

21 February 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 22

End of half term

We have reached the end of the half-term and what a brilliant 7 weeks we have had in school. As always, we continue to be so proud of our pupils and their positive engagement in school life. This week, we ended a busy and successful half-term with our REA enrichment days, PTA Spring Discos, a celebration of the term with various reward events and pupils representing school in the NCC Youth Cabinet Election (well done, Edward – we are very proud of you!) and at various sports events. Our school values shine through on a daily basis and we have got lots to look forward to after the break.

Head of School Award



This month's Head of School Award theme was 'teamwork' – one of our 8 essential skills from 'Skills Builder'. 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
Esme H Ollie A Millie C Bertie L Sophie W	Philippa U Martha G Meike O Kate H Michael C	Elsie-May P Aurelia K Ben T Jimmy B Finn S	Marc B Mia S Poppy K Kyle R Benson H

REA Days – enrichment



Pupils selected from a wide range of exciting sessions, and it was great to see everyone enjoying themselves so much! Pupils were developing their 'Skills Builder' essential skills and hopefully they'll take their new interests forward into clubs and opportunities. Huge thanks to our staff for leading such exciting sessions including Jellycats modelling (very popular!) and to the many visitors who joined us for the event: Full of Beans Fitness, Lydia Howdon – Irish



Hexham Middle School

Whetstone Bridge Road, Hexham, Northumberland NE46 3JB

T: 01434 610300 E: admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk

www.hexhammiddleschool.co.uk

Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

Dancing teacher, Julie from Rolling Audio, Debbie – Hula Hooping teacher, Paul Nicholson – Lego League, and Hexham Golf Club and the Centre for Life for use of their scribblebots. More REA Days to follow in the summer term!

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
Scott B	Tessa H	Ida H	Shona R
Finn M	Claudia M	Archie D	Joe F
Daniel M	Finlay F	Jamie H	Ossie D
Lucy G	Molly C	Henry L	Benson H
Ruben B	William G	Katie R-B	Euan A
			Poppy K
			Ivy M

Uniform

Please be aware that staff in school will be carrying out a uniform audit during the first week back to make sure pupils are ready for the term ahead. We kindly ask you take some time to check that your child has all the required uniform items in line with our uniform policy which can be found [here](#). If you need any additional uniform items, you may wish to make use of our **Go Green: uniform recycling service**, which is well-stocked with items. More information can be found [here](#). Thank you for your support in maintaining our uniform standards – it is appreciated.



Year 6 - RSHE (Relationship, Sex, Health Education)

Next half term, pupils will have two lessons that focus on relationships, sex and health education. The first lesson is all about changing, growing up and being independent. The second lesson is about positive and healthy relationships. Pupils have already had a lesson on consent, which draws on the concept of appropriate and inappropriate touch. The curriculum we follow at Hexham Middle School uses resources from PSHE Association. Pupils will have the opportunity to build on their learning from this year when they enter Key Stage 3, exploring subject matter in increasing complexity and with expected maturity. If you have any questions about RSHE, please get in touch with Mr Freeman-Myers.

Inter-County Cross Country



Four HMS pupils were selected to represent Northumberland schools at the Inter County School Championships in Middlesborough. This event sees the Northern counties of Northumberland, Cumbria, Cleveland, North Yorkshire and Durham coming together to compete across a range of events. Charlie M was selected to run in the Junior boys' race, Monty C and Ivor T were selected to run in the Minor Boys' race and Kirstie A was selected to run in the Minor Girls' race. Unfortunately for Kirstie, the race clashed with the school ski trip, so she was unable to compete this time.

The three boys all ran superbly on the day. This was a big step up in challenge for all three boys and was a great learning experience for all of them. They have had a superb year representing the school. We look forward to watching them on the athletics track after Easter.

KS3 French Spelling Bee

This week, KS3 pupils took part in the Hexham Partnership Spelling Bee at Hexham Middle School. Pupils had to learn the French words then spell them out using the French alphabet. All pupils showed great determination and resilience. I am delighted to say that both our Year 7 and 8 teams were victorious. A tremendous achievement and testament to all of the pupils' hard work. All pupils were fantastic representatives of Hexham Middle School. Well done to all who took part!



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 week in school.

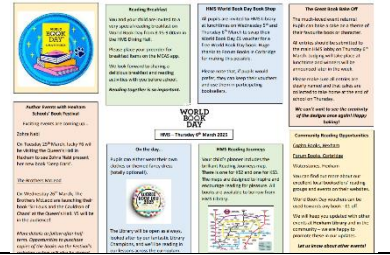
House Totals		Top 4 'P Points' in each year							
		Year 5		Year 6		Year 7		Year 8	
Aln	45,671	1	Millicent C	1	Lucy G	1	Elsie-May P	1	Sarah N
Coquet	45,790	2	Sebastian D	2	Nancy M	2	Ben S	2	Noah H
Tweed	46,168	3	Brianna H	3	Jessica C	3	Rosie O	3	Bess D
Wansbeck	46,768	4	Isla M	4	Meike O	4	Joseph D	4	Jakub M

World Book Day

World Book Day – Thursday 6th March

Our very exciting [World Book Day plans](#) were sent home last week (and again today). There's lots for pupils to engage with ahead of the day itself if they would like to.

Events include: Book Bake Off, Book Swap Shop, our first Reading Breakfast, and of course, pupils can dress up if they would like to. Thank you everyone!



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.

1 st form class 99%	2 nd form class 98%	3 rd form class 97%
7-IBO, 6-RAL, 5-MDO	5-EKI, 5-FHA	6-JJO, 6-MBE

Online Safety

Safer Internet Day

It was 'Safer Internet Day' on 11 February. Please check this link for tips for parents and carers on how to ensure your child is staying safe online: <https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2025/tips-for-parents-and-carers>

News from the community

Autism Family Drop In

Autism Family Drop In [Spring sessions](#) are coming up after the half term.

Ideas for the February Half Term

👋 – Hexham Youthy 👨‍👩‍👧 – Planting Party 🍷 – The Sele Park Windowful 🌟 – Help Hexham shine bright 🍽️ – Hexham Trinity Methodist Church 🌌 – Planetarium Show 🍷 at the Twice Brewed Inn 🏈 – Full of Beans 🎯 – Multi Activity Sports Club 📖 – National Stottie Week 🍷 – The Great Stottie Trail 🧊 – Durham Fire & Ice ❄️ – A musical journey around the city. Have a look on our website for [More information](#).

Club News

New

A lunch time geography club for KS3 will start on Tuesday 4 March. Year 7 and Year 8 pupils are welcome to come to FB11 on Tuesday lunch time. Miss McIntyre will decide together with the club attendees which topics to cover. A number of suggestions have been put forward already!

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 3 March	Zones of Regulation Launch	Year 8
Monday 3 March	Year 5 Visit - Great North Museum	Year 5
Wednesday 5 March	Zones of Regulation Launch	Year 6
Thursday 6 March	World Book Day	All year groups
Thursday 6 March	Boys' rugby 7s county competition	Year 8 (selected pupils)
Friday 7 March	Boys' rugby 7s county competition	Year 7 (selected pupils)
Friday 7 March	PSHE - Carbon Monoxide Safety Workshops	Year 7
Friday 7 March	Zones of Regulation Launch	Year 6
Wednesday 12 March	KS3 Music Showcase, 6.30pm	Year 7 and Year 8 (group)
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-Orrrock
Heads of Key Stage: Mr Scott and Mr Rutherford-Orrrock
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).