big team effort and we are very grateful for their support. The HMS Carol Service will take place on Tuesday 17th December at Hexham Abbey – we can’t wait!

Autumn Term Reward Sessions

Next week, we will open bookings for our [Autumn Term Reward Sessions](#). Pupils will be able to sign up for events during form time. Teachers will help them to sign-up for one session of their choice if they want to ‘spend’ their P-points.

Pupil Competitions

Presentation Competition

Do you have lovely handwriting? Has your handwriting or presentation of work significantly improved since September? Do you have a piece of work that you’re particularly proud of? If so, please enter our Presentation Competition. For more information, have a look on our website: [here](#). The deadline for entries is Friday 13th December.

Christmas card competition

WOW – we have been so impressed with the entries to our competition! It’s judging day in school and winners will be announced soon...WELL DONE to everyone for your hard work – we have lots of amazing card designs!



Sports Update

Football



The girls battled hard in very cold and windy conditions this week. The team came away winning one and drawing two matches with a close defeat in one game. It was an absolutely excellent team effort and wonderful spirit shone throughout the whole tournament.

Sparx maths milestone

The Maths Team would like to congratulate Sarah Nichol on becoming the first student at HMS to achieve an impressive milestone of 50,000 XP points on Sparx Maths. This exceptional accomplishment reflects Sarah's dedication and consistent effort. XP points on Sparx Maths are earned by completing homework assignments and engaging in additional challenges such as ‘target’ questions, XP boost activities, and times table games. Sarah's outstanding commitment was evident in Year 7, where she achieved over 30,000 points by the end of



the year. Now in Year 8, she continues to demonstrate the same level of diligence, and we are incredibly proud of her success. Well done, Sarah! Keep up the fantastic work. As a reminder, at the end of this half-term, there will be a maths movie afternoon for students who have earned over 10,000 XP points. How close are you to reaching the goal?

HMS PTA Updates

Festive Forest Evening – Monday 9 December

Our PTA Festive Forest Evening is back this year to kickstart the festive season and we can't wait! It's a night of family arts and crafts both indoor and outdoor, the forest fire is lit for s'mores, hot chocolate and forest craft and there's food, drinks and lots of music - a perfect night! Please try to save the date. It's always a joyous event for the whole family - it would be great if you could join us.



Christmas Pop-Up Shops – Tuesday 10 and Thursday 12 December

Our very popular pop-up shops will return this year. We ask for your support in sending in gift donations (if you can) which the pupils can then purchase as gifts for their loved ones at Christmas time. It's a great chance for them to do some Christmas shopping and they always feel very proud buying a special gift which is wrapped up ready for Christmas Day. Thank you for your support in sending gift donations for our stock.

HMS PTA Lottery

The easiest way to contribute to the PTA – please join the lottery! You will find further information [here](#). There's a monthly draw with a cash prize! Thank you for your support.

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.

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

News from the community

Bridge2Care

Bridge2Care are hosting a kids Christmas party at the Haydonian Club, Haydon Bridge on Sunday 15th December from 1-4pm. It is neurodiverse and disability friendly, with a silent disco, sensory tent, quiet activities and limited numbers so that it isn't too crowded. It's a free event so please book up now if you are interested. Email: bridget2care@hotmail.com.

Hexham Family Hub Sleep Workshop

The Sleep Workshop runs over 2 weeks. Upcoming dates at Hexham Family Hub:

Wednesday 11 December 12-2pm

Wednesday 18 December 12-2pm

To book your place ring: 01434 601698

Is your child struggling with sleep?

For children and young people aged between 4-25 years

- understanding sleep cycles
- causes of sleep issues
- the importance of sleep
- what you can do to support your child to sleep better

The Sleep Workshop runs over 2 weeks

Upcoming dates at Hexham Family Hub:

- Wednesday 11th December 12- 2:00pm
- Wednesday 18th December 12- 2:00pm

To book your place telephone
Hexham Family Hub 01434 601698

Northumberland County Council | Family Hubs | Sleep Action

Online Safety Updates

For Parents - Second-Hand Devices Guide

Often when children get their first or subsequent devices, particularly mobile phones, it's a hand-me-down, for example when a parent gets a new device on contract. This can be a real positive, mobile devices are very expensive and the latest/greatest devices often have very limited additional functionality over older devices. But it's really important these devices are configured correctly for younger users. thankfully Internet Matters have a full guide to help parents navigate all the different features and settings, plus how to choose the right second-hand device, safety concerns and much more. All information and guidance can be found [HERE](#). (by Alan McKenzie, online safety advisor)

Upcoming Dates

Date	Event	Who
Monday 2 December	STEM to Stars – Stargazing Evening!	Sign-up form sent home
Monday 2 December	Dog Trust talks	Year 5
Tuesday 3 December	Year 7 Parents' Evening 2 (in school)	Year 7
Tuesday 3 December	Forum Cinema Visit	Year 5
Friday 6 December	House Event!	Info to follow!
Monday 9 December	Why Queue, PSHE performance	Year 7
Monday 9 December	PTA Festive Forest Evening (5.30pm)	All welcome
Tuesday 10 December	Be You Parent Workshops, Anxiety and Worry	All welcome

Tuesday 10 and Thursday 12 December	PTA Christmas Pop-Up Shops	All year groups
Wednesday 11 December	HMS Christmas Lunch	All year groups
Wednesday 11 December	Christmas Jumper Day	All year groups
Thursday 12 December	Year 8 Christmas Trip – Centre for Life/Ice Skating	Year 8
Thursday 12 December	Year 5 Christmas Trip – Pantomime	Year 5
Friday 13 December	Year 7 Christmas Trip – Cinema and Bowling	Year 7
Monday 16 December	House Prize – non-uniform day and extra lunchtime!	Winning House
Tuesday 17 December	HMS Carol Service, Hexham Abbey, 7pm	All welcome
Monday 16 to Wednesday 18 December	Safety Works Visits	Year 8
Tuesday 17 December	Year 6 Christmas Trip - Pantomime	Year 6
Wednesday 18 December	HMS Carols in the Community	Visits to care homes and hospitals
Thursday 19 December	Christmas Celebration Assemblies	All year groups
Friday 20 December	Christingle Services	All year groups
Friday 20 December	Christmas Jumpers/Non-Uniform/Form Class Time	All year groups
Friday 20 December	School closes at 1.30pm	All year groups

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 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).