



Value of the term: Kindness

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to start by saying a massive 'thank you' to everyone who has led the school amazingly whilst I recover from my eye operation. It really goes to show what a great team we have at Howe Dell!

Over the past fortnight several more year groups took advantage of being in walking distance to our local cinema and watched some great book adaptations including Kensuke's Kingdom and The Wild Robot as part of the Intu Film Festival.

On Tuesday 11th November, Our Year 5 learners proudly led our Remembrance Assembly. They confidently shared their own poetry inspired by 'In Flanders Field' and recited a number of different poems alongside a beautiful performance of the song 'This Remembrance Day'. We are very proud of all the children that contributed to this poignant service. Thank you to all the Year 5 parents and carers for attending.

Later in the day, the whole school gathered at 11am to pay their respects by laying our eco-wreath.

Year 4 invited parents to join them in their 'Live Learning'. Parents had the opportunity to learn alongside their child by taking part in a science experiment to investigate the temperature where solids become liquids. I do hope you found the session supportive and informative.

Our suite of professional development continued with Mrs Winch our SEND Governor delivering PACE training (Playfulness, Acceptance, Curiosity, Empathy). This is a therapeutic – attachment approach to support adults to build safe, trusting relationships with children. Mrs Winch was incredibly impressed by the knowledge teachers had and the enthusiasm to implement this approach. Thank you Mrs Winch for giving up your time to deliver this training. Miss Davis and Miss Redwood headed to Houldsworth Valley School which is a CUSP lead school. I know they returned with lots of ideas to share with the team.

It was lovely to be joined by so many parents on Monday for our Year 5 and 6 coffee morning. It was great to receive your kind feedback and Mrs Ritchie and I have shared your ideas with the team.

This week, leaders have commenced their termly 'drop ins'. We are doing something a little different where we are focussing on 'learner experiences'. We have thoroughly enjoyed dropping in to lessons and then chatting with children afterwards about their learning at that moment of time. It is very clear that children are loving their learning and the teaching sequences in place are enabling children to make great progress. We are doing more of this over the next couple of weeks which I am really excited about!

On Wednesday 19th November the PSA held their Annual General Meeting. It was lovely to reflect upon the plethora of events that had occurred in 2024 – 2025 and I would like to thank Katie and the PSA team for their relentless hard work.

It was also lovely to be joined by new parents. The more parents who can give a little of their time, the more events we can run over the year!

Over the past two weeks we have toured many prospective parents around the school. The parents have been highly complementary of what they have seen and they are impressed by the writing on our central displays.

There are a few more tour dates available between now and applications closing in January 2026 so if you know anyone who has a child who will be starting school in September 2026 do let them know about our tours.

I do hope the temperature rises over the weekend, however until it does, do make sure you wrap up warm and take care of yourselves.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Kind Regards,

Tracy Prickett

SPORTING UPDATE

BOYS FOOTBALL TEAM

On the 12th November, Howe Dell boys football team travelled to Oakview primary. They were met by a very physical team but this didn't deter the boys as they stuck to the task and continued to play some lovely football. After goalkeeping heroics from Daniel in our goal, their goalkeeper followed suit. Micah finally managed to score; however, Howe Dell fell to a 2 -1 defeat.

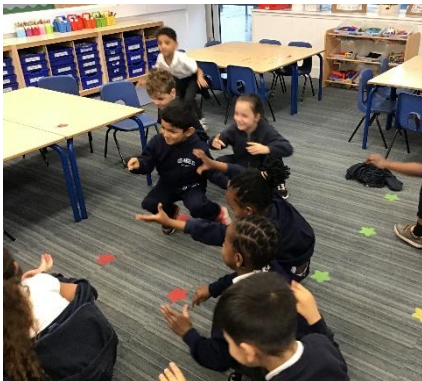
BASKETBALL

On Thursday last week, a group of boys and girls from years 5 and 6 took part in regional basketball finals after qualifying a few weeks ago. Out of upwards of 40 schools across Welwyn and Hatfield, Howe Dell came 7th overall. Showing resilience and excellent teamwork, Howe Dell came up against impressive teams but stuck to the task. All involved should be incredibly proud of their hard work and such an amazing achievement.



CHILDREN IN NEED

Well done to all children across the school who took part in 'Challenge 25' by doing something challenging to raise awareness for Children in Need. It was great to see children being active to support this charity by completing 25 star jumps, 25 skips or even running on the spot for 25 seconds. Thank you to all adults who were also able to show their support and make a donation to this fantastic charity.



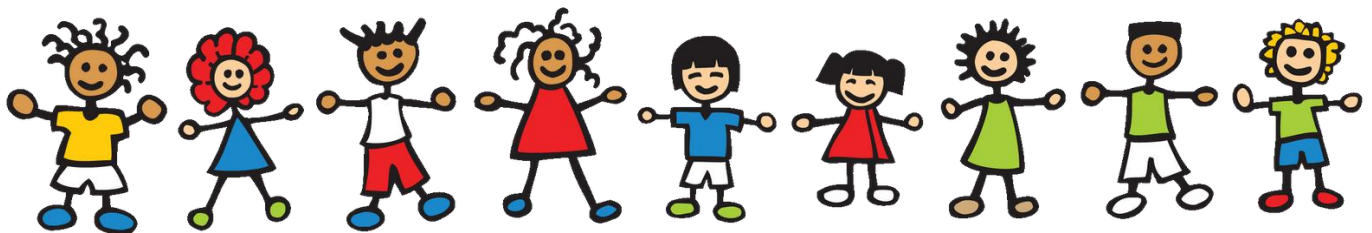
Howe Dell School Nursery Admissions 2026/27 are now open!

WE OFFER 15 AND 30 HOURS

If your child is born between **01/09/2022** and **31/08/2023** they will be due to start Nursery in September 2026. The school Nursery offers 15 hours and 30 hours funded. There is also the option for 15 hours funded to be 'topped up' with 15 hours paid.

Applications can be found on line on our website under

<https://www.howedell.herts.sch.uk/admissions/> or paper copies are available from the school office



Monday 24th November 2025: Applications for September 2026 Nursery places open

Friday 20th March 2026: Applications for September 2026 Nursery places close

EARLY YEARS STAY AND READ

Parents and Carers of our Nursery and Reception children are invited to our Stay and Read sessions every Tuesday from 8.40 - 8.55. The classroom is set up with a selection of books for the children to explore, this is an opportunity for parents/carers to come into class to read with their child and peers. Parents/Carers can enter the classroom, via the playground, with their child at school drop off time.

PARENT/TEACHER CONSULTATIONS

Parent/Teacher Consultations are being held on Tuesday 2nd December and Wednesday 3rd December. Appointments can be made through the Parent Portal or Arbor App. They will be available to book until Wednesday 26th November at 4pm.

Each appointment is 10 minutes is long. Parents can book one appointment. If an additional appointment is needed, this appointment will need to be made directly with the teacher via the class email.

Consultations will be held on site and will be face to face. Nursery, Reception, Y1, Y2, Y3 will be in the Main Hall. Year 4, Year 5, and Year 6 will be held upstairs in the Multi-Purpose Hall. The parking is not lifted so parents may access the car park.

UPCOMING DATES FOR DIARIES



24.11.25 – 28.11.25	Nursery stay and play – parents invited	
24.11.25	Applications for September 2026 Nursery places open	
25.11.25	Spoken Word Festival	
26.11.25	Into Film Festival cinema trip – Year 2&3	11.30am – 1.10pm
28.11.25	PSA non-uniform day for a Rainbow Raffle donation Author of the month assembly – parents invited SEND parent coffee morning – school family worker	8.55am 9.00am – 10.30am
01.12.25	Flu vaccination catch up session	
02.12.25 & 03.12.25	Parent Teacher consultations	3.30pm – 6.30pm
03.12.25	Reception Screening – children born up to end of February Year 2 Great Fire of London workshop	9.00am All Day
04.12.25	Santa visiting Early Years & Day Care	10.30am
08.12.25	PSA Christmas Shopping Day	
10.12.25	Christmas dinner & Christmas jumper day Rocksteady concert – parents invited	2.30pm
12.12.25	PSA Rainbow Raffle draw	
15.12.25	KS1 production	2.00pm
16.12.25	KS1 production	9.15am
17.12.25	Reception songs in classrooms – parents invited	2.45pm – 3.15pm
18.12.25	Christingle – Year 3 parents invited Nursery songs in classroom – parents invited Last day of term – School closes at 1.30pm	8.55am 11.15am
19.12.25	Occasional day	
	22.12.25 – 02.01.26 Christmas holidays	

PSA NEWS

Rainbow Raffle Non-Uniform Day – Friday 28th November 2025

In exchange for wearing non-school uniform on **Friday 28th November**, we're asking families to kindly bring in a **donation for our Rainbow Raffle**.

Each year group has been assigned a colour, and we ask that your donation matches that colour theme:

Nursery & Staff	Any colour	Year 3	Green
Reception	Red	Year 4	Blue
Year 1	Orange	Year 5	Purple
Year 2	Yellow	Year 6	Pink

Donations can be anything new or unused – food (not chilled or perishable), drinks (including alcohol), books, toys, stationery, or toiletries. These colourful items will help us create our **Rainbow Hampers**, which you'll have a chance to win in our *December Rainbow Raffle!* (Details on how to buy tickets will follow soon.)

Children's non-uniform doesn't need to match their year group colour – only the donation does. Please no football kits or cropped tops. Those not wishing to take part should wear regular school uniform.


PSA members will be available **before registration** on Friday 28th November to collect donations.

Children's Christmas Shopping Day – Monday 8th December 2025

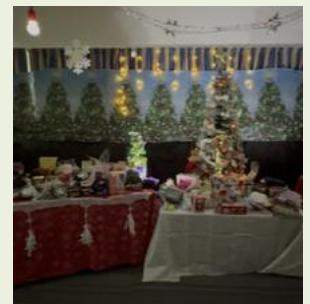
This much-loved event is back. Each year the PSA organise a Christmas shopping experience for the children in our Christmas Grotto where they can pick a gift for a loved one at home. We have gifts for parents, grandparents, extended family, siblings and even the pets!

The gifts are paid for in advance via PTA events or at one of our playground sales, each child has the opportunity to shop for up to two gifts and each gift costs £2.50 so a maximum of £5 per child.

Payment Details:

- Please make payments online by **5pm, Monday 1st December** at:
 www.pta-events.co.uk/howedellpsa
- Alternatively, a cash/card payment table will be available on the playground at pick-up (3.15-3.30pm) on **Friday 21st November and Wednesday 26th November**.

Children will bring their gifts home at the end of the day, and every child will also receive a special gift from the PSA!



REMINDERS



NON-UNIFORM DAY – Friday 28th November

In exchange for wearing non-school uniform, families are asked to kindly bring in a donation for the PSA Rainbow Raffle in their year group colour.

CUT YOUR CARBON

It's cut your carbon month. Children are encouraged to complete the checklist throughout November and hand into their class teacher.

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. 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.

Signs of the Week

Frustrated

Fed Up

BEACON PUPILS

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

Nursery	Huomachi	For being an excellent role model to her peers
Year R1	Kalis	For showing greater engagement and participation in learning and using key vocabulary correctly
Year R2	Adeline	For working hard on her phonics learning in school and at home
Year 1.1	Elizabeth	For great presentation when writing a Gruffalo Mud Pie recipe in English
Year 1.2	Safyyah	For her progress with her English writing and positive attitude to all her learning
Year 2.1	Atanas	For making some great behaviour choices in class this week
Year 2.2	Ola	For being kind and helpful around school
Year 3.1	Vinuli	For her excellent effort in English
Year 3.2	Giulia	For working hard and always putting her hand up during discussions
Year 4.1	Manuja	For showing determination and pride in his work every day
Year 4.2	Wanaka	For working so enthusiastically on her reading and showing improvement in her comprehension skills
Year 5.1	Isaac	For always putting maximum effort into his work in all lessons
Year 5.2	Tanaka	For always having a positive attitude, being an excellent and kind learning partner and always making us smile
Year 6.1	Alex O	For excellent effort in Geography
Year 6.2	Daniel	For his great work and dedication during lessons

FAB FRIDAY

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

R.1	Oscar	R.2	Nathan
1.1	Oluwadamola	1.2	April
2.1	Kasey	2.2	Kaan
3.1	Samuel	3.2	James
4.1	Anika	4.2	Erik
5.1	Isaac	5.2	Thomas
6.1	Sayo	6.2	Andrew

MERITS

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

Muslimah	1.1	Jeremiah	4.1
Atarah	3.1	Joshua	4.2
Lexi	3.1	Amie	4.2
Advika	3.1	Marvelous	5.1
Dea	3.1		



ATTENDANCE OF THE WEEK 10th – 14th November 2025	WINNERS Year 3.1
Reception 1	91.9%
Reception 2	98.0%
Year 1 Class 1	93.9%
Year 1 Class 2	98.6%
Year 2 Class 1	93.3%
Year 2 Class 2	97.9%
Year 3 Class 1	99.3%
Year 3 Class 2	91.1%
Year 4 Class 1	94.7%
Year 4 Class 2	97.0%
Year 5 Class 1	98.7%
Year 5 Class 2	98.7%
Year 6 Class 1	97.0%
Year 6 Class 2	97.7%
Weekly Attendance	96.3%