HOWE DELL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER
2nd October 2026



Value of the term: Kindness

Dear Parents and Carers,

I absolutely love this time of the year as I drive to school and admire the hues of Autumn. It has also been lovely to have such glorious sunny days as the nights begin to draw in!

We have had yet another busy fortnight with a plethora of events where we have welcomed you to join us. I do hope you found the 'Google Classroom' parent workshop informative. I am still trying to fathom some of the features as a parent so if you require any support, please do not hesitate to contact the teacher via the year group email.

On Monday 21st September, we held our first whole school council with our 'big question' discussing curriculum enrichment. I know there was some excellent feedback and the School Council strategy team will be undertaking a thorough analysis and feeding this back to leaders. Having a 'whole school' approach to our school council really develops oracy skills which children need as they grow and transition into adulthood.





It was lovely to see so many of you at our Year 6 meeting. I'm hoping you have all taken the opportunity to visit a range of secondary schools as we are really privileged to have such great schools in Hertfordshire. We are holding our year 5 and Year 6 coffee morning on Friday 23rd October at 9am where leaders are more than happy to discuss secondary transitions.

As part of their Curriculum enrichment in Science, Year 3 headed out to the Nature Reserve to understand about land regeneration following extraction works.





On Friday 25th September we held our first 'Author of the Month' assembly. This is probably my most favourite assembly as we celebrate 'personal bests' in writing. I have to say that I was absolutely blown away by the high standards of writing so early in the term. It was lovely to have so many parents join us in our celebration. Thank you.

To continue our writing theme, Year 4 shared their writing with parents (their intended audience). Thank you for joining us, I know the children were so delighted that so many of you joined them and they could share their work with you.



This week children across the school and the country participated in CUSP's Money Matters Festival. The aim of this festival is to encourage pupils to explore the world of money, develop essential financial understanding and apply their learning in creative and purposeful ways. The day started with an 'opening assembly' and all children completed one of the 'Money Matters' challenges.

I held my first prospective parent tour this week and it was lovely to share with parents all the exciting things we do at Howe Dell. It is when I reflect on these tours, I realise how much I have to share and so we shall be sharing 'windows into Howe Dell' through our socials.

We do have several tour dates available and spaces are starting to fill so if you know of anyone who would like to join Howe Dell, please let them know that tours with me are available and bookable via the school office.

2026 - 2027 PARENT TOUR DATES

- 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

2026-2027 Key Priorities

This year we are all working SUPER hard to:

Develop 'The Howe Dell Way'

In order to ensure consistency and equity for everyone at Howe Dell School, there will be agreed principles which inform 'The Howe Dell Way'. These principles will cover all aspects of the school day so that all members of the school community can be sure about 'how we do things here'.

Implementing CUSP's suite of professional development called The Code will be our starting point for aligning teaching pedagogy. There will be clear expectations set out so that leaders can hold themselves and others to account. Leaders will be unashamedly and relentlessly picky (within the context of the school's values of kindness, growth and respect) about adults' practice. This will include frequent monitoring activity which promotes routine dialogue about how we do things here.

Pupils and parents / carers will see this translated in consistent practice and alignment across the school in line with age-specific development.

Secure foundational skills for all pupils

Leaders and teachers will have foundational skills and knowledge at the forefront of their practice regardless of a pupil's age from the time they commence their learning journey at Howe Dell School.

Precise assessment will inform next steps and progress will be regularly monitored against agreed milestones. Frequent monitoring by leaders will ensure that foundational skills are consistently embedded in the way in which they are intended across all areas of the curriculum.

'Meet the Generational Need' through relational practice

Whole school professional development will help staff understand the need for relational practice. As a staff team the behaviour policy will be reviewed to reflect learning from the undertaken professional development.

Pupils at Howe Dell will experience consistency in interactions and approaches to behaviour from adults across the whole school.

Leaders have been 'out and about' this week undertaking formal 'lesson drop-in' monitoring. We have focused our monitoring on our key priorities for 2026-2027.

Our priorities are enabling us to really focus on all learners and ensure they are securing the essential skills, knowledge and vocabulary to enable them to thrive in the next stage of their learning journey.

I'm sure you'll be pleased to hear that all priorities commenced on our return in September.

On Thursday the school council met with a manager from HCL to discuss school lunches. This follows on from children sharing with their parents their lunch preferences. The children shared their thoughts about their lunches and learned about the nutritional expectations that lunch providers such a HCL have met.



As I write, children are currently setting up the equipment to share 'Wonder lunch' with our Year 1-3 parents. I'm sure they will have a lovely time as it is such a collaborative part of our school day.









On Monday we open up our 'Black History Month' with a whole school assembly led by our Humanities cluster leaders. We are really excited to learn more about Howe Dell's diversity and there is lots planned. We would love you to join us to share traditions and information about your culture. If you would like to join us please email the school admin@howedell.herts.sch.uk.

We now have 120 followers on our Instagram account so please keep spreading the word!

howedellprimaryschool

HOWEDELLPRIMARYSCHOOL

Wishing you all a lovely weekend and I look forward to seeing you all on Monday. Main doors open from 8.30am and registers close at 8.45am.

Kind Regards

Tracy Prickett

POLICY UPDATE

The Autumn term brings about new policies and updated policies. I just wanted to bring your attention to the following:

Allergy policy (new for 2026)
Mobile phone policy (new for 2026)
Attendance policy (updated)
Packed lunch policy (updated)
Child Protection policy (updated)

All these policies can be found at https://www.howedell.herts.sch.uk/page/?title=Policies&pid=69.
Should you wish to have a paper copy please speak to the office.

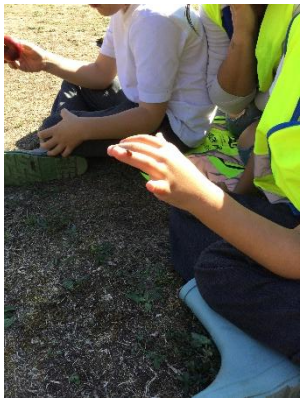
EARLY YEARS VALUE LEADERS

We are pleased to announce our new EYFS value leaders for the Autumn Term. These young leaders will be modelling and supporting their peers with their school value.

Nursery	**R1**	**R2**
Growth – Noah	Growth – Sienna & Jamie	Growth – Fatima & Vaia
Kindness - Andrea	Kindness – Orla & Tishe	Kindness – Nancy & Dezari
Respect - Rory	Respect – Romeo & Elena	Respect – Scarlet & Tasmay

YEAR 3 CEMEX PROJECT

Year 3 visited Great Amwell Nature Reserve as part of the CEMEX Project. Having already learned about the resources extracted from quarries, we visited a former quarry site that had been converted into a nature reserve. We saw an abundance of wildlife and observed how the site had been successfully restored. We completed observational drawings by the river and used binoculars to spot dragonflies around the pond.


FOOTBALL TRIALS

Over the past few weeks Mrs Worsley and Mr Bone have been holding football trials for Year 5 and 6 girls and boys, which saw over 50 eager young athletes showcasing their skills and enthusiasm across three lively sessions.

The children displayed excellent listening skills and a true passion for the game! With only 12 spaces available per team, the competition was fierce, and they were genuinely impressed by everyone's efforts. A massive thank you to all the children who took part; you all made the trials so enjoyable!

Congratulations to those who made the team! We can't wait to get started and witness their fantastic teamwork and sportsmanship in action.





PLAYSCHEME

We will be running Playscheme during October half term from Monday 26th to Friday 30th October for children in Reception to Year 6.

If you wish to enrol your child for one or more days, please return the form to us as soon as possible (latest Friday 16th October) to book your place. Forms can be found on our website, following the link below:

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



WALK TO SCHOOL CHALLENGE

We have now completed our first month of the Walk to School Challenge!

Well done to everyone who has been walking, scooting biking or park&striding to school! We are really making a difference!

Third place – 18 badges – Class 4.2 and 6.2
Second place – 25 badges – Class 1.2 and 3.1
First place – 28 badges – Class 1.1

UPCOMING DATES FOR DIARIES

07.10.26	Reception parents Little Wandle workshops	9.00am – 9.30am 2.45pm – 3.15pm
08.10.26	Year 4 Hatfield House musical performance trip	1.00pm – 2.45pm
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
16.10.26	PSA spooky disco for Years 1-3	3.15pm – 5.00pm
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
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	
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
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	

You're warmly invited to our

Parent & Carer Coffee Morning

Howe Dell School and Day Care

We would love to welcome parents and carers into school and Day Care for a relaxed opportunity to meet members of our school and Day Care staff team, enjoy a coffee and have a chat.

This Morning will be a chance to:

- Meet and get to know members of our staff team
- Share ideas, views and experiences
- Find out more about life at school
- Talk about how we can work together in partnership to support our children
- Build positive relationships between home, school and day care



Good coffee
Great conversations
Stronger together

We value the important role that parents and carers play in our school community, and we look forward to working in partnership with you to help our children thrive.

Date: Tuesday 17th November 2026

Time: 9 am -11 am

Venue: Come to the early years entrance

All welcome!

PSA NEWS

We're excited to announce that the Howe Dell PSA Spooky Discos are back this October! 🎃👻

Year 1–3 Spooky Disco
🗓️ Friday 16th October
⏰ 3.15–5.00pm

Year 4–6 Spooky Disco
🗓️ Friday 23rd October
⏰ 3.15–5.00pm

Tickets are £5 per child, which includes entry to the disco, a Halloween light-up mask, snack and drink. All proceeds support the work of Howe Dell PSA which supports the school.

🎟️ **How to buy tickets**
Tickets are available online at www.pta-events.co.uk/howedellpsa
We'll also be selling tickets on the playground after school on:
Wednesday 7th October and Friday 9th October.
Online ticket sales will close at 11pm on Sunday 11th October.

👻 **What should children wear?**
Children are welcome to wear Halloween outfits or their own clothes.
Please remember that children will need to change themselves from their school uniform into their disco clothes, so outfits need to be sensible, practical and easy for them to manage independently.
Please do not send children with swords, axes or other toy weapons/accessories.

🎃 **What happens after school?**
There is no need to collect your child at 3.15pm and bring them back. Children attending the disco will be taken directly from their class to the disco.
Please make sure the booking form includes details of any health, medical and/or dietary requirements, along with an emergency contact number for someone who will be contactable throughout the disco.
Children cannot leave the disco as lone walkers and must be collected by an appropriate adult at 5pm.

💪 **We need your help!**
To make each disco run safely and smoothly, we need at least 15 parent volunteers.
Importantly, the number of tickets we can make available is linked to the number of volunteers we have, so please do consider helping if you can.
You don't need any special experience. Volunteer jobs are much like helping at a children's party and include serving drinks and snacks, handing out the Halloween wearables and standing at strategic points around the hall to help keep everyone safe.

You can volunteer when booking through PTA Events, email us at psa@howedell.herts.sch.uk, or sign up with us on the playground.
Thank you for supporting Howe Dell PSA – we're looking forward to two brilliantly spooky afternoons! 🎃

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.

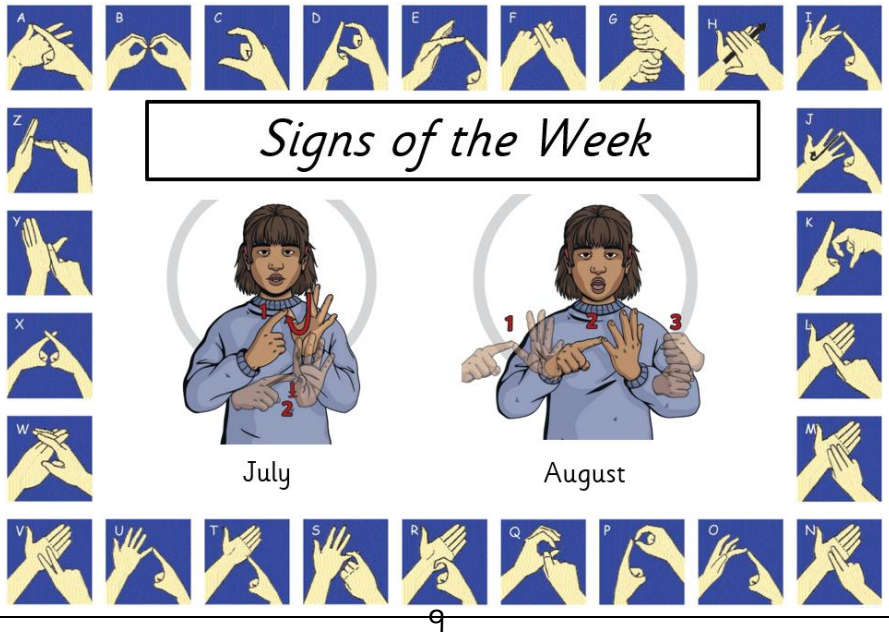
PARKING

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**

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BEACON PUPILS

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

Nursery	Eryk	For settling well into the routine and being kind to his friends
Year R1	Isla	For having an excellent attitude to learning and always giving things 'a go'
Year R2	Scarlet	For settling in happily, and following our Golden Expectations
Year 1.1	Pranavedith	For his contributions during class discussions in Science
Year 1.2	Phoenix	For working hard and independently during DT learning
Year 2.1	Oluwadamola	For excellent contributions in our online safety lesson
Year 2.2	Anayat	For her super published writing
Year 3.1	Bethania	For always following instructions, showing kindness to others, and being helpful around the classroom
Year 3.2	Charlie	For showing kindness and respect to others
Year 4.1	Vinuli	For always being kind, caring and considerate to everyone around her
Year 4.2	Zara	For her perseverance and resilience in Maths and swimming
Year 5.1	Anashe	For responding positively to feedback, demonstrating respect and keen understanding for learning
Year 5.2	Mayumi	For her resilience, kindness and her positive attitude
Year 6.1	Jake F	For giving everything 'a go' and showing resilience in Maths
Year 6.2	Nate	For giving everything 'a go' across the curriculum

MERITS

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

Ayo	4.2
Joseph O	4.2



FAB FRIDAY

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

R.1	Romeo	3.2	Oliver
R.2	Tadeu	4.1	Manuchimso
1.1	Tommy	4.2	Hamza
1.2	Poppy	5.1	Erin
2.1	Ryan	5.2	Hachikaru
2.2	Romil	6.1	Thomas
3.1	Jaden	6.2	Rylie

ATTENDANCE OF THE WEEK 21st – 25th September 2026	WINNERS Year 3.2
Reception 1	79.1%
Reception 2	91.9%
Year 1 Class 1	95.0%
Year 1 Class 2	97.4%
Year 2 Class 1	91.9%
Year 2 Class 2	92.7%
Year 3 Class 1	98.4%
Year 3 Class 2	98.7%
Year 4 Class 1	97.5%
Year 4 Class 2	96.0%
Year 5 Class 1	96.3%
Year 5 Class 2	94.7%
Year 6 Class 1	95.9%
Year 6 Class 2	93.9%
Weekly Attendance	**94.2%**