



Value of the term: Respect

Dear Parents and Carers,

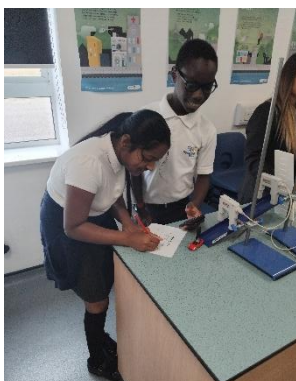
Well, that was a rather different fortnight! Imagine the scene, Helen Jones our School Improvement Partner was discussing the impact of our work in Early Years when the phone rings. It was the school office saying that an Ofsted inspector was on the phone. A quick double check of the name with Helen Jones and indeed it was an Ofsted inspector, our school's graded inspection had commenced.

The team deep dived into Early Reading, Maths, Science, Art and Music. It was fantastic to watch leaders at all levels share with the team their in-depth understanding of their subjects and how this was reflected in lesson drop ins, book looks and pupil voice.

I want to say 'thank you' to all the parents who spoke with the inspectors / completed parent view. Your positive comments were overwhelming and it is lovely to receive so much positive feedback. We are all looking forward to receiving the report and sharing the contents with you.

We had a plethora of events planned so it was 'business as usual'.

On Tuesday 24th June, Year 4, who were in fine singing voice headed to St Albans Abbey to participate in the Electric Umbrella's 'Shine a light' musical extravaganza. The children had fully prepared for the event and sang with gusto!



On Wednesday 28th June, Year 5 headed to Stanborough School to experience learning in a secondary school. The children fully relished this opportunity to deepen their Art and Science knowledge.

In the afternoon, Howe Dell participated in the annual District Sports. The children had been practising their skills and were fully prepared for the inter-school competition. They all did extremely well and demonstrated excellent sportsmanship. A particular mention to Micah, Keonna and Peculiar for reaching the finals! We competed against lots of competitive schools and came 9th overall.



For the remainder of the week, I headed to Oxford to embark on my in-depth study session as part of my NPQEL qualification. I'd like to thank the team who led the school seamlessly in my absence and I know that Mrs Ritchie thoroughly enjoyed our Author of the Month assembly.

As we returned from the weekend to more extreme heat, the School Council reflected upon our school values and decided to 'catch children being kind' and then handing them a 'kindness card'. They have also created posters which have been displayed around the school reminding us all the importance of modelling kindness in everything we do! Thank you, School Council, for making a difference.

On 1st July I had the pleasure of joining Year 6 on the annual Food and Farming day. To add to the excitement, Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Edinburgh was spending the day at the event. Howe Dell was selected to accompany the Duchess on a tractor ride and Piajoyce presented the posy of flowers. I was privileged to dine with Her Highness and her conversations were highly engaging.



The Duchess of Edinburgh was incredibly impressed by the eloquence and curiosity of our children.

It was lovely to welcome parents to the class assembly for 6.1, 4.1 and 1.2. I do hope you enjoyed your child's class assembly and it has enabled you to find out more about the learning your children have undertaken this year.

Tony Fitzpatrick (Director of Education for HCC) and Carole Bennett (CEO of HFL Education) met with me this week. It is really lovely to welcome senior leaders into Howe Dell as it enables me to share the exciting work we do.

As I write this newsletter, I have just waved Year 1 off on their excursion to Hertfordshire Zoo and several of the Year 4 children are participating in the Hertfordshire School Games Celebration Day.

This has been an incredibly busy fortnight, however there are still several events on our Howe Dell enrichment calendar which includes 'a festival of languages' day where we are being immersed into French culture and a celebration of music where parents will be treated to the musical talents of our Key Stage Two pupils.

I am going to take the opportunity to take a well-earned rest over the weekend so I am fully charged for the events that are still to come.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend and thank you for your continued support.

Kind Regards,

Tracy Prickett

BOOK FAIR SUCCESS

It was wonderful to see so many children and families visit our recent book fair and enjoy the opportunity to browse and purchase books from the wide selection available.

Your support has helped us to raise almost £300 in rewards to spend on books for our school. This is a fantastic amount which would not have been achieved without you.

Thank you to everyone who helped to make the book fair such a success!



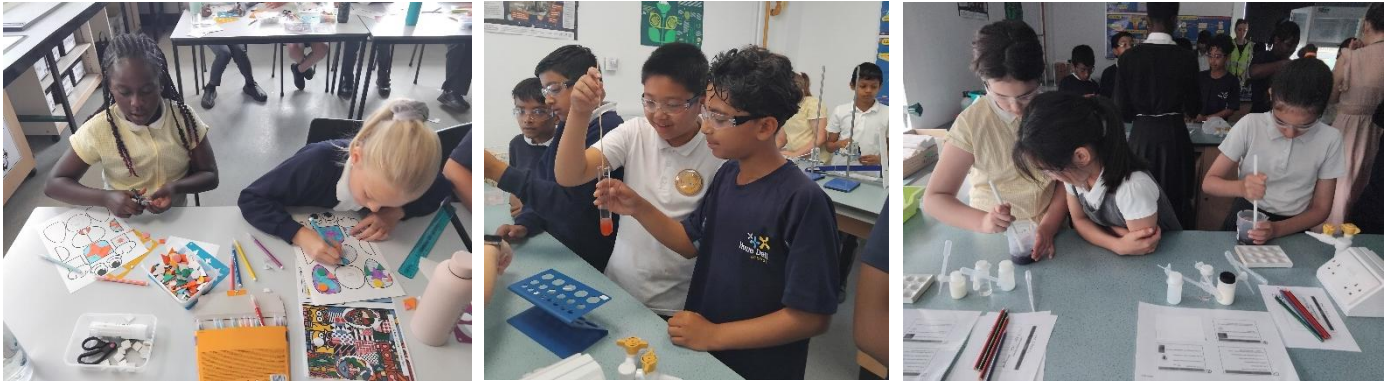
YEAR 4 SHINE A LIGHT

Since Electric Umbrella's last visit to Howe Dell, Year 4 have learnt lots of Electric Umbrella songs and were excited to join in with them at their 'Shine a Light' concert at St Albans Cathedral on 24th June. The event was a celebration of Electric Umbrella's message that everyone is unique and important because there is 'no such thing as normal'. They had the exciting opportunity to sit right at the front and sing, dance and sign along!



YEAR 5 STANBOROUGH VISIT

Year 5 spent an incredible Morning at Stanborough secondary school conducting science experiments and creating pop art inspired art work. Year 5 thoroughly enjoyed their time at the school and asked lots of interesting questions.



FOOD & FARMING DAY

On Tuesday, Year 6 enjoyed a day at the County Showground for the Schools Food and Farming Day to gain a greater understanding of farming, food production and the countryside. Children had the opportunity to make their own smoothies using a bicycle to create pedal power, watch a sheep show with dancing sheep and learn more about how farm animals are cared for by vets.

Howe Dell also had the opportunity to meet the Duchess of Edinburgh to discuss what they had learnt throughout the day and joined her for a tractor ride around the showground.



SUMMER PLAYScheme

Our Summer Playscheme will run from Wednesday 23rd July to Friday 15th August and will be open to both Howe Dell and Non-Howe Dell children from 8am-6pm (Reception - Year 6) - we will take children who will be going into Reception in September 2025 - New families always welcome!

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

Spaces will be limited so please book early.

All the relevant forms and information can be found on our website or paper copies are available from the school office: <https://www.howedell.herts.sch.uk/playschemes/>

HAVE YOUR SAY ON SEND IN HERTFORDSHIRE



A message from the Hertfordshire SEND Partnership

Hertfordshire's [SEND Summit](#) is taking place this September, and we want to ensure that the voices of families are at the heart of it. Your experiences and ideas will help shape the event and our future SEND Strategy.

The survey includes questions about your experiences of SEND – both to highlight what is working and what requires further improvement, what you think should be discussed at the summit, and what changes would make the biggest difference to your family.

Please take a few minutes to complete this [short survey](#) and share your views.

Your feedback will help us improve support for children and young people with SEND across the county. Thank you for being part of this important conversation.

UPCOMING DATES FOR DIARIES



08/07/2025	2.2 Class Assembly – Parents Invited 4.2 Strings Concert – Parents Invited Year 6 Production	9.15am – 9.45am 9.30am – 10.00am 2.00pm & 6.00pm
10/07/2025	Secondary Transition (Year 6) New to Reception Parent Meeting Whole School Transition Afternoon	1.30pm 1.30pm – 3.15pm
14/07/2025	French Festival of Language – Non-Uniform Day	
15/07/2025	School Improvement Parent Update	8.45am
16/07/2025	Rocksteady Concert	2.00pm – 2.45pm
17/07/2025	Celebration of Music – Parents Invited	9.15am – 10.15am
21/07/2025	Year 6 Prom	5.30pm – 7.00pm
22/07/2025	Year 6 Leavers Assembly Last Day of Term – School closes at 1:30pm	9.00am

REMINDERS



PRE-LOVED UNIFORM DONATIONS

The PSA are asking for any unwanted uniform items to be donated for their end of term sale.

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.

BEACON PUPILS

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

Nursery	Lenny	For developing in confidence throughout the school year and using his big voice in school
Year R1	Irha	For developing her phonics skills and beginning to use these independently in her writing
Year R2	Daniel	For working hard to follow the Golden Expectations and for using key vocabulary in Maths
Year 2.1	Kai	For his great progress in reading
Year 2.2	Advika	For consistently being a positive role model at all times this year. Well done!
Year 3.1	Panvith	For working on his reading skills at home
Year 3.2	Oliver	For his effort in English this week
Year 4.1	Nnamdi	For using his words to describe his emotions and make good choices
Year 4.2	Kiristi	For becoming a more vocal member of the class and giving everything 'a go'
Year 5.1	Rayansh	For working so hard to make sure he is finishing year 5 on a really positive note and following the Golden Expectations
Year 5.2	Daniel	For his incredible progress throughout year 5. We are all so proud of him
Year 6.1	Elsie	For singing with confidence and passion throughout the Year 6 play rehearsals this week
Year 6.2	Nathan	For being polite and always showing kindness towards others

MERITS

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

Chester	2.1	Zakary	3.2
Kaden	2.2	Oliver	3.2
Samuel	2.2	Imogen	3.2
Theo	2.2	Brendan	3.2
Amie	3.1	Kane	3.2
Ada	3.1	Cinar	3.2
Genevieve	3.1	Adira	3.2
Aarshi	3.2	Nnamdi	4.1
Rodin	3.2	Oliver	4.1
Miruna	3.2	Millie	4.2

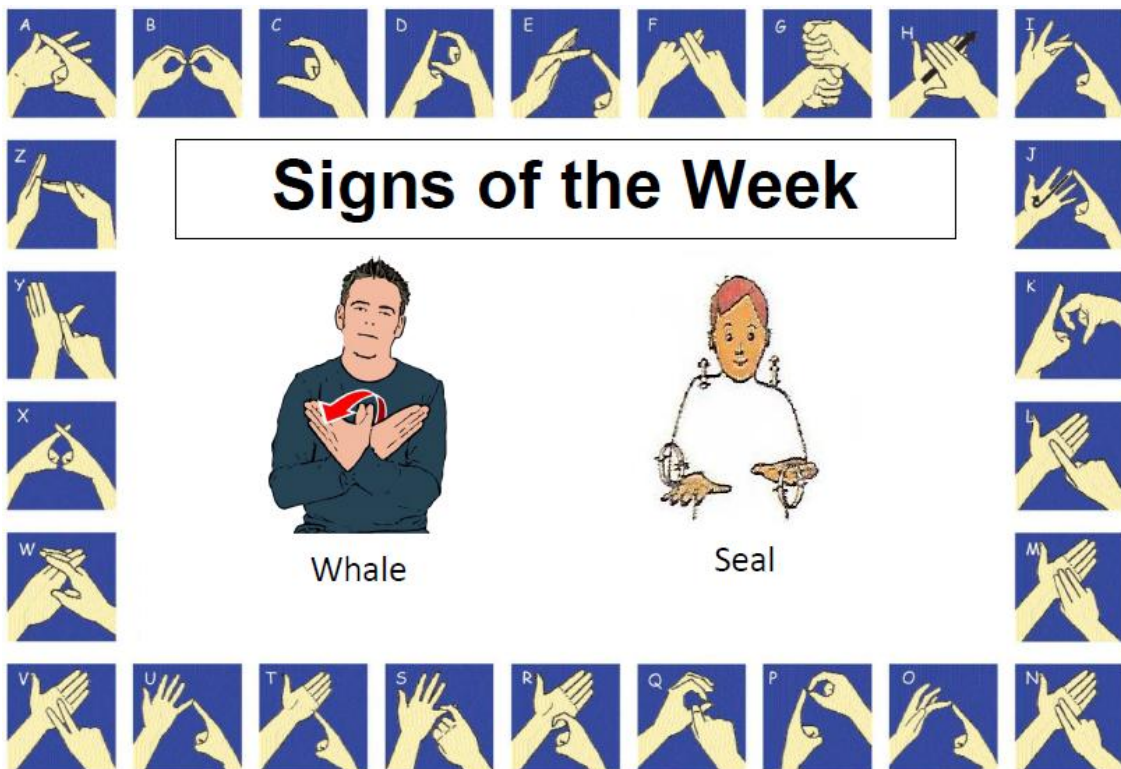


ATTENDANCE OF THE WEEK 23 rd – 27 th June 2025	WINNERS Year 4.1
Reception 1	93.2%
Reception 2	95.9%
Year 1 Class 1	96.3%
Year 1 Class 2	97.9%
Year 2 Class 1	97.6%
Year 2 Class 2	94.3%
Year 3 Class 1	97.4%
Year 3 Class 2	92.0%
Year 4 Class 1	100.0%
Year 4 Class 2	97.3%
Year 5 Class 1	97.6%
Year 5 Class 2	96.2%
Year 6 Class 1	96.6%
Year 6 Class 2	93.0%
Weekly Attendance	96.1%


FAB FRIDAY

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


R.1	Mariana-Sandra	R.2	Nevaeh
1.1	Kasey	1.2	Posi
2.1	Imaan	2.2	Angelo
3.1	Paris	3.2	Kamari
4.1	Noah	4.2	Amari
5.1	Philip	5.2	Sophie
6.1	Oliver	6.2	Max F



Signs of the Week



Whale



Seal