



Value of the term: Kindness

Dear Parents and Carers,

I'm not quite sure where the last two weeks have gone! We have launched our suite of assemblies on 'Kindness' and I have to say I was incredibly impressed by the Year 1 children who responded in full sentences following our 'turn and talk / discussion' section in my assemblies. They shared a plethora of examples of their kind actions and contributed significantly to our assemblies; thank you Year 1!

It was lovely to see so many of you attending the 'meet the teacher' sessions. I do hope you found the sessions useful and informative. The Year 6 'meet the teacher' parent and child session is on Monday 21st September at 5pm. Thank you for your understanding as we had 'double booked' parents with a local school's open evening.

If you were unable to attend the session, the slides will be available on Google Classroom.

Over the past two weeks, leaders have been meeting with class teachers to discuss the attainment of every child in their new class. These 'pupil set up meetings' enable provision to be adapted and additional support identified.

We are extremely privileged at Howe Dell to have a highly skilled team of teachers and teaching assistants who will be working with children in their classes and across their phase delivering 'catch up' and intervention programs to ensure foundational skills are secure and learning gaps are plugged.

We also commenced our Autumn term monitoring with a personal favourite; a music book study. Mrs Ritchie and I were with the Year 4 to year 6 children and I have to say they were highly eloquent about their music learning. We shared some of their comments on our Instagram and Mrs Ritchie added a little poll of the most enjoyed enrichment activities. Do head over to our page and add your favourite!

On an enrichment theme, Cemex visited Year 3 as part of their Science curriculum. There were some incredibly curious learners who asked some in-depth questions. Next week Year 3 head out to the nature reserve.



On Friday it was lovely to welcome Tony Fitzpatrick, Director of Education for HCC, and Carole Bennett, CEO of HFL Education. This is an opportunity to have an open dialogue regarding the issues Hertfordshire's schools are facing and for us to solution focus. I meet regularly with senior members of Hertfordshire County Council and HFL Education in my role as Chair of Primary Heads Forum (PHF).

2026 - 2027 PARENT TOUR DATES

- ❖ Tuesday 29th September - 9.15am – 10.30am
- ❖ Tuesday 13th October - 9.15am – 10.30am
- ❖ Wednesday 21st October - 9.15am – 10.30am
- ❖ Wednesday 4th November - 1.30pm – 2.30pm
- ❖ Tuesday 10th November - 9.15am – 10.30am
- ❖ Monday 16th November - 9.15am – 10.30am
- ❖ Tuesday 24th November - 9.15am – 10.30am
- ❖ Wednesday 2nd December - 9.15am – 10.30am
- ❖ Thursday 7th January - 9.15am – 10.30am
- ❖ Tuesday 12th January - 9.15am – 10.30am

I am excited to share with you the following dates for Autumn 2027 parents to 'tour' Howe Dell School. I always love these tours as parents get to see the school 'in action' and see our curriculum, our pastoral support and of course children engrossed in their learning.

If you know of anyone with children who will be starting school in September, please pass on these tour dates as I would love to meet them and their child / children.

You may have noticed that we have been some facilities team members 'down' over the past couple of weeks. Our facilities team have worked incredibly hard over the summer break and are currently having some well-earned annual leave. During this time leaders have been responsible for afternoon opening and locking up. We appreciate that there have been times that we have not been as prompt as we would wish as we were supporting children. To ensure we can open the main doors promptly next week there may be occasions where the field exit gate will not be available for use. Thank you for your kindness and understanding with this matter.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend and I look forward to seeing you all on Monday morning. Main doors open from 8.30am.

Kind Regards

Tracy Prickett

EVENTS NEXT WEEK

On Monday 21st September at 2.30pm Mrs Parker is holding a 'How do I access / use Google Classroom?' workshop for Early Years parents.

On 21st September there is a Year 6 parent meeting at 5pm.

On Friday 25th September, we have our first 'Author of the Month' assembly at 8.55am and at 10am, Year 4 parents have been invited in to school for children to share their writing.

STAFFING UPDATE

We're delighted to announce that Mrs Marney has joined our inclusion team at Howe Dell! Many of our children already know her from her role as an MSA, and we're thrilled to see her expand her impact in this new position.

Over the summer we said farewell to facilities team member Mr Smith. We would like to thank him for everything he did for the Howe Dell community over his eight years of service.



MOBILE PHONES IN SCHOOL

From September 2026, the Government banned mobile phones for children in schools. Our mobile phone policy does have exceptions to this ban. Children in Year 5 or Year 6 and have a signed 'Lone Walker' agreement may bring their phone to school (and place in a box on arrival) and children who have a medical condition that requires their phone to track their health. For these children, parents will sign an additional form which will permit phones in school. For children in Year 4 and lower and children who do not have a 'Lone Walker' agreement in Year 5 and Year 6, phones are not permitted in school.

FOOD BANK DONATIONS WANTED

To help celebrate Harvest Festival and to support our local community, we are asking for donations for our local foodbank - supporting people in crisis.

Donations are being collected in every classroom so please send them in with your children from **Monday 28th September** - the deadline will be **Wednesday 21st October**.

Look on the Lobby Screen to see which class donates the most each week and wins the marble for their class. The class with the most total donations will be awarded 3 extra marbles for their class jar!

Hatfield food bank would like us to collect:-

Tinned soup, tinned meat (especially hotdogs or meatballs), baked beans, tinned tomatoes, tinned vegetables like peas, sweetcorn or carrots, pasta sauce, tinned fruit, tinned custard, pasta, long life juice, long life milk and small jars of coffee.

Harvest Assembly - Thursday 22nd October 8.55am - Led by Year 4 with Year 4 parents invited to attend.



LITTLE WANDLE READING BOOK UPDATE

As a school community, we all recognise and appreciate the fantastic work that our PSA do at Howe Dell. The many events that they organise throughout each year raise vital funds for our school, which can then be used to support whole school initiatives and improvements.

At the start of this academic year, we are extremely thankful to the PSA for funding the purchase of new physical Little Wandle reading books for reading at home. These will replace the e-book system previously used in Reception and Years One, Two and Three.

Providing all children in our younger year groups with these books will greatly support our whole school priority of securing foundational skills for all pupils.

Importantly, the books will also enable you as parents to sit and spend quality time enjoying hearing your children read.

To fit with our Golden Expectation of respecting everyone and everything, we ask that you support us by:

- Taking good care of any reading books that your child brings home, ensuring that they are not damaged or lost
- Returning reading books on time every week so that they can be passed on to others to read

Thank you for your support, and thank you again to our wonderful PSA. Happy reading!



PSA NEWS

Our pre-loved uniform shop is back up and running online. If it is your first time accessing our site you will need to create an account:

www.pta-events.co.uk/howedellpsa

UPCOMING DATES FOR DIARIES



21.09.26	Google classroom workshop – Early Years parents invited Year 6 Parent Meeting - Year 6 parents and children invited	2.30pm – 3.00pm 5.00pm - 6.00pm
22.09.26	Year 3 trip to Amwell Nature Reserve	9.00am
25.09.26	Author of the month assembly – parents invited Year 4 reading stories in class - Year 4 parents invited	8.55am 10.00am – 10.30am
28.09.26	Sibling photos (parents to bring children in prior to school) Individual school photographs	8.00am - 8.25am
29.09.26	CUSP Money matters festival Year 3 Groundworks Workshop in school	
02.10.26	Year 1-3 parents invited to Wonder Play	11.30am – 12.00pm
07.10.26	Reception parents Little Wandle workshops	9.00am – 9.30am 2.45pm – 3.15pm
12.10.26 - 15.10.26	Scholastic Book Fair	8.30am - 8.45am & 3.15pm - 3.30pm
14.10.26	Year 1 parents Little Wandle workshops	9.00am – 9.30am 2.45pm – 3.15pm
15.10.26	SEND parent coffee morning with school family support worker	9.00am – 10.00am
20.10.26	Flu vaccinations	
22.10.26	Harvest festival celebrations led by Year 4 (Year 4 parents invited)	8.55am
23.10.26	Author of the month assembly – parents invited	8.55am
	26.10.26 - 30.10.26 Half Term	
31.10.26	Deadline for secondary school applications	
02.11.26	INSET day	
03.11.26	Children return to school	



Thursday 15th October 2026

Howe Dell School

9am-10am

SEN Coffee Morning

Hosted by our Assistant Head of Inclusion and joined by our School Family Worker. Drop in for a cuppa and some advice and guidance. All welcome

REMINDERS



MOBILE PHONES IN SCHOOL

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

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.

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.

INSTAGRAM

You can find us on Instagram at: **howedellprimaryschool**



HOWEDELLPRIMARYSCHOOL

FAB FRIDAY

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

R.1	Lucas	R.2	Alexis
1.1	Oscar	1.2	Emily P
2.1	Isobel	2.2	Saachi
3.1	Jay	3.2	Sydney
4.1	Theo	4.2	Ashley
5.1	Imogen	5.2	Erik F
6.1	Freddie	6.2	Lucille

ATTENDANCE OF THE WEEK 7 th – 11 th September 2026	WINNERS Year 3.2 & 4.2
Reception 1	94.5%
Reception 2	93.3%
Year 1 Class 1	98.2%
Year 1 Class 2	98.9%
Year 2 Class 1	96.5%
Year 2 Class 2	98.7%
Year 3 Class 1	98.7%
Year 3 Class 2	99.3%
Year 4 Class 1	98.6%
Year 4 Class 2	99.3%
Year 5 Class 1	96.7%
Year 5 Class 2	96.7%
Year 6 Class 1	95.3%
Year 6 Class 2	97.3%
Weekly Attendance	97.3%

BEACON PUPILS

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

Nursery	Jayden	For settling well and showing independence and politeness
Year R1	Brody	For settling into the Reception routine really well
Year R2	Nancy	For always following Golden Expectations and being kind and helpful to her friends
Year 1.1	Arielle	For her effort in phonics
Year 1.2	Emily W	For always being helpful and respectful around the classroom
Year 2.1	Zidane	For explaining his reasoning in full sentences during Maths Fluency
Year 2.2	Divisha	For showing determination in her learning and not giving up
Year 3.1	Ailin	For asking thoughtful questions during our Cemex workshop
Year 3.2	Tilly	For building amazing sentences with wonderful descriptive language and proof reading her work to correct her punctuation
Year 4.1	Advika	For always being polite, working hard and treating everyone with respect and kindness
Year 4.2	Kai	For his determination in class and working hard in every lesson
Year 5.1	Imogen	For selflessly supporting her peers during learning and brilliant contributions during lessons
Year 5.2	Joshua	For his contributions in our class discussions, and his expectational effort in Maths
Year 6.1	Megan	For settling in well to Year 6 and working really hard to improve her handwriting
Year 6.2	Olawale	For his enthusiasm towards learning

