



Value of the term: Growth

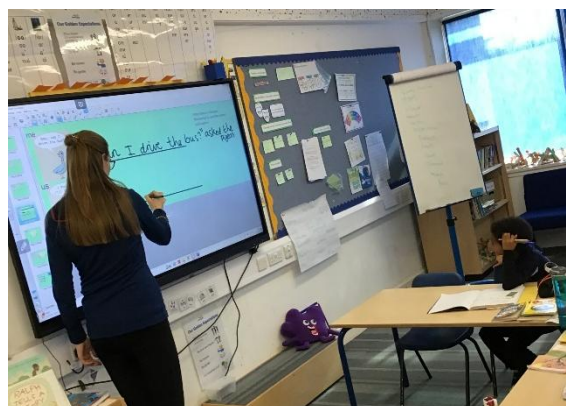
Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the second half of the Spring Term. I have to say I loved the 'big reveal'. We spent almost ten months cocooned in scaffolding.



What a difference the cladding has made, it looks like a brand new school! This now means we can commence a range of school improvement programmes that we had to defer due to 'the big build'. You will have seen that our trees have been shaped, the roof to the bike storage area has been re-installed and a very muddy section by the playground has been tarmacked which has removed the 'bottle neck' at collection time.

We have also begun our IT infrastructure update programme. Year 3 have had their new interactive whiteboards installed and Year 2's boards will be installed by the end of the Spring Term.



All of this has been possible due to a saving the school has made in energy spends following the light renewal project that happened a year ago.

We have had an incredibly busy fortnight with visits from all our advisers. Kayleigh, our English Adviser worked with teachers to support them with the ESSENTIAL Writing. We shared with her the writing book study and she was so delighted by the impact. So much so, anonymised quotes are being included on the HFL website and we are going to be a 'model' school. This means that other schools will come to us to see how we have implemented and delivered the teaching sequences.

Helen Jones, our School Improvement Partner undertook her Spring Term visit. She 'deep dived' into Maths and Music. Teachers across the school were observed, books were scrutinised and leaders had in-depth conversations. Mrs Joo (Maths subject leader) and Miss Longstaff (Music subject leader) confidently led their subject conversations. Helen Jones was pleased with the work of the school and her 'next steps' focused upon continuing the work on bespoke professional development.

Doug Harmer, our Maths Adviser worked with Mrs Joo to review the impact of ESSENTIAL Maths. What was particularly evident across the school is the use of manipulatives to support the concrete, pictorial, abstract mathematical approach.

Louise Alce, our Early Years Adviser worked with Miss Wood and her team. She too dropped into classes to watch our early years practitioners in action. Louise was pleased to see the high quality interactions from adults with the children and of course has provided the team with 'next steps' to enhance the provision further.

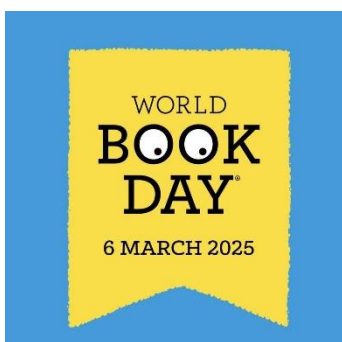
Thank you to all the parents who joined Mrs Ritchie and I at the School Improvement Update. I do hope you found the session useful. It was great to receive the feedback on how you really enjoy the 'Live Learning' sessions.

It was lovely to welcome so many parents to our 'Live Learning' sessions in Reception 1 and 2 and Year 5. I do hope you found the sessions informative.

Continuing the Maths theme, I am delighted to share that the Year 5 Maths Challenge team have qualified for the final. This will take place later this month. Well done to Philip, Alex, Rachel and Kristian. We are incredibly proud of your



Preparations for Howe Dell's Got Talent are in full swing. Following time for children to have some practise slots, auditions have commenced. Feedback from team members leading the auditions is that we have plenty of talent and it is going to be tricky to short list for the final. Thank you so much for your support with audition preparations.



Yesterday was World Book Day. We had a really relaxed day with a plethora of activities involving us all getting lost in a book. I would like to thank Miss Christmas for organising such a lovely day. I would also like to thank the PSA for their 'Wonderlicious Golden Ticket' chocolate bar sale. This proved be to an incredibly popular event. Thank you for supporting our fund-raising event.



Having looked ahead in the diary we have another 'full to the brim' week commencing with the arrival of the Vikings!

Wishing you all a lovely weekend, I believe the great weather is set to continue.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind Regards,

Tracy Prickett

WORLD BOOK DAY AT HOWE DELL

Yesterday was a joyous day spent fostering our love of books and reading at Howe Dell as we got cosy in our PJs and onesies to celebrate World Book Day. Many wonderful moments were shared and enjoyed by everyone, and it was a pleasure to walk around the school and see the children fully immersed in a range of simple yet powerful activities.

To start the day children from Nursery up to Year 6 came together for our annual Story Swap, with children pairing up with buddies from different classes to share their favourite books. Later in the morning Years 1 to 6 joined either a live Michael Rosen performance or a BBC Live Lesson - Howe Dell even got a shout out online! During the afternoon the children were totally engaged in making their own books. This was a great opportunity to build upon the successes of our new Essential Writing programme and let the children have complete freedom to choose to write about whatever they wanted. There was a real calmness in the air as they busily worked. As a result of this event, a child in Year 4 said "I'm going to become an author!"

To end the day, every child received their own choice of World Book Day book to take home. It was clear to see that at Howe Dell we really do love reading!



SPORTS NEWS

Howe Dell vs St Philip Howard

This week saw the return of girls football matches for the first time in two years at Howe Dell. The Howe Dell girls had such amazing enthusiasm and ran their socks off with an incredible work rate throughout. Smiles on the red faces of the girls for the entirety of the afternoon were infectious. Each and every one of the girls should be incredibly proud of themselves - Mr. Ellis and Mr. Bone were beaming with pride. We cannot speak highly enough of the attitude and hard work the girls showed with some flashes of brilliance. Hopefully more games to come!



Howe Dell vs De Havilland

What a game! An incredible, entertaining and even game against an infamous De Havilland side. Howe Dell went 2-0 down at half time and had a lot to do to fight back. After each and every one of the boys put their all into their efforts, Jeremiah ran through most of their team and scored to get one closer.



After defensive masterclasses and a goalkeeping show for the ages from Max, the team put a string of 5 passes together, including a delightful pass by Oliver, resulting in Jeremiah getting his and Howe Dell's second of the game. After an incredible fight back, Howe Dell held onto a 2-2 thanks to an incredible work ethic and attitude. Mr. Ellis and Mr. Bone again beaming with pride after Howe Dell showed true determination and growth throughout the afternoon.

EASTER PLAYScheme

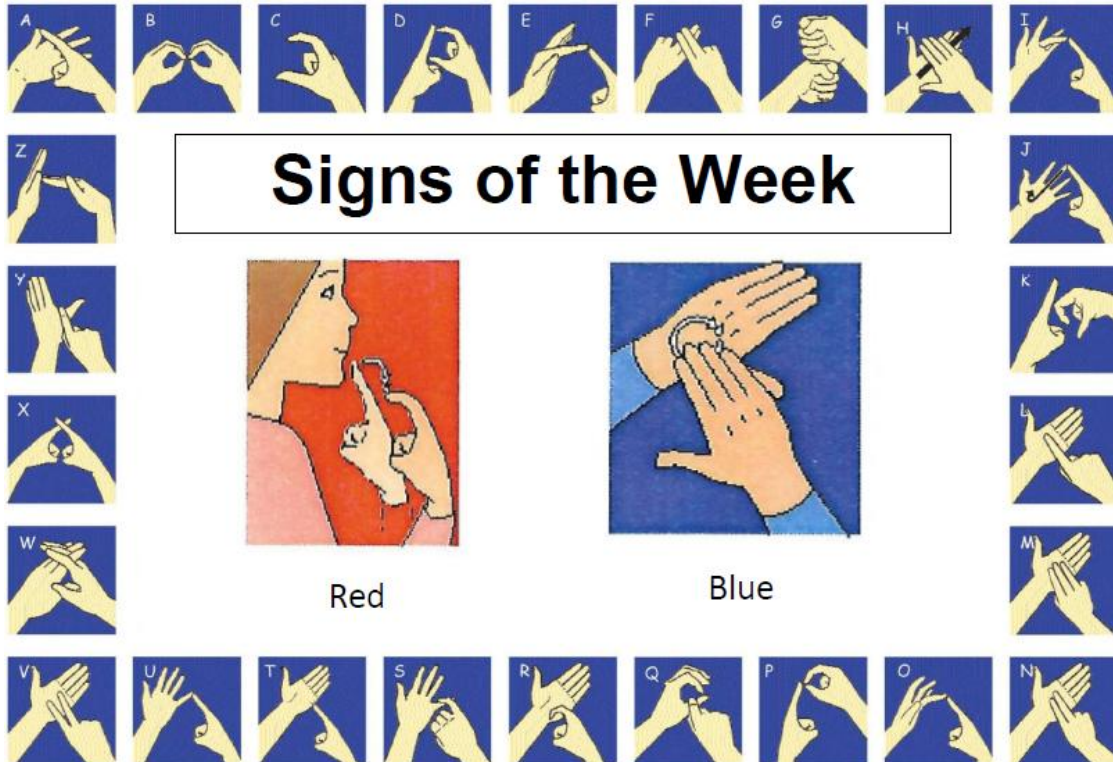
We are pleased to let Parents/Carers Know that we will be running an Easter Playscheme from Monday 7th to Friday 11th April 2025.

Our Playscheme will be open to both Howe Dell and Non Howe Dell children from 8am-6pm (Reception - Year 6). Spaces will be limited so please book early.

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

SCRAP PAPER WANTED

Are you able to provide scrap paper for our After School Club to use - perhaps you work for a business that can help? Mrs Worsley and her team would be extremely grateful for any donations.



UPCOMING DATES FOR DIARIES

10/03/2025	Year 4 Viking Longship Workshop	
11/03/2025	5.1 Class Assembly – Parents Invited	9.15am – 9.45am
W/C 17/03/2025	Neurodiversity Celebration Week	
W/C 24/03/2025	Sign Language Week	
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	9.15am
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	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	

REMINDERS



SUMMER TERM MILK

If you would like to order milk for your child for the Summer Term, please complete the survey emailed out to parents and make payment, if applicable, on Arbor by 21st March.

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.

BIKES & SCOOTERS

For everyone's safety please ensure bikes and scooters are not being ridden on the school premises. Once on-site children should be dismounting and wheeling their bikes and scooters to the designated storage areas. Please ensure your child is wearing a helmet as this protects their heads should they fall off their bikes/scooters.

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.

PARKING

Please ensure you are being considerate when parking and are not stopping on double yellow lines or by the front barrier. Spaces in our car park are very limited. We have no capacity for parents to use the school car park at drop off or pick up times.

LINKS AND ATTACHMENTS



(Can be found under Newsletter Attachments on our school website)

<https://www.howedell.herts.sch.uk/newsletter-attachments/>

- ❖ A Complete Guide to Parenting Children with Autism & ADHD
- ❖ Handling Anger of Children with Autism & ADHD
- ❖ POTENTIAL KIDS - March 2025 Activities
- ❖ Mini Police class get visit from High Sherriff

BEACON PUPILS

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

Nursery	Noor	For excellent story writing
Year R1	Liam	For always being kind and polite to peers and adults
Year R2	Muntaha	For increasing her independence when writing and creating a fantastic story on world book day
Year 1.1	Luca	For trying really hard with his learning and following instructions
Year 1.2	Andrea	For her creative writing on world book day
Year 2.1	Kaushiki	For her confidence in explaining the water cycle in guided reading
Year 2.2	Rocco	For his focus and engagement in writing lessons
Year 3.1	Levi	For working really hard and learning to celebrate his own success
Year 3.2	Arielle	For being kind and helpful.
Year 4.1	Chace	For an improved attitude to learning
Year 4.2	Victor	For demonstrating excellent resilience when sewing in DT lessons
Year 5.1	Alecia	For contributing more to class discussions and showing great enthusiasm and determination in her learning this week
Year 5.2	Laiken	For excelling in Maths this week. Her timetables knowledge has grown significantly and really supported her with her understanding of area
Year 6.1	William	For his hard work, determination and constant pursuit of excellence
Year 6.2	Cyla	For working hard in every lesson and following the Golden Expectations

MERITS

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

Samuel	2.2
Samantha	3.1
Luna	3.1
Jedidiah	3.1
Kamari	3.2
Kane	3.2
Thomas	4.2
Ruby	5.1
Alexander U	5.1



ATTENDANCE OF THE WEEK 25th – 28th February 2025	WINNERS Year 5.2
Reception 1	94.6%
Reception 2	94.4%
Year 1 Class 1	94.8%
Year 1 Class 2	95.4%
Year 2 Class 1	96.4%
Year 2 Class 2	96.3%
Year 3 Class 1	97.1%
Year 3 Class 2	90.0%
Year 4 Class 1	99.6%
Year 4 Class 2	97.5%
Year 5 Class 1	91.8%
Year 5 Class 2	100.0%
Year 6 Class 1	95.3%
Year 6 Class 2	93.8%
Weekly Attendance	95.5%

FAB FRIDAY

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

R.1	Nafas
R.2	Zidane
1.1	Kristina
1.2	Posi
2.1	Ayo
2.2	Angelo
3.1	Theo
3.2	Alexa
4.1	Oliver
4.2	Dominic
5.1	Carter
5.2	Kristian
6.1	Rose-Marie
6.2	Jake E