HOWE DELL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER
6th November 2026



Value of the term: Kindness

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the second half of the Autumn term; I can hardly believe that the first week has almost concluded.

The week before half term was filled with a plethora of visitors and activities. On Monday Mrs Jayasundara, one of our parent governors joined us in our final assembly for Black History Month. Miss Davis and children from Year 6 led our assembly sharing traditions and items of beautiful clothing with the school community. Mrs Jayasundara gave us an insight into life in Sri Lanka and it was wonderful to watch the children so captivated by our assembly leaders.

I know that other parents joined us to enrich our cultural knowledge. I would like to thank all the parents who provided resources and joined us to provide all our children with meaningful learning experiences.





Also joining us was Jeremy Loukes. Jeremy is our School Effectiveness Advisor and he was undertaking his Autumn term visit. Jeremy spent the morning dropping into classes across the school and also joined the children for assembly. Jeremy was pleased with the work of the school and has provided leaders with much 'food for thought' to support us to make Howe Dell even better!



As part of their Science curriculum, Year 4 had their learning enriched from a visit from Cedars Nature Centre where they got to meet reptiles, mini beasts, arachnids, molluscs and mammals. The children deepened their understanding of how animals are classified and asked some highly curious questions.





It has been lovely to welcome so many prospective parents to the school. Parents have been incredibly impressed by the impeccable behaviour and how hard the children are working. I thoroughly enjoy sharing all the great learning we do at Howe Dell with our visitors.

Between now and January 2027, I am touring weekly so if you know anyone who is looking to join us at Howe Dell, either in Reception and Nursery for September 2027 or as an in-year admission, I would love to celebrate our 'Howe Dell' family.



Friday 23rd October was a very busy day! Miss Christmas led 'Author of the Month' and Mrs Ritchie, Mrs Bridges and I met with parents as part of our Year 5/6 coffee morning. We talked extensively about Secondary Transition and parents came up with some great ideas going forward.

The highlight for me, after having Period 6 Finance feedback, was the Year 4-6 'spooky disco'. We had lots of fun and the dancing was fabulous. I would like to say a massive 'thank you' to the PSA team and parental volunteers to enable such exciting events to occur.

On Monday 2nd November the teaching team returned for a day of writing moderation. They found this time invaluable as they were able to review every child's work in depth, identifying strengths and next steps which they will be working on over this term and the academic year.

On Tuesday Miss Long popped in for a visit. Miss Long was part of my teaching team at The Reddings and now a Deputy Head in Norfolk. She is at a Unity school which means she too uses the CUSP curriculum. It was lovely to catch up and learn about some of the CUSP resources that are currently being written.

On Wednesday we waved off our children in Year 6 as they headed off to Cuffley for their residential. I was 'tag teamed' out this year as Mrs Bridges was very excited to join the team. I'm not sure whether the children or the staff were more excited. However, I know that they are in for a great time; learning new skills, finding new strengths and spending time making new friendships.





I can't wait to hear all the stories and I know that Mrs Ritchie is excited about spending Friday with the children. My fingers are crossed that the weather continues to be kind.

I am sure that the children and team will have had a blast and will all be looking forward to a lovely long hot shower / soak in the bath and some sleep in their comfy beds!

I'm looking forward to welcoming them back this afternoon.

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

Kind Regards

Tracy Prickett

Early Years Resource Library

I am very excited to announce the launch of our new Early Years Resource Library which is stocked full of games related to our learning. These games are for Nursery and Reception children - the game label provides the age recommendation. The games are hung up in the cloakroom area of the lobby as you come into the school. Please choose a game with your child and take it home to play as a family. After this has been enjoyed, please bring it back, ensuring that all of the items listed on the content's lists are back in the bag - if anything goes missing - please ensure a member of the early years team is informed.

I hope you enjoy this opportunity to explore fun and exciting games with your children. We look forward to seeing your photos on Google Classroom.

Thank you
Mrs Parker





Harvest Festival

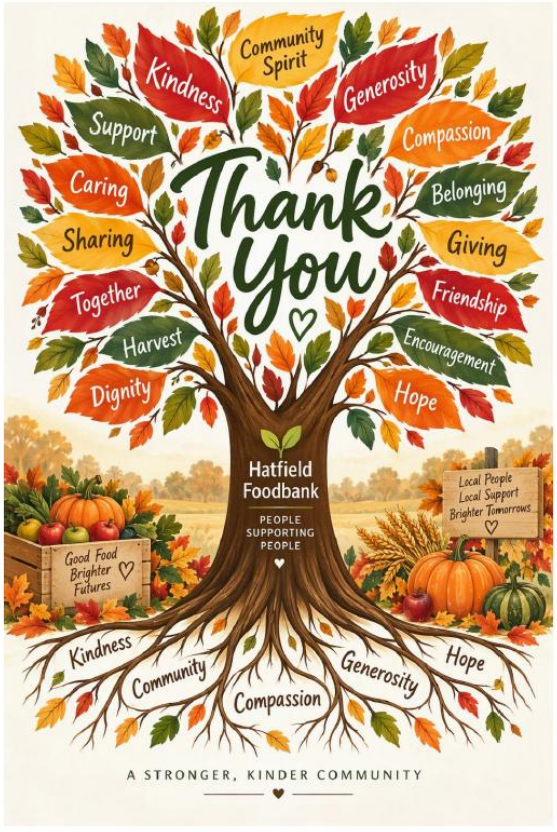
Thank you to all those who attended our Harvest Festival Assembly. Year 4 led the Harvest Assembly where they shared the story of how we get our food from farm to fork!

The children sang their Harvest songs beautifully and Year 4 spoke clearly and confidently. We learned so much about Harvest Festival. This year we welcomed Reverend Kathryn Alford who spoke about how many people it takes to make a packet of biscuits!

Also, a huge thank you for all the items that were donated for the Foodbank.







Thank you

Howe Dell Primary School

for supporting **Hatfield Foodbank** during Harvest.

Your generous donation of **365.51kg of essential items** will help local people and families through difficult times.

Together, we are making a real difference in our community.

Hatfield Foodbank
Together with Trussell

Hatfield foodbank is part of the Trussell's foodbank network
Registered Charity Number: 1174288 | Registered in England and Wales





Walk to School Challenge

We have now completed our second 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 – 26 badges – 1.1
Second place – 27 badges - 1.2, 3.1 and 6.2
First place – 28 badges – 6.1

Book Fair Success

It was wonderful to see so many children and families visit our book fair before half term and enjoy the opportunity to browse and purchase books from the wide selection available.
Your support has helped us to raise over £500 in rewards to spend on books for our school. This is a fantastic amount which would not have been achieved without you. Thank you to everyone who helped to make the book fair such a success!



PSA Christmas Card Fundraiser

Howe Dell Parent/Staff Association are delighted to be participating in the Christmas fundraiser with IQ Cards again this year. The funds that we raise through your purchases will be used to benefit the school.

Your child will bring home with them an order form for the amazing design they have created in class. IQ Cards can print this design onto high quality Stationery including Greeting Cards, Postcards &, Sticky Gift Labels. Also, some fun and affordable gifts: Notebooks, Fridge Magnets, Mugs, Coasters, Tea Towels, Cushion Covers & Keyrings. Your child's name and design will be printed onto all the products for that personal touch!

The deadline for placing your orders is Wednesday 18th November 2026

To order:
Scan the QR code on the design form, this will take you to the online portal: http://www.iqcardsonline.co.uk

Upcoming Dates for Diaries



10.11.26	Year 2 Great Fire of London workshop	
11.11.26	Remembrance assembly led by Year 5 (Year 5 parents invited) Nursery flu vaccinations	8.55am 9.00am
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 PSA AGM – parents invited	9.00am – 11.00am 2.15pm – 3.15pm
18.11.26	Deadline for placing Christmas card orders	
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 – 11.12.26	Nursery stay and play sessions – parents invited	10.45am – 11.15am
07.12.26	PSA Christmas shopping day	
08.12.26	KS1 Christmas Production -Year 1 & 2 parents invited	9.15am / 2.00pm
09.12.26	Christmas dinner and jumper day	
10.12.26	Santa visiting Day Care and Early Years	10.30am
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	Nursery & Reception balance bike day Rocksteady concert – parents invited	 2.30pm
17.12.26	Nursery songs in classroom – parents invited Reception songs in classroom – parents invited	11.15am 2.45pm
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

Reception applications 2027

Reception applications are now open for children starting school in September 2027. The deadline to make an application is Friday 15th January 2027:
https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/school-admissions/primary-junior-and-middle-schools/primary-junior-and-middle-school-places.aspx

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.

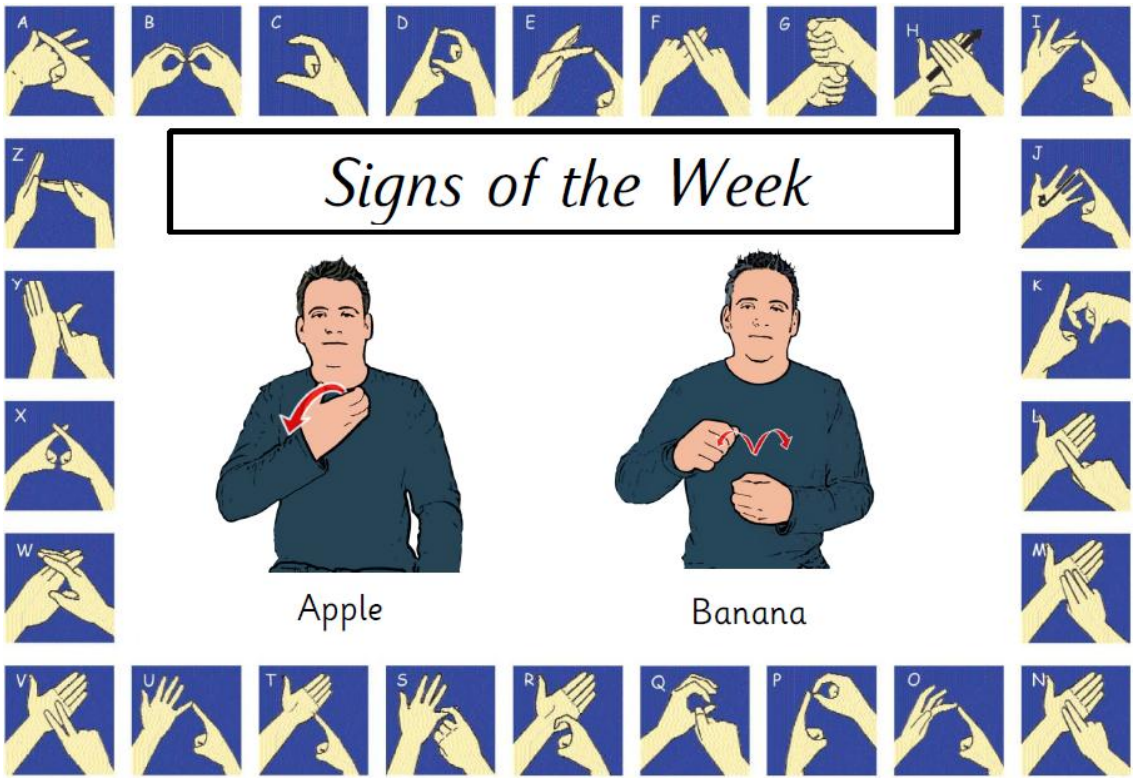
Parking

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	Nasir	For great sharing, listening and being kind to his friends
Year R1	Lucas	For always being enthusiastic about his learning
Year R2	Alexis	For always following Golden Expectations and engaging in carpet time
Year 1.1	Oscar	For his effort in reading practice
Year 1.2	Kaia	For quickly settling into Howe Dell and engaging in the curriculum
Year 2.1	Reuben	For his excellent return to school with a can-do attitude and a smile
Year 2.2	Romil	For excellent participation in guided reading lessons and making great inferences
Year 3.1	Andra	For being a kind friend and a brilliant role model of the Golden Expectations
Year 3.2	Kacper	For challenging himself in Maths by adding two, 3-digit numbers together by regrouping with tens and hundreds
Year 4.1	Aditi	For always giving all learning 'a go' and being a supportive learning partner
Year 4.2	Imaan	For his improved work ethic and personal growth
Year 5.1	Zaafirah	For being a shining example of what hard work and consistency can achieve
Year 5.2	Leo	For his focus this week and for producing a wonderful poem in our writing lesson
Year 6	Medhansh	For giving everything 'a go, and being supportive to all his peers

Fab Friday

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

R.1	Cataleya	3.2	Zumra
R.2	Yuet Yi	4.1	Archie
1.1	Margaux	4.2	Hin Nok
1.2	Thomas P	5.1	Oliver & Michelle
2.1	Zidane		
2.2	Oscar	5.2	Theo
3.1	Diyana		

Attendance of the Week 19th – 23rd October 2026	Winners Year 6.1
Reception 1	90.9%
Reception 2	95.2%
Year 1 Class 1	93.9%
Year 1 Class 2	96.8%
Year 2 Class 1	91.3%
Year 2 Class 2	96.9%
Year 3 Class 1	94.2%
Year 3 Class 2	94.7%
Year 4 Class 1	92.9%
Year 4 Class 2	93.9%
Year 5 Class 1	93.0%
Year 5 Class 2	91.8%
Year 6 Class 1	98.3%
Year 6 Class 2	94.3%
Weekly Attendance	**94.1%**