

31 January 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 19

First Aid Week

This week has been 'First Aid Week' at HMS and we're so pleased that we've once again been able to offer all pupils in school a first aid workshop as part of their 'Stay Safe and Well Curriculum'. Sessions included:

- Year 5: unconscious casualty first aid
- Year 6: mental health first aid (a focus on stress)
- Year 7: unconscious casualty first aid
- Year 8: conscious casualty first aid



The sessions are such a valuable element of our curriculum and pupils are now equipped with life-saving skills. Thank you to Mr Freeman-Myers for planning such an important week and to First Aid North East for delivering the sessions. We are already looking forward to next year's visits!

Head of School Awards

The first Head of School Awards were awarded this morning with pupils being recognised for 'aiming high'. 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
Owen F Marcus M Ruairi C Eve G Rory M	Isis T-H Hazel L Ben R Charlie M Maxi C Lauren D	James C Monty C Josie A James T Gwen C-W	Harry B Hope B Evie D Abigail H Shona R

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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
Jake C	Noah R	Dominique H	Noah S
Millie C	Isla T	Rosie O	Bobby B
Will S	Archie B	Oskar P	Connie R
James H	Jack L	Emily G	Anna M
Sophie K	India S	Joseph D	George W
	Alex U		

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	40,456	1	Esme H	1	Jessica C	1	Joseph S	1	Nicholas Y
Coquet	40,358	2	Marnie D	2	Su H-J	2	Katie G	2	Alexander G
Tweed	40,155	3	Erin M	3	Owen B	3	Harry B	3	Evie J
Wansbeck	41,382	4	Sophia B	4	Evie T	4	Lily H	4	Jyacinth B

Punctuality

A reminder that pupils should be in school before the morning whistle at **8.40am**. We have noticed a number of pupils arriving later than usual this week, including those being dropped off in the school car park. We understand that lateness can occur from time-to-time and we are always realistic – however, we have noticed that this is becoming an issue for a small number of pupils. Please can you support us to make a positive start to the school day by reminding of your child of the expectations.

Staying safe to and from school

This week, we have reminded all pupils in assemblies about staying safe to and from school. We hope that the following messages can be reiterated by parents and carers at home.

1. **Follow Road Safety Rules:** Always use pedestrian crossings, wait for the green light if there is one, and stay alert by avoiding distractions like phones or headphones near traffic.
2. **Respect Private Property:** Stick to public paths and avoid cutting through private yards, gardens, or restricted areas to show respect for our neighbours' property.
3. **Respect Our Community:** Do not litter, always use polite language, and represent your school positively when traveling through the community.
4. **Practice Good Bus Behaviour:** Stay seated during the bus ride, keep noise levels low, follow the driver's instructions, and treat other passengers kindly.

Lunar New Year

To celebrate Lunar New Year, Mrs Satow and her team prepared a wonderful lunch for everyone to enjoy today. As millions of people around the world welcome the Year of the Snake, pupils at HMS enjoyed a delicious lunch today.

Huge thanks to our catering team! 新年快乐

Aspire Icons

Form classes are busy preparing class assemblies on our new 'Aspire Icons' for this term. Mrs Hayler has finalised this term's library display - books are available for browsing and borrowing. You could also have conversations at home about our 'Aspire Icons' – exploring discussions around their achievements, influence and impact. Across our school, this term's Aspire Icons are:

- Year 5: Dame Sarah Storey
- Year 6: Alan Turing
- Year 7: Jessica Cox
- Year 8: Frida Kahlo

Careers

Our careers programme focuses on the Health and Life Sciences sector in Year 8. Recently we shared a great NHS virtual work experience opportunity as part of National Work Experience Week. Anna, Evie and Annabelle decided to take on the challenge of completing work experience developing key employability skills such as problem solving, data literacy, storytelling, and presentation. Well done to Anna M, Evie W and Annabelle R in Year 8 for their commitment and aspiration.



Ski Trip

Our 'Ski Trip' departs tomorrow morning and we'll be sharing updates on our social media throughout the week. We hope everyone has a fantastic time – it's always a magical trip! Special thanks to Mr Gaines, Mrs Barnett, Mr Whitfield and Mr Drummond for leading this year's visit.

Clubs Update

Mandarin Club update

This week, as part of our celebrations of Lunar New Year, pupils in Mandarin Club learnt how to make traditional Chinese dumplings. They were able to prepare the ingredients and filling then were shown how to fold the dumplings. We quickly learnt that there are many ways to do this. Pupils also learnt about why dumplings were such an important aspect of life in China. They worked as a team and used their listening and speaking skills to support each other. Thank you to the Confucius Institute at Newcastle University for giving our pupils this excellent opportunity.



Online Safety Update

What is Doomscrolling?

Doomscrolling is where someone gets caught in a continuous cycle of negativity and fits in perfectly with algorithmic literacy. Whilst doomscrolling is often intentional, it can also be a result of the decisions the algorithm makes and being led down a rabbit hole of doom. This can have ongoing effects such as anxiety and other negative effects on wellbeing. Internet Matters has a great article about doomscrolling, including things to look out for and advice for parents. You can find the article [HERE](#).

Attendance – top 3!

Attendance has been 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.

1 st form class 98%	2 nd form class 97%	3 rd form class 96%
5-MDO	7-IBO, 7-PHA, 7-PES, 6-MBE, 5-ZSC, 5-EKI, 5-FHA	7-AMG, 6-RAL, 6-JJO, 6-FHI

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
Saturday 1 February – Saturday 8 February	KS3 Ski trip	Year 7 and 8 (group)
Monday 3 – Friday 7 February	Children’s Mental Health Week	
Thursday 6 February	Year 8 Parents’ Evening 1 – in person (book via MCAS)	Year 8
Friday 7 February	Non-uniform day (donations can be to Place2Be for Mental Health Week)	All year groups
Wednesday 12 February	Year 8 Parents’ Evening 2 – in person (book via MCAS)	Year 8
Monday 17 February	REA Day – enrichment	Years 5 and 7
Wednesday 19 February	REA Day – enrichment	Years 6 and 8
Thursday 20 February	HMS PTA Spring Discos (sign-up here)	All year groups
Friday 21 February	INSET Day	All year groups
Monday 24 February – Friday 28 February	Half-term week	All year groups
Monday 3 March	Year 5 visit to Great North Museum	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).