End of an Era

Dear Parents, Pupils, Governors, Friends and ex staff

I can hardly believe that we are already half way through the school year. Pupils have been working incredibly hard and I have seen some excellent work both in their books and on displays around the school. Well done. School staff have been busy behind the scenes working on two big initiatives this year—firstly changing all the pupil Statements into the new Educational Health Care Plans and secondly on the new pupil progress data system. This is called Pupil Asset and will be replacing the old national curriculum levels that parents will be familiar with. We will be sharing more information with parents about Pupil Asset later in the year.

About two years ago Mrs Scott (Deputy Head Teacher) and her husband bought a house in Dorset ready for their retirement. Their house is now ready and Mrs Scott will be moving at the end of the summer. So sadly after 22 Years we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Scott as she and her husband prepare for a new adventure. Wishing you all a very restful holiday.

Mrs Salter
Headteacher

A Fond Farewell

Making the decision to leave Bower Grove has probably been one of the most difficult decisions I have ever had to make during my long career at the school. From my time as a class teacher in Group 1 to my appointment as Deputy Head I can honestly say that there hasn’t been a day when I haven’t wanted to come to school. I have thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it!

Time however does not stand still and there are a great many other things to do and places to visit beyond the school gates. The time is right for my husband, Graham and I to widen our horizons and to try all those things that we have promised ourselves that we would do. I will be keeping in touch and it will be great to hear how everyone is getting on. I will be here until the end of the summer term and so will finish this school year.

Thank you for all your support, friendship and help over the years, it has been a real pleasure and privilege to have met you all and to have worked with such a special group of children. I am going to miss you all.

Mrs Salter
Headteacher

News From the Governors

Though this is a short term, Governors have still been busy with meetings of the finance and behaviour teams. Some Governors have been in school visiting lessons. As Chair I meet with Mrs Salter regularly and am pleased to welcome Debbie Ellis our new Parent Governor into school. I am delighted that Debbie has decided to join our team and she has written a few words below by way of introduction to you all.

I hope you enjoy the February break.

Alison White
Chair of Governors

Debbie Ellis:

I am excited and privileged to become a new parent governor at Bower Grove School. My son, William, is in Year 5. As a teacher myself, I am passionate about giving our children the best education possible, developing them both socially and academically. I am looking forward to learning more about the school and future development projects.

Careers Evening

On 13th January Bower Grove hosted a Careers Evening. It was a chance for Year 9 students to find out what is being offered in Key Stage 4 and for parents and pupils to meet representatives from all the local colleges, apprenticeship team, transport for 16+ team, careers advisors and the army. The evening was a great success with pupils and parents leaving better informed about their choices after leaving school.

Alvin and the Chipmunks: Road Chip on Sunday 28th February at 11.30am

For details of autism friendly screenings local to you visit: www.dimensions.org.uk
Homework Project

Spring is coming

The half term homework project is for all pupils at school and the theme for this project is Spring is Coming. Lots of activities to choose from to do with Spring. We look forward to seeing your work - to be in school by Friday 26th February.

Mr Phipps has shared some pictures from his trip of a lifetime to Australia, New Zealand and Singapore. He visited Sydney and found lots of beaches and lovely views. He found out that he was staying in a place where there were over 16 volcanoes but fortunately they were no longer active! He learned a lot about the Maori people and was really lucky to see a New Zealand Hakka dance. On the way home he stopped in Singapore where he stayed in a hotel with a swimming pool on the roof! He is home now and trying to get used to the English temperatures — he had a ‘wicked’ time.

Horse Riding at Duckhurst

Group 4AS have been horse riding on Thursdays mornings at Duckhurst Farm and these are comments from some of the children:

‘We have been horse riding at Duckhurst Farm. I can trot on Lara’ — Alfie
‘I ride Simon. He is very gentle. I like it when he trots. It makes me laugh’ — Callum
‘I ride Fennella. She is a Grey and she is very big’ — Lewis
‘We have been going horse riding at Duckhurst Farm. I have ridden Lemon and Lara. Lara trots the best’ — Brandon.

9J enjoyed rock-climbing as part of this terms PE lessons

Staff News

We offer a very warm welcome to the following staff:

Congratulations to Mr Marshall on being appointed Student Support coordinator.

Mr Green on being appointed ICT Network Manager.

Mr Gilbert will be our new Cover Supervisor from 8th February.

Miss Durling Year 10L as one of their LSAs.

Mrs James as Kitchen Assistant.

Miss Middlesditch (Group 4) and Miss Jenner (Group 3) will be joining us as Learning Support Assistants after half term.

Finally we are sad to be saying goodbye to Miss Brann, Mr Lang and Ms Cloude. We wish them all the very best for the future.

In Thursday 28th January the Junior football club hosted a match against the Westborough Satellite team. In a close fought game Bower Grove were victorious. The teams were then mixed up and we played a friendly match which was a draw. Both sides should be very proud of the sporting way they conducted themselves and we look forward to the return fixture.

Pictures from Down Under

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Bower Grove School were very fortunate to receive a visit from a professional chef called Ryan Stokes. He will be helping us try to provide an even better menu and canteen area.

Ryan had a tour of the school with a year 11 student who has aspirations of being a chef and then spent some time in the kitchens with Julia North, our own chef. Ryan spoke in the senior assembly about how he has been a chef in numerous places including for various celebrity functions such as Stacey Solomon’s coming out party from I’m a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here!

Group 5 and 8K hosted a question and answer session to find out how we can improve the food we offer to everyone. Now starts the hard work to get working on the ideas Ryan suggested!

Active Kids
We are now collecting Sainsbury’s Active kids vouchers. Our collection box is in reception. With these we purchase new sports equipment so, if you can, please remember Bower Grove when doing your shopping. Thank you.

Safer Internet Day 2016 took place on the 9th February with the theme Play your part for a better internet! This is Coordinated by the UK Safer Internet Centre sees hundreds of organisations get involved to help promote the safe, responsible and positive use of digital technology for children and young people. We had a special assembly for year 7 and 11 to reinforce how to keep themselves safe on line.

Explorer Club
Reception and year 1 children take part in Explorer Club every Wednesday morning. This term we have explored Mote Park, Cobtree Park, Shorne Woods and Bearsted County Park.

Outdoor Learning Area
After a set-back with the bottle greenhouse last year when strong winds blew the partly constructed building down. It has been re-located in a more secure location and attached to the building so that hopefully it will survive any bad weather that we have. We are now going all out to get it finished so that we can use it to get planting off to an early start this year.

The parts of the bottles that we do not use for the greenhouse have also been put to good use. We have made a mosaic of the School logo using the bottle tops and the bottom of the bottles that have been cut off have been used to decorate the telegraph pole that is in the area.

We are trying to recycle as much as possible and are always looking for ways to use objects that might otherwise be thrown away. We have put an old pallet to use by making it into a planter. We no longer need any more plastic bottles. Thank you.

Bird Boxes for Loose Valley
Bower Grove School have fostered links with the Loose Valley Conservation Society to make and site a number of bird nesting boxes in the area.

Mr Evans, Miss Mount, Jack, Ross and Monty the dog met with Dennis from the society to have a tour of potential locations for the bird boxes and to discuss their requirements. The Enrichment team from school will be making the bird boxes with support from the DT department and intend to get them into location before Spring.

It is exciting to have this local link and Dennis is keen that local people are aware that the Valley is worth visiting.

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**Winter Weather**

In the event of severe winter weather please listen to your local radio stations or look on the Kent School Closures website: [http://www.kentclosures.co.uk](http://www.kentclosures.co.uk) to find out if the school will be closed.

We also make every effort to notify all the taxi companies before 7.30am each day if the school will be closed.

**BBC Radio Kent**: 96.7FM 104.2FM  
**Heart FM**: 103.1FM 102.8FM  
**KFM Radio**: 105.6 FM

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**School Council**

As we approach the end of the financial year, the school council have been working with the finance department at school to calculate the final amount of money available from the school council fund. This fund is an amount of money (£2000) made available to the school council from April 2015-16. From the £2000 any deliberate damage caused by a pupil is taken from this fund. What remains after a year is split equally between the classes at the school to spend on activities of their choice. In the past, classes have chosen to spend their money on activities for the classroom or on days out as a special reward. Currently the funds available are approximately £1100. The fund total will be amended in April.

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**Savings Bank**

Why not open a school savings account through our School Bank which is open every Tuesday morning during registration, 8.55am—9.25am. Pupils can join the bank at any time and they will be given their own savings card which will show how much they have in their account. For more information please see Mrs Ceely.

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**Snow White and the Seven Dwarves!**

On 26th January some Year 10 pupils went to plant trees in the Fant Lane Wildlife area. They planted a hedge of miniature Wild Cherry and Field Maple. One pupil said “it was better than sitting on a play station”. Other pupils asked if they could do some more conservation work for rewards afternoon. Many thanks to Hannah, one of the volunteers, Mrs Libertucci and the lads who did a great job. It looked like Snow White and the Seven Dwarves as they trudged off with their spades, although no one was keen to sing Hi, Ho....

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**Dinner Money**

For those parents who like to pay for their children’s lunches in advance, the cost of school meals for Term 4 from Monday 22nd February 2016 until Thursday 24th March is £54.00. Please make cheques payable to Bower Grove School.

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**DIARY DATES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 10th February</td>
<td>Term 3 Ends</td>
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<tr>
<td>11th &amp; 12th February</td>
<td>Staff Training Days—school closed to pupils</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 22nd February</td>
<td>Term 4 Begins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 3rd March</td>
<td>World Book Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 11th March</td>
<td>Parent Support Group Meeting (ADHD)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 24th March</td>
<td>Term 4 Ends</td>
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We hope you have a very enjoyable half term holiday and we look forward to seeing you back in school on Monday 22nd February 2016