

20 December 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 15

Christmas Message

We've reached the Christmas holiday and what a great term it's been here at HMS. We have so much to be thankful for: enthusiastic, engaged and positive pupils who give their all every day in school; a staff team who go above and beyond to make our school such a special place to learn and very supportive parents/carers and wider school community who we appreciate. We are very grateful for your continued support and kindness this festive season and always.

On behalf of the staff at HMS, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy new year. I hope the children have a magical Christmas! We will see them all back in school on Monday 6th January 8.40am - have a great holiday!



HMS Carol Service

We were delighted to hold our annual Carol Service on Tuesday this week - it was a truly magical event and a very proud evening for our school. The level of skill, confidence and dedication on display from all of the pupils was outstanding - it never ceases to amaze me! The singers were superb, the musicians sounded incredible and the readers did a fantastic job - all in all, it was another joyful HMS Carol Service.

Special thanks to Miss Tindall and Mrs Rowell (and all the supporting staff) who have done a wonderful job since taking over the music department this term. It was great to see the traditional service being taken forward with new, exciting elements woven throughout - I could see how much the children enjoyed being part of things like Show Choir and HMS Singers - it was uplifting and special. I know it takes hours and hours of hard work and dedication and I am very grateful to the children and staff involved. Thank you for joining us if you were able. Here's a short video from the night - [more photos and videos to follow.](#)

Carols in the community

A group of HMS singers are visiting local care homes and hospital wards today as part of our 'HMS Carols in the Community' sessions. It is always a pleasure to visit local residents and patients to share festive joy through music. It was incredibly emotional yet uplifting to see the patients singing along this morning and the choir sounded wonderful once again. Well done everyone! We look

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Head of School: **Liam Watters**

forward to visiting more community venues today and again next year. [You can watch some videos here.](#)

Head of School Awards



This month's Head of School Award theme was generosity. Our key character value this half term has been generosity as we have built up to Christmas and 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 each of them. Pupils joined me for a special breakfast today (breakfast sandwiches, pastries and hot chocolate) and received a certificate and P5 award! A huge well done everyone!

Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
Millie H-W Jessie S Jemima C Elliott W Alice R	Bailey-Rose B Katyln H Thea H Sadie B Sam G	Ianto T Amelie G Arthur G James B India R	Sarah N Magnus C Fin C Ivy M Anna O

Celebration Assemblies

It was a joy to meet as year groups yesterday for our Christmas Celebration Assemblies. The assemblies are always an opportunity to reflect on the term, to celebrate the success of all pupils and to highlight the special achievements made in school. Our assemblies include subject awards and nominations, recognition of great attendance and, of course, our P point awards. Our form tutor and Head of Key Stage awards are a moment of special recognition - congratulations everyone!

Mr Scott introduced a new '12 days of Christmas' tradition for KS3 which definitely went down well with the pupils - great to see the smiles and laughs!

Well done to each and every pupil in our school - you are absolute stars!

	Y5	Y6	Y7	Y8
English	Winner: Amelia-Rose S Runner up: Owen F	Winner: Su H Runner up: Alexander T	Winner: Oswald B Runner up: Phoebe B	Winner: Poppy K Runner up: Seb A
Maths	Winner: Alba B Runner up: Nella A	Winner: Francesca F Runner up: Theo B	Winner: Tyler H Runner up: India R	Winner: Lola B Runner up: Kayden W
Science	Winner: George H Runner up:	Winner: Sadie B Runner up:	Winner: Ella R Runner up:	Winner: Beatrice S Runner up:

	Amber S	Arthur D	Joseph B	Brodie G
Art	Winner: Sebastian D Runner up: Martha P	Winner: Finlay F Runner up: Claudia M	Winner: Josie A Runner up: Rosie O	Winner: Sophie A Runner up: Ossie D
Music	Winner: Ava B Runner up: Leo M	Winner: Meghan J Runner up: Zain B	Winner: Lauchlan H Runner up: Jamie H	Winner: Anna M Runner up: Alfie R
PE	Bertie L Heidi B	James B Jessica C	Ben S Tilly C	Charlie M Evie W
Computing	Winner: Ava G Runner up: Harry M	Winner: Micheal C Runner up: Leela H	Winner: Evie R Runner up: Ianto T	Winner: Peter M Runner up: Esme B
Design Technology	Winner: Archie H Runner up: Margot D	Winner: Sam G Runner up: Isla T	Winner: Robbie P Runner up: Evie R	Winner: Poppy H Runner up: Alex W
Food Technology	Winner: Ella A Runner up: David W	Winner: Isabelle C Runner up: Hazel L	Winner: Lucas S Runner up: Emily W	Winner: Ollie P Runner up: Bobby E
History	Winner: Jackson L Runner up: Sophie C	Winner: Jennifer V Runner up: Edward H	Winner: Joseph D Runner up: Amelie G	Winner: Evie J Runner up: Oliver L
Geography	Winner: Evelyn C Runner up: Ollie A	Winner: Leo B Runner up: Sofia P	Winner: Bettie A Runner up: Lily H	Winner: James H Runner up: Summer T
French	Winner: Erin M Runner up: Rowan D	Winner: Mollie P Runner up: George L	Winner: Kirstie A Runner up: Aurelia K	Winner: Paloma P Runner up: Kuba M
Spanish			Winner: Sam L Runner up: Mia R	Winner: Sophie S Runner up: Sam C
RE	Winner: Ruben B Runner up: Jenna T	Winner: Aoife B Runner up: James D	Winner: Oliver D Runner up: Doran K	Winner: Harry R Runner up: Evie A
PSHE	Winner: Felix H Runner up: Millie H	Winner: Charlie P Runner up: Tabitha S	Winner: Etta L Runner up: Daisy H	Winner: Toby C Runner up: Jonah D
Drama			Winner: Gwen C Runner up:	Winner: William I Runner up:

			Rory Neill	Amelia M
Explore	Winner: Jackson K Runner up: Sophie W			
Form Tutor Award	5EKI: Sequoia d Owen F 5FHA: Libby C Conall R 5JNI: Eve G Isabella N 5MDO: Sophie C Jemima C 5ZSC: Ollie A Amelia-Rose S	6FHI: Theo B Hollie W 6JJO: Charlie M Meike O 6MBE: Claudia D Mollie P 6RAL: Thomas G Jessie T 6YTA: Jessica D Su H-J	7AMG: Neve B James D 7IBO: Amelie G Lilly H 7PHA: Oswald B Etta L 7PES: Tyler H Isla N 7SFO: Ella R Ben S	8SRI: Kuba M Sarah N 8PGA: Poppy K Charlie M 8SMC: Marc B Caitlin H 8ETA: Tristan J Anna O 8BLA: Brodie G Lucia L
Head of Key Stage Award	Winner: Marnie D	Winner: Francesca F	Winner: Duncan G	Winner: Bea S

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. Well done everyone for such a positive start to term.

House Totals		Top 4 'P Points' in each year				
		Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	
Aln	33,270	1	Isaac N	Ayla B-D	Arthur G	Harry J
Coquet	33,294	2	Oscar N	Katlyn H	Gruffydd T	Brodie G
Tweed	33,439	3	Jessica S	Sadie B	Josie A	Evie J
Wansbeck	33,937	4	Heidi B	Henry C	Esme C	Sarah N

Staffing Update

Mrs P Hall starts her maternity leave today and we wish her good luck and can't wait to meet the new addition to her family soon. Mrs George has been in school working alongside Mrs Hall these past few weeks and she is excited to take over the classes from January.

Music Tuition

Will one of your new year's resolutions be to learn an instrument or to have singing lessons? If so, please get in touch with the school as we offer lessons for students in the following:

- Violin; cello; harp; flute; clarinet; saxophone; singing (musical theatre/classical/pop and rock); trumpet; trombone; French horn; euphonium; tenor horn; baritone horn; tuba; guitar; bass guitar; drum kit; piano.



Find out more from our music staff once you get in touch with school.

Maths Success



We are thrilled to celebrate the outstanding achievements of our pupils who have excelled in Sparx Maths! A huge congratulations to all those who have accumulated over 10,000 XP points – a remarkable demonstration of their hard work, dedication, and mathematical prowess.

To recognise their efforts, these pupils were treated to a well-deserved movie afternoon, complete with popcorn and sweets, as a token of our pride in their accomplishments. It was a fantastic opportunity for them to relax and enjoy some time with their peers after putting in such impressive effort.

We look forward to celebrating even more successes in the future. Well done to everyone involved!

Clubs News

Latin Club

We will be relaunching Latin Club for Year 8 after Christmas. This will be after school on Mondays for 1 hour and led by Miss Richardson. New sign up is needed via MCAS from Monday 16 December. For any questions, pupils can contact Miss Richardson.

Spring Term Clubs

Club lists for the next term were sent home this week and bookings can be made via MCAS.

No after-school clubs until Monday 13th January

We have next week off from after-school clubs due to the busy festive period. Clubs re-start from Monday 13th January.

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.

1 st form class 99%	2 nd form class 97%	3 rd form class 96%
5-MDO	7-IBO, 7-PHA, 7-AMG, 7-PES, 6-MBE, 6-FHI, 5-ZSC, 5-FHA	6-RAL, 6-JJO

Online Safety Updates

For Parents - Emotional Safety on Roblox

The Jed Foundation have put together a great guide for parents regarding emotional safety/wellbeing on Roblox. Although the guide refers to US teens, I would say this guide is appropriate for all children, not just teens. It covers cyberbullying, signs a teen might be struggling online and what parents can do.

You can find the guide [HERE](#). (by Alan McKenzie, online safety advisor)

Free School Meals

Free School Meals

You can find the eligibility criteria for free school meals here. If you think your child may be eligible, please make an application to the local authority who review your request.

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Education/Schools/Meals.aspx?nccredirect=1>

Upcoming Dates

Date	Event	Who
Monday 6 January	School reopens for all pupils at 8.40am	All year groups
Thursday 9 January	Young Green Briton Challenge	Year 7
Friday 10 January	Team building Day	Year 5
Monday 13 January	World Religion Week Workshops	Year 5

Tuesday 14 January	STEM to Stars Kielder Observatory Visit 5.30pm	Year 5 (group)
Tuesday 14 January	Dave Burns – PSHE Workshop	Year 7
Wednesday 15 January	Year 5 Parents’ Evening 1 – in person	Year 5
Thursday 23 January	Year 5 parents’ Evening 2 – in person	Year 5

Have a wonderful Christmas everyone – we will see you all in the new year!

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).