



Value of the term: Kindness

Dear Parents and Carers,

I have to say the final fortnight of term has felt a little like 'A partridge in a pear tree' as there have been a plethora of Christmas themed events across the school.

Our fortnight commenced with what can only be described as a 'magical experience'. The PSA elves transformed the multi-purpose hall into a winter wonderland which was enjoyed by all! Thank you PSA elves for your time and energy; we do love the PSA 'shopping day'.



On Wednesday 10th December we all wore our Christmas jumpers with pride and thoroughly enjoyed the Christmas lunch that was cooked for us by our amazing HCL kitchen team. Thank you ladies for treating us to a culinary delight.



Amidst the KS1 Christmas rehearsals, I have toured more prospective parents for Reception 2026. There is one final tour on 7th January 2026 if you know anyone who would like to see Howe Dell in action.

On Monday and Tuesday this week our Key Stage 1 children took to the stage to perform 'Knock, Knock! The Nativity'. I have to say I was totally blown away by the professionalism of the children. They oozed confidence as they sang, danced and performed. So many of our children were truly born to perform. I'm sure the many parents, grandparents and friends of Howe Dell would agree that the children really shone. A huge thank you to Miss Bigginton and the team who produced such a high-quality performance.



On Wednesday our Nursery and Reception children sang to their parents. The children have really developed their singing skills and they clearly enjoyed performing to an extremely large audience. We are looking forward to seeing you perform at the end of the Spring term.



On Thursday morning it was the turn of Year 3 to lead our traditional Christingle Service. This service explores festivals of light across religions and the importance of light in our world.



At the end of this term, we had the opportunity to reflect upon the value of kindness. Each class has been completing their kindness bingo challenge. It was lovely to see how using please and thank you had been embedded across the school along with supporting peers with tricky learning and caring for our school environment.

There were three classes that achieved a full house and will be spending £50.00 on new classroom resources which may include new indoor game resources or an 'upgraded' marbles in the jar activity!

Well done to all classes and congratulations to: Class 3.2, 4.2 & 5.2 for modelling exceptional levels of kindness.

The end of term is always an exciting time with everyone looking forward to a well-earned break. At Howe Dell this is a time of mixed emotions. We are really excited to welcome Mrs Cattermole back in January and she will be teaching in Year 5.1 with Miss Palmer. This does mean that Mrs Micklewright is leaving the team at the end of this term.

Mrs Micklewright has acquired a very exciting leadership role closer to home. Mrs Micklewright is an inspirational teacher and leader. She has worked relentlessly to ensure our Curriculum offer enables all children to thrive. She was instrumental in both our Ofsted inspections and I am very privileged to have her as part of my leadership team. I know our paths will continue to cross and I wish her every success and happiness for 2026 and beyond.

We are also saying 'thank you and goodbye' to Mrs Smith. Joining the Teaching Assistant team is Miss Chowdhury. She is very excited to join us and I am sure you will all give her a warm welcome.

You may remember that back in September Miss Christmas and I undertook final assessments for our NPQH / NPQEL qualifications. The results are in and I'm proud to let you know that we both passed with flying colours! We have both agreed that we have done enough studying for the time being!

It has been a very busy term and at times our feet didn't touch the ground! Thank you all so much for your support, kindness and encouragement. I would like to wish you all a peaceful Christmas break and I look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 5th January. Main doors open from 8.30am.

In true KS1 style: "Knock Knock," "Who's there?"
"Mary" "Mary Christmas everyone!"

Tracy Prickett



ROCK STEADY CONCERT

On Wednesday 10th December our talented Rock Steady children showcased their incredible skills to their parents and carers. It was a wonderful opportunity for the children to demonstrate everything they have learnt over the term, and their hard work truly paid off!

The joy and pride on the faces of the parents and carers were truly heart-warming as the students took to the stage to strut their stuff. Thank you for being such a supportive audience, and we hope you enjoyed the show as much as we did. We are already looking forward to more delightful performances in the future!



BOYS FOOTBALL TEAM

Last Thursday Howe Dell travelled to Onslow to play St. Mary's. We faced a tough first half struggling to work as a team, going into half time 1-0 down. However, immediately after half time, they began to work as a team and 30 seconds into the half they put a couple passes together which led to a goal. A further 4 goals were scored without reply giving Howe Dell a 5-1 win! Showing resilience and teamwork, the boys claimed a big result.



Goals scored by Alex, Carter, Freddie, Micah and Tanaka.

HCPI PARENT COFFEE MORNING

On 30th January at 9am parents and carers are invited to attend our SEND parent coffee morning hosted by Herts Parent Carer Involvement.

HPCI is the parent carer forum for Hertfordshire. They work to make sure that local service providers know what families with children and young people with SEND need. They gather parent carer views and work in partnership to bring about positive change across health, education, and social care services.



SPRING TERM CLUBS

Bookings are open for our Spring Term clubs. You can find a copy of the clubs list on our website here: <https://www.howedell.herts.sch.uk/clubs/>

We are excited to announce a free Futsal taster course, funded by Howe Dell, for children in Years 2-4.

Super Skills presents After School Futsal Club, the indoor format of Football which improves football skills and boosts the confidence of every young player. Physical and mental development is the essence of Super Skills. We achieve this through engaging, inclusive and challenging sessions whereby we maximise the time every child spends with a Futsal ball, a heavier smaller ball which improves dribbling and control, at their feet. Every player works towards achieving the following objectives:

- *Complete ball mastery*
- *Becoming excellent 1v1 football players*
- *Evolving to being a key player on their football team*
- *Well trained and self-sufficient athletes*

UPCOMING DATES FOR DIARIES



05.01.26	Children return to school	
08.01.26	Year 6 Live Learning – parents invited	9.00am – 10.00am
12.01.26	Year 3 & 4 parent coffee morning	9.00am
15.01.26	Reception 2026/27 application deadline	
16.01.26	Non-uniform day for a playground item donation	
22.01.26	Year 5 Live Learning – parents invited	9.00am – 10.00am
23.01.26	RSPB Big Bird Watch	
26.01.26- 30.01.26	Art Festival week	
29.01.26	Year 1 Live Learning – parents invited	9.00am – 9.45am
30.01.26	Author of the month assembly – parents invited SEND parent coffee morning - HPCI	8.55am 9.00am – 10.30am
03.02.26	Year 4.2 class assembly – parents invited	9.15am – 9.45am
02.02.26 – 06.02.26	Nursery stay and play – parents invited	
09.02.26	Year 1 & 2 parent coffee morning	9.00am
10.02.26	Safer Internet Day	
11.02.26	Year 3 Live Learning – parents invited	9.00am – 9.45am
	16.02.26 – 20.02.26 – Half Term	
23.02.26	INSET day	
24.02.26	Children return to school	

PSA NEWS

RAINBOW RAFFLE

Congratulations to the 16 winning ticket holders who won one of our colourful rainbow hampers - all winners have been contacted with the good news. Thank you to all the families who took part by purchasing raffle tickets to raise much needed funds for our school. And thank you to the volunteers who gave up their time to put these hampers together.



CHRISTMAS SHOPPING DAY

We hope the children had a blast during our Christmas Shopping Day experience! 🎄 ✨ It's such a delight to see the joy on their faces as they enter the grotto, eagerly selecting gifts for their loved ones.

A huge thank you goes out to all the amazing parent volunteers who help make this magical event possible! Your time and effort truly bring the spirit of Christmas alive for our little shoppers.

Wishing you all a jolly festive season!



A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
Z	Signs of the Week							J
Y			K					
X	Confident	Surprised	L					
W			M					
V			N					
U								
T								
S								
R								
Q								
P								
O								
N								

REMINDERS



RECEPTION APPLICATIONS

The deadline for applying for a Reception place to start in September 2026 is Thursday 15th January.

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.

ATTENDANCE OF THE WEEK 08th – 12th December 2025	WINNERS Year 5.1
Reception 1	95.5%
Reception 2	96.6%
Year 1 Class 1	96.4%
Year 1 Class 2	91.4%
Year 2 Class 1	95.3%
Year 2 Class 2	88.3%
Year 3 Class 1	98.6%
Year 3 Class 2	95.9%
Year 4 Class 1	94.8%
Year 4 Class 2	96.3%
Year 5 Class 1	99.3%
Year 5 Class 2	94.7%
Year 6 Class 1	97.7%
Year 6 Class 2	97.7%
Weekly Attendance	95.6%