



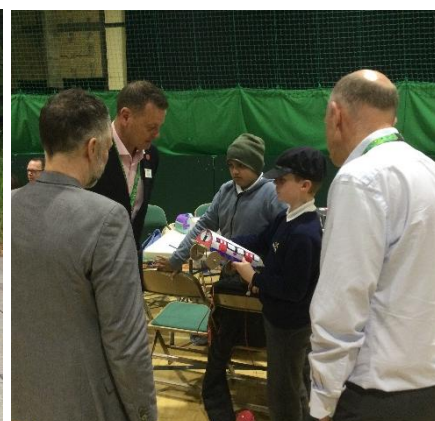
**Value of the term: Respect**

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is hard to fathom that we are concluding the penultimate week of this half term! We have had an incredibly busy fortnight and for many of us we have been in a 'SATs' bubble.

It has been lovely to welcome our 2026 Reception cohort to their 'stay and play' sessions. I know that the Early Years team have really enjoyed these sessions and getting to know our new families.

Having completed their moving models, representatives from Year 2 and Year 5 headed to Stevenage for their STEM celebration event. The children had an amazing time and were excellent ambassadors for the school. Excitingly, the event was covered by ITV.

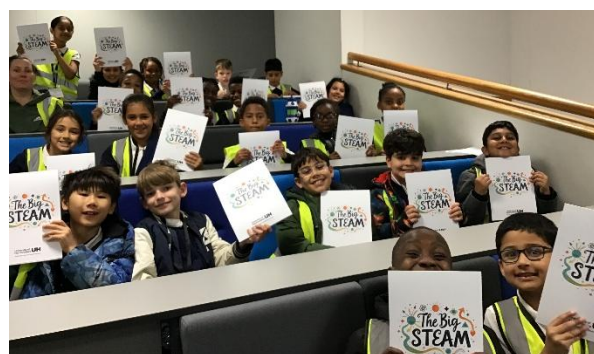


This week the spotlight was firmly on our Year 6s. All their hard work and purposeful practise was evident as the children confidently undertook their Year 6 assessments. Euphoria echoed through the corridors when the final paper concluded albeit some disappointment that there was no breakfast on Friday!

I would like to thank all the team members who have supported the children over the year and years. I would like to give a special mention to Mrs Joo, Miss Davis, Mr Ellis and Mrs Myers who have played a significant role in the Year 6 cohort's 'growth' journey. Thank you.

Miss Wood commenced her Maternity leave this week and I know that Mrs Saldin and Miss Carter have really enjoyed their first week. Thank you so much for all your kind words as they step into their new roles.

On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May, a very excited Year 4 headed off to the University of Hertfordshire for The Big STEAM enrichment event. The children participated in a plethora of activities including dance and art. I'm delighted to inform you that all the children were amazing ambassadors for Howe Dell.



Looking ahead to next week, on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May we are having our class photographs, Tuesday is 6.1's class assembly, Wednesday Sean Rose our Paralympian is visiting and Friday is the PSA 'Yes' day. We are non-stop to the end of this half term!

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Kind Regards

Tracy Prickett

### WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK

Next week Howe Dell is taking part in the Walk to School Challenge. Children will be asked each day at registration how they travelled to school. We encourage you to walk, scoot, cycle or park and stride to school if you can. 2 marbles are up for grabs for the class with the most 'walk' to school marks.

Please visit our website to access a fun scavenger hunt children can do on their way to school:

<https://www.howedell.herts.sch.uk/gallery/?pid=181&qcatid=11>



### PIANO LESSONS

Hertfordshire music service offer piano lessons at Howe Dell. If you are interested in signing your child up, please visit the following website:

<https://ukhertfordshire.speedadmin.dk/registration&/course/48/0/0/3>

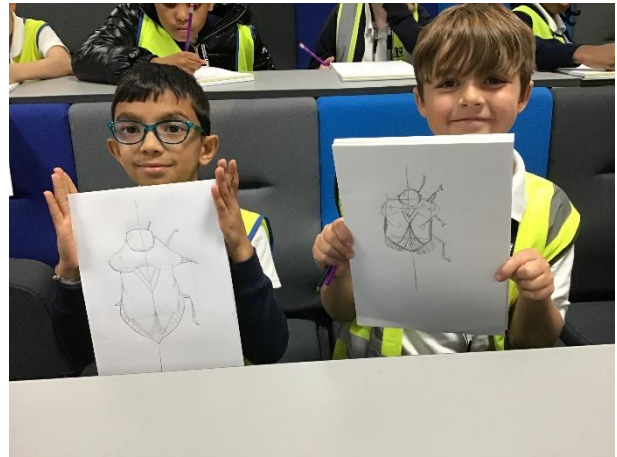
### GTR PRIMARY ENGINEER CELEBRATION

Sixteen children across year 2 and year 5 were nominated to take part in the GTR Primary engineer celebration event. The children have been working hard in school to design, build and test locomotives that were tested by engineers. The children then got the opportunity to talk in their teams to the engineers about their designs and how they built them. During the down time they had the opportunity to think about what they would do if they were engineers. Alex and Sydney (2.2) won the Best Themed Locomotive for the Apprentice Level and Jake and Millie (5.2) won the overall Engineer Level. Mrs Lokaj, Miss Palmer and Miss Burt were proud of all the children taking part for showing resilience throughout the whole day.



## YEAR 4 BIG STEAM EVENT

The Big STEAM event helped us bridge subjects together and see how the arts, music, dance and drawing fit in with the sciences. The children thoroughly enjoyed all the activities and even met a real-life artist!



## SUPER SKILLS CHAMPION

Super Skills coach Mr Sritharan has shared some fantastic news with us about Jack from Year 5 who attends his Hatfield club:

*Super Skills held its annual 1v1 tournament. A big well done to Jack who, in his first tournament appearance, secured the Bronze cup, a fantastic achievement for him and the Hatfield centre. In addition, he received a lot of praise from the other coaches and showed fantastic sportsmanship!*

Mr Sritharan also runs a Super Skills Futsal club on a Friday afternoon at Howe Dell for years 2-6.

Futsal club is £8 per session. To book: email the following info to: [info@superskillssoccer.co.uk](mailto:info@superskillssoccer.co.uk)

- Your child's name
- Year & class
- Contact number



## FREE SCHOOL MEALS ARE CHANGING

Over half a million additional pupils will become eligible for Free School Meals under the new eligibility criteria. The change means that all households receiving Universal Credit above the current £7,400 income cap, will qualify for this support.

The new eligibility will take effect in September 2026. Families receiving Universal Credit will be able to access free school meals starting from the 2026/27 school year. All parents that are eligible will need to apply as soon as possible by providing their National Insurance Number to check eligibility and qualify for support. Children entitled to Free School Meals are also often entitled to attend trips free of charge or at a reduced rate.

**Parents of children that are on Free School Meals now WILL need to apply again.**

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/at-school/free-school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx>

## PSA NEWS

### TEDDIES WANTED

Howe Dell PSA are asking for soft cuddly toy donations for their Summer Fete 'Teddy Tombola'.

Please bring in any unwanted soft toys, in good condition, **between Monday 18th May - Friday 22nd May.**

There will be a crate situated in, or just beyond, the school foyer for you to place your donations.

### YES DAY

A reminder that Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May is YES Day. Participating children should bring in their £1 donations in cash the morning of Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May - members of the PSA will be available to collect your donations as you arrive at school.

As always, thank you for your continuing support with our fundraising events

**TEDDIES WANTED**

Howe Dell PSA Reg. Charity No. 1029492

Please donate any unwanted cuddly toys in good condition for our fete's **Teddy Tombola** between **Monday 18th and Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May.**

**Crate located in school foyer**

## UPCOMING DATES FOR DIARIES

18.05.26- 23.05.26	Walk to school week	
18.05.26	Class group photograph day	
18.05.26 & 19.05.26	New Reception Stay and Play Session	3.45pm – 4.30pm
19.05.26	Year 6.1 class assembly – parents invited	9.15am – 9.45am
20.05.26	Great Athletes Event – Children to wear PE kit to school Eco club climate action plan – bug hotel build	3.15pm – 4.30pm
21.05.26	Reception Screening – children born after 1st March	9.00am
22.05.26	PSA Yes Day Boys Football Festival at Onslow St. Audrey's Author of the month assembly – parents invited	8.30am – 12.00pm 8.55am
	<b>25.05.26 – 29.05.26 – Half Term</b>	
01.06.26	<b>INSET day</b>	
01.06.26 & 02.06.26	New Nursery Stay and Play Session	3.45pm – 4.30pm
02.06.26	Children return to school	
04.06.26	Sports Day – Year 1-6 with family picnic	Times TBC
05.06.26	Councillor Mark Watkins visiting Year 3	1.00pm – 3.00pm
09.06.26	Year 3.2 class assembly – parents invited Year 5 Mayan LEGO workshop	9.15am – 9.45am
11.06.26	Sports Day – Nursery and Reception	Times TBC
12.06.26	Year 3 Roman Britain Schools workshop	

## **REMINDERS**



### **CLASS GROUP PHOTOS**

Children are having their class group photos on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May. Children are to come to school wearing full school uniform including a Howe Dell school jumper or cardigan.

### **MAY HALF TERM PLAYScheme**

We will be running Playscheme for 4 days during May half term (Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May), open to children in Reception – Year 6, from 8am – 6pm. Booking Forms can be found on our website, following the link below, or you can collect a paper copy from the school office:

<https://www.howedell.herts.sch.uk/page/?title=Playschemes&pid=83>

### **GREAT ATHLETE FUNDRAISING EVENT**

Our visiting athlete is coming in on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May, children are to come to school wearing PE kit. You can set up a fundraising page to sponsor your child by visiting: <https://greatathletes.org/>

### **MOBILE PHONES IN SCHOOL**

Please be reminded that mobile phones should not be used whilst on the school premises. Parents/carers and children seen using their phones on site will be asked to put them away. Thank you for your support in this safeguarding matter.

### **STAY & READ**

Nursery and Reception parents/carers are invited to our 'Stay and Read' sessions every Tuesday from 8.40am - 8.55am.

### **LUNCH ORDERS**

Please remember to order your child's lunch through school grid. If lunch has not been ordered, you will need to bring in a packed lunch which must not contain hot food.

Unless your child requires a Halal meal to due religious reasons, please do not select it. If you do select it and it is not for religious reasons your child will be given the vegetarian option.

### **UNIFORM & CLOTHING**

Please ensure children's clothing and uniform is named. PE tops are available to order, please come to the school office to collect an order form. All children should have a pair of plimsolls kept in school for indoor use.

### **PARKING**

Please ensure you are being considerate when parking and are not stopping on double yellow lines or by the front barrier. Spaces in our car park are very limited. We have no capacity for parents to use the school car park at drop off and pick up times.

## BEACON PUPILS

*On the recommendation of the class teachers, we would like to celebrate our Beacon Pupils this week.*

Nursery	Jamie	For working hard every day and growing in confidence
Year R1	Ivaan	For always trying his best when writing
Year R2	Lekhya	For showing growth in independent writing and contributing during lesson discussions
Year 1.1	Fabian	For putting so much effort into all his work with a positive attitude
Year 1.2	Praise	For his growing participation during class discussions and focus during independent learning tasks
Year 2.1	Ethan	For mastering the correct use of the minute and hour hand when making times on a clock
Year 2.2	Maya	For her resilience and her attitude to learning
Year 3.1	Sofia	For trying her best and working hard in English
Year 3.2	Noah	For increased participation and contributions during our lessons this week
Year 4.1	Etta	For showing a positive attitude towards learning and becoming more confident and vocal when sharing ideas
Year 4.2	Genevieve	For being a fantastic role model, caring friend and an inspiring ambassador for Howe Dell during our trip
Year 5.1	Mukhil	For excellent work in Maths. He really tried hard with drawing and measuring angles
Year 5.2	Thomas	For being an excellent learning partner and always having a positive attitude towards learning
Year 6		This week we would like to give Beacon Pupil to all the children in Year 6 for their hard work and determination during SATs

### MERITS

*Well done to the following children for achieving their merit certificate this week:*

Daniel	1.1	Elikai	3.1
Reuben	1.1	Archie	3.1
Rian	1.1	Xander	3.1
Romil	1.2	Kevin	3.1
Ozioma	1.2	Adhrit	3.1
Rayan	1.2	Manuchimso	3.1
Kristina	2.1	Theo	3.1
Ailin	2.1	Jeneru	3.2
Andra	2.1	Dityashri	4.2

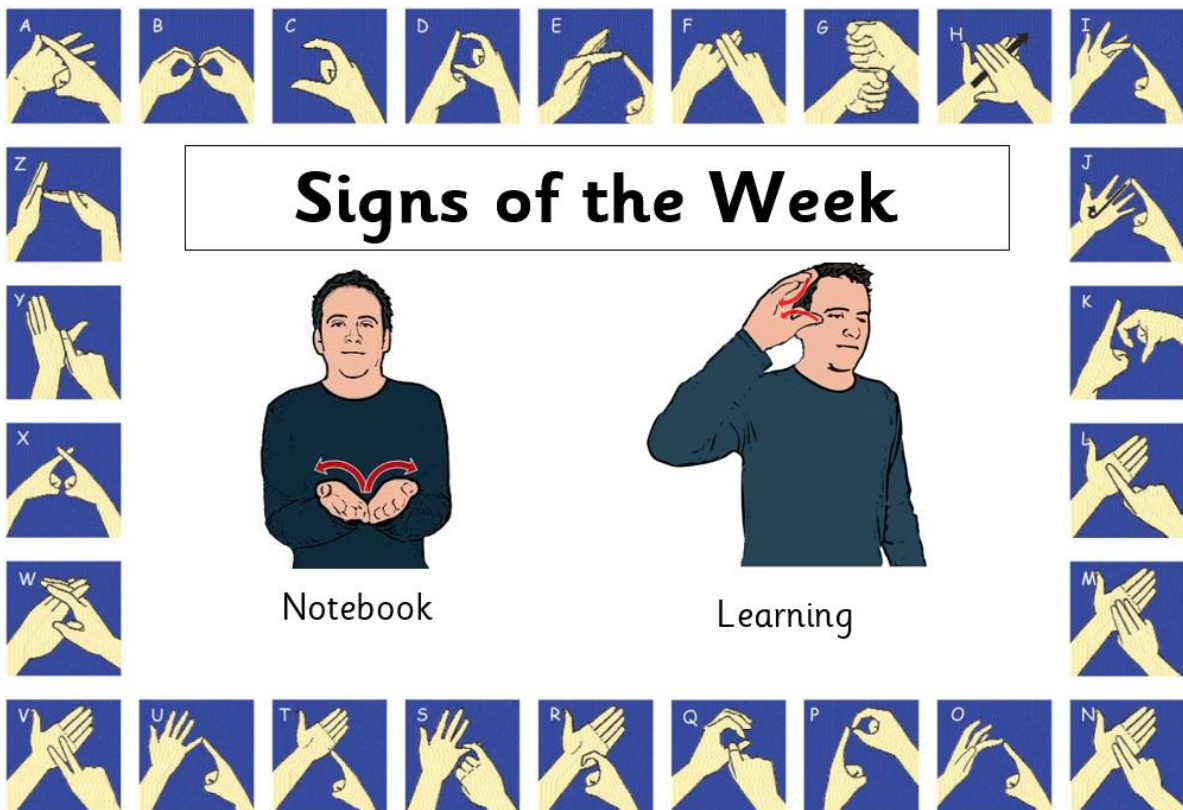


### **FAB FRIDAY**


*Well done to the following children for being selected to sit at the Fab Friday lunch table:*

R.1	Shanti	R.2	Lekhya
1.1	Momore	1.2	Tristan
2.1	Kasey	2.2	Nicholas
3.1	Connie	3.2	Zara
4.1	Cinar	4.2	Violetta
5.1	Darasimi	5.2	Eiliyah
6.1	Mafina	6.2	Eliana


<b>ATTENDANCE OF THE WEEK</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	<b>WINNERS</b> <b>Year 5.1</b>
Reception 1	96.3%
Reception 2	96.7%
Year 1 Class 1	93.1%
Year 1 Class 2	97.5%
Year 2 Class 1	98.8%
Year 2 Class 2	92.5%
Year 3 Class 1	92.9%
Year 3 Class 2	95.3%
Year 4 Class 1	95.6%
Year 4 Class 2	95.7%
Year 5 Class 1	<b>99.6%</b>
Year 5 Class 2	93.8%
Year 6 Class 1	99.1%
Year 6 Class 2	97.1%
<b>Weekly Attendance</b>	<b>96.0%</b>



## Signs of the Week



**Notebook**



**Learning**