



Value of the term: Growth

Dear Parents and Carers,

Wow – what a half term! I hadn't realised how much we had managed to pack into a half term. The concluding fortnight continued to be purposeful starting with the CUSP Art Festival. Schools across the country joined Alex Bedford in the launch 'zoom' assembly. Over the week children explored a variety of Art techniques to create what can only be described as 'masterpieces'.



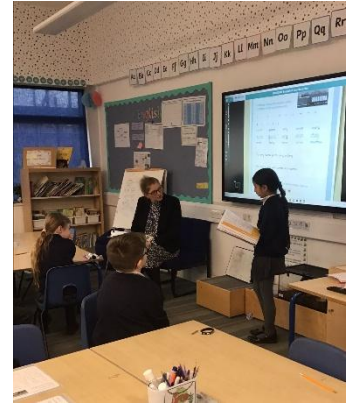
During the week I had the pleasure of showing another Head Teacher around the school and he commented upon how productive, calm and purposeful the school felt. As we went from class to class all the children were fully engrossed in their Art activities which the children and you saw as part of our 'open house' Art gallery. I would like to thank Miss Parker, our Art subject leader, for organising, resourcing and leading a great event.

This has been a really busy fortnight for parents as you have joined us for class assemblies in 3.1 and 5.2, Live Learning in Year 1 and 2, the SEND coffee morning with Mrs Winch our SEND Governor and the Year 1 and Year 2 coffee morning with Miss Christmas and I.

I do hope that joining us has given you an insight of what we get up to at Howe Dell. Many of you provided positive feedback during the Maths 'Live Learning' sessions and told us how much you enjoyed learning alongside your child.

Year 5.1 had their fourth mini police session. This week the class was focusing on e-safety to link with Internet safety Day. The class are thoroughly enjoying these sessions and it is great for the children to understand just how police are here to help us.

Leaders have thoroughly enjoyed the book studies they undertook with children across the school. The children were incredibly eloquent and clearly expressed their positive views about the writing they have been undertaking. Children really see themselves as authors and having an actual audience is something they have really enjoyed. Year 2 visited Early Years to share their stories, I was presented with sixty persuasive letters by Year 5 and yes they were very persuasive. I was also privileged to be the intended audience in Year 3 where they too delivered persuasive writing pieces. As requested by Year 3, the 'snack food' bins have been ordered and will be in classes after half term.



It was Internet Safety Day on Tuesday 11th February. Internet safety is something we do every day however Mrs Mehmet prepared a plethora of activities for us to undertake to remind us the importance of staying safe online.

Today has been 'Yes' day. Children have thoroughly enjoyed sporting their football kits, colourful hair and nails but not quite as much as the staff have enjoyed wearing their jeans (which are usually not permitted). This coupled with the Krispy Kreme Doughnut sale are events led by our PSA that raise much needed funds for the school. Thank you so much for supporting the PSA. We always need more parents/carers to help us so if you would like to donate your time, please contact Katie at psa@howedell.herts.sch.uk.

As we all head off to enjoy the half term break, do think of me as I locate the CGP books in attempt to support my son Austin with his GCSE revision – Physics here I come!

Wishing you all a relaxing break and I look forward to welcoming you all back to school on Tuesday 25th February, main doors open from 8.30am.

Kind Regards,

Tracy Prickett

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT UPDATE

School Improvement update for parents with Mrs Ritchie and I is on Tuesday 25th February from 2.30pm in the multi-purpose hall. We look forward to seeing you there.

WORLD BOOK DAY 2025 - THURSDAY 6TH MARCH

This year, in consultation with our Parent Ambassadors, we have decided that we will have a cosy-themed World Book Day.

As well as bringing a favourite book to school to share, children are invited to wear pyjamas or onesies for the day. They may also choose to bring either a teddy or blanket if they wish. They will then spend time during the day snuggling up to enjoy reading for pleasure, book sharing and other book-themed activities.

Please do remember that we have a very well-stocked Community Library in the entrance foyer from which the children are very welcome to choose a book to bring along on the day.

PALs Club

The Play Activity Leaders have enjoyed attending our PALs Club with Mr Sritharan. They have been taught new games and skills in order to successfully deliver and lead games on the playground with other children during lunch time play. We look forward to seeing these games in action on the playground alongside all the other activities in place.



PEOPLE WHO HELP US

Early years have been learning about people who help us this half term. On Monday we were treated to a visit from Mrs Tracey who told us all about being a nurse. We learned about what nurses do in hospitals to help us and about the work that health visitors do. Thank you for your time!



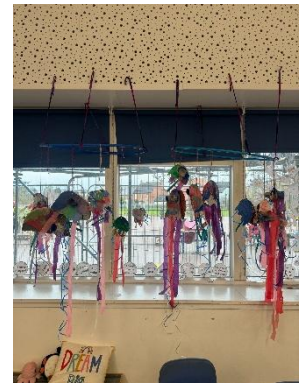
ONSLow CRICKET EVENT

Recently, some children from Year 3 and 4 were given an amazing opportunity to join other local schools in a sports tournament at Onslow St Audrey's. We were all introduced to a fun and fast paced indoor version of cricket. The Howe Dell team mastered new skills and strengthened their team playing abilities. They successfully achieved 2nd place in the heats and battled through to the final where they proudly received bronze. Well done!



ART FESTIVAL

The theme for this year's Art Festival was "Celebrating Belonging through Art." The children took part in digital exhibition tours which looked at different artists and their work. All children across the school had a go at creating sea life themed art. We saw a range of pieces produced from fish in Early Years to Octopus in Year 6. There were some absolutely stunning pieces of work produced throughout the school. Thank you to those parents and grandparents who were able to come in on Friday to view your children's artwork, I'm sure the children did you proud!



BOYS FOOTBALL MATCH

Last Wednesday, Onslow St Audrey's kindly invited us to play a game on their brand new astro turf 4G pitch against The Ryde. It must have helped as the boys returned to winning ways as they worked relentlessly without the ball and played some truly fantastic football with the ball. After a complete team performance, there was clinical finishing on display to top it off. Howe Dell claimed a 7-1 win after one of their best performances of the year against a very good technical The Ryde. Two special mentions go out to our joint Man of the Match, Niko and Shayan who both played their first game of the year, working their socks off.

Goals: Jeremiah x4, Kai x2, Shayan

HOWE DELL'S GOT TALENT

Howe Dell is getting ready to host Howe Dell's Got Talent. This event is for children in year 3, 4, 5 and 6 and is an opportunity for students to showcase their talents in dance, singing, music, comedy, poetry, circus skills, acting, gymnastics, martial arts, languages, or any other talent that they may have.

Your child will be given the opportunity to audition in front of the judges on a designated day on the week beginning Monday 3rd March. If your child is shortlisted, they will secure themselves a place in the big finale which will take place on Thursday 3rd April at 6pm. This will be a ticketed event with exciting guest judges, more information will follow.

If your child would like to sign up to audition for the event, please fill in the details on the link below. The closing date for applications is Wednesday 26 February.

<https://forms.office.com/e/AnPJDeYBmQ>

FAB FRIDAY

Lunchtime staff have been working hard to give our "Fab Friday" table a new look!

Throughout the week, lunchtime staff choose children from each class who have shown exceptional manners at lunch time to sit on our Fab Friday table with a friend. We would like to thank all our lunchtime staff who work incredibly hard to make lunchtimes run smoothly for children throughout the school.



FAB FRIDAY

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

R.1	April
R.2	Harley M
1.1	Hermione
1.2	Logan
2.1	Giulia
2.2	Atarah
3.1	Hachikaru
3.2	Kane
4.1	Nate
4.2	Kiristi
5.1	Om
5.2	Millie
6.1	Dotty
6.2	Jake T

Howe Dell School Nursery Admissions 2025/26 are now open!

WE OFFER 15 AND 30 HOURS

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. There is also the option for 15 hours funded to be 'topped up' with 15 hours paid.



Applications can be found on line on our website under <https://www.howedell.herts.sch.uk/admissions/> or paper copies are available from the school office

Friday 28th March 2025: Applications for September 2025 Nursery places close

CHAMPION HOWE DELL STUDENTS

Ferdinand Football, a club which runs here at Howe Dell, launched a partnership last year with Harvesters FC and were happy to welcome some of our Howe Dell students to their U12 Inclusive team.

The team entered the Herts Youth Inclusive Football Tournament which they went on to win!

Well done to Oliver 3.2, Adam 4.1 and Tanaka 5.2 for being crowned tournament champions.



Signs of the Week



Autumn



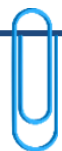
Winter



LINKS AND ATTACHMENTS

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

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



- ❖ Understanding Anxiety in Children - 2 week course

UPCOMING DATES FOR DIARIES



	17/02/2025 – 21/02/2025 – Half Term	
24/02/2025	INSET day	
25/02/2025	School Improvement Parent Update	2.30pm – 3.15pm
27/02/2025	Reception 2 Maths Live Learning – Parents Invited	9.15am – 10.00am
28/02/2025	Reception 1 Maths Live Learning – Parents Invited	9.15am – 10.00am
03/04/2025	Reception Screening – Children born up to end of February	9.30am
04/03/2025	EYFS Parent Coffee Morning	8.45am – 9.45am
05/03/2025	Year 5 Maths Live Learning – Parents Invited	9.15am – 10.15am
06/03/2025	World Book Day PSA Wonka Bar Sale	3.15pm – 3.30pm
10/03/2025	Year 4 Viking Longship Workshop	
11/03/2025	5.1 Class Assembly – Parents Invited	9.15am – 9.45am
W/C 24/03/2025	Sign Language Week	
25/03/2025	6.2 Class Assembly – Parents Invited	9.15am – 9.45am
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 Rocksteady Concert – Rocksteady Parents Invited	9.15am 2.45pm
03/04/2025	Spring Spectacular – EYFS Howe Dell's Got Talent Final	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	
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
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	
29/04/2025 & 30/04/2025	Parent Teacher Consultations	3.30pm – 6.30pm
05/05/2025	May Bank Holiday	

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.

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.

MERITS

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

Geraldine	1.1	Miruna	3.2
Luca	1.1	Alexa	3.2
Filip	1.1	Jeremiah	3.2
Rocco	2.2	Darasimi	4.1
Yalina	2.2	Kaylee	4.2
Andreas	2.2	Brodie	4.2



BEACON PUPILS

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

Nursery	Emily	For settling in so well to our daily routines
Year R1	Praise	For always following the Golden Expectations and an excellent attitude to learning
Year R2	Rahel	For making fantastic progress across the curriculum and growing in confidence to share his ideas in class
Year 1.1	Aria	For always showing the Golden Expectations and being a great role model
Year 1.2	Logan	For his progress in Maths and his participation in Maths lessons
Year 2.1	Jingxiang	For his increasing independence and confidence throughout our daily routines and lessons
Year 2.2	Lexi	For great teamwork in PSHE and making positive contributions in Maths lessons
Year 3.1	Rosie	For her positivity and giving everything 'a go'
Year 3.2	Zakary	For raising his hand to join in with class discussions
Year 4.1	Sebastian	For making excellent progress in his independent writing
Year 4.2	Millie	For challenging herself to perform a guided reading text in front of the class
Year 5.1	Divine	For having a fantastic week both in and out of the classroom and working really hard on his non-chronological report in English
Year 5.2	Edom	For always following the Golden Expectations and for her growing confidence
Year 6.1	Peculiar	For consistently demonstrating outstanding learning behaviours and producing excellent work in every lesson
Year 6.2	Devansh	For always following the Golden Expectations and working hard in every lesson

ATTENDANCE OF THE WEEK 3rd – 7th February 2025	WINNERS Year 1.1
Reception 1	93.7%
Reception 2	97.7%
Year 1 Class 1	98.6%
Year 1 Class 2	98.3%
Year 2 Class 1	94.6%
Year 2 Class 2	97.1%
Year 3 Class 1	93.9%
Year 3 Class 2	95.8%
Year 4 Class 1	98.3%
Year 4 Class 2	94.5%
Year 5 Class 1	97.2%
Year 5 Class 2	98.3%
Year 6 Class 1	96.4%
Year 6 Class 2	92.2%
Weekly Attendance	96.2%