



Value of the term: Growth

Dear Parents and Carers,

I can't believe that we are half way through the first half of the Spring term. Time clearly flies when we are having fun!

We have been exploring our value of 'Growth' through a suite of assemblies. I'm sure you will be pleased to hear that more children are charging their devices outside of their room to enable them to achieve the 9-12 hours of sleep that primary aged children require. We have also looked at how people help us grow and we have all created our 'growth hand' where we have surrounded ourselves with people who will enable us to be the 'best we can be'.

This week we focused on physical health and how physical health also supports our mental health. We were joined by Sensei Taylor and Sensei Aaron who shared with us the benefits of participating in a Martial Art.



The children were very keen to participate and learn more about Karate. I spoke with Sensei Taylor after the assembly and he was highly complimentary of our children's enthusiasm and exemplary behaviour. Further information about Lea Valley Karate Academy can be found by visiting: www.lvka.co.uk

It was lovely that so many of you joined leaders at the Year 3 and Year 4 parents' coffee morning. I do hope you found the time productive and informative. We thoroughly enjoy these coffee mornings as it enables us to get your feedback and to hear your news – thank you.

Last week, Doug Harmer (HFL Maths Adviser) worked with the teaching team with a scaffolding focus. He was really impressed with the work already undertaken by our teachers and has provided them with further strategies to use with their class.

As part of our new lunchtime playtime project, we received an abundance of resources as part of our non-uniform day. Miss Lock and Miss Tupper and friends spent the whole day organising all the donations. Many have already been put into use with others being prepared for 'new zone' launch.



We have already seen a positive difference at lunchtimes where children are engaged in play activities and are effectively communicating with their friends and finding new friends in different year groups.

You may have spotted on Tuesday that the whole teaching team were in their PE kits. That was because DRUMBA was being launched. Drum sticks at the ready, the staff team were good to go! I had every intention to capture the team in action however I too was totally absorbed in DRUMBA.

Due to the inclement weather, outdoor PE was not a possibility however the team were keen to share their newly acquired skills.



I can see lots of DRUMBA opportunities for adults as well as children so watch this space...

To ensure that my safeguarding knowledge is current I undertook my Designated Safeguarding Lead refresher training. This is undertaken every two years and all the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads also refresh their training every two years. I find the training really relevant and it has fine-tuned my skills which is essential for this role.

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding leads at Howe Dell are:

Mrs Ritchie	Miss Christmas
Mrs Wall	Mrs Worsley
Mrs Saldin	Mrs Reck
Mrs Esty	Miss Carter
Miss Hickmott	

If you need to speak with a DSL/DDSL please contact the school office who will facilitate your request.

It was lovely to welcome so many parents to the Year 5 'Live Learning' session. I hope that you gained an insight into our Science Curriculum.



As part of the 'people who help us' programme of study, it was great to welcome Dr Ishtiaq and Miss Majumdar who talked to Nursery and Reception about what it is like to work as a doctor and as a nurse. Thank you so much for giving up your time to support our children.

Next week we are encouraging children to take part in the 'Big School's Birdwatch'. On our school website you can access a survey sheet should you wish to record your results from your own garden / local park and bring them back to school to share! Please send pictures of your adventures to year4@howedell.herts.sch.uk. <https://www.howedell.herts.sch.uk/newsletter-attachments/>

Over the weekend I plan to take part in the 'Big Garden Birdwatch' - I am hoping to spot the pandemonium of Parakeets along with a plethora of gulls, magpies and sparrows.

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch>

Whether you are a bird watcher or a twitcher enjoy the birdsong.

Kind Regards,

Tracy Prickett

EARLY YEARS VALUE LEADERS

We are pleased to announce our new EYFS value leaders for the Spring Term. These young leaders will be modelling and supporting their peers with their value.

Nursery Kindness - Kacie Growth - Orla Respect - Larissa	R1 Kindness – Noah & Shanti Growth – Lenny & Tommy Respect – Varman & Summer	R2 Kindness – Adeline & Ireoluwa Growth – Oliver & Ethan Respect – Kevin & Zaidah
--	--	---

HOWE DELL LIBRARY UPDATE

Following on from our Travelling Book Fair in the summer term, one of our Year 6 pupils suggested that it would be great if the children were given the opportunity to choose new books for the library using the rewards earned from our book sales. We love taking suggestions from the children and putting them into action so as a result, all classes were asked to browse some book catalogues and come up with a 'wish list' of books. These were purchased using our Scholastic rewards and have now been placed in our school library.



Our Year 5 and Year 6 Library Leaders helped with stamping and labelling the books ready to go on the shelves and this week they have been excited to each choose a new book to read and review as part of their learner leadership role. Their book reviews will then be displayed in the library where others will be able to read them and decide which books they too would like to read!



NSPCC LEARNING

Last week children from Year 1 – 6 took part in NSPCC virtual assemblies and workshops aimed to help children understand: abuse in all its forms, including bullying; the ability to recognise the signs of abuse; how to protect themselves from all forms of abuse; to make children aware of how to get help and the sources of help available to them, including Childline.



Children in workshops worked through their 'Speak out. Stay Safe' kit with Buddy, learning all children have the right to be kept safe and how to get help.

HCPI PARENT COFFEE MORNING

On 30th January at 9am parents and carers are invited to attend our SEND parent coffee morning hosted by Herts Parent Carer Involvement.

HPCI is the parent carer forum for Hertfordshire. They work to make sure that local service providers know what families with children and young people with SEND need. They gather parent carer views and work in partnership to bring about positive change across health, education, and social care services.



GIRLS FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

On Friday 16th January we were invited to Onslow St Audrey's School to take part in a year 5/6 girls football tournament. The girls battled brilliantly and worked incredibly hard together winning two games, drawing one and finally losing one. Scoring 10 and only conceding 3 goals, the girls should be immensely proud of such an amazing achievement. Especially considering that this was the first time these girls had played together and the first time some had played for the school at all!

Mrs Worsley is a very proud coach!



BOYS FOOTBALL TEAM

This week the boys travelled to top of the table Hatfield Community Free School who haven't dropped any points this year. After a slow start the boys soon picked up playing some amazing football.

A tough battle meant that the boys had to work incredibly hard, leading the match 2-1 for the majority of the game thanks to two goals from Tanaka. Unfortunately, with the last kick of the game, Hatfield Community Free School equalised meaning the game finished 2-2. The boys should be very proud as they faced a very solid team and came away with a point and unlucky not to get three.

ULTIMATE FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

As a school we 'buy' into the Ultimate Family Support Services for Welwyn and Hatfield. The service is here to improve outcomes for children and young people. Please take a moment to browse through the Service Directory on our website as there are lots of courses available to support parents on a whole range of matters.

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

PARENT/GOVERNOR WANTED!

We are looking for a parent governor to join our governing board. Information on how to apply will be sent out via Arbor and email to school and Day Care parents. If you are interested, please apply by 9am on Friday 6th February.



UPCOMING DATES FOR DIARIES

26.01.26- 30.01.26	Art Festival week	
29.01.26	Year 1 Live Learning – parents invited	9.00am – 9.45am
30.01.26	Author of the month assembly – parents invited SEND parent coffee morning - HPCI	8.55am 9.00am – 10.30am
03.02.26	Year 4.2 class assembly – parents invited Reception local walk	9.15am – 9.45am Afternoon
02.02.26 – 06.02.26	Nursery stay and play – parents invited	
09.02.26	Year 1 & 2 parent coffee morning	9.00am
10.02.26	Safer Internet Day	
11.02.26	Year 3 Live Learning – parents invited Eco Committee Big School's Birdwatch	9.00am – 9.45am 3.15pm – 4pm
13.02.26	Year 4 Living Things workshop	Times TBC
	16.02.26 – 20.02.26 – Half Term	
23.02.26	INSET day	
24.02.26	Children return to school	

REMINDERS



DISABLED BADGE HOLDERS

A reminder that anyone who is granted access to the school car park and is wishing to park in the disabled bay must clearly display their blue badge.

FEBRUARY HALF TERM PLAYScheme

Bookings are open for our Spring Playscheme which will run from Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February. Booking and registration forms can be downloaded from our website or paper copies are available from the school office and from Extended Services.

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

STAY & READ

Nursery and Reception parents/carers are invited to our Stay and Read sessions every Tuesday from 8.40 - 8.55.

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.

Unless your child requires a Halal meal to due religious reasons, please do not select it. If you do select it and it is not for religious reasons your child will be given the vegetarian option.

UNIFORM & 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. All children should have a pair of plimsolls kept in school for indoor use.

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 and pick up times.

BEACON PUPILS

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

Nursery	Isla	For coming into school calmly and making lots of valuable contributions to our class discussions
Year R1	Daisy	For using her creative skills to think carefully about colours and techniques to create a winter picture
Year R2	Muskaan	For working hard on her communication skills and independence
Year 1.1	Ihan	For great progress in his reading
Year 1.2	Nafas	For always having a positive attitude towards her learning and giving everything 'a go'
Year 2.1	Walter	For making great progress in reading and writing his tricky words
Year 2.2	Andrea	For her enthusiasm and recollection of new spelling rules
Year 3.1	Advika	For being a brilliant role model of the expectations and a kind friend
Year 3.2	Kai	For improved focus and trying really hard with his reading and writing
Year 4.1	Anika	For working hard and showing steady growth since the start of Year 4
Year 4.2	Panvith	For his fantastic enthusiasm and giving it 100% in our DRUMBA session
Year 5.1	Kayden	For always modelling the Golden Expectations
Year 5.2	Isabel	For making excellent progress across all curriculum subjects, particularly reading. She is always focused and working hard
Year 6.1	Sienna	For challenging herself across the curriculum
Year 6.2	Dilith	For his dedication to learning both in and out of school

MERITS

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

Anastasia	1.1	Manuchimso	3.1
Momore	1.1	Aditi	3.1
Yusuf	1.1	Imogen	4.1
Connie	3.1	Wanaka	4.2
Advika	3.1	Aadam	5.1

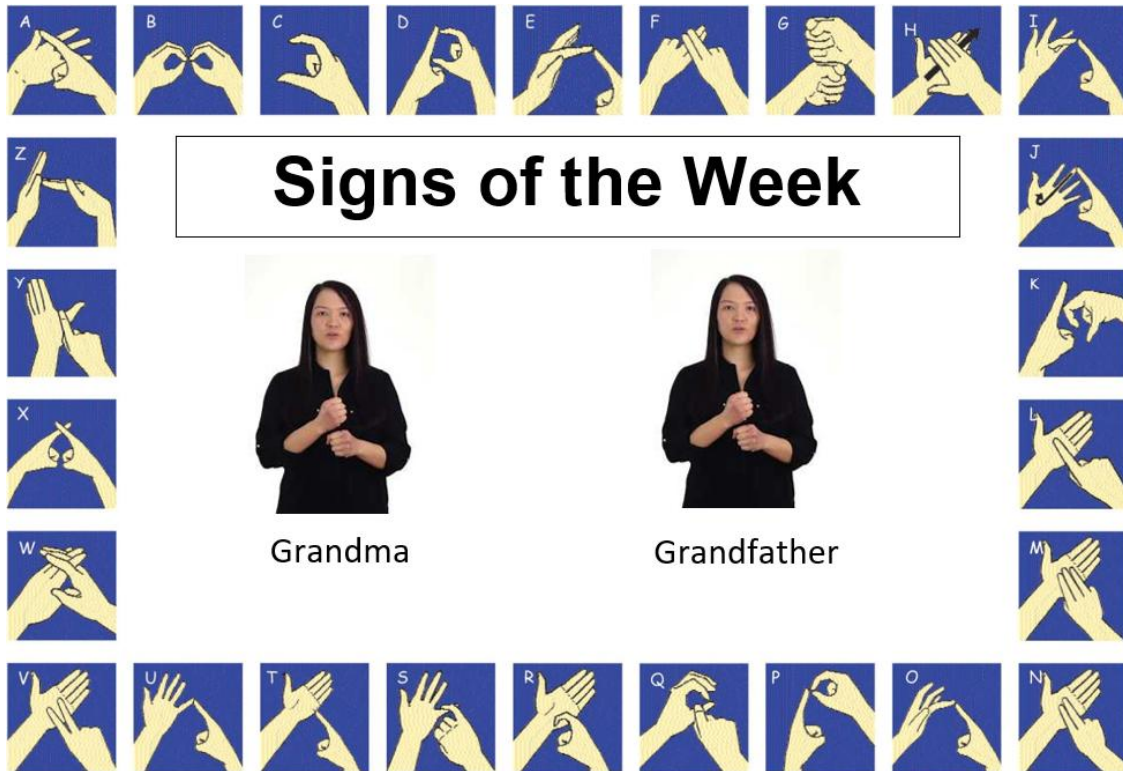


FAB FRIDAY


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

R.1	Gowtham	R.2	Phoenix
1.1	Isobel	1.2	Elizabeth
2.1	Esther	2.2	Ahmed
3.1	Theo	3.2	Hanan
4.1	Brendan	4.2	Genevieve
5.1	Lucille	5.2	Isabel
6.1	Zara	6.2	Preye

ATTENDANCE OF THE WEEK 12 th – 16 th January 2026	WINNERS Year 2.1
Reception 1	97.0%
Reception 2	94.1%
Year 1 Class 1	93.1%
Year 1 Class 2	98.3%
Year 2 Class 1	99.7%
Year 2 Class 2	98.6%
Year 3 Class 1	92.1%
Year 3 Class 2	95.8%
Year 4 Class 1	95.2%
Year 4 Class 2	96.0%
Year 5 Class 1	99.3%
Year 5 Class 2	98.0%
Year 6 Class 1	96.6%
Year 6 Class 2	98.7%
Weekly Attendance	96.6%



Signs of the Week



Grandma



Grandfather