HOWE DELL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER
16th October 2026

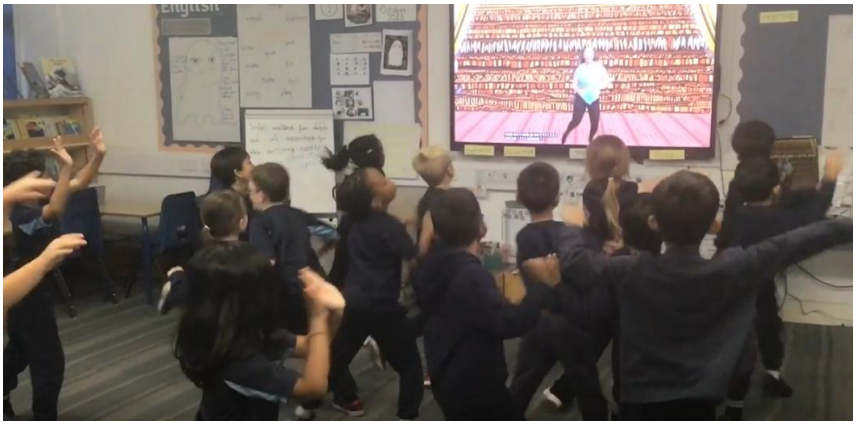


Value of the term: Kindness

Dear Parents and Carers,

October launched 'Black History' month and I have to say the assemblies and learning opportunities that have been organised and led by the Humanities cluster have enabled us all to learn more and deepen our tolerance and respect for all our Howe Dell community. As a 'No Outsiders' school, we regularly discuss protected characteristics and continually model respect to everyone in school.

Mrs Ritchie and I were listening in to an assembly where the whole school were incredibly animated in high quality interactions with each other as they discussed historical inequalities. It was lovely to hear children use the sentence stem as their starting point and subsequently built upon other children's responses.





There are further activities planned for the final week of this half term. I would like to thank Mrs Kiely, Mrs Probert, Miss Keenan, Miss Redwood and Miss Davis for all their hard work for planning such a thought-provoking learning opportunity.

At Howe Dell we constantly undertake monitoring activities to ensure the best learning experiences for children. Leaders have continued to focus upon fundamental skills and we have thoroughly enjoyed watching your children in action and how the adults in the classroom are ensuring all children have the skills, knowledge and vocabulary to progress through the curriculum.

It has been lovely to welcome so many parents in for our Little Wandle phonics sessions with Miss Christmas. The teaching of phonics is a real strength at Howe Dell and I know Miss Christmas has thoroughly enjoyed sharing how we teach phonics and how you are able to support the teaching at home. If you do have any questions, please so not hesitate to contact Miss Christmas via the admin email.

Mrs Joo and Miss Davis were 'out out' this week and headed to Onslow St Audrey's. They had been invited to the school to 'catch up' with their Year 6 (now Year 7) pupils. Mrs Joo and Miss Davis were full of news as they shared how well the children were doing. Feedback from the secondary school was incredibly positive especially how well prepared (both academically and socially) the children are for the next stage of their learning journey.

On Thursday 8th October, Year 4 travelled to Hatfield House to be immersed in music. Last year our Year 6s performed at this event and this year we wanted our Year 4 children, who have just started their strings instrumental lessons, to experience professional musicians playing those instruments. Who knows, with a bit of practise, these musicians could be former pupils from Howe Dell!

GO ALL IN. National Year of Reading 2026

You may have seen on our socials, children across the school participating in the 'take 10 to read' word record online event.

On Thursday 8 October, as Part of the National Year of Reading, Howe Dell pupils joined together with the National Literacy Trust and the British Council in their aim to set a new GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS title for the most people reading online in 12 hours.

The children in Years 1 to 6 participated in exciting sessions with world-renowned authors and influencers, each designed to engage and inspire different age groups. Each webinar included a dedicated ten-minute reading session, during which all participants read together. This formed part of the GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS attempt. Readers everywhere were invited to take part in this collective 'time out' that transcends borders.

Following the event, evidence was submitted to Guinness World Records for verification. Once reviewed and officially approved, Guinness World Records will confirm whether a new record has been set! Watch this space for an update in the near future!





take 10

Everyone is a learner at Howe Dell and I immersed myself in professional development at the annual Head Teacher's conference. I would like to thank HFL for organising such an inspiring and thought-provoking event. I shall be sharing some of my key learning points with the team to enable leaders to also professionally develop.

HFL Education

Prospective parent tours continue and I am delighted to welcome some new children starting at Howe Dell next week. I'm sure you will all make them very welcome as they and their parents settle into 'life at Howe Dell'

Please share the tour dates if you know of anyone who would be interested in joining Reception / Nursery for September 2027 or to join us as an in-year admission.

2026 - 2027 PARENT TOUR DATES

- 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

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

This week we have held our Autumn Term book fair. This event has been incredibly well supported by parents so thank you, as this event enables us to purchase a plethora of books for Howe Dell and you all know how much we love a book! Thank you Miss Christmas and the team for giving up your time to run the event.

Talking of volunteers, as I proof read my newsletter, the PSA team of volunteers are setting up for the 'Spooky Disco' for Years 1 to 3. We have had incredibly excited children all day and without parental support we would not be able to host these 'little extras'. The PSA are always looking for volunteers so if you are able to give them a bit of time it will be appreciated.

You may have seen that we were waiting for an outcome from the Welwyn / Hatfield planning team regarding our MUGA (Multi-Use-Games Area). Well … they have said 'YES'. So we are now in communication with Phoenix Play (our approved contractor) regarding construction dates. I will keep you all posted as this resource will significantly enhance our current outdoor space.

Next week is our final week of this half term. On Thursday 22nd October at 9am, Year 4 are leading our annual Harvest Festival assembly. Thank you so much for your generosity as we gather our 'bumper crop' to donate to the much in demand food bank.

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

SEND COFFEE MORNING

Thank you to those who attended our first SEND coffee morning of the academic year. This was a great opportunity for parents / carers to meet Mrs Bridges, our Assistant Head for Inclusion and Jenny Field, our Inclusion Hub Lead. We also had our school family support worker in attendance, who explained what services the team can offer which ranges from supporting with behavioural concerns, financial support, emotional worries and bereavement.

Nicola Winch, our SEND Governor was also in attendance. Nicola brings with her a wealth of experience in the world of SEND and she offers parents valuable insight into support and resources which are available. Everyone is welcome at these coffee mornings - whether your child has identified SEND or not so please do come along.

The date for our next SEND coffee morning will be announced in the coming weeks, so watch this space.

YEAR 4 MUSIC CONCERT

Last week, Year 4 enjoyed a musical concert at St Etheldreda's, Hatfield House. The music was composed by John Dowland over 400 years ago. As well as listening to songs performed by Hatfield schools, we enjoyed watching live musicians playing violins, a cello, keyboards, drums and an electric guitar.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The children have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in a range of exciting and enriching activities to celebrate Black History Month. Through our special assemblies, they have learned about the achievements, contributions and experiences of Black people throughout history.

The children have also had the opportunity to explore African culture through the lively rhythms of Djembe drumming and the energy and expression of African dancing. To develop their creativity, the children designed/will design their own Kente cloth patterns, exploring the vibrant colours, shapes and patterns inspired by this traditional Ghanaian textile.

It has been fantastic to see the children engaging so enthusiastically in these activities, developing their cultural awareness and celebrating the diversity, history and achievements of Black communities. What a wonderful way to learn, create and celebrate together!







UPCOMING DATES FOR DIARIES



19.10.26	Year 4 Cedars Nature Centre visit in school	
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 Year 5 & 6 parent coffee morning PSA spooky disco for Years 4-6	8.55am 9.00am – 10.00am 3.15pm – 5.00pm
	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	
04.11.26 - 06.11.26	Cuffley camp Year 6	
10.11.26	Year 2 Great Fire of London workshop	
11.11.26	Remembrance assembly led by Year 5 (Year 5 parents invited)	8.55am
12.11.26	Year 6 National Child Measurement Programme	10.00am
13.11.26	Year 3 & 4 parent coffee morning	9.00am – 10.00am
17.11.26	Howe Dell School & Day Care parent coffee morning	9.00am – 11.00am
19.11.26	Flu vaccinations catch up session Year 3 & 4 Odeon Film Festival trip	 12.00pm
20.11.26	Nursery local sound walk	10.30am
23.11.26	Year 5 & 6 Odeon Film Festival trip	12.00pm
24.11.26	Spoken language festival Year 4 Ellenbrook Fields river study	
27.11.26	Non-school uniform day for a Wonder Play donation	
01.12.26 & 02.12.26	Parent Teacher Consultations	3.30pm – 6.30pm
04.12.26	Author of the month assembly – parents invited	8.55am
07.12.26	PSA Christmas shopping day Nursery stay and play – parents invited	 10.45am – 11.15am
08.12.26	KS1 Christmas Production -Year 1 & 2 parents invited	9.15am / 2.00pm
09.12.26	Christmas dinner and jumper day	
14.12.26 & 16.12.26	Year 6 virtual volcano and earthquake workshop	1.30pm
15.12.26	Christingle led by Year 3 (Year 3 parents invited)	8.55am
16.12.26	Rocksteady concert – parents invited	2.30pm
18.12.26	**Last day of term – school closes at 1.30pm**	
	21.12.26 – 01.01.27 Christmas holidays	
04.01.27	**INSET day**	
05.01.27	Children return to school	
13.01.27	Year 6 Live Learning – parents invited	9.00am – 10.00am
19.01.27	2.2 class assembly – parents invited	9.15am
22.01.27	Year 1 & 2 parent coffee morning	9.00am – 10.00am
27.01.27	Year 2 Live Learning – parents invited	9.00am – 9.45am
28.01.27	Year 5 Live Learning – parents invited	9.00am – 10.00am

REMINDERS

FOODBANK DONATIONS

To help celebrate Harvest Festival and support our local community, we are asking for donations for our local foodbank - supporting people in our community. Donations are being collected in every classroom so please send them in with your children - the deadline will be **Wednesday 21st October.**

INDIVIDUAL & SIBLING PHOTOS

Individual and sibling photos are now available to order online: https://v6.kittleorders.com/kp/Home
If you have misplaced your child's photo ticket, please contact the school office and we can send you a digital copy. **Please note, should you want free delivery to school, you will need to order by 19th October.**

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/warm 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.

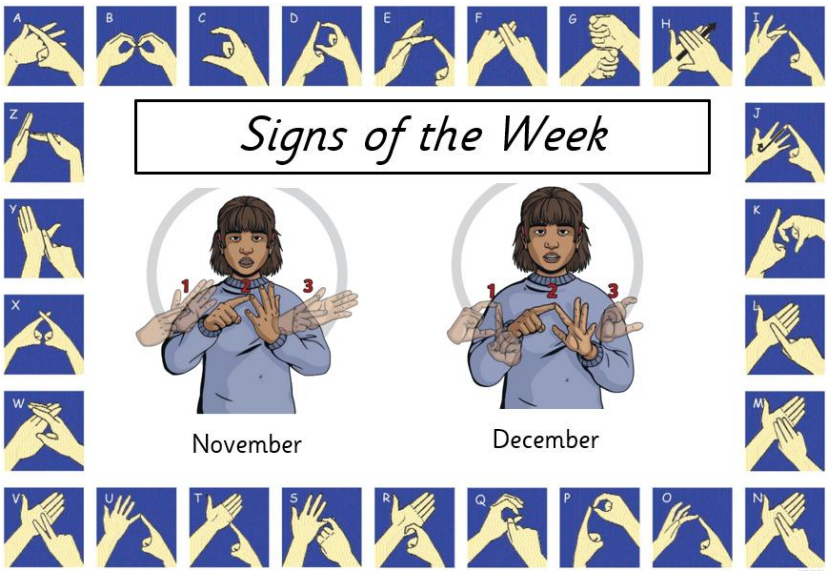
PARKING

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



BEACON PUPILS

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

Nursery	Zohair	For being kind and trying his best every day
Year R1	Cataleya	For having an excellent attitude to learning
Year R2	Larissa	For always being kind and following our Golden Expectation
Year 1.1	Margaux	For her enthusiasm in English and retelling of Puffin Peter
Year 1.2	Olivia	For always being kind, helpful and following the Golden Expectations
Year 2.1	Nellie	For always participating with enthusiasm in phonics and reading practice
Year 2.2	Nyana	For writing fantastic sentences independently about how to be a good friend
Year 3.1	Geraldine	For her positive attitude and passion for learning
Year 3.2	Zumra	For always following the Golden Expectations
Year 4.1	Xander	For being very resilient and showing great determination in PE when he was skipping
Year 4.2	Ifeanyi	For his fantastic performance and hard work during our poetry unit
Year 5.1	Henry	For demonstrating remarkable resilience, perseverance and self-motivation while embracing challenges with determination
Year 5.2	Theo	For working exceptionally hard this term, especially with learning skills such as preparing a sandwich and making his own packed lunch
Year 6.1	Cailin	For her thoughtful and reflective attitude to all lessons
Year 6.2	Baran	For her engagement and contributions to class discussions

MERITS

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

Dana	2.2
Kharliya	2.2
Freya	4.2
Chester	4.2
Yousif	4.2
Zainab	4.2



FAB FRIDAY

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

R.1	Isla	3.2	Nicholas
R.2	Tasmay	4.1	Lexi
1.1	Noor	4.2	Bella
1.2	Jason	5.1	Etta
2.1	Muslimah	5.2	Isa
2.2	Theo	6.1	Amari
3.1	Ailin	6.2	Eva

ATTENDANCE OF THE WEEK 5th – 9th October 2026	WINNERS Year 6.1
Reception 1	90.0%
Reception 2	94.3%
Year 1 Class 1	96.8%
Year 1 Class 2	97.0%
Year 2 Class 1	96.2%
Year 2 Class 2	99.6%
Year 3 Class 1	99.4%
Year 3 Class 2	96.0%
Year 4 Class 1	97.5%
Year 4 Class 2	97.5%
Year 5 Class 1	95.7%
Year 5 Class 2	95.7%
Year 6 Class 1	100.0%
Year 6 Class 2	95.3%
Weekly Attendance	**96.5%**

