



Value of the term: Kindness

Dear Parents and Carers,

September has drawn to a close and Autumn hues are appearing all around us. In our assemblies we have been exploring our kindness value in some depth and classes are playing 'kindness bingo' enabling us to keep 'kindness' at the forefront of everything we do.

On the theme of 'kindness' it has been lovely to hear all your kind comments as you greet Mrs Allgood in the mornings. It is lovely to have Mrs Allgood back as we have all really missed her. The great news is that my office Apprenticeship can conclude. I'm sure the team will be delighted that I am no longer meddling in the office!

Year 3 have been 'out and about' as part of their Science Curriculum to Hatfield Quarry and Amwell Nature Reserve. With perfect weather, the children were able to gain some great first-hand experiences.



I'd like to thank the team of parent volunteers who supported us on this excursion.

On Thursday 25th September, my staff team joined me to 'surprise me' for my '0' birthday. I have to say I was quite overwhelmed by the kindness the school community shared and the rousing rendition of 'Happy Birthday', which was pitch-perfect, was an absolute highlight of my day. Thank you for decorating my office and the lovely card collection and making me feel extra-special.

The children in Year 6 have been working in collaboration with Pete Letanka as part of a music festival where they will be performing at Hatfield House. I know that the children are thoroughly enjoying the experience of working with professional musicians and are looking forward to the final performance next week.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the parents who joined leaders at our parent update meeting. We shared our school improvement journey, discussed our Ofsted report and the priorities for this year. The input from parents at the meeting was really appreciated and we shall be looking to add to our parent ambassadors.

The slide deck will be on our website for parents to view if you were unable to make the meeting.



2025- 2026 Key Priorities

This year we are all working **SUPER** hard to:

Embed purposeful practise across the curriculum

Where learners need to build fluency with new knowledge, bespoke scaffolding and additional practise will be provided across the curriculum. This will enable all learners to confidently apply their knowledge in new contexts.

To support learners, a suite of professional development will enable teachers and teaching assistants to understand and implement pedagogical approaches which allow all learners to have the right amount of practise to maximise their achievement.

Develop the leadership of learners

There will be a plethora of leadership opportunities available for all learners. These opportunities will be both inside and outside of the classroom.

These leadership opportunities will support learners to develop confidence, communication skills and a sense of responsibility. Leadership in this context will empower learners to guide, support and model positive behaviour across the school community.

We have two priorities for this academic year which encompasses our Ofsted 'next step' and the development of young leaders.

We have recently reviewed and updated our Child Protection Policy (based on the model policy from HCC) This policy has been drafted by the Governing Board. It has been circulated to you all on this communication and will also be available on our school website.

Next week I have my annual Head Teacher's conference so I shall be leaving the school in the safe hands of Mrs Ritchie, Miss Christmas, Mrs Micklewright and Mrs Wall. Should you need any support, please do not hesitate to contact them through the main office.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Kind Regards,

Tracy Prickett

YEAR 3 CEMEX PROJECT

Year 3 have taken part in the Cemex project learning all about the life cycle of a quarry, last week saw us at a working quarry, we got to walk around looking at the machines and the different processes. We then went to see the digging site which is where they get the sand and stone. This week we went to the Amwell Nature Reserve that used to be a quarry. We walked along the path looking for signs of otters, dragonflies and bitterns. We then used binoculars to spot birds out on the water and try to identify them.



YEAR 6 MUSIC FESTIVAL

Year 6 have been enjoying sessions with professional musician Pete Letanka ahead of their performance at the Hatfield House Music Festival. They began by listening to Pete improvise on the piano and got the chance to ask him some questions about learning music and being a musician. Year 6 have also been learning Handel's Hallelujah Chorus and are beginning to compose new music based on the works of George Frideric Handel, which they will continue in their workshops before the performance.



FOOD BANK DONATIONS WANTED!

To 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 6th October** - the *deadline* will be **Wednesday 15th October**.

The class with the most donations will be **awarded extra marbles for their class jar!**

This year, Hatfield food bank is requesting particular items such as:

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.

All donations will be gratefully received. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Our Harvest Festival Assembly is being held on Thursday 16th October at 9.00am. Led by Year 4 with Year 4 parents invited to attend.



SCHOOL PHOTO ORDERS

Hopefully all children have come home this week with their photo ticket from Monday's individual school photo shoot.

To view and purchase your child's photo - scan the unique QR code or go to kittleorders.com and enter the photo ID & Password displayed on the ticket.

Orders placed by **20th October** can be delivered to school at no extra cost. Orders placed after this date can be delivered to school or an address of your choosing but will incur a delivery charge.

If you or your child have misplaced your photo ticket, please contact the school office who can obtain a digital copy for you via Kittle.

OCTOBER HALF-TERM PLAYScheme

Booking forms are now available for our Autumn Playscheme which will run from 27th – 31st October 2025.

Our Playscheme will be open to both Howe Dell and Non-Howe Dell children from 8am-6pm (Reception - Year 6). New families always welcome.

Spaces will be limited so please book early. All the relevant forms and information can be found here on our website <https://www.howedell.herts.sch.uk/playschemes/>

Or paper copies can be collected from the school office.

We now have our own email address so you can contact us directly should you need to: extendedservices@howedell.herts.sch.uk

UPCOMING DATES FOR DIARIES



06.10.25	Year 6 music festival – day 3 Little Wandle Year 1 parent workshop	2.45pm
07.10.25	Year 3 Groundworks workshop	9.00am - 12.00pm
08.10.25	Year 6 music festival – day 4 Little Wandle Year 1 parent workshop	9.00am
09.10.25	Year 6 Hatfield House music concert - St. Etheldreda's	10.30am - 3.15pm
13.10.25 - 16.10.25	Travelling Book Fair	8.30am - 8.45am & 3.15pm - 3.30pm
15.10.25	Deadline for Harvest Festival donations	
16.10.25	Harvest Festival Assembly – Year 4 parents invited	8.55am
20.10.25	Year 6 National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP)	9.30am
22.10.25 - 24.10.25	Year 6 Cuffley residential	
24.10.25	Author of the month assembly – parents invited	8.55am
	27.10.25 - 31.10.25 - Half Term	
31.10.25	Deadline for secondary school applications	
03.11.25	INSET day	

REMINDERS



CONTACT INFORMATION

To ensure our records are up to date, please notify the office in writing if you have changed contact details (i.e.) address or phone number. Alternatively, this can be updated by parents on the Arbor Parent Portal.

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.

HALAL MEALS

Unless your child requires a Halal meal to due religious reasons, please do not select it. If you do select it and it is not for religious reasons your child will be given the vegetarian option.

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.

LINKS AND ATTACHMENTS

(Can be found under Newsletter Attachments on our school website)

<https://www.howedell.herts.sch.uk/newsletter-attachments/>

- ❖ Halloween at Church Farm Ardeley
- ❖ Child Protection Policy

BEACON PUPILS

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

Nursery	Kinan	For being an excellent role model to his peers
Year R1	Saffiyah	For showing kindness by helping others and using kind words to make others feel happy
Year R2	Maximilian	For growing in confidence with coming into school and developing good friendships in class
Year 1.1	Rian	For excellent reasoning in Maths
Year 1.2	Tristan	For his participation in lessons and always giving everything 'a go'
Year 2.1	Dihen	For carefully proof-reading his writing and making corrections
Year 2.2	Nicholas	For settling in well at Howe Dell
Year 3.1	Mark	For being a supportive and welcoming friend
Year 3.2	Hanan	For trying really hard in English and Maths this week
Year 4.1	Sia-Rose	For always being polite, working hard and treating everyone with respect and kindness
Year 4.2	Ayaan	For being an enthusiastic learner and a great role model
Year 5.1	Hafsa	For always raising her hand and answering lots of questions across the curriculum
Year 5.2	Eiliyah	For her contributions during our Maths lessons and working hard in understanding decimal numbers this week
Year 6.1	Milly	For her fantastic participation in our Music workshops
Year 6.2	Andrew	For his great contributions during History lessons

ATTENDANCE OF THE WEEK 22 nd – 26 th September 2025	WINNERS Year 2.1
Reception 1	93.7%
Reception 2	97.3%
Year 1 Class 1	96.4%
Year 1 Class 2	97.4%
Year 2 Class 1	98.6%
Year 2 Class 2	98.2%
Year 3 Class 1	96.9%
Year 3 Class 2	94.8%
Year 4 Class 1	98.0%
Year 4 Class 2	95.5%
Year 5 Class 1	92.7%
Year 5 Class 2	94.5%
Year 6 Class 1	92.8%
Year 6 Class 2	96.0%
Weekly Attendance	95.9%

FAB FRIDAY

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

R.1	Ethan	R.2	Jan
1.1	Daniel	1.2	Neal
2.1	Dihen	2.2	Roshita
3.1	Yalina	3.2	Kaushiki
4.1	Henry	4.2	Hachikaru
5.1	Olawale	5.2	Tanaka
6.1	Sienna	6.2	Ishaan

Signs of the Week

Poland

Denmark

OPERATION ENCOMPASS

We are an Operation Encompass School

For further information, please come and see us.

OPERATION ENCOMPASS
In every force. In every school. For every child.

Howe Dell
SCHOOL

