



Value of the term: Kindness

Dear Parents and Carers,

I always compare December to the Christmas Carol 'The twelve days of Christmas' as there have been a plethora of events where children have had the opportunity to present and perform; putting their acquiring oracy skills into practise.

It was lovely to see so many of you at the Parent Consultations. From the many conversations I had with you, you were delighted with the progress your children are making and know the 'next steps' of learning. I would like to 'thank you' for your time to complete the parent view survey. This is a really useful evaluation tool and the outcomes have been shared with staff and discussed at a Full Governing Board Meeting.

The PSA elves commenced the festivities by transforming the multi-purpose hall into a wonderful Christmas grotto. I know the children were transfixed as they entered the room to purchase gifts for their loved ones. I'd like to thank the PSA team who gave up their time to transform the space and raise much needed funds for the school.



On Wednesday 11th December our fabulous cook and her HCL team rustled up a Christmas dinner fit for a king. The children and staff thoroughly enjoyed their culinary delight and wore their Christmas jumpers with pride!



Thank you to the lunchtime team for all your hard work to ensure this annual event was a huge success.

On Thursday M&M productions transformed our hall into a theatre and all our children from Day Care to Year 6 came to the panto. Children and staff alike thoroughly enjoyed 'Beauty and the Beast'. Bringing the panto to school enables us all to experience high quality productions.



On Saturday, members of the school choir spent an afternoon practising with the Hertfordshire County Youth Choir and county youth brass band at St. Etheldreda's church in Hatfield House. Following the rehearsal, the children performed as part of a massed piece. It was fabulous to see so many parents in the audience and I know the choir learned many new skills as they worked with a professional choral conductor.

I would like to thank Miss Longstaff, Mrs Micklewright, and Mrs Ashgar for giving up their Saturday to provide such an amazing enrichment experience.



The singing continued as our children in Year 1 and Year 2 took to the stage to perform 'Shine Star Shine'. It was wonderful to watch children's confidence grow as they delivered their lines with expression and sang with gusto!



One key theme really struck a chord and that was love. Once the star felt loved she shone and shone and shone. At this very busy time of the year, it is important that we too share kindness and love.

The choir was back in action, this time performing for shoppers at Asda. Many shoppers paused to hear us perform and donated to the Herts Young Homeless charity.



On Wednesday, Year 3 led our Christingle service. This is a more reflective event where we explore the importance festivals of light have for many religions and countries around the world. Joining us were the sign language club, who signed 'Silent Night' with the choir.



Once again, the children delivered their lines with confidence and expression and the children sang with great diction. It was lovely to have so many parents join us for this event ~ you should be incredibly proud of your children.

I just wanted to mention Philip (Yr 5) and Peculiar (Yr 6) who sang solo verses. It was lovely to hear your confident voices ring out across the hall.

On Thursday it was the turn of our youngest learners. Nursery and Reception were joined by their parents to sing some festive songs. It was beautiful to hear such delightful singing voices. I look forward to them taking to the stage at the end of the Spring Term.



Alongside all these wonderful events, the staff team had a thought-provoking professional development session with Sophie Lawrence who leads PREVENT. Lots of new knowledge was gained and the team are clear on their role to support young people.

Leaders have also been meeting with the teaching team to discuss the end of Autumn Term data outcomes through our Pupil Outcome Meetings. We have seen the impact of our school improvement work in Writing and Maths and all teachers have clear plans for the Spring Term to ensure all children 'keep up'.

We have had an incredibly productive and purposeful term and it is now time for us all to re-charge our batteries. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support and kind words and to wish you a peaceful Christmas break.

I look forward to welcoming you all back on Tuesday 7th January 2025. Main doors open from 8.30am.

Kind Regards,

Tracy Prickett

YEAR 3 CHRISTINGLE

Year 3 worked really hard to remember their lines and speak clearly to deliver the Christingle service this week. They enjoyed making their own Christingle to light, what a fantastic atmosphere.



YEAR 4 STRINGS CONCERT

Last Tuesday 4.1 performed a mini Christmas concert for their parents. They all played their instruments beautifully and had exceptional focus throughout the performance.



GYMNASTICS

We would like to celebrate the children who attend Gymnastics club here on a Friday morning for moving onto the next gymnastics level. Well done to Advika, Ailin, Anika, Bella B-M, Kaushiki, Lexi, Mufaro G, Tiana, Wanaka, Zara B, Cailin, Geraldine, Mariyam H and Scarlett who all received their certificates last week.



BOYS FOOTBALL MATCH – Report by Kai 6.2

The Howe Dell vs Birchwood game on Thursday 5th December was an extremely fair game ending Howe Dell 9 - 1 Birchwood. We were very clinical and played good football. They had a strong defence and we had to be smart about where we played the ball. Great teamwork allowed us to emerge victorious.

Goals: Jeremiah 3, Kai 2, Mateusz 2, Ariyan 1, Blake 1

MOTM: Jeremiah

RECEPTION ADMISSIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

Please be aware that the deadline for Reception applications for the next academic year is 15th January 2025. Parents will need to make an application by the closing date to ensure their application is considered as on-time.

Parents should apply online at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions or alternatively if they cannot access the internet, they can request a printed version of the website information and application form from the Hertfordshire County Council Customer Service Centre by calling 0300 123 4043.

PSA NEWS

RAINBOW RAFFLE

Congratulations to the 17 winning ticket holders who won one of our colourful rainbow hampers - all winners have been contacted with the good news. Thank you to all the families who took part by purchasing raffle tickets to raise much needed funds for our school. And thank you to the volunteers who gave up their time to put these hampers together.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas from the PSA.



LINKS AND ATTACHMENTS

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

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

- WGC & Hatfield Schools Partnership courses - Who's in Charge



UPCOMING DATES FOR DIARIES



23/12/2024 – 03/01/2025 – Christmas Holidays		
06/01/2025	INSET day	
07/01/2025	Children Return to School	
09/01/2025	Electric Umbrella Performance	2.00pm – 3.00pm
16/01/2025	Year 4 Maths Live Learning – Parents Invited	9.15am – 10.15am
17/01/2025	Year 3 & 4 Parent Coffee Morning	8.45am – 9.45am
22/01/2025	Recycling & Sustainability Year 4 Workshop	
24/01/2025	RSPB Big Bird Watch ADVANCE Parent Session for ADHD	9.00am – 10.30am
28/01/2025	3.2 Class Assembly – Parents Invited	9.15am – 9.45am
29/01/2025	Year 6 Maths Live Learning – Parents Invited	9.15am – 10.15am

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

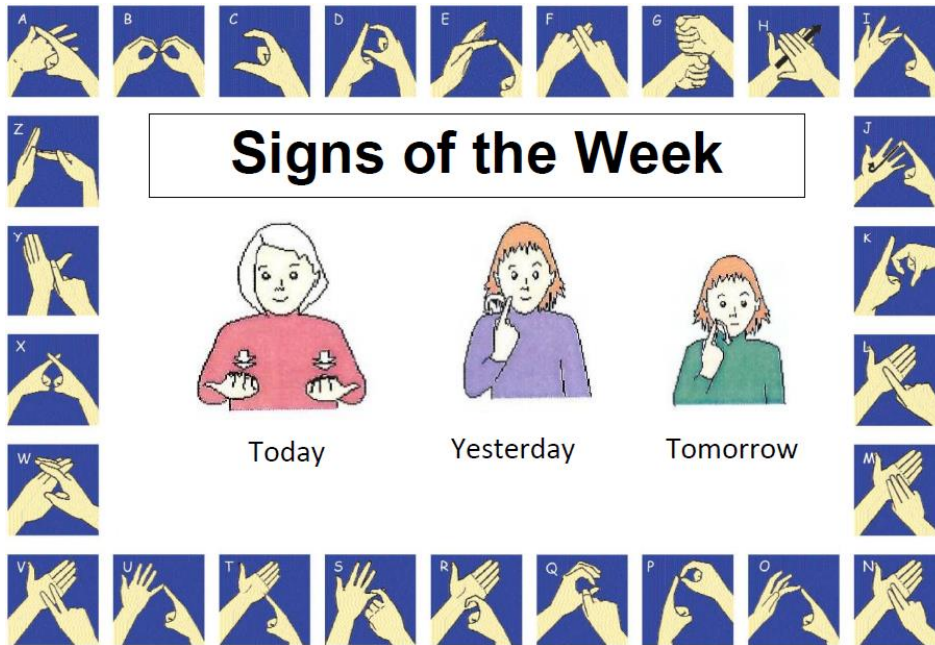
Please remember to order your child's lunch through school grid. If lunch has not been ordered, you will need to bring in a packed lunch which must not contain hot food.

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.



BEACON PUPILS

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

Nursery	Mikhael	For putting his hand up when on the carpet and making valuable contributions to our learning
Year R1	Tristan	For singing proudly and confidently during the Christmas songs performance in front of parents
Year R2	Davina	For always having a positive attitude to learning and being a great role model to her peers
Year 1.1	Ethan	For an excellent Christmas play performance
Year 1.2	Sydney	For always following the Golden Expectations and her focus during independent learning
Year 2.1	Harriette	For her hard work and effort in improving her skills of segmenting words and letter formation
Year 2.2	Dhay'Jone	For his progress in phonics and independent writing
Year 3.1	Paris	For his excellent focus during our learning
Year 3.2	Kamari	For his improved attitude and following the Golden Expectations
Year 4.1	Zain	For the impressive writing he's produced recently in English
Year 4.2	Suhailah	For amazing effort and improvement in writing
Year 5.1	Sienna	For consistently demonstrating the Golden Expectations and being such a mature, hardworking and kind role model for her peers
Year 5.2	Tanaka	For his participation in our class discussions. His confidence has grown so much, particularly with writing and guided reading
Year 6.1	Jawad	For his fantastic work in writing
Year 6.2	Nathan	For his contributions during our No Outsiders session

MERITS

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

Ethan	1.1	Manuja	3.2
Sarayu	1.1	Arielle	3.2
Dihen	1.1	Zaafirah	3.2
Andra	1.1	Ella	3.2
Jay O	1.1	Kayden	4.1
Manuchimso	2.2	Grace	4.2
Amie	3.1	Micah	4.2



ATTENDANCE OF THE WEEK 9th – 13th December 2024	WINNERS Year 5.1
Reception 1	85.0%
Reception 2	81.0%
Year 1 Class 1	88.0%
Year 1 Class 2	79.3%
Year 2 Class 1	86.1%
Year 2 Class 2	91.0%
Year 3 Class 1	95.5%
Year 3 Class 2	95.3%
Year 4 Class 1	87.7%
Year 4 Class 2	97.2%
Year 5 Class 1	97.7%
Year 5 Class 2	95.3%
Year 6 Class 1	88.7%
Year 6 Class 2	92.3%
Weekly Attendance	90.0%