



Value of the term: Growth

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is really lovely to have more light hours in the day and the sunshine has also been very welcoming. We have had yet another busy fortnight at Howe Dell which commenced with Year 4's enrichment day.



I find the Viking longboat construction activity fascinating and I know the children learnt so much from this hands-on experience.



This week saw the conclusion of the Howe Dell's Got Talent auditions. I have heard so many amazing comments about the talents shared and I know it was really tricky to short-list the finalists due to the quality and range of talent. The finalists have been informed and we are really looking forward to our grand final on Thursday 3rd April. This is a ticketed event and the PSA will be serving refreshments upon arrival.

This week we have celebrated Neurodiversity week. Miss Davis has led this celebration and I know that the staff and the children have learned so much. I would like to thank Miss Davis for making this celebration a great success. The culture of our school is so evident and we passionately believe and demonstrate 'No Outsiders'.



There has been a plethora of professional development and professional learning. Mrs Ritchie and Miss Christmas have undertaken further studies for their NPQH and I have been studying for the next module of the NPQEL.

Many subject leaders have been fine tuning their knowledge through CUSP subject webinars and Nicola Winch, our SEND Governor, delivered an Attachment and Trauma session for our support staff. It is so important that the Howe Dell team take the opportunity to participate in high quality professional development as it enables us all to make even more of a difference to the Howe Dell community.

Our Spring Term monitoring programme continues with book studies in PSHE and Reading. English leaders are also 'dropping in' to see ESSENTIAL Writing in action. The children are so enthusiastic about their reading and writing which is reflected in their books. We are so looking forward to sharing these with you at Parent Consultations in the Summer Term.

5.1 had their final sessions as Mini-police. It has been a great experience where skills have been honed. A massive thank you to PCSO's Anne Devine and Casey Phillips for leading these sessions.



5.2 have now commenced their sessions.

Time flies when you are having fun! Next week Miss Palmer is returning from her maternity leave. She will be working across Key Stage 2 to the end of term and after the Easter holidays will be returning part time to Year 5. Miss Palmer and Miss Longstaff will be job sharing the week. I know that both Miss Palmer and Miss Longstaff are looking forward to working together in the Summer Term.

Miss Foster returns in the final week of this term and she will be covering teachers to meet with leaders in their Pupil Outcome Meetings (POMs).

A new date for your diary, on Thursday 24th April at 2.15pm, Mrs Ritchie and I will be holding our Annual Safeguarding Parent Meeting where all parents and parent ambassadors are invited. This is a practical session where we share what safeguarding at Howe Dell looks like in practice. We look forward to seeing you there.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Kind Regards,

Tracy Prickett

HOWE DELL'S GOT TALENT FINAL

Howe Dell is now well underway with preparations to host the FINAL of Howe Dell's Got Talent. We have been blown away by the auditions. After much deliberation we can reveal the finalists will be:

Child / children	Year group	Talent
Nishka and Cyla	6	Singing and piano
Rose-Marie	6	Piano
Rola, Philip and Alecia	5	Singing with instrumental
Sienna	5	Gymnastics
Ariella	5	Singing
Rheon	5	Origami
Thomas	4	Drone flying
Everlyn	4	Ballet
Saharsh	6	Singing and piano
Nikan	3	Piano
Anika	3	Hula hoop / gymnastics
Madison	6	Singing

The final will be taking place on **Thursday 3rd April at 6pm**. This will be a ticketed event with exciting guest judges. Tickets will be charged at £1.50 per ticket or £5.00 for a family ticket (up to 5 people) and will be limited to first come first served basis due to capacity of the school hall. Not only will we have the finalists performing their acts but the choir and gymnastics breakfast club will each be showcasing their clubs. **If you would like to book tickets to attend then please follow the attached link <https://forms.office.com/e/yb7rAdfRNH>**

This will enable use to collate responses and then send a payment request via Arbor. Please note, the form will close once capacity has been reached.

PARENT AMBASSADOR VACANCIES

We are seeking some enthusiastic and committed parents to join our parent ambassador team. We are looking for individuals who can attend one meeting a term and can show a commitment to our core values of kindness, growth and respect. If you would like to be considered for the role, please contact the school office via email or speak to Mrs Ritchie or Miss Christmas at school drop off or collection.

SIGN LANGUAGE WEEK

This week has been Sign Language Week, and the children all had access to a free online BSL Lesson. The children were able to learn how to fingerspell their names and where they live!



NEURODIVERSITY CELEBRATION WEEK

This week is Neurodiversity Celebration Week and we have been learning about what it means to be neurodiverse. Neurodiverse individuals have differences in the way they think and experience the world but their insights are incredibly interesting and valuable. Through an assembly with Miss Davis and additional story times in class, we have learnt about individuals with autism, ADHD, dyslexia, dyscalculia and Tourette's Syndrome. We have been celebrating the differences between our brains, whether or not we are neurodiverse, and have reminded ourselves of the power that kindness has when it comes to accepting those who are different.



VIKING LONGSHIP WORKSHOP

On Monday 10th March, Year 4 used wooden dowels tied together into triangles (which they learnt in DT is a very strong shape for building!) to create their very own Viking Longship! It was big enough for the whole class to sit in and they got the chance to practice rowing in time to a drum. They worked hard as a team and created a fantastic result!



FOOTBALL FESTIVAL

Yesterday, Ridgeway Academy invited year 4 girls to a football festival where they were able to learn new skills and work as a team. The girls were incredibly competitive and enjoyed every activity showing impeccable behaviour and work ethic. This was in partnership with Welwyn United, who are a girl only football team, promoting female participation in football. Welwyn United wanted to extend an invitation girls, of any age, in the Hatfield and Welwyn area to join a football team and learn new skills on a weekly basis. <https://www.welwynunited.co.uk/>



YEAR 4 HEATMAPS

Year 4 continue to work hard to turn their TTRS heatmaps green. Today in assembly we celebrated Amelie and Suhailah. Well done girls for 'going green'.

HERTFORDSHIRE GIRLGUIDING

It was really lovely to welcome the Hertfordshire Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers volunteers to Howe Dell to enable them to network and provide them with essential updates. The ladies commented upon how lovely our school is and how lucky the children are to learn in such a great environment.

They loved the venue so much they are planning to return next year. If any of you are interested in volunteering, please contact them at volunteer@girlguidinghertfordshire.org.uk

Or you can register for your child to join Rainbows, Brownies, Guides or Rangers by visiting:

<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/>



PSA NEWS

SPRING HAT COMPETITION

Howe Dell PSA are inviting children to enter a Spring Hat Competition which will be judged at our **'Spring Hat Parade'** on **Friday 25th April**, which parents/carers are invited to attend - more details to follow.

Entry costs **£2**. We will provide all children who enter with a plain hat, how they decorate it is completely up to them! There will be winners from different age brackets, with prizes up for grabs. Only children who have purchased a hat through the PSA will be eligible to win.

How To Enter:

You can pre-order & pay for your hat at www.pta-events.co.uk/howedellpsa

Online pre-orders will close at 11.55pm Tuesday 25th March. Pre-ordered hats will be delivered to classrooms after online sales close.

Alternatively, you can purchase your hat from the PSA on the playground after school on Monday 31st March and Wednesday 2nd April. We'll be accepting both cash and card payments.

Decorated Spring hats are to be worn into school the morning of Friday 25th April ready to showcase at the parade. Afternoon Nursery children will have their parade later on in the day.


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

JOB VACANCY

We are currently looking for a Midday Supervisory Assistant to join our team at lunchtimes. The position is 12pm – 1.30pm Monday to Friday (term time only). If you are interested in this role, please call the office for further information or apply on line at Teach In Herts:

https://www.teachinherts.com/find-a-job/view,midday-supervisory-assistant-msa_102682.htm

UPCOMING DATES FOR DIARIES



24/03/2025	Phonics Screening Check Workshop – Year 1 Parents Invited	2.45pm – 3.15pm
25/03/2025	6.2 Class Assembly – Parents Invited	9.15am – 9.45am
26/03/2025	Phonics Screening Check Workshop – Year 1 Parents Invited	9.00am – 9.30am
28/03/2025	Applications for September 2025 Nursery Places Close Author of the Month Assembly – Parents Invited	8.55am
02/04/2025	Spring Spectacular – EYFS	9.30am
03/04/2025	Reception Screening – Children born up to end of February Spring Spectacular – EYFS Howe Dell's Got Talent Final	9.30am 2.00pm 6.00pm
04/04/2025	Early Years 'Happily Ever After' Day Year 2 Scooterbility Sessions Last Day of Term – School closes at 1:30pm	9.00am – 12.00pm
	07/04/2025 – 21/04/2025 – Easter Holidays	
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

REMINDERS

NURSERY ADMISSIONS 2025/26

If your child is born between **01/09/2021** and **31/08/2022** they will be due to start Nursery in September 2025. The school Nursery offers 15 hours and 30 hours funded. Applications can be found on our website under <https://www.howedell.herts.sch.uk/admissions/> or paper copies are available from the school office. Applications close on 28th March.

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	Varman	For excellent mark making and letter formation
Year R1	Bella	For improved concentration and participation in Phonics
Year R2	Mia	For always following our Golden Expectations and developing confidence in all areas of the curriculum especially communication and language
Year 1.1	Esther	For settling well into 1.1 and being a great helper
Year 1.2	Ruby	For becoming more confident and always following the Golden Expectations
Year 2.1	Hamza	For listening well to instructions and following the Golden Expectations
Year 2.2	Jonathan	For his improved focus and following the Golden Expectations
Year 3.1	Nikan	For his thoughtful reasoning during our Maths lessons
Year 3.2	Jeremiah	For his improved confidence and skills in swimming this term
Year 4.1	Jake	For excellent contributions to our learning, especially in Maths
Year 4.2	Isla	For always trying her best and following the Golden Expectations
Year 5.1	Modesire	For always demonstrating the Golden Expectations and being a fantastic role model of positive classroom behaviours
Year 5.2	Jakub	For his excellent contributions in Maths this week particularly when finding equivalent fractions and percentages
Year 6.1	Praise	For always giving everything 'a go' and embracing every challenge with determination, no matter the difficulty
Year 6.2	Hadleigh	For always giving everything 'a go' and working hard in lessons

MERITS

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

Ayo	2.1	Lexi	2.2
Joseph	2.1	Henry	3.2
Hamza	2.1	Praise	6.1
Kian	2.1	Jawad	6.1
Taylen	2.1	Ariyan	6.2
Fae	2.2	Bella P	6.2
Sofia	2.2	Oluwajuwon	6.2
Xander	2.2	Rayyan	6.2
Vinuli	2.2	Sebastian	6.2
Elikai	2.2	Umairah	6.2



ATTENDANCE OF THE WEEK 10 th – 14 th March 2025	WINNERS Year 4.1
Reception 1	97.0%
Reception 2	93.8%
Year 1 Class 1	95.2%
Year 1 Class 2	92.0%
Year 2 Class 1	95.4%
Year 2 Class 2	94.5%
Year 3 Class 1	97.3%
Year 3 Class 2	93.3%
Year 4 Class 1	98.3%
Year 4 Class 2	97.3%
Year 5 Class 1	95.4%
Year 5 Class 2	92.3%
Year 6 Class 1	96.9%
Year 6 Class 2	96.7%
Weekly Attendance	95.4%

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

R.1	Safyyah
R.2	Sebastian
1.1	Kristina
1.2	Mahad
2.1	Aathira
2.2	Bella
3.1	Paris
3.2	Zakary
4.1	Chace
4.2	Tanaka
5.1	Maddison
5.2	Yasmine
6.1	Dotty
6.2	Cyla

Signs of the Week

The image displays a grid of hand signs for the alphabet, from A to Z. In the center, there are two illustrations of children. The first child is labeled 'Brown' and is shown with hands held together in front of their chest. The second child is labeled 'Black' and is shown with one hand near their face, holding a small object. The hand signs are arranged in a grid around these central illustrations.