



Value of the term: Kindness

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a wonderful few days back at Howe Dell. It has been so lovely to be greeted with smiley faces as the children are really keen to be back at school.

We have spent our first two days together 'getting to know each other' and doing assembly this morning we were exploring the leadership roles we could create for children both within the classroom and the wider school community. The children generated a plethora of ideas and I know that the teaching team will be discussing this in more depth in the classrooms.

I'm also delighted to share with you our Ofsted report. Jo Fisher, Executive Director of Children's Services and Education, was very quick to congratulate us.

The Inspection team really 'got us' and this is captured within the wording. I could happily re-write the whole report however the following lines struck a cord:

"Staff across the school share an ambitious vision for high-quality learning and pupils' wider experiences"

"Inclusive learning starts from the moment children join the school"

"Leaders commitment to build strong connections with the wider community is notable"

All the action points from our ungraded inspection in 2023 were completed and the Ofsted team have given us one action which will be addressed in our School Improvement Plan for 2025 – 2026. We shall be holding a session for parents on Tuesday 30th September at 9.00am to discuss the Ofsted report and our School Improvement Plan key priorities for 2025 – 2026.

Next week we have our 'meet the teacher' sessions:

Monday	Year 1
Tuesday	Year 5
Wednesday	Year 4
Thursday	Year 3
Friday	Year 2

All these sessions are in the classroom and commence at 2.45pm. If you are unable to attend, we shall be uploading the presentation to the class page on the website.

Year 6 have their parent session on Thursday 11th September at 5.30pm. At this session we discuss Secondary Transition, 'life in Year 6' and the residential. We also find it beneficial if your child joins us too.

As you know, everyone at Howe Dell is a learner. Over the past 12-18 months Miss Christmas and I have been studying towards National Awards. We both have our final assessment assignments to complete commencing Wednesday 10th September and concluding Thursday 19th September. There may be times that we shall be on study leave so should you need to contact a leader, Mrs Ritchie, Mrs Micklewright and Mrs Wall are there for you. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

And finally... as you all knew, Austin my eldest was studying for his GCSEs. He did incredibly well and he has commenced his A-levels (PE, Sociology and Psychology) in a new school. I've never seen a child so excited to return to school!

Just a small reminder, indoor shoes (plimsolls) are an essential school item. The carpets were cleaned over the holidays and the indoor shoes enable us to maintain high standards of cleanliness and carpet longevity. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Kind Regards,

Tracy Prickett