



### Value of the term: Kindness

Dear Parents and Carers,

December is upon us, the nights are drawing in and rehearsals are in full swing in preparation for a plethora of festive events and activities.

As always, Howe Dell has been filled to the brim with productivity! Leaders have continued their lesson 'drop ins' and the conversations we have had with children have showed how much they enjoy learning and how the scaffolds in place have enabled them to complete their learning activities.

On 25<sup>th</sup> November we held our annual CUSP oracy festival. The theme of the event was magic so we all learnt to perform a trick or a short sketch to perform to other children. There were some very impressive performances from across the school and many children have developed the skill of building a connection with their audience through effective communication.



It has been lovely to welcome so many parents into school. Thank you so much to the Year 5 parents who supported the children with their sewing. I hope that you enjoyed our 'Author of the Month' assembly. This is Mrs Ritchie's and my favourite assembly. Mrs Ritchie was really excited to share with me the amazing outcomes and how proud she was of the children.

This week we held our Autumn term parent consultations. It was lovely to chat with you and hear your feedback. I would also like to thank you for completing the Ofsted view parent survey. Ofsted have updated this to align with the new toolkit. The results are incredibly positive so thank you as your feedback and suggestions really matter to us.

If you didn't manage to book an appointment, please contact your child's teacher through the year group email or admin email as I know that teachers are keen to update all parents on their child's progress this term.

It was lovely to see the Year 2 children thoroughly immersed in their 'Great Fire of London' Curriculum enrichment. I was touring prospective parents at the time and they commented upon how curious and engaged the children were.



We have also been visited by teachers from Crawley Green who came to learn about 'Drawing Club' in Reception. They too were really impressed with our Early Years curriculum and they are eager to implement it in their school. I thoroughly enjoy sharing our great practice with other schools; thank you Miss Wood for accommodating this professional development opportunity.

We also had another very special visitor this week. Father Christmas paid an early 'surprise' visit to Day Care and Early Years. Every child was given the gift of reading – Thank you Father Christmas.



I was very excited to see this morning the PSA 'Elves' team who are sprinkling their magic in the multi-purpose hall in preparation for our PSA 'Christmas Shopping Day' on Monday. I tried to peek, however I have been banished so I shall have to wait for Monday to see the transformation. I did find some pictures from last year as a little reminder.



The final two weeks of term are 'jam packed' and it is really important that we stay true to our values of 'Kindness, Growth and Respect' as this will enable us all to have a positive conclusion to the Autumn term.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Kind Regards,

Tracy Prickett

### **FUTSAL FESTIVAL**

On Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, a group of year 4 and 5 children joined other local primary schools at Onslow St Audrey's for a Futsal Festival. Lots of new skills were learnt as the children grew in confidence while demonstrating their resilience and teamwork. The children proudly represented Howe Dell, and followed all of our Golden Expectations! Well done to all!



### **NETBALL CLUB**

At Howe Dell this half term, some of the girls in years 4, 5 and 6 have had the opportunity to take part in a netball club with a netball coach. The girls have been working on the chest pass, shoulder pass, and bounce pass alongside the footwork rule. The confidence of the girls has grown, and they are showing their new skills during PE lessons! Well done girls!





## UPCOMING DATES FOR DIARIES

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 <b>Last day of term – School closes at 1.30pm</b>	8.55am 11.15am
19.12.25	<b>Occasional day</b>	
	<b>22.12.25 – 02.01.26 Christmas holidays</b>	
05.01.26	Children return to school	

## REMINDERS



### CHRISTMAS DINNER & JUMPER DAY

Children are welcome to come to school on Wednesday 10th December in a Christmas themed jumper instead of their navy school jumper/cardigan. Please ensure that they still wear the rest of their school uniform. It will also be our Christmas Dinner Day on Wednesday 10th. If you wish for your child to have a Christmas Dinner, please place your order on School Grid as soon as possible.

### STAY & READ

Nursery and Reception parents/carers are invited to our Stay and Read sessions every Tuesday from 8.40 - 8.55.

### 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.

## PSA NEWS

### RAINBOW RAFFLE

Thank you for your generous Rainbow Raffle donations! They will be used to build colourful Rainbow Hampers that can be won through our December 'Rainbow Raffle'.

**Tickets are £1 each.** You can collect cash from your ticket sales, or should you wish to pay by card, you will be able to make payment online up until 11.55pm on Wednesday 10th December at: [www.pta-events.co.uk/howedellpsa](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/howedellpsa)

There is a Rainbow Raffle post box situated in the school foyer for you to return your envelopes. **All tickets need to be returned by the morning of Thursday 11th December.**

Please return your envelope with the following:

- Any sold ticket stubs - completed with the adult purchasers' details.
- Any cash you have from your ticket sales.
- Any unsold tickets.
- Please put the name & class of your child on the envelope.
- Please tick the relevant boxes about payment – if you have paid online, please write the name of the adult who is registered with PTA Events.

For ease we have sent all children home with an envelope but appreciate that we have many families with multiple children in the school - please do not feel that you need to sell all of the tickets. However, should you require additional tickets, please ask at the school office.

Our Rainbow Raffle will be drawn on Friday 12th December, with hampers available to collect between 15th - 18th December. We will contact the winning ticket holders to arrange collection.

Thank you for continuing support. If you have any questions regarding the raffle, please get in touch with us at [psa@howedell.herts.sch.uk](mailto:psa@howedell.herts.sch.uk).



## BEACON PUPILS

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

Nursery	Ethan	For being a superstar at identifying our rhyming words
Year R1	Frankie	For having a positive attitude to learning and having 'a go' at more challenging tasks
Year R2	Zaidah	For always following our Golden Expectations and for working hard on her phonics in school and at home
Year 1.1	Annie	For correctly using capital letters and full stops in her independent sentence writing
Year 1.2	Saachi	For always following the Golden Expectations and being kind
Year 2.1	Othniel	For his engagement and participation during our Great Fire of London workshop
Year 2.2	Zumra	For settling well into year 2
Year 3.1	Connie	For fantastically applying key vocabulary to her learning in Science
Year 3.2	Maryam	For always Following the Golden Expectations
Year 4.1	Oliver	For showing exceptional growth in both his skills and his attitude since the start of year 4
Year 4.2	Luna	For applying the Golden Expectations in and out of the classroom
Year 5.1	Rylie	For working hard across the curriculum and demonstrating all the Golden Expectations
Year 5.2	Daniel	For his continued hard work and focus in class and for always following the Golden Expectations
Year 6.1	Daniel	For demonstrating the Golden Expectation on his first week at Howe Dell
Year 6.2	Joel	For sharing his ideas and working hard in lessons

### MERITS

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

Oluwadamola	1.1	Maya-Rae	1.1
Annie	1.1	Reuben	1.1
Rian	1.1	Eve	2.1
Ryan	1.1	Kian	3.2
Nevaeh	1.1	Ayo	3.2
Arohi	1.1	Samantha	4.2
Elizabeth	1.1	Lakshmi	4.2



### **FAB FRIDAY**

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

R.1	Daisy	R.2	Jason
1.1	Elijah	1.2	April
2.1	Ailin	2.2	Tilly
3.1	Xander	3.2	Jeneru
4.1	Etta	4.2	Levi
5.1	Darasimi	5.2	Thomas
6.1	Carter	6.2	Oliver

<b>ATTENDANCE OF THE WEEK</b> 24 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup> November 2025	<b>WINNERS</b> <b>Year 5.1</b>
Reception 1	82.4%
Reception 2	90.3%
Year 1 Class 1	94.6%
Year 1 Class 2	93.9%
Year 2 Class 1	94.3%
Year 2 Class 2	84.5%
Year 3 Class 1	95.6%
Year 3 Class 2	95.6%
Year 4 Class 1	88.0%
Year 4 Class 2	90.3%
Year 5 Class 1	<b>99.0%</b>
Year 5 Class 2	95.0%
Year 6 Class 1	93.4%
Year 6 Class 2	91.0%
<b>Weekly Attendance</b>	<b>92.0%</b>

## Signs of the Week

**Crying**

**Worried**