

Bower Grove Support

Support for the Wider Community 1992 - 2016
For Families of Children with Special Needs



Bower Grove School Fant Lane Maidstone Kent ME16 8NL

AUTUMN 2016 NEWSLETTER



HI! Once again the summer has whizzed by and here we are into autumn already. We look forward to seeing you this term at our meetings and workshops. If you are a new parent or carer please join us and feel free to bring your family and friends with you. There is no need to book and our meetings are free and open to any other school.

MEETINGS & WORKSHOPS LAST TERM: We held some very informative workshops and talks throughout the last school year including Sleep – The Battle for Bed Time, ME2 Programme, E Safety Workshop, ADHD Workshop, Benefits Talk and School's Out for Summer. Please see a synopsis of last term's meetings throughout the newsletter.

HATE CRIME: During the year we were also joined by Kelly Shurmer, Community Liaison Officer for Maidstone, who discussed Hate Crime and her role to offer support and advice. Please see a personal letter from her on page 2.

WORKSHOPS THIS TERM: This term we are covering some key subjects; please see below. See further information on page 3. I hope you will be able to join us. Remember meetings are open to any other school and there is no need to book.



Josephine Cousins

AUTUMN 2016 PROGRAMME - OPEN TO ALL SCHOOLS

Friday 30th September 10.15am–11.45	BEHAVIOUR INTERVENTIONS Kevin Wiley, Bower Grove School, joins us to discuss how to de-escalate situations. All are welcome to join us. See more information on page 3.
Friday 25th November 10.15am–11.45	ASD - AUSTISTIC SEPCTRUM DISORDER Pam Stephens joins us for a talk about ASD to include: Triad of impairments: speech and language, social communication, compulsive repetitive behaviours, anxiety and confusion and much more. Please see further information on page3. All are welcome to join us.

HATE CRIME

Kelly Shurmer, Community Liaison Officer, for Maidstone, joined us to give a short talk about her role working in the Maidstone area.

Please see a letter from her below:

“Hi, my name is Kelly Shurmer and I am the Community Liaison Officer (CLO) for Maidstone.

As a community liaison officer my role is to understand the needs of the diverse community in Maidstone that I serve in order to:

- **Improve trust and confidence to encourage reporting of hate crime or incidents**
- **Gain community intelligence**
- **Monitor tensions and give reassurance**
- **Advise Division personnel about cultural or other issues relating to minority groups**
- **Develop links into the community to promote mutual understanding**

If you would like to contact me please call me on 01622 604141

or email me: kelly.shurmer@kent.pnn.police.uk”

BENEFITS TALK: We were joined by a representative from the Citizens Advice to discuss the Benefits system. Parents, carers and some professionals joined us for this informative talk and we were given the opportunity to ask questions.

A wide area of information was covered including Disability Benefits; a key point was made that Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) can be used in evidence when applying for disability benefits and filling out the forms. There are no guarantees that your application will be successful but as much information as possible needs to be included such as letters and reports from health and school professionals etc. Representatives from the Citizens Advice centre are available to offer advice, please see the website for the Citizens Advice below and contact details.

You may also like to take a look at the Bower Grove Parent Support Web Information page, please see details on page 4. There is a dedicated Benefits page with many links and useful information.

Citizens Advice web address:

<http://www.maidstonecab.org.uk/>

Walk-in advice at the Maidstone Gateway Monday - Friday 9.30 am - 4 pm (please get a ticket at the main 'Meet & Greet' desk to join our queue)

Walk-in advice at No.2 Bower Terrace, Tonbridge Road Monday - Friday 10 am - 4 pm (receptionist will acknowledge your arrival and conduct a short interview to obtain some details before the next adviser can assist you)

Postal Address: No: 2 Bower Terrace. Tonbridge Road, Maidstone Kent ME16 8RY Enquiry Line 01622 757882 or 01622 752420

Please check for up to date times and dates as this may be subject to change.

WORKSHOPS THIS TERM

All meetings 10.15am for 10.30am – 11.45am

Again all are welcome to join us for our workshops and meetings and there is no need to book. All meetings are held at Bower Grove Parent Support, Bower Grove School, Fant Lane, Maidstone Kent ME16 8NL

BEHAVIOUR INTERVENTIONS WORKSHOP FRIDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER

Mr Kevin Wiley, Teacher and Team Teach Trainer, Bower Grove School, will be joining us to discuss how to De-escalate situations.

This will be very informative for all parents and carers. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions. Areas covered will include the following:

Dealing with children's anger and learning the best way to deal with difficult behaviours that require you to de-escalate situations.

ASD TALK 25th November 2016



ASD – for the Parent Support Group

Pam Stephens returns for another workshop; the talk will cover:

- What is ASD?
- Triad of impairments: speech and language, social communication, Compulsive repetitive behaviours.
- Sensory overload
- Anxiety and confusion
- Trigger situations
- Strategies and planning
- Teaching behaviour codes

PLEASE VISIT BOWER GROVE SUPPORT WEB PAGE:

To visit the Bower Grove Parent Support Web Information page please see link below:

<http://www.bower-grove.kent.sch.uk> and select 'Parent Support'

SINCE I PUT THE MAIDSTONE RESOURCE DIRECTORY TOGETHER IN 2009/10 SOME DETAILS HAVE CHANGED; PLEASE SEE UPDATES BELOW

KEY LINKS, ORGANISATIONS AND SEN INFORMATION – SEP 2015

Go to: <http://www.bower-grove.kent.sch.uk> and select 'Parent Support'

SIGNPOSTING INFORMATION FOR PARENTS & CARERS	SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEN)	ASSESSMENT OF CARE NEEDS KCC SOCIAL SERVICES
EARLY SUPPORT	ABOUT KCC LOCAL OFFER	LEISURE, SPORT, CLUBS
KCC EARLY HELP	HEALTH UPDATE	
CHILDREN CENTRES	LOCAL ORGANISATIONS	DIRECT PAYMENTS
BENEFITS	NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS	USEFUL WEBSITES

REQUEST FOR UPDATED INFORMATION

If I have listed your group or organisation in the Bower Grove Support web page and you would like to have the information updated; please email me:

Josephine Cousins Email: psg.bowergrove@btinternet.com

NEW INFORMATION: if you would like your organisation added to the site please email me as above and next time I update the page I will include the information.

CONTACT:

Josephine Cousins Tel: 01622 726773 (during school hours)

Web: www.bower-grove.kent.sch.uk and select Parent Support

Email: psg.bowergrove@btinternet.com

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