



Value of the term: Respect

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is really quite hard to fathom that we have already been back at Howe Dell for two weeks! On our return, Year 3 headed 'out and about' to Celtic Harmony. This is such a memorable excursion and really enriches the learning in the classroom; I know that everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day.

Last Friday we were blessed with glorious weather for our annual PSA Spring hat parade. Mrs Ritchie was incredibly impressed with the designs and found the judging process incredibly difficult. Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to everyone who participated in our fundraising event. See a list of winners further down in the PSA section.



Mrs Joo and I went 'out and about' to visit Cuffly outdoor centre. As many of you will have heard, Kingswood (the company we had used previously) went into administration so we needed to source a new location for our Autumn Term residential for Year 6. Mrs Joo and I were really excited with the venue and can't wait to take Year 6 in October 2025. If your child is yet to sign up, please do not hesitate to contact us for a chat as the activities on offer, the accommodation and the dining locations are fabulous. We are all looking forward to 'unplugging' and getting back to nature.



We had more visits of the furry nature this week as the Early Years and Day Care were visited by an Animal Club workshop. I popped in and met the guinea pigs. It was lovely to watch the children interact with the animals with curiosity and kindness.



It was lovely to chat with so many of you at Parent Consultations. I know that there was lots of positive feedback and you could see the progress within the books. Thank you for completing the Parent View questionnaire; results are showing lots of positive feedback.

If you didn't manage to make an appointment and would like a parent consultation please contact the class teacher through the year group email and a mutually convenient appointment can be made.

We are continuing our IT hardware rolling improvement programme with a new extra-large interactive screen in the multi-purpose hall. This means we shall be able to effectively deliver high quality lessons and professional development without the uncertainty of equipment failure.

As part of our Safeguarding Schedule, Mrs Ritchie and I have met with children in classes across the school to talk about safeguarding. The children drew up an extensive list of what safeguarding looks like at Howe Dell and the word that was mentioned most was 'trust'. Children at Howe Dell trust us to keep them safe and that is what we do.

As I write this newsletter I can hear the excited voices of the School Council as they prepare the pricing tickets for this afternoons sale. I'm sure you have seen the plethora of posters promoting the 'Sports Shop'. School Council members are selling a range of sports equipment for you to enjoy in the warmer / lighter evenings. All profits raised will enable the School Council to fund their whole school projects.

Monday 5th May is a Bank Holiday giving us all a long weekend. School will reopen on Tuesday 6th May with main doors opening from 8.30am.

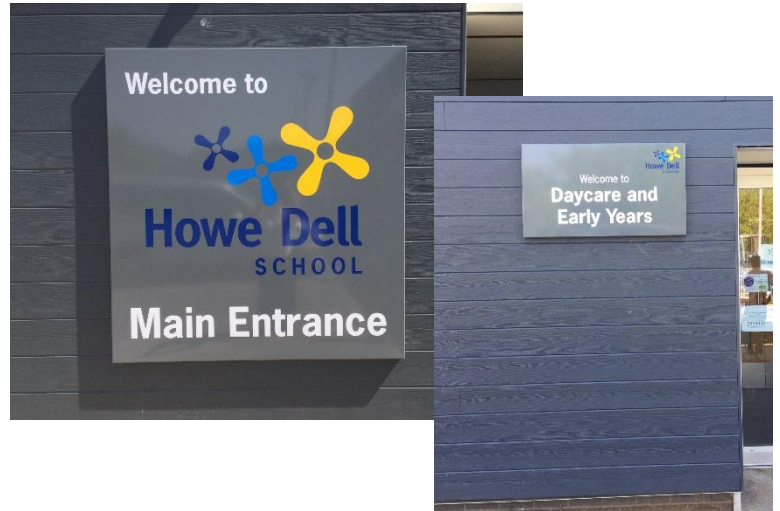
Wishing you all a lovely long weekend.

Kind Regards,

Tracy Prickett

BUILDING WORKS UPDATE

I'm sure you'll be pleased to hear that the roof / cladding / snagging project is drawing to a close. The outdoor covered area in Day Care and Early Years is in progress and the sound proofing should be completed over the next couple of weeks. Who'd have thought that we would still be going almost a year on! What we do have is a transformed building and we have complimented the project with new signage.



CELTIC HARMONY

Year 3 enjoyed a day out to Celtic Harmony. We learnt a bit of what life was like in the Iron Age, by grinding grain to make flour, weaving, dying material and preparing soup. It was a wonderful day but we are glad to be back and not have to forage for our keep, it was exhausting!



ANIMAL CLUB

The children in Early Years loved learning about and handling different animals during their visit from Animal Club, including an African land snail, millipede, gecko, guinea pigs and a frog!



SCOOTERBILITY

Year 2 recently took part in a Scooterbility workshop, led by Hertfordshire's Active and Safer Travel Team. They learned about:

- Balance and steering skills
- Stopping safely at the kerb
- Stop, Look, Listen, Think!
- Walking scooters safely across the road

The children thoroughly enjoyed the workshop and demonstrated exemplary behaviour throughout, whilst also learning valuable safety skills to help keep them safe whilst out and about.



HAPPILY EVER AFTER

The topic for the Spring Term in Early Years was fairytales – reading stories such as Goldilocks and the Three Bears, Little Red Riding Hood, Jack and the Beanstalk and the Three Little Pigs. They concluded their learning by hosting a 'Happily Ever After' day, inviting children to come to school dressed up as a fairytale character and create their own story. We loved seeing their fantastic costumes.



MAY HALF TERM PLAYScheme

We will be running a May Half-Term Playscheme from Tuesday 27th to Thursday 29th May.

Booking forms now available on our website: <https://www.howedell.herts.sch.uk/playschemes/>

We look forward to welcoming both Howe Dell and Non Howe Dell children. New families welcome.

CELEBRATING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF VE DAY

Our school will be commemorating the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day on Thursday, the 8th of May 2025.

To mark this significant historical event, we will be participating in the 'VE80 Great big live assembly', which the children will watch together as a school. This will be a wonderful opportunity for them to learn more about the importance of VE Day and its place in our history.

To make the day special and celebratory, we would like to invite all children to come to school dressed in red, white, or blue for the entire day. This will help us create a vibrant and unified atmosphere as we reflect on this important anniversary. (No football kits or cropped tops please)



TEDDIES WANTED

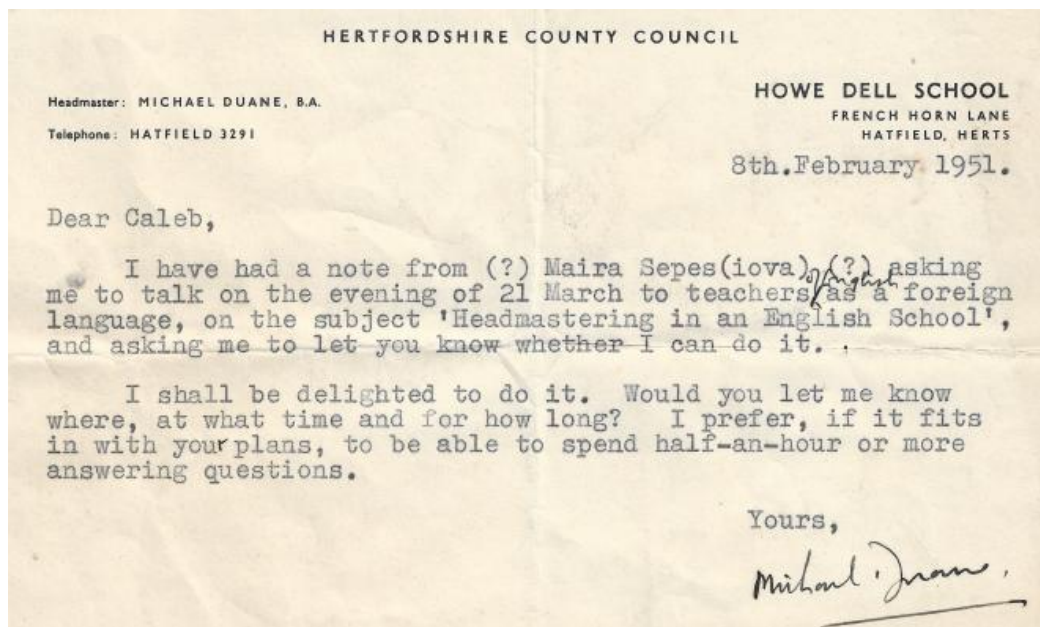
The PSA are asking for donations towards their 'Teddy Tombola' which is a popular stall at the summer fete. Please can you bring in and donate any unwanted soft cuddly toys in good condition from Tuesday 6th May until Friday 23rd May. There will be a crate situated in the school foyer between these dates.

LETTER FROM 1951

A popular learning resource used here at Howe Dell are Cuisenaire rods, which give students visual confirmation of their hands-on investigations of math concepts, from addition to division to fractions.

Jake from the Cuisenaire® Company recently got in touch with us to share a note he found from the Headmaster of Howe Dell in 1951, to his grandfather Caleb – the founder of their Company. As well as numbers in colour and Cuisenaire® Rods, Caleb Gattegno developed teaching methodologies for reading in English and learning languages.

It's remarkable to think that Howe Dell are still ordering from the Cuisenaire® Company all these years later!



PSA NEWS

SPRING HAT PARADE

Thank you to all the children who took part in this year's Spring hat competition and to all the parents and carers who joined us for the parade last week. It was especially lovely to have Day Care join us for the event. We loved seeing the children parade in their hats and could tell a lot of time and effort had gone into decorating them.


Thank you to Mrs Ritchie and Mrs Wall for taking on the extremely difficult task of judging the competition, we know they found it particularly challenging, but after much deliberation we are pleased to announce that the winners are...

Day Care	Kareem	Nursery	Shivani
Reception 1	Anayat	Reception 2	Sebastian
Year 1.1	Arlo	Year 1.2	Kacper
Year 2.1	Aathira	Year 2.2	Rocco
Year 3.1	Joshua	Year 3.2	Etta
Year 4.1	Medhansh	Year 4.2	Kaylee
Year 5.1	Milly L	Year 5.2	Yasmine
Year 6.1	Ava	Year 6.2	Reuben



Congratulations! We hope our winners enjoyed receiving their prize and certificates in class this week.

UPCOMING DATES FOR DIARIES



05/05/2025	May Bank Holiday	
W/C 05/05/2025	Deaf Awareness Week	
06/05/2025	Year 5 Trip to Ellenbrook Woods 4.2 Class Assembly – Parents Invited Reception Parents Phase 3 Phonics workshop	9.00am – 12.00pm 9.15am – 9.45am 2.45pm – 3.15pm
07/05/2025	Reception Parents Phase 3 Phonics workshop	9.00am – 9.30am
09/05/2025	September 2025 Nursery places to be accepted by this date	
12/05/2025 to 15/05/2025	Year 6 SATs Week	
W/C 19/05/2025	Nursery Stay & Plays	11.00am – 11.30am 2.30pm – 3.00pm
19/05/2025	Class Group Photos	
20/05/2025	2.1 Class Assembly – Parents Invited	9.15am – 9.45am
21/05/2025	R2 Class Assembly – Parents Invited	9.15am – 9.45am
23/05/2025	Author of the Month Assembly – Parents Invited SEND Coffee Morning – HPCI PSA Krispy Kreme Doughnut Sale	8.55am 9.00am – 10.00am 3.15pm – 3.30pm
	26/05/2025 – 30/05/2025 – May Half Term	
02/06/2025	INSET Day	

REMINDERS

MAY BANK HOLIDAY

A reminder that school will be closed on Monday 5th May.

EARLY YEARS READING

Every Tuesday morning (8.40am – 8.55am) Reception and Nursery classes would love parents/carers to join them in a shared reading session. For afternoon Nursery the session is 12.20pm – 12.40pm.

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.

UNIFORM AND 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. Orders will be completed on a weekly basis. All children should have a pair of plimsolls kept in school for indoor use. Earrings should be studs.

BEACON PUPILS

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

Nursery	Summer	For engaging more in her phonics learning
Year R1	Kharliya	For a great start joining us a Howe Dell and always having a positive attitude to learning
Year R2	Joys	For having a fantastic attitude to learning and being a great role model to her peers
Year 1.1	Diyana	For putting her hand up more during class discussions
Year 1.2	Kaan	For his increased focus on the carpet and participation during lessons
Year 2.1	Josef P	For his commitment to improving his writing stamina
Year 2.2	Adhrit	For good focus and working hard in lessons
Year 3.1	Samantha	For her persistent kindness and being a good friend
Year 3.2	Adira	For her resilience in PE and working as a team
Year 4.1	Isaac	For his impeccable behaviour for learning and contributions in class
Year 4.2	Dahlia	For sharing her knowledge and skills with the class in a tennis lesson
Year 5.1	Mafina	For persevering and overcoming challenges and showing an amazingly positive attitude
Year 5.2	Kyla	For her contributions in class this week and her excellent writing when writing our survival guide in English
Year 6.1	Zack	For always making the right choices and always following the Golden Expectations
Year 6.2	Jake E	For his dedication and enthusiasm during our swimming sessions

MERITS

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

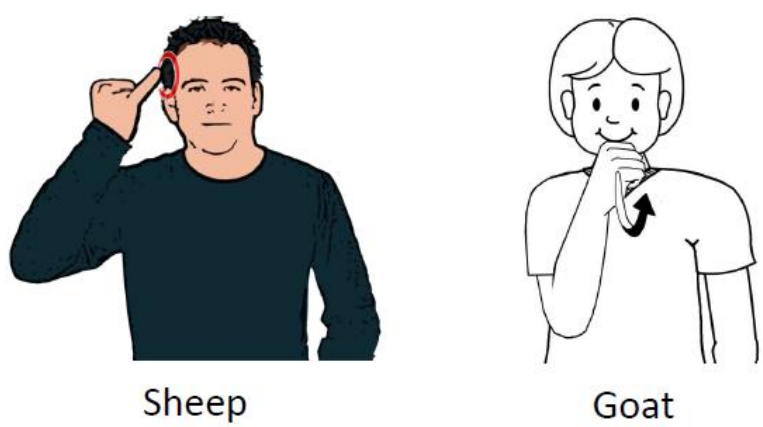
Ethan 4.1
Philip 5.1
Millie-Rose 5.1
Reuben 6.2
Keona 6.2
Cyla 6.2
Kai 6.2



ATTENDANCE OF THE WEEK 22 nd – 25 th April 2025	WINNERS Year 1.2 & 5.2
Reception 1	95.4%
Reception 2	85.7%
Year 1 Class 1	98.3%
Year 1 Class 2	99.6%
Year 2 Class 1	92.0%
Year 2 Class 2	88.8%
Year 3 Class 1	91.5%
Year 3 Class 2	95.0%
Year 4 Class 1	94.2%
Year 4 Class 2	95.8%
Year 5 Class 1	95.3%
Year 5 Class 2	99.6%
Year 6 Class 1	95.3%
Year 6 Class 2	93.8%
Weekly Attendance	94.3%


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

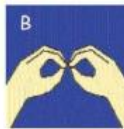
R.1 Inaya
 R.2 Maya-Rae
 1.1 Eve
 1.2 Evelyn
 2.1 Bella N
 2.2 Samuel
 3.1 Joshua
 3.2 Rodin
 4.1 Ava
 4.2 Tanaka
 5.1 Zara
 5.2 Prateek
 6.1 Praise
 6.2 Cyla

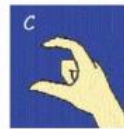



Signs of the Week


Sheep Goat


A 


B 


C 

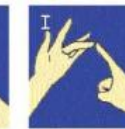
D 


E 


F 


G 


H 


I 


Z 


Y 


X 


W 


V 


U 


T 


S 


R 


Q 


P 

O 

N 

J 

K 

L 

M 