

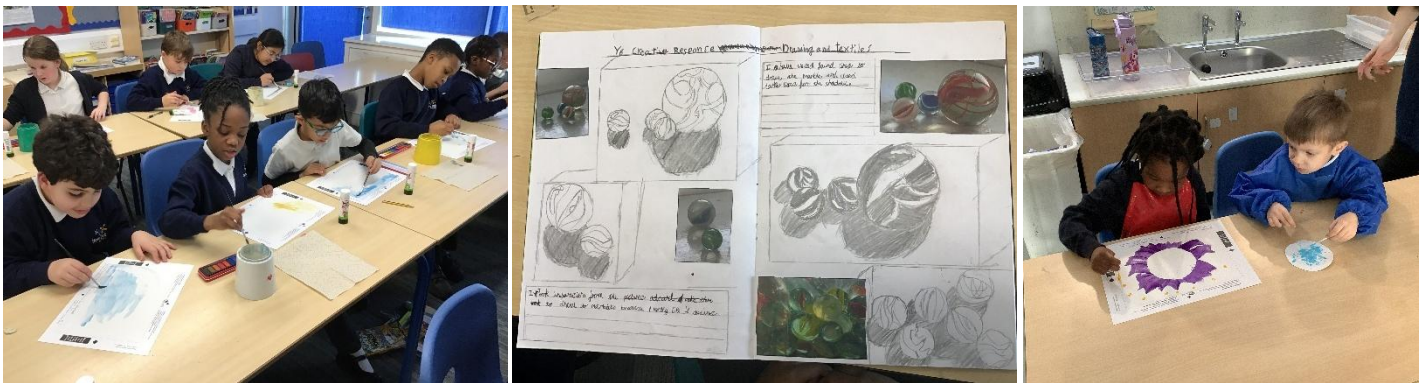


Value of the term: Growth

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had another busy fortnight at Howe Dell. The final week of January was brightened by our annual CUSP Art festival.

The whole school community have fully embraced the festival providing some great pieces of art.



We look forward to sharing with you our work at our Art Gallery on Thursday 12th March where you will be able to acquire your child's framed art work.

As part of my role as Chair of PHF, I get the opportunity to visit other schools in Hertfordshire. I was recently invited to visit Sandridge school where I was discussing with the Head Teacher the impact of falling rolls in St. Albans. I also had the opportunity to raise this concern with MP Daisy Cooper as this significantly impacts on her constituency. There are no short-term solutions however schools are 'thinking outside the box' to ensure they provide the best for their children.

Some of you may have spotted Miss Christmas in our Day Care. We have implemented the Little Wandle Phonics SSP into Day Care which will really support children who transition into our Reception class. The Day Care team are really enjoying delivering phonics to their children.

We have really enjoyed observing our children immerse themselves at lunchtimes as they take an active role in 'Wonder Play'. Thanks to your kind donations we have seen an increase in imaginative play across all year groups. As part of our provision enhancement, we are in the final design stages of our MUGA (Multi-use games area). The next step, following Governor approval, will be to seek planning permission. This addition will not only provide a dedicated sports space at lunchtime but will also enable us to deliver high quality PE in a purpose-built area.

It was lovely to welcome Colin Tapscott (Everyday leader) back to Howe Dell. Colin worked with our Teaching Assistants and Day Care. The feedback from the teams was incredibly positive. As you know at Howe Dell we invest significantly in our team to enable us all to be 'the best we can be'.

It has been lovely to welcome you all to a plethora of events. Mrs Ritchie led our 'Author of the Month' assembly where she could see the development of foundational skills, especially in the areas of handwriting and spelling. I know that many of you attended the Year 1 'live learning' and 4.2's class assembly. I do hope this provided a little window into our world and to see how hard your children are working as they take on new learning as well as consolidate learning.

I also welcomed Jo Fisher, Director of Children's Services, to Howe Dell. I always love sharing with her all the exciting things we get up to at Howe Dell!

Continuing on the Professional Development update, Mrs Field and I undertook our annual Therapeutic Thinking Tutor refresher which enables us to deliver professional development to the school team.

We have had such a busy half term to date and there is still a further week which includes the Year 1 & 2 parent coffee morning on Monday 9th February at 9am with Miss Christmas and I. I do enjoy these coffee mornings as it enables me to get feedback from parents and share with you school updates. We look forward to seeing you on Monday!

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Kind Regards

Tracy Prickett

STAFFING UPDATE

I wanted to share with you all some really exciting news. Mrs Wall, our Assistant Head Teacher for Inclusion, has been appointed to Headship. Mrs Wall will be leading Journeys Academy which is a brand-new special school which is currently being built. She will be leaving us at the end of the Spring Term.

We are so proud of Mrs Wall as she has always aspired to become a Head Teacher. We are also going to really miss her as she has really refreshed Inclusion at Howe Dell. Her work has enabled the team to confidently deliver a range of strategies and interventions which has made a difference to all our children.

We have successfully recruited Mrs Bridges, who is an experienced Inclusion leader, and will be joining our team at the start of the Summer Term. She is really looking forward to joining the team and continuing the great work of Mrs Wall as well as bringing her own experience to enhance our provision.

Mrs Bridges has already started working with Mrs Wall to enable a fully succinct handover. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak with a member of the leadership team.

SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

You will be aware that the school suspended its use of X following concerns that the AI within the platform could use and manipulate X images. We know that X have made changes in this practice however safeguarding our children is paramount so we have decided to close our X account which will remove all our images.

I appreciate that you all enjoy seeing what we get up to at Howe Dell so we shall be exploring other social media platforms. We regularly update our website with information which includes our weekly newsletter.

Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

PRIMARY ENGINEERS

As part of the primary engineering programme, Year 2 have been constructing locomotives and had the privilege of two engineers visit to teach us about trains and what their role is with keeping trains up to date. They then took the time to test the distance, divergence and how they looked.



LITTER WALK

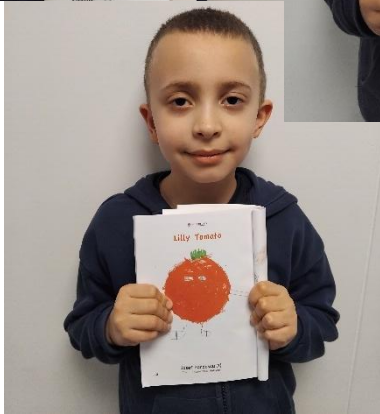
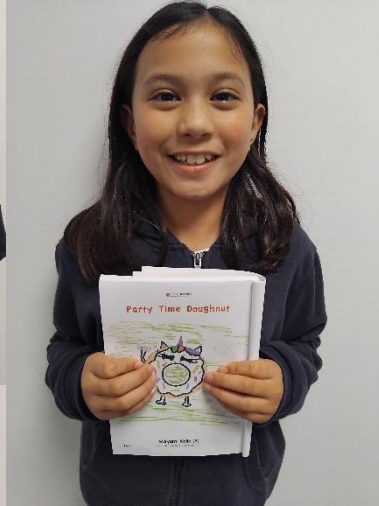
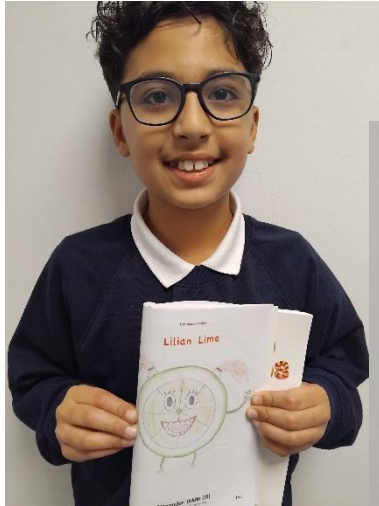
As part of our Reception curriculum this week we have been reading the story of Clean up. The story highlights the impact litter has on the environment and animals. This week we went out to clean up the streets around our school. The children kept themselves safe by listening to grown-ups, staying with their partner and using litter pickers. We collected lots of rubbish and disposed of it.

Thank you to all those parents and grandparents who volunteered to join us, we couldn't have done it without you. The children enjoyed our trips and have been discussing the importance of not littering throughout the week.



YOUNG ARTISTS

Children in Runway club participated in an art competition held by "young artists". The topic was to turn ordinary food into extraordinary characters and they did not disappoint! The drawings have been published in a book called "food friends".



SCHOOL COUNCIL – SPORT GADGET SHOP

Our Smart School Council we will be holding another 'Sport Gadget Shop' next week after school on **Thursday 12th February** at 3.15pm in the hall.

The 'Sport Gadget Shop' will offer a selection of exciting sports equipment for you to purchase and use at home. This is a great opportunity for you to learn a new skill, have fun with friends and family and to help keep fit and healthy. The 'Sport Gadget Shop' will be taking place just before the half term, giving you plenty of time to practise using your new equipment!

Prices range from £1 – £3 and we will be accepting both cash and card payments. The money raised from the 'Sport Gadget Shop' will be going towards new play equipment for lunchtimes.

We look forward to seeing you at the 'Sport Gadget Shop'!

CUSP ART FESTIVAL

Last week we held our annual Art Festival, and we were looking at 'What is Art and why is it so important to the world?'. The children have created some beautiful art pieces which will be available to view and purchase at our Art Exhibition on Thursday 12th March at 3:15-4:30pm. We hope you will come and view and celebrate the children as fantastic young artists!



WONDER LUNCHTIMES

We have lots of exciting things happening on the playground! The potion kitchen has been set up and the children are loving making potions. They have been very creative, including making a potion to give them more confidence and medicine to help their dolls when they have eaten too much sugar. Foam blocks have also been put outside, and the children have enjoyed building tall towers and testing which cars can knock them down. Thank you to the PSA for purchasing this new equipment, which wouldn't be possible without the fundraising efforts of all our Howe Dell families!



Alongside this, the children have been busy playing with the dolls and dressing up. We are still looking for den-making resources, as this will be our new zone after half term. We are always grateful for donations to help enrich our 'Wonder Lunchtimes' even further.



FOOTBALL UPDATE

GIRLS FOOTBALL

Our first game in the league was against Hatfield Community Free School and resulted in a hard fought 2:1 win with goals from Raya and Sayo. All the girls were amazing and our player of the match was Lucille for getting stuck in against girls much bigger than herself. Well done! Green Lanes are our next opponent!



BOYS FOOTBALL

On Monday, Howe Dell travelled to Green Lanes where they faced a tough test. Howe Dell matched up very well against their opponents who came for a physical game. Getting stuck into the challenge, Howe Dell managed to come out on top in a nine-goal thriller. Despite an incredible defensive display with some huge performances at the back, Green Lanes managed three goals, but Howe Dell's attack was superior. After a goal for Alex, a double from Micah and three goals for Tanaka, Howe Dell came away with a 6-3 win. That makes it five in a row without defeat showing real teamwork and unity in a very good run of form.



UPCOMING DATES FOR DIARIES

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 Dentist talk to Reception children Eco Committee Big School's Birdwatch	9.00am – 9.45am 10.45am – 11.20am 3.15pm – 4pm
12.02.26	Police visiting Early Years Smart School Council 'Sport Gadget Shop'	10.45am – 11.20am 3.15pm
13.02.26	Year 4.1 Living Things workshop Year 4.2 Living Things workshop PSA Krispy Kreme doughnut sale	Morning Afternoon 3.15pm – 3.30pm
16.02.26 – 20.02.26 – Half Term		
23.02.26	INSET day	
24.02.26	Children return to school	
25.02.26	Reception 2 Live Learning – parents invited	9.00am – 9.45am
26.02.26	Reception 1 Live Learning – parents invited	9.00am – 9.45am
27.02.26	PSA Glow Disco - Year 1, 2 & 3	3.15pm – 5.00pm
02.03.26	EYFS parent coffee morning	9.00am
03.03.26 & 04.03.26	Reception 1 Parent Teacher consultations with Miss McPherson	3.30pm – 6.00pm
03.03.26	Year 2.2 class assembly – parents invited	9.15am – 9.45am
05.03.26	World Book Day	
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	3.30pm – 4.30pm

PSA NEWS

KRISPY KREME SALE - We will be holding a Krispy Kreme 'end of half term' sale on Friday 13th February at 3.15pm! You can treat yourself to delicious Original Ring Glazed Doughnuts for just £1.00 each, with both cash and card payments accepted.

You can also pre-order 6 doughnuts or, to make things even sweeter, we have a special pre-order deal! You can order a box of 12 doughnuts for just £11.00 by visiting our PTA Events Website: <https://pta.events/rqvqo11g>

Pre-orders will close on Monday 9th February at 7pm.

GLOW DISCOS - We are excited to announce the return of our PSA GLOW DISCOS!

The **Year 1, 2 & 3 disco will take place on Friday 27th February 2026** from 3:15pm – 5:00pm.

The **Year 4, 5 & 6 disco will take place on Friday 6th March 2026** from 3:15pm – 5:00pm.

Tickets cost £5.00 (this price includes a drink, snack and glow item) and are available until 11.55pm on Friday 20th February at www.pta-events.co.uk/howedellpsa

Alternatively, you can purchase tickets at one of our playground sales on Monday 9th or Wednesday 11th February.

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

Thank you for your continuing support. If you have any questions, please get in touch with us at psa@howedell.herts.sch.uk.

Signs of the Week

Cousin

Family

The image displays a grid of 26 hand signs for the alphabet, labeled A through Z. The signs are arranged in a grid around a central text box and two illustrations. The central text box contains the title "Signs of the Week". Below the title are two illustrations: a woman with brown hair, wearing a green shirt, making the sign for "Cousin", and a man with dark hair, wearing a dark blue shirt, making the sign for "Family". The grid of hand signs is as follows:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
Z	Signs of the Week							J
Y	Cousin		Family		K			
X					L			
W					M			
V	U	T	S	R	Q	P	O	N

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. Deadline for booking is Monday 9th February <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.

FAB FRIDAY

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

R.1	Matias	R.2	Varshigan
1.1	Joys	1.2	Kharliya
2.1	Adele	2.2	Ruby
3.1	Rocco	3.2	Bella
4.1	Sia-Rose	4.2	Panvith
5.1	Everlyn	5.2	Erina
6.1	Om	6.2	Maysa

BEACON PUPILS

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

Nursery	Melek	For always being kind and helping her friends
Year R1	Halima	For applying her phonics learning to her independent work
Year R2	Persis	For increasing independence, following our Golden Expectations and settling well into Reception routines
Year 1.1	Mara	For putting so much effort into all her work
Year 1.2	Ozioma	For her kindness towards others and following our Golden Expectations
Year 2.1	Filip	For his enthusiasm and confidence sharing his ideas during whole class discussions
Year 2.2	Imran	For his contributions in RE
Year 3.1	Atarah	For working hard in English to include key features
Year 3.2	Nila	For her exceptional contributions during class discussions especially with tricky Maths concepts
Year 4.1	Ryaan	For the consistent effort he has shown recently. Ryaan has made clear progress and grown in confidence
Year 4.2	Rosie	For working extremely hard in her Maths and not giving up when topics become harder
Year 5.1	Shruthi	For working hard across the curriculum and frequently offering to help others
Year 5.2	Kaylee	For her growing confidence in Maths and her work with her learning partner this week
Year 6.1	Rola	For working hard to implement strategies that will support her writing
Year 6.2	Joel	For showing increased focus during lessons and making great progress

MERITS

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

Mara	1.1	Yousif	3.2
Astrid	1.2	Alexa	4.1
Clementine	1.2	Erin	4.1
Dana	1.2	Timi	4.1
Harley	1.2	Manuja	4.1
Kharliya	1.2	Amie	4.2
Millie	1.2	Joshua	4.2
Adhrit	3.1	Violetta	4.2
Bella	3.2	Jayden	5.1
Freya	3.2	Fajar	5.1
Imaan	3.2	Marvelous	5.1
Kai	3.2	Sebastian	5.1
Taylen	3.2		



ATTENDANCE OF THE WEEK 26th – 30th January 2026	WINNERS Year 5.1
Reception 1	93.7%
Reception 2	95.9%
Year 1 Class 1	92.4%
Year 1 Class 2	98.7%
Year 2 Class 1	98.3%
Year 2 Class 2	94.1%
Year 3 Class 1	96.4%
Year 3 Class 2	92.2%
Year 4 Class 1	94.5%
Year 4 Class 2	96.3%
Year 5 Class 1	99.3%
Year 5 Class 2	98.0%
Year 6 Class 1	98.6%
Year 6 Class 2	96.7%
Weekly Attendance	96.1%