



### Value of the term: Growth

Dear Parents and Carers,

I cannot think of a better end to the term with the Early Years production of 'Jack and the Beanstalk' and the final of 'Howe Dell's Got Talent'.

As always, the final fortnight has been filled to the brim. There have been a plethora of learning activities for leaders including Andy Hind, a leadership coach, working with the Quality of Education team. His knowledge was insightful and provided us with much 'food for thought'.

It has also been lovely to have so many parents and carers joining us whether this be for Year 6.2 class assembly, the Year 1 phonics workshops or our 'Author of the Month' celebration.

This week we have been undertaking our termly pupil outcome meetings (POMs). This is where we are able to review the attainment data for every learner and discuss their progress. This enables us to evaluate the impact of our Reading, Writing and Maths Curriculum and identify the 'next steps' which we include in the Summer Term Core Plan.

It was a pleasure to welcome Carole Bennett (CEO of HFL (Herts for Learning)) and Tony Fitzpatrick (Director of Education for Hertfordshire) to Howe Dell. They were delighted to see the building without the scaffolding and were really interested to hear about the progress against our school improvement plan. I felt incredibly proud talking to them about our amazing children.

On Wednesday and Thursday our Early Years children took to the stage for their Spring Spectacular: Jack and the Beanstalk. I had heard snippets and I'm sure you will agree that the children really did themselves proud. The lines (learned by heart) were delivered confidently and with expression, the acting was highly persuasive and all the children sung with gusto – absolutely amazing! I could hardly believe these children were only in our Nursery and Reception classes.



I would like to thank Miss Wood and her team for producing such an amazing show.

Following the second performance, the bar was raised ready for the long awaited 'Howe Dell's Got Talent' final. The stage was set, the costumes and make up were on; it was 'lights up'. I thoroughly enjoyed hosting the event and I am so proud of all the finalists. The judges found the decision incredibly tricky and requested a little more time to finalise their decision.



Miss Madden, the head judge, shared the results. Congratulations to Rheon and Rose-Marie for being second and first runners up. Our Howe Dell's Got Talent winner for 2025 was Ariella with her sensational rendition of 'I'm not that girl' from Wicked.



A massive 'thank you' to the Arts and Culture team who organised this event, to teachers who were involved in all the auditions, to Miss Longstaff and her choir for a pitch-perfect performance and to Emily and the Gymnastics squad for an amazing opening routine. I would also like to thank Mrs Ritchie for her amazing technical skills, who knew she had such talents!

I would also like to thank Miss Madden, Emily our Gymnastics coach, Mrs Cotton (my Year 5 teaching partner) and our celebrity judge Tamsin who is through to the semi-finals of Britain's Got Talent as part of the incredibly talented Electric Umbrella. They did an amazing job as there was so much talent in HDGT 2025!

As I write this newsletter, I have left the Year 6 and Year 4 classes in the hall sharing their writing with their intended audience. Year 2 are enjoying their Scooterbility session and 5.2 have a session with the 'mini' police.

We have all worked incredibly hard this term and it is lovely to have had so many curriculum enrichment events as well as opportunities to develop personally. This truly has been a term of 'growth'.

Thank you so much for your continued support and I look forward to welcoming you all back on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April. Main doors open from 8.30am.

Wishing you all a restful Easter break.

Kind Regards,

Tracy Prickett

#### **THURSDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2025 AT 2.00PM**

Annual Safeguarding Parent meeting (including Parent Ambassadors)

What does Safeguarding look like at Howe Dell? Mrs Ritchie and I are looking forward to you joining us for an interactive session.

#### **STAFFING UPDATE**

It has been lovely to welcome Miss Palmer and Miss Foster back to Howe Dell after their maternity leaves. After Easter Miss Palmer is in Year 5 with Miss Longstaff and Miss Foster will be providing PPA and additional support in Year 6.

Returning after Easter is Mrs Chapman-Cox. She will be re-joining the SEND support team.

We also had a lovely surprise visit from Miss Lass and her truly scrumptious baby Kai. Miss Lass and Kai are doing well and we look forward to seeing them again soon.

#### **WOW WHAT A BRILLIANT TALENT SHOW!**

*Dear Ms Prickett*

*Thank you so much for inviting Tamsin and I to be judges at Howe Dell's Got Talent yesterday evening. All twelve acts in the final were of a very high standard. Please tell the children how much we enjoyed every single act - the range was amazing, from beautiful ballet to terrific flying tech! We admired the fabulous voices, the skilful instrumentalists and the agile gym and hula hoop moves. We had no idea that there could be such a thing as high-speed origami! We loved the variety and thought it was a very entertaining and enjoyable evening. We also noticed how supportive and encouraging the children were to each other. Everyone represented Howe Dell brilliantly.*

*With our very best wishes*

*Alison and Tamsin*



## WELWYN AND HATFIELD DISTRICT FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT WINNERS 2025

After a strong league finishing third out of ten, Howe Dell boys were invited to Welwyn and Hatfield District Football Tournament hosted by Ridgeway Academy. Facing teams across the district, Howe Dell were put into a tricky group. However, after winning all their games only conceding one goal, Howe Dell finished top of all groups sending them straight to the final.

Coming up against a very good side, Howe Dell scored early to take a lead which was doubled not long after meaning Howe Dell won the final 2-0. Crowned District Football Champions, showing sheer determination and immaculate sportsmanship the boys should be proud of such an amazing achievement. Mr. Ellis couldn't be prouder of all the boys who played in the tournament as well as all those who have played throughout the year earning third in the league too.

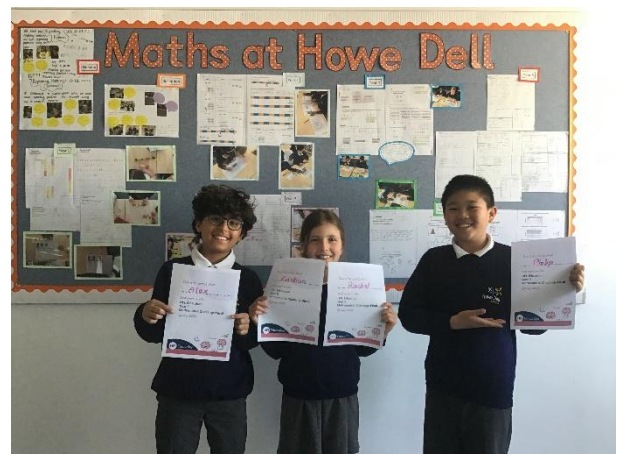
WELL DONE HOWE DELL!



We would like to thank Mr Ellis for working so hard this year to support and coach the boys football team and leading them to victory. Well done Mr Ellis!

## YEAR 5 MATHS CHALLENGE FINAL

A huge congratulations to Alex, Rachel, Philip and Kristian, who achieved 5th place last week in the Year 5 Maths Challenge Final. Nearly 200 teams entered the competition this year with more than 800 students; 25 teams from all over the country made it through to the final last week. The Howe Dell team tackled a tricky estimation round and challenging calculations but all through the event they showed real excitement and determination. Well done!



## YEAR 4 SPRING HAIKUS

In Year 4, the children have been writing spring haikus. They took the time to illustrate them using watercolour and were so proud of the results that they just had to share them with a wider audience. We decided to share them with the residents of a local nursing home so they could enjoy the beauty of spring. They were very impressed with the hard work of Year 4!



## GYMNASTICS CLUB

The children in gymnastics club put on a super showcase last night at our Howe Dell's Got Talent final. They showed everyone in the audience their well organised routine, performing their cartwheels, back bends and somersaults. All of the children in the gymnastics club have achieved their next gymnastics level and their coach Emily, is extremely proud of them.

Bookings are open for the Summer Term Gymnastics club which runs on Friday mornings before school for children in Years 1 – 4. Bookings can be made online at <https://east-herts-gymnastics-club.classforkids.io/info/139>



## SPORT GADGET SHOP

We are excited to announce that the Smart School Council will be holding a 'Sport Gadget Shop' at Howe Dell School. This event will take place on Friday 2nd May at 3.15pm.

The 'Sport Gadget Shop' will offer a selection of exciting sports equipment for you to purchase and use at home. This is a great opportunity for you to learn a new skill, have fun with friends and family and to help keep fit and healthy. The 'Sport Gadget Shop' will be taking place just before the Bank Holiday weekend, giving you plenty of time to practise using your new equipment!

Prices range from £1 – £3 and this will be a cashless event so please bring card or contactless payment methods. The money raised from the 'Sport Gadget Shop' will be going towards new play equipment for lunchtimes.

We look forward to seeing you at the 'Sport Gadget Shop'!

## BOYS FOOTBALL FESTIVAL

Last week, boys from Year 3 & 4 attended a football festival at Onslow St Audreys where they competed in small games against other schools and performed very well showing great sportsmanship and determination.



## PSA NEWS

### SPRING HAT COMPETITION

We look forward to welcoming parents/carers to our **'Spring Hat Parade'** on **Friday 25th April**.

Parents dropping children off at school from 8.30am will be able to wait on the playground while the children attend registration in class, children will then return to the playground ready to show off their spring hats at the parade.

Main doors will close as usual at 8.45am.

Good luck, we can't wait to see the amazing spring hats you create!

## UPCOMING DATES FOR DIARIES

<b>07/04/2025 – 21/04/2025 – Easter Holidays</b>		
18/04/2025	Good Friday Bank Holiday	
21/04/2025	Easter Bank Holiday Monday	
22/04/2025	Children Return to School Year 3 Celtic Harmony Trip	8.45am – 3.00pm
24/04/2025	Annual Safeguarding Parent Meeting	2.15pm
25/04/2025	PSA Spring Hat Parade – Parents Invited Reports to Parents	9.00am – 9.30am
W/C 28/04/2025	Nursery Places Offered for September 2025	
28/04/2025	Early Years Visit from Animal Club	
29/04/2025 & 30/04/2025	Parent Teacher Consultations	3.30pm – 6.30pm
02/05/2025	Smart School Council 'Sport Gadget Shop'	3.15pm
05/05/2025	<b>May Bank Holiday</b>	
W/C 05/05/2025	Deaf Awareness Week	
06/05/2025	4.2 Class Assembly – Parents Invited Reception Parents Phase 3 Phonics Workshop	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	



## REMINDERS

### PARENT TEACHER CONSULTATIONS

Parent/Teacher Consultations are being held on Tuesday 29th April and Wednesday 30th April. Appointments can be made on Arbor and they will be available to book until Friday 25th April.

### SUMMER TERM CLUBS

Our Summer Term Clubs list containing all the relevant information can be found on our website:

<https://www.howedell.herts.sch.uk/clubs/>

### 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.



## Signs of the Week



Silver



Gold



## BEACON PUPILS

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

Nursery	Halima	For creating some excellent marks in our squiggle club sessions
Year R1	Inaya	For improving her confidence with speaking in front of an audience during the Spring Spectacular performance
Year R2	Danish	For having a fantastic attitude to all learning, being a great role model for his peers and a show director in the making by helping his peers in the spring spectacular
Year 1.1	Bethania	For trying in all lessons, especially Phonics
Year 1.2	Marvellous	For always being kind and a good friend to everyone
Year 2.1	Hanan	For her hard working attitude, effort and resilience during our assessments
Year 2.2	Xander	For good use of similes in his poetry writing
Year 3.1	Luna	For always being kind and a brilliant role model of the Golden Expectations
Year 3.2	Adriel	For his 'give it a go' attitude towards his learning and friendships
Year 4.1	Darasimi	For her willingness to help others
Year 4.2	Jack	For following the Golden Expectations and being a supportive learning partner
Year 5.1	Prince	For settling in amazingly well to Howe Dell and showing a great understanding of our Golden Expectations
Year 5.2	Ebunoluwa	For his excellent story telling skills in our writing lessons and for showing how considerate he was of the reader
Year 6.1	Cairo	For showing great improvement in his attitude to learning and making more meaningful contributions to class discussions
Year 6.2	Luchi	For his increased confidence and participation in lessons

### MERITS

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

Adrienne-Judith	1.1	Kaden	2.2
Kasey	1.1	Dea	2.2
Eve	1.1	Anashe	3.2
Jason	1.1	Luwi	4.2
Hermione	1.1	Victor	4.2
Mike	1.1	Dominic	4.2
Sarayu	1.1	Oliver	6.1
Othniel	1.1		



<b>ATTENDANCE OF THE WEEK</b> 24 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	<b>WINNERS</b> <b>Year 3.1</b>
Reception 1	97.6%
Reception 2	96.6%
Year 1 Class 1	96.3%
Year 1 Class 2	95.7%
Year 2 Class 1	98.6%
Year 2 Class 2	92.7%
Year 3 Class 1	<b>99.0%</b>
Year 3 Class 2	91.3%
Year 4 Class 1	95.7%
Year 4 Class 2	95.3%
Year 5 Class 1	97.2%
Year 5 Class 2	95.3%
Year 6 Class 1	94.5%
Year 6 Class 2	98.7%
<b>Weekly Attendance</b>	<b>96.0%</b>

### FAB FRIDAY

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

- R.1 Praise
- R.2 Maya-Rae
- 1.1 Andra
- 1.2 Marvellous
- 2.1 Harriette
- 2.2 River
- 3.1 Paris
- 3.2 Etta
- 4.1 Everlyn
- 4.2 Jack
- 5.1 Prince
- 5.2 Sophie
- 6.1 Max
- 6.2 Kai