

14 February 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 21

REA Days – enrichment

[REA Days](#) are back next week and the whole school have made their enrichment selections. We can't wait to welcome a wide range of visitors into school and to host our exciting enrichment programme. Activities include: music production, Irish dancing, Jellycat clay modelling, NFL football and Scribble Bots (supported by Centre for Life) – what a week ahead! Pupils in Years 5 and 7 were told their activities today (this should be in their planner). Years 6 and 8 will find out on Monday. **Please note: some activities require PE kit and some require football boots.**

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
Julia F	Eric J	Lacey-Mae M	Isobel S
Matilda H	Charlotte B	Ollie S	Paloma P
Elke H	Alec W-W	Lizzie L	Cayden S
Ethan W	Hattie D	Alexander A	Freddie W
5MDO – two next week!	Andre P	Josie A	8SRI – two next week!

World Book Day (Thursday 6th March)

Mrs Roff and Ms Hayler have released our 'World Book Day' programme of events – sent home today. It's once again a fantastic celebration of reading and books and we can't wait to see everyone getting involved. Pupils will hear all about the activities in next week's assemblies. There's so much to enjoy – our 'Book Bake Off' returns, author visits, library swap shop and our first ever 'HMS Reading Breakfast' – you can sign-up now via MCAS.

Hexham Middle School

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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 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	43,549	1	Isaac N-C	1	Jessica De	1	Dominique H	1	Clara H
Coquet	43,443	2	Sebastian D	2	Meike O	2	Lily A	2	Cameron S
Tweed	43,135	3	James C	3	Thea H	3	Lara G	3	Lola B
Wansbeck	44,377	4	Heidi B	4	Samuel G	4	Rose K	4	Rosie P

Well done, Year 6!

Year 6 have completed a round of assessments this week so that they know what to expect during the SATs week in May. Their attitude has been superb from start to finish and we are very proud of how they have all engaged. Special thanks to Mrs Toor for her expert coordination of the week. This morning, Miss Bell planned a special waffle breakfast to say 'well done' – thank you to the catering team for this Friday treat!

Pupil Competitions

Royal Academy of Arts Competition

Entries are now open for the Young Artists' Summer Show 2025 and Miss Taylor would love everyone to get involved once again. [Information](#) has been shared in assemblies and on our website. We have been SO PROUD to have winning entries for the past few years with HMS work displayed in the London gallery. Please send pupils to Miss Taylor in HA1 with any questions or to seek support. Good luck!



Zones of Regulation Character Competition

£10 prize per winning zone character

Include: name & form
The deadline is 07/03/25
Hand in at HA1, art room

Use your imagination

You must create a character to represent one of the zones of regulation.
Red-Anger
Yellow-Worried
Blue-Sad
Green-Happy

Winning character must wear a HMS Jumper

The name must relate to the zone

Zones of Regulation 'mascots' competition

As part of our Zones of Regulation focus, Miss Taylor and Mrs Dodds are launching a new whole-school [competition](#). The mission is to design four new 'mascots' – one for each zone (think 'Inside Out' but for HMS!). Good luck everyone! Get creative!

Poetry by Heart

Back in the dark days of November, students from Key Stage 3 formed a small poetry recital group. After attending an initial launch meeting with Mrs Davison and researching the official Poetry by Heart website, students chose poems that were interesting in their themes,

vocabulary and essentially poems that ‘spoke’ to them in a way that drove on an eagerness to learn and recite them from memory.

Three months on, after a lot of rehearsing, individuals and duos are ready to showcase their hard work. Students are getting ready to send out invitations to their peer group and teachers so that they can raise the profile of this national competition and grow the group for next year. Recitals of the poems will be performed in Hydro Hall on Monday 3rd March from 12:45. This informal presentation will give our competitors the experience of standing in front of a live audience whilst reciting their poems.



If students are successful in the competition, they will be invited to an all expenses paid visit to London for themselves and a parent/carer. Finalists will recite their poems on The Globe stage alongside other competitors and free tickets are also offered to see a Shakespeare play at The Globe on the evening before. The Grand Finale will be on the 7th July 2025! If you want to find out more about Poetry By Heart follow the link below:

<https://poetrybyheart.org.uk/>. Good luck to our group from Hexham Middle School!

Attendance – top 3!

Attendance was very good this week with 95% of pupils being in school. However, 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 98%	2nd form class 97%	3rd form class 96%
7-PHA, 6-RAL, 6-JJO	8-SMC, 7-IBO, 6-MBE, 5-EKI	8-BLA, 6-FHI

Important Reminder – Term-Time Absence

Mr Stephenson would like to remind all parents/carers that taking your child out of school during term time may result in a fixed penalty notice, in line with Government policy on school attendance. Regular attendance is essential for your child’s education, and leave of absence will only be granted in exceptional circumstances. For more information, please refer to this [government guidance page](#) on term-time holidays. Thank you for your understanding.

Vehicle movement around school

As always, we are keen to encourage careful and considerate vehicle movement on journeys to and from school, particularly in our surrounding streets. Some damage was caused to a neighbour’s car on Alexandra Terrace by a passing vehicle on Tuesday morning this week. If you think you may have done this by accident or seen what happened, please do let us know.

News from the community

Resources to support kinship carers in our community

The Department for Education funds Kinship, the national charity for kinship carers, to offer free online and in-person workshops and a network of peer support groups open to all kinship carers, regardless of legal arrangements. A kinship carer is a friend or family member who raises a child when their parents can't. For further details please see the [Kinship website](#).

Hexham Windowful Project

Windowful is an exciting new community project led by Queen's Hall Arts, taking place at the end of half term. They are inviting people who live or work in Hexham to decorate their windows to create a magical walking trail across town on **Friday 28 February & Saturday 1 March, 6 – 9pm**.

[More information and some handing hints on getting started can be found online here.](#)

Northumberland Parent Carer event

The NPCF are offering support with employment, education, training and volunteering. Hear more about the Working for Carers project and the Northumberland Parent Carer Forum, including projects and opportunities you might want to get involved in. Find out more about the [parent carer learn work grow event](#) on Tuesday 18 February 10am - 1 pm at The Community Hub at Cramlington.

Autism Family drop ins

The latest [schedule of family drop ins](#) is available on our website.

Bikes for Sele First School

The Sele First School team is on the lookout for a couple of bikes a club in the summer term, with the aim that no child should leave us unable to ride a bike. The bikes would need to be in working order and suitable for Year 4 children to ride. If anyone has anything they feel they could donate, please contact Mrs Annable at admin@sele.northumberland.sch.uk

Corbridge Cricket Club

Corbridge Cricket Club is running an U13 and U15 girls half term coaching camp. Sessions: Monday 24 February 5-7pm, Tuesday 25 February 6-8pm, Wednesday 26 February 5-7pm. Please message Karen 07917 066545 if your daughter would like to come along to all sessions or even if they just want to come along and give it a try.



U13 AND U15 GIRLS HALF TERM COACHING CAMP

WHERE: Prudhoe High School

WHEN:

- Monday 24th February 5-7pm
- Tuesday 25th February 6-8pm
- Wednesday 26th February 5-7pm

These sessions will run by our new coach, Jacques de Bait, who played professional cricket for Lancashire & Karen Chanter, our girls coach.

Please message Karen on 07917 066545 if your daughter would like to come to all the sessions or even if they just want to come along to one session and give it a try.

PLEASE NOTE: These sessions are FREE, thanks to funding from the Corbridge School's facilities.

There will be further girls only sessions outdoors as soon as we can and any of the younger girls can attend the mixed U13 and U15 training camps will be held on Sundays from 7th March, 8.45pm.

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. You can find out more [here](#).

Upcoming Dates

Date	Event	Who
Monday 17 February	REA Day – enrichment	Years 5 and 7
Monday 17 February	Girls Indoor Cricket	Y7/8 group
Tuesday 18 February	KS3 Spelling Bee, Hexham Partnership	Year 7 and 8 (selection)
Wednesday 19 February	REA Day – enrichment	Years 6 and 8
Wednesday 19 February	Polling Day - NCC Youth Cabinet and UK Youth Parliament	Years 7 and 8
Thursday 20 February	HMS PTA Spring Discos (sign-up here)	All year groups
Thursday 20 February	Carbon Monoxide Safety Workshops	7PES and 7AMG
Thursday 20 February	Non-uniform day – donations for PTA Mothers and Others Day Pop-Up Shop appreciated 😊	All year groups
Thursday 20 February	Head of School Award Breakfast	All year groups (selection)
Thursday 20 February	House Prize – breakfast treat – winning house!	Winning house TBA
Friday 21 February	INSET Day – school closed for all pupils	All year groups
Monday 24 February – Friday 28 February	Half-term week	All year groups
Monday 3 March	Year 5 visit - Great North Museum	Year 5
Thursday 6 March	World Book Day	All year groups
Wednesday 12 – Friday 14 March	Ford Castle Residential	Year 5

Have a great weekend!

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).