

Bower Grove News



Issue 128

October 2021

Dear Readers

We opened our school gates in September delighted to welcome back all our pupils. Whilst we are still managing school as safely as we can life is pretty much back to normal. We are still having some cases of Covid amongst our community and lateral flow testing remains an important safety measure. Our weekly assemblies have resumed and it is a great source of joy that we can celebrate our pupils achievements together. We have enjoyed some great performances on lots of topics in our assemblies this term and Harvest Assembly was very special raising £172.45 for the Salvation Army. Many of our pupils have enjoyed trips and visits including the Year 11 Sailing Residential this term. We all enjoyed a lovely rewards afternoon on Monday to celebrate just how hard our pupils have worked this term.



An Art Competition has been launched as the Homework Project this Half Term. The winning entry will be the design for our Christmas Fair Programme. All entries receive points for their house.

We are delighted to announce that the winners of the two Halloween Hampers were Billy from Penguins and Kenzie from Squirrels. This raffle has raised £342 towards the Primary Playground project

We are looking forward to welcoming pupils back on Tuesday 2nd November.

Kind regards

Mrs Salter ~ Headteacher

News from the Governors

I cannot believe school has been back for over 6 weeks! But oh what a term it has been – Governors have particularly enjoyed hearing about the Sailing Trip and seeing all of the wonderful photos on Facebook. Also being able to return to visiting school in person and seeing all the pupils and staff back. We have been into school for Harvest Festival, meetings (Full Governors, Finance and Strategy) and a Safeguarding Visit. I think the latest term is that we are taking a blended approach to Governance – some of us have been in school in person and some virtually. Covid has not yet gone away but life in school feels much closer to pre-Covid days, thank goodness.

Sadly, Governors are saying goodbye to Mrs D Burgess this term. She has been a strong, committed and hardworking member of the team who will be greatly missed. This does mean there is an opportunity for someone else to join the board. Can you or do you know anyone with time to spare to support Bower Grove? No special skills are needed as there are opportunities for training. We need to get a mix of people around the table and currently have enough members with an educational background. We would very much like to hear from anyone with an interest in how the school spends its money or decides what is important for the future education of its pupils. Please pass my email onto anyone who might like to explore this great opportunity to volunteer and help lead our outstanding school.

On behalf of Governors I'd like to wish you all a safe break; enjoy any Halloween or Firework Celebrations carefully and we look forward to seeing you all next term. 🍁

Mrs A White ~ Chair of Governors

CELEBRATING CREATIVITY AT BOWER GROVE

ENGLISH

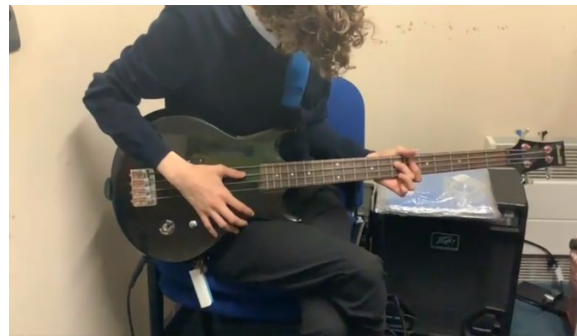
In English this term, Year 11 have been studying "The Canterville Ghost" by Oscar Wilde. We have looked at a range of literary devices to explore setting descriptions and this piece of work was completed by Jack in 11L. This was the opening to his descriptive piece.

"Jeremiah the Ghost was hovering over the swerving, misty fog which was like a blanket covering the muddy rocks and decomposing leaves.

It was just before sunrise only today was different."

ART & MUSIC

Archie in 10F has recently discovered a passion for music and has been learning how to play bass guitar in lessons and music club. Archie has made amazing progress on the instrument and we are looking forward to getting him on stage and performing over the next year.



DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Adie in 10C engraved the Bower Grove Logo and name onto sheet metal. He received the Head Teachers Award and has also had his work displayed on the Work of the Week board in DT.



Segoe Print

As part of developing our school's provision for Autism we are now using a certain font for displays and some documents including the Newsletter. This font is called Segoe Print and it has been chosen as it is clear to read as well as follows the letter formation we use at school.

We are hoping that this will help develop the consistency across school to support our Autistic pupils .

Satellite

The children have had a busy term at the Satellite.

Year 3 and 4 have been focusing on the Stone Age in English and History, they have written character descriptions and their own adventure stories based on the book 'Stone Age Boy'. In History they have made their own Stone Age tools using the natural materials found on the school grounds. The Science topic for this term has been 'Animals Including Human' the children had great fun exploring how the digestive system works.

Year 5 and 6 have been focusing on WW1 throughout this term, the children have written their own war stories and newspaper articles in English. In History, they recreated the



Battle of the Somme through role play, which they thoroughly enjoyed. The focus in Science has been 'Electricity', the children have been developing their circuit building skills and Scientific vocabulary.



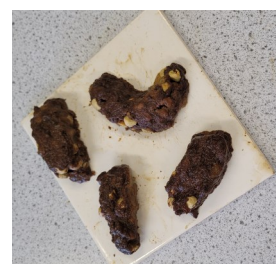
Squirrels Class—Pumpkin Picking

On Wednesday 29th September, Squirrels class went to harvest some pumpkins at Little Fant Farm. Everyone brought back a pumpkin, some were small and easy to carry, but some were huge and made our muscles ache carrying them, but we didn't give up and the Squirrels helped each other. Great teamwork!



SCIENCE CORNER

Year 8 modelled digestion, by mashing 'breakfast lunch and dinner' in the mouth with pestle and mortar, before mashing the foods in a stomach (plastic bag) and passing the leftovers through the intestines made from tights. Finally pupils pooped out their creations!



Rona Sail Trip

This term our Year 11 pupils were invited to participate in a week-long sailing residential. We headed to Southampton on Monday, where we were given a safety briefing and issued our equipment for the week. Once aboard our sailing boats it was all hands-on-deck as we made our way to the Isle of Wight.

The weather meant sailing close to shore for the following day, before a night sail towards the Dorset coastline. Conditions were good for sailing but challenging for novice sailors! The pupils performed extremely well and were a credit to the school, especially when faced with complex tasks and having minimal sleep! Eventually it was time to return towards Southampton, which meant being fortunate enough to see Dolphins near Poole. We look



forward to running the trip again in 2022! Well done to everyone involved and thank you to the staff that gave up their time to make this amazing residential happen.



Honey Bees

Honey Bees were using the outside performance area: Connor was being a magician and Marshal was his assistant: following on from our discussion in PSHE playing involving others. Chase made up his own song and sang it to his audience beautifully.



Eagles—Forest School

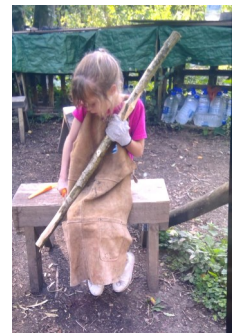
Eagles was the first class to go to the new Forest School and they loved it!

They did activities like:



Wood craving, lighting fires, building dens and even cooking pancakes and roasting marshmallows for the hot chocolates.

Some children even went hunting for newts.



Bower Grove Allotment

Enrichment and Oaks have been working hard at the Allotment using the 'No Dig' method to prepare the plots for planting our seeds.

This method involves:

1. Picking the weeds and large stones from the plot
2. Covering the ground with cardboard, making sure there are no gaps
3. Watering the cardboard making sure it is soaked through
4. Covering the ground with leaf mulch and then chicken manure
5. We then covered the ground with compost and watered again
6. We are then ready to plant our seeds

In the Enrichment plots we are growing:

Carrots, Broad Beans, Cress, Pak Choi and not forgetting the Salad Leaves

We have weekly lessons at the allotment to make sure we care for our vegetables and look forward to using them in our Food Technology lessons.



Macmillan Cake Sale

On Friday 24th September pupils from Falcons, Oaks and 8T ran a very successful bake sale in aid of MacMillan Cancer

Support. Cake donations from parents, carers, staff, the food technology department and the school kitchen made this our best sale yet.

A whopping £312.18 was raised for this wonderful charity. A big thank you to everyone who helped make, buy and eat the treats we couldn't have done it without you!



Youth Club—Pumpkin Carving



Recipe to Try at Home

Pasta with a Crème Fraiche Carbonara Sauce

This is a very easy recipe for the whole family to make and eat together Enjoy!

Equipment you will need:

Large Saucepan, Large Frying Pan, Wooden Spoon, Small Bowl, Metal Spoon, Colander

Ingredients:

Serves 2 people (large portion)

- * 400g dried pasta (tagliatelle is what is normally used, but all pasta shapes work well)
- * 1 onion
- * 12 rashers bacon or pancetta
- * 2 clove garlic

Sauce

- * 600ml pot of half-fat crème fraiche
- * 2 handfuls of parmesan
- * Black pepper

Method

1. Boil and salt some water in a large saucepan and add your dried pasta (cook the length of time according to packet instructions)
2. Chop the bacon/pancetta into small pieces, dice the onion and chop the garlic into very small pieces
3. Heat a large frying pan to medium heat and add the bacon and fry until golden (2-4 minutes) then take out of the pan and keep warm
4. Turn the heat down to low and in the same frying pan fry the onion and garlic until softened. There should be enough fat left in the pan from the bacon/pancetta that you shouldn't need to add any oil at this point
5. Mix together the crème fraiche, add a large twist of black pepper to season and as much parmesan as you like. You shouldn't season with salt, as the bacon/pancetta and parmesan will give you a salty, savoury flavour
6. Drain your pasta in a colander, but leave a small amount of the water in the pan—about 50mls at the most. Put the pasta back in the saucepan, turn the heat to low and mix in the crème fraiche sauce, onions & garlic and add the bacon/pancetta
7. Stir together and warm through, serve with extra parmesan grated on top



A Message from Buzz

Hello Bower Grove

I hope everyone has had a fantastic term. I have been going on lots of walks and chasing lots of tennis balls on the field. I also like playing football, although I haven't quite grasped the rules yet and keep running off with the ball in my mouth!



I hope everyone has a spooky but fun Halloween. Here is my best impression of a ghost.

Lots of love Buzz

A Message from Pig & Pog

We have had a very busy first term back in school. We got to meet lots of new children who have started at Bower Grove and have enjoyed spending time outside in the learning area with the children from Tadpoles Class. We have even been taken for walks around the school in the doll's pram - What fun! At breakfast and snack time, while the Tadpoles children eat, we have our vegetables. Our favourites are spinach, tomato, baby corn and carrot but Mrs Gough buys us all different vegetables to ensure we stay healthy. The children have been thinking about healthy eating too and have tried lots of fruit and vegetables themselves. We definitely have our 5 a day, because if we don't, we shout to remind the humans!



Love Pig & Pog

PC Bradford

Hello everyone, I have really enjoyed getting to know the pupils and staff at Bower Grove this term and particularly liked dropping in on your lessons. I will be back for Term 2 and look forward to joining in on future activities planned. Remember to say hello to me if you see me in and around school and I'm always happy to answer your questions about my uniform and the role of a police officer.

Enjoy your half term and be safe during the Halloween and Fireworks celebrations!

Thanks, PC Bradford



Parent, Friends, Teachers Association

The PFTA are continuing their efforts to raise money to revamp our Junior Playground. There are many ways that you can help us with our efforts!

Firstly, did you know that you can raise funds from your armchair every time you shop online? There is no cost to yourselves, all you need to do is sign up to Easyfundraising. If you have not already signed up, it only takes a few minutes, then you can begin using the Easyfundraising website or app straightaway – simply shop online as normal.

Visit our Easyfundraising page to get started:

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/bowergrove/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_content=s-e2

We have set up a Bower Grove Fundraising page on GoFundMe. Please share with your friends and family, any donations, however small, will be hugely appreciated!

https://www.gofundme.com/f/bower-grove-school-spring-and-summer-fundraising?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_campaign=p_cf+share-flow-1

BOWER GROVE PARENT SUPPORT—Programme 2021 Workshops and Talks

Friday 26th November arrival for 10.30 start finishes 11.40 (if you wish to attend please email Mrs Cousins as detailed below).

Sharon McLaughlin SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) Partnership and Engagement Manager will be joining us for an update and to discuss changes, developments and improvements to the KCC Local Offer website and services. Amanda Oliver—Quadrant Ambassador for West Kent PACT—will also be joining us for a chat about her role and parent participation

For more information please email Josephine Cousins psg.bowergrove@btinternet.com

For practical help online please look at www.autism.org.uk

Dates for your Diary

Mon 1st November	Staff Training Day	Fri 17th December	Last Day of Term 2
Tues 2nd November	First Day of Term 2	Weds 17th November	Parents Evening (not Years 5, 6, 10 or 11)
Weds 1st December	Christmas Fair (4.30–6.30)	Tues 4th January	First Day of Term 3

Staff Leavers

We have said goodbye to:

Miss L Cordrey LSA
Mrs C Stevens LSA
Miss I Thompson LSA
Mrs M Frankham LSA
Mr D Shaw LSA
Mr T Kirby ICT LSA
Mr M Lukasik Site Manager

New Staff

We have welcomed:

Mrs C Dunford Housekeeper
Mr D Farnham-Cox Assistant Site Manager
Mrs C Croucher LSA
Miss K Hassett LSA
Mr N Thornewell Site Manager

Staff Babies

Mrs S Dann has gone on maternity leave

