



Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are now more than halfway through Term 4, and I would like to share some important updates and information about upcoming events.

You will be aware of the current Meningococcal disease outbreak that has hit Kent recently, which are all linked to University of Kent or Canterbury area or the attendance at the night club, 'Club Chemistry' in Canterbury. School is following advice and guidance from the UK Health Security Agency, KCC and the DFE.

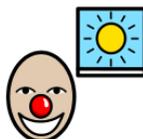
Please be aware that the outbreak is a very rare situation and does not spread like Covid. The bug is transmitted through 'close contact' which is identified as living in the same house or 'intimate kissing' and the focus is outside of school venues. Anyone who has been in close contact with someone with this disease is advised to take preventative antibiotics.

The guidance is that all pupils should attend school as normal but be aware of the signs and symptoms. The disease is treatable but with early medical intervention. The signs are as follows:

- *a rash that doesn't fade when pressed with a glass*
- *sudden onset of high fever*
- *severe and worsening headache*
- *stiff neck*
- *vomiting and diarrhoea*
- *joint and muscle pain*
- *dislike of bright lights*
- *very cold hands and feet*
- *seizures*
- *confusion/delirium*
- *extreme sleepiness/difficulty waking*

For more information, visit the **NHS website** <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/meningitis/>

Please do contact school should you have any questions, and staff will be happy to discuss things with you.



**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March – Francophonie Day & Comic Relief**

For our French-Speaking Focus Day, pupils will have the opportunity to explore the music, food and art of French-speaking countries from around the world. It will be a non-uniform day, and pupils are invited to wear the colours of the flag their class is representing. We welcome pupils to bring £1.00 to support Comic Relief.

## Staff Departures

I am sad to inform you that Mrs Candy, Assistant Headteacher for Lower Primary, will be leaving our school at the end of this term. Mrs Candy has been at Bower Grove for 16 years and will be taking up a promotion to Deputy Headteacher at another school. While we are sad to see her go, we are incredibly grateful for the dedication and expertise she has brought to our school community. Throughout her time with us, she has built strong relationships with pupils, families and staff, and shown commitment to supporting our children's individual needs. She will be greatly missed by pupils and colleagues alike, and we wish her every success in her next chapter. The pupils have been informed today, and we will be managing the transition very carefully.



## White Paper

The government has recently published the new Schools White Paper, outlining plans to improve support for children with SEND. Please see a summary of the proposals attached and some answers to the frequently asked questions.



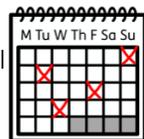
## Easter Raffle

Easter raffle tickets remain available to purchase. Tickets are priced at £1.00 each and can be paid for in cash or via ParentPay. The raffle will be drawn on 1st April 2026, with a selection of Easter Hamper prizes to be won!



## Connections-Parent Support Group

You are very welcome to come to our Connections Guided Talk on 'EBSA' (Emotional Based School Avoidance) on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 10.00-11.30am. Please contact the school office for more information or see the flyer attached.



## Term Dates

Reminder that term ends on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April. Term 5 begins for all classes on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April. Please do make sure you are aware of all our term dates which can be found here [Bower Grove School - Term Dates](#). Also, 2026-2027 term dates can be found here [download.asp](#)

We're looking forward to an exciting and busy few weeks as we approach the end of term.

*Mrs M Cleave*

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Headteacher