

BOWER GROVE SCHOOL



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Maidstone
Kent
ME16 8NL

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Headteacher: Mrs M Cleave

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2nd September 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am delighted to welcome all the pupils back to school and thank you for your efforts to ensure pupils look smart and ready to learn. We are all very excited to see pupils achieve throughout this academic year.

Communication



As we communicate with Parents and Carers primarily by email, please make sure we have an up-to-date email address for you. If your contact details have changed, please let the school office know or send us an email with the updated information by **Friday 4 September**. Any permissions relating to photographs will automatically carry over from last year unless we receive notification of a change.

School Photographer



The photographer will be in school on **Wednesday 23rd September**. The photographer will be taking individual and class photographs. Please make a note of this and ensure your child is smartly dressed on this day.

School Lunches – Changes to Free School Meals



From the start of the 2026/27 academic year, the government is removing the earnings limit that currently restricts Universal Credit households from accessing free school meals. Under the current rules (which applied until the end of July 2026), Universal Credit households must have a net earned income of no more than £7,400 per year to qualify. From September 2026, this threshold is being removed entirely. So, if your household receives Universal Credit, your child will now qualify for a free school meal.

Bower Grove School have been working with Kent County Council (KCC) to check free school meal eligibility for our pupils. To encourage claims for those who did not previously meet free school meal criteria and ensure accuracy of our records we may get in touch directly to ask you to either complete a Free School Meal form which we will submit to KCC on your behalf or alternatively, you can apply directly to KCC using the following website [Free school meals - Kent County Council](#). Thank you in advance for your support.



INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE



Artsmark
Gold Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England

Parents, Friends and Teachers Association

The AGM for our School PFTA will be held on **Tuesday 8th September** at 3.30pm. You are very welcome to join this friendly group who organise the fund-raising events for our school. If you wish to attend, we can provide childcare for the duration of the meeting if given prior notice. The PFTA have signed up Bower Grove School to <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/bowergrove>. Please use this link to do your online shopping and a small donation goes towards the Bower Grove fund.

ParentPay



This is our cashless system to enable Parents/Carers to make payments to the school 'online'. Payments can be made in this way for school lunches and all trips and activities e.g. swimming, as well as payments towards residential trips. This reduces the need for cheques and cash being brought into school and make payments much easier for you. Parents & Carers with pupils that have joined the school in September will have received a letter with an activation code. Please follow the instructions on this letter to enable your account. There will still be the opportunity to continue with cheques and cash should this be your preferred option.

Parents Evening



Our parents evening this term is on **Wednesday 11th November** 3.30-6.30pm. Parents evening is for classes: **Frogs, Honeybees, Hedgehogs, Foxes, Penguins, 7 Willow, 7 Maple, 8 Elm, 8 Cedar, 9 Ash, 9 Rowan and Hazel.**

Vaccines



Your child is able to have a flu vaccine in school on **Tuesday 6th October** from the NHS Vaccinations Team. Please complete the consent form sent in the email today to enable your child to have the flu vaccine.

School Uniform



We thank and encourage all Parents and Carers to name all items to enable staff to return items quickly. We have been notified by our uniform provider "Brigade" that any outstanding orders should be dispatched over the next few weeks. You can order from www.brigade.co.uk and request for free delivery to the school. We have some stock in school including polo and sweatshirts. If you wish to purchase any items, please send cash in a marked envelope and give to your escort if your child is on transport to hand into reception.

We look forward to all pupils having a very happy and successful school year.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs M Cleave
Headteacher