



Value of the term: Growth

Dear Parents and Carers,

I do have to say that the sunshine and lighter evenings are incredibly welcome. We can see around us nature in full 'growth' with a plethora of spring flowers and even the trees are beginning to blossom!

Continuing our focus on 'growth', today is Miss McPherson's last day as her maternity leave commences. I'm sure you will join with me in wishing Miss McPherson and her partner Mr Rowe every happiness as the time draws closer to welcome their baby into the world.

Our fortnight commenced with our Early Years coffee morning. It was lovely to share with you all the 'floor' books which I hope enabled you to have a better understanding of what learning looks like in Early Years. Thank you so much for your feedback and kind words.

As part of their Science curriculum, Year 5 headed out to Bayfordbury Observatory. The children were captivated by the planetarium show and asked many curious questions. They were also excited when they looked through the telescope to see the sun.



Our Year 5 mathematicians also had their Year 5 Maths challenge that day. Find out how they got on later on in this newsletter...

Thursday 5th March was World Book Day. Back by popular demand, we donned our PJ's and onesies and snuggled up with a good book.





We are collating a lobby screen montage of all our activities as we have lots to share!

There was lots of excitement on Friday 6th March as we held our annual PSA 'Glow Disco' for Year 4 – 6. I have to say that the children brought their dancing shoes and singing voices. I had an absolute blast dancing with the children and they shared some new dance moves to songs I had never heard! Thank you children for being so welcoming and thank you PSA for such a great event.

As part of our 'wonder play' lunchtimes, we introduced the 'den building' zone which has appeared to be incredibly popular. It has been wonderful to watch the positive relationships develop between the older and younger children. To support our lunchtime team, Miss Lock led training to promote positive play and high quality interaction between adults and children.



It has been lovely to welcome so many parents into the school. There was lots of positive feedback following Miss McPherson's parent consultations. Thank you so much for your flexibility as we wanted parents to have time with Miss McPherson before she heads off for final arrival preparations.

Year 2.2 and 3.1 held their class assemblies. I did stop and pause on my way to a meeting as I heard Year 3's singing voices fill the corridors. It was an absolute highlight of my day.



We would all like to thank Mr Smith who has designed and painted a small world 'city' on our playground. The children are loving driving their cars around the space.

One of the highlights at Howe Dell is our bi-annual 'Art Gallery'. Following our art festival, our art work is professionally framed and our whole school gallery is created. We all had a wonderful time as we immersed ourselves in fine art creations. It was clear to see that the art skills and techniques the children have learned over the year and years have been applied in their masterpieces.



As part of our RE enrichment, the children were treated to 'The Rhyming Bible' by the Saltmine Theatre Company. To further deepen their learning, Year 5 and Year 6 attended a workshop which enabled them to be curious and further explore the Christian faith.



As we look forward to the penultimate week of term we are holding our Neurodiversity celebration week and Sign Language week. In addition, Year 1 outdoor learning area is being installed, just in time for the better weather!

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Kind Regards

Tracy Prickett

PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTION

Following the election for a parent governor we are pleased to announce that Priyantha Jayasundara has been elected. We would like to thank all those who put their name forward and took the time to complete candidate statements, and to those of you who voted. We look forward to Priyantha attending our next Full Governing Board meeting.

WORLD BOOK DAY 2026 AT HOWE DELL

Last Thursday was a great 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, as the children were fully immersed in a range of book-related 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.

Throughout the day there were a number of events taking place online which classes were able to join, including the BBC Teach World Book Day Live Lesson, Scholastic Books live author events and a Michael Rosen poetry party.

During the afternoon the children were totally engaged in making their own books. This was a great opportunity to continue to build upon the successes of our Essential Writing programme and let the children have complete freedom as authors to choose to write about whatever they wished. It certainly was a book-filled day which celebrated a love of reading and was enjoyed by all.



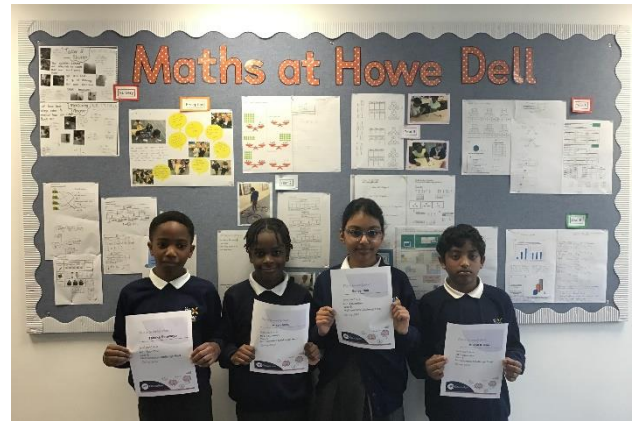
YEAR 5 REACH THE HFL MATHS CHALLENGE FINAL

We are thrilled to announce that our Year 5 team - Renee, Mukhil, Micah, Tanaka - has qualified for the 2026 HFL Maths Challenge final after achieving an outstanding total score of 143 points, well above the average score of 123.

The final will take place on Tuesday 24th March, and our pupils are working hard to prepare for the even more challenging tasks.

This is a fantastic achievement, and we are incredibly proud of the children's hard work, teamwork, and mathematical problem-solving skills. Well done, Team Year 5!

Mrs Joo




FIRE SAFETY INSPECTION

You might have noticed that the local Fire Brigade paid us a visit this week to carry out a spot check Fire Safety Inspection. They meticulously examined our building, escape routes, fire extinguishers, and all the essential safety measures we have in place. In addition to this, they conducted a thorough review of the behind-the-scenes legal paperwork and record keeping, ensuring everything is up to standard.

We are absolutely delighted to announce that we passed with top marks! This reflects our commitment to maintaining a safe environment for all our students, staff, and visitors.

UPCOMING DATES FOR DIARIES



16.03.26 – 20.03.26	Sign Language Week Neurodiversity celebration 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 Year 6 KNEX GoConstruct challenge	
24.03.26	Year 6.2 class assembly – parents invited	9.15am – 9.45am
25.03.26	Spring Spectacular 'Goldilocks & the Three Bears' – EYFS Rock Steady concert – Rock Steady Parents invited	9.15am 2.30pm
26.03.26	Spring Spectacular 'Goldilocks & the Three Bears' – EYFS	2.00pm
27.03.26	Author of the month assembly – parents invited Nursery & Reception 'Happily Ever After' fairytale dress up day 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	
14.04.26	Year 2.1 class assembly – parents invited	9.15am – 9.45am
15.04.26	PSA Spring hat parade – parents invited	9.00am

PSA NEWS

Howe Dell PSA are inviting children to enter a **Spring Hat Competition** which will be judged at our 'Spring Hat Parade' on Wednesday 15th April at 9am, which parents/carers are invited to attend - more details to follow.

Entry costs £2. We will provide all children who enter with a plain hat, how they decorate it is completely up to them! There will be winners from different age brackets, with prizes up for grabs. Only children who have purchased a hat through the PSA will be eligible to win.

How To Enter:

You can pre-order & pay for your hat at www.pta-events.co.uk/howedellpsa

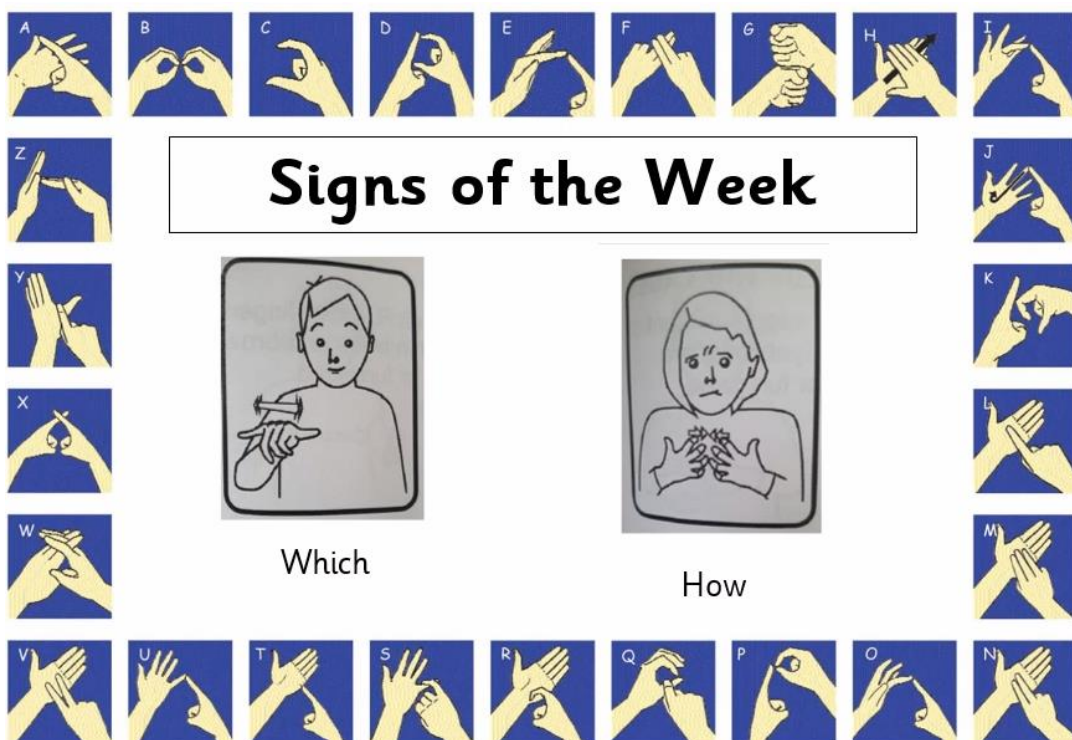
Online pre-orders will close at 11.55pm Sunday 22nd March. It is important that you enter the name and class of each child you are ordering for as we will use this information to determine who is eligible to win. Pre-ordered hats will be delivered to classrooms after online sales close.

Alternatively, you can purchase your hat from the PSA on the playground after school on Wednesday 25th March and Friday 27th March. We'll be accepting both cash and card payments.

Decorated Spring hats are to be worn into school the morning of Wednesday 15th April ready to showcase at the parade.

Good luck, we can't wait to see the amazing spring hats you create!

If you have any questions regarding the Spring Hat competition, then please get in touch with us at psa@howedell.herts.sch.uk.



BEACON PUPILS

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

Nursery	Lily	For improved participation during phonics carpet sessions
Year R1	Shivani	For using sentences to communicate her wishes
Year R2	Varshigan	For fantastic independent writing this week using his phonics knowledge
Year 1.1	Niko	For great reasoning in Maths
Year 1.2	Millie	For her participation during learning time and giving everything a go!
Year 2.1	Mike	For developing his ideas for writing with an adult, then writing them into simple sentences
Year 2.2	Tilly	For her efforts in English especially her handwriting
Year 3.1	River	For his effort and determination during Drumba
Year 3.2	Kian	For being eager to understand tricky maths concepts
Year 4.1	Miruna	For working incredibly hard this week, showing great resilience and approaching challenges with a positive attitude
Year 4.2	Samantha	For working extremely hard to proof read and edit her writing independently
Year 5.1	Elena	For contributing lots of her great ideas to class discussions
Year 5.2	Luwi	His confidence has grown immensely over the course of the year. He is working hard with taking part in class discussions and working independently.
Year 6.1	Eliana	For her great work and dedication during lessons
Year 6.2	Zara	For always working hard and being a role model for the Golden Expectations

MERITS

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

Oluwadamola	1.1	Maryam	3.2
Nyana	1.2	Nila	3.2
Theo	1.2	Scarlett	4.2
Maya	2.2	Samantha	4.2
Andrea	2.2	Wanaka	4.2
Razela	2.2	Rosie	4.2
Theo	3.1	Tudor	4.2
Daniel	3.1	Ada	4.2
Yalina	3.1	Genevieve	4.2
Atarah	3.1	Hachikaru	4.2
Mimie	3.1	Joshua	4.2



FAB FRIDAY

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

R.1	Scarlett	R.2	Demilade
1.1	Nellie	1.2	Fatima
2.1	Atanas	2.2	Aaliyah
3.1	Adhrit	3.2	Kian
4.1	Ryaan	4.2	Erik F
5.1	Renee	5.2	Ibukunoluwa
6.1	Victoria	6.2	Oscar

ATTENDANCE OF THE WEEK 2nd – 6th March 2026	WINNERS Year 5.1
Reception 1	89.0%
Reception 2	95.3%
Year 1 Class 1	89.3%
Year 1 Class 2	96.7%
Year 2 Class 1	98.3%
Year 2 Class 2	97.3%
Year 3 Class 1	98.2%
Year 3 Class 2	93.9%
Year 4 Class 1	99.0%
Year 4 Class 2	98.3%
Year 5 Class 1	100.0%
Year 5 Class 2	98.7%
Year 6 Class 1	95.7%
Year 6 Class 2	95.3%
Weekly Attendance	96.1%