



Value of the term: Growth

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the second half of the Spring Term. I don't know about you but having the lighter evenings and the sunshine has been really welcomed!

The week before half term was incredibly busy and it commenced with the Year 1 and 2 parents coffee morning. It was so lovely to have so many parents join us and thank you so much for your feedback and your kind words.

That afternoon we received an incredibly kind donation from Falko. The company have recently upgraded their hardware and they have donated several laptops to Howe Dell. We are currently rebuilding these and undertaking the relevant security checks in advance of circulation. We are planning to put some of these into Extended Services to enable children to undertake their home learning tasks whilst at After School Club.



As part of our music enrichment programme, the Year 3 children had the opportunity to listen to the Year 4 children at their 'strings concert'. I know the children really enjoyed performing to an audience and the Year 3 children are excited about this opportunity when they are in Year 4. Thank you to Ms Dobson our 'Strings' teacher for a great concert.



Also visiting us was Louise Alce, our Early Years adviser. She thoroughly enjoyed her time in the classrooms and has provided us with some 'next steps' to further enhance our provision.

Our first week back has been filled to the brim with a plethora of events and project updates. It was lovely to welcome so many parents to the Reception 'Live Learning' sessions. I do hope you enjoyed the time with your child in class and that you have a window into 'life at Howe Dell'.



As you know, we have been planning a MUGA (Multi-use games area) at Howe Dell for a little while to increase the amount of hard surface playing area and to enhance our current PE curriculum and enrichment provision. I'm sure you will be excited to hear that the project has been agreed by the Governing Board and with Hertfordshire County Council. The next step is to apply for planning permission.

Our second project is a dedicated outdoor learning area for Year 1. This will enable us to deliver high quality provision both inside and outside of the classroom and support with transition from Early Years to Year 1. We hope to have this project completed by the end of this half term.

You may have noticed team members wearing some 'Howe Dell' branded items of clothing. Team members have fleece jackets and tops so they too can be more actively involved in the PE sessions. It also makes staff easily identifiable when we are accompanying children on off-site excursions or at whole school parental events. Thank you Mrs Worsley for your suggestion, I have to say I think the team look fabulous!



Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Kind Regards

Tracy Prickett

LIVING THINGS WORKSHOP

Year 4 enjoyed the Living Things Science Workshop. We had great fun learning about living things through drama and role play. We also played games to help us decide if something was living or not. The 'True and False' quiz was fun because we had to lay down if we thought the answer was false! We learnt so much about classification and food chains too. Using our teamwork skills, we tried to persuade animals to live in our Biome.



RECEPTION VISIT FROM DENTIST

As part of our Superhero's topic this term Reception were luckily to have a visit from Handside Dental Practice. They spoke to us about their job and how to keep our teeth and mouths healthy. We loved having a go at brushing the giant mouths!



EARLY YEARS POLICE VISIT

EYFS had a visit from our community support officer Casey this week. We learnt about her job role and how she helps people. We were able to try on some uniform and go into the police car.

Thank you, Casey, for your time and knowledge, the EYFS children spoke at length about our visit.



BIG SCHOOL'S BIRD WATCH

Eco squad took part in the Big Bird Watch on Wednesday 11th February after school. They managed to spot lots of birds including robins, gulls and blackbirds.

We have also begun to discuss how we can increase the amount of wildlife on our school site.



SPORTS GADGET SHOP

Thank you to everyone who attended our 'Sport Gadget Shop'. We hope you enjoy using your new sports equipment. We managed to raise £168 from this event and this money will continue going towards new playground equipment for Wonder Lunch! Well done to the School Council members who helped to run the event.



YOUNG CARERS AT HOWE DELL

Many children across Hertfordshire are registered as Young Carers. A young carer is someone under the age of 18 who helps to care for a family member, relative or friend. A young person aged 16-25 with caring responsibilities can be known as a young adult carer. As many as 1 in 5 children and young people are young carers in the UK. We would like to know if your child is registered as a Young Carer – please let us know on this link <https://forms.gle/SCjGCwaaVkgmFxsF6>

NEW SCHOOL FONT

Following our monitoring, we are focusing school improvement on spelling and handwriting. We are committed to improving outcomes in these foundational skills for all children. We are moving to an agreed font across the provisions.

A non-joined font has been chosen for the whole school to support children who are still securing their letter formation. We want pupils to recognise that, as a school, we take letter formation seriously and model this consistently - even in our font choices.

The font we will be using is: **Sassoon Primary Infant**

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o
p q r s t u v w x y z

EASTER PLAYScheme

Bookings are open for our Easter Playscheme which will run from Monday 30th March – Thursday 2nd April and Tuesday 7th April – Friday 10th April. 8am – 6pm.

Our Playscheme will be open to both Howe Dell and Non-Howe Dell children (Reception - Year 6) New families always welcome.

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/page/?title=Playschemes&pid=83>

PSA NEWS – Volunteers needed!

We are still looking for volunteers for the Year **4, 5 & 6 disco on Friday 6th March 2026**.

We cannot run these events without your help! Any parents/carers/grandparents who can spare the time to help on the night, please contact us at psa@howedell.herts.sch.uk

Volunteers would be needed from 2.45pm – 5pm.



UPCOMING DATES FOR DIARIES

03.03.26	Year 2.2 class assembly – parents invited Year 5 trip to Bayfordbury Observatory	9.15am – 9.45am 9.30am – 1.00pm
05.03.26	World Book Day – wear pyjamas/onesie and bring a favourite book and teddy/blanket	
06.03.26	PSA Glow Disco - Year 4, 5 & 6	3.15pm – 5.00pm
10.03.26	Year 3.1 class assembly – parents invited	9.15am – 9.45am
12.03.26	Art exhibition – parents invited	3.15pm – 4.30pm
16.03.26 – 20.03.26	Sign Language Week	
17.03.26	Year 5.1 class assembly – parents invited	9.15am – 9.45am
18.03.26	Year 2 Live Learning – parents invited	9.00am – 9.45am
20.03.26	Applications for September 2026 Nursery places close	
24.03.26	Year 6.2 class assembly – parents invited	9.15am – 9.45am
25.03.26	Spring Spectacular – EYFS Rock Steady concert – Rock Steady Parents invited	9.15am 2.30pm
26.03.26	Spring Spectacular – EYFS	2.00pm
27.03.26	Author of the month assembly – parents invited Last day of term – School closes at 1.30pm	8.55am
	30.03.26 – 10.04.26 Easter holidays	
13.04.26	Children return to school	

REMINDERS



WORLD BOOK DAY – Thursday 5th March

To celebrate World Book Day at Howe Dell, all children are invited to 'get cosy' for a day filled with a variety of reading and book activities. Children are invited to bring to school a favourite book from home (or from our community library) and to come dressed in either their pyjamas or a onesie. They can also bring either a teddy or a blanket.

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	Tadeu	For improving his self-care skills
Year R1	Varman	For using strategies learnt in phonics to support independent spelling
Year R2	Lily	For settling well into Reception routines and following our Golden Expectations
Year 1.1	Momore	For excellent attitude and focus during reading practise
Year 1.2	April	For always beings kind and following the Golden Expectations
Year 2.1	Jason	For being a supportive, kind and patient learning partner
Year 2.2	Ahmed	For his contribution in PSHE
Year 3.1	Archie	For his growth mindset and brilliant attitude for learning
Year 3.2	Imaan	For coming back to school with a positive 'ready to learn' attitude
Year 4.1	Rodin	For starting this week with a positive attitude, working hard and being a thoughtful and supportive talk partner
Year 4.2	Paris	For working extremely hard in his lessons and trying his best to stay focused all day
Year 5.1	Fajar	For her positive attitude and helpfulness
Year 5.2	Jake	For his excellent focus and participation in class this week. He has made lots of valuable contributions
Year 6.1	Edward	For sharing thoughtful and reflective contributions in lessons
Year 6.2	Bella	For her participation and excellent work in every lesson

MERITS

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

Muslimah	1.1	Aaliyah	2.2
Elizabeth	1.1	Daniel	2.2
Ryan	1.1	Jeremiah	4.1
Danish	1.1	Zaafirah	4.1
Nellie	1.1	Isa	4.2
Kasey	2.1	Panvith	4.2
Alexandra	2.2	Lakshmi	4.2
Tilly	2.2	Elena	5.1
Atenea	2.2		



FAB FRIDAY

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

R.1	Teddy D	R.2	Zaidah
1.1	Mia	1.2	Anayat
2.1	Jay	2.2	Kaan
3.1	Sofia	3.2	Noah
4.1	Aarshi	4.2	Ada
5.1	Kayden	5.2	Dahlia
6.1	Rola	6.2	Jakub

ATTENDANCE OF THE WEEK 9 th – 13 th February 2026	WINNERS Year 5.1
Reception 1	95.3%
Reception 2	88.3%
Year 1 Class 1	88.3%
Year 1 Class 2	91.3%
Year 2 Class 1	93.7%
Year 2 Class 2	95.0%
Year 3 Class 1	93.9%
Year 3 Class 2	91.8%
Year 4 Class 1	92.6%
Year 4 Class 2	94.0%
Year 5 Class 1	99.3%
Year 5 Class 2	98.3%
Year 6 Class 1	93.0%
Year 6 Class 2	90.7%
Weekly Attendance	93.3%



Signs of the Week

What **Who**



























