

Bower Grove News



Issue 129

December 2021

Dear Readers,

With appropriate safety measures in place, it has been delightful to enjoy all the Christmas festivities as a school community that we missed last year. Our Christmas Fair was very popular and we were so pleased to see so many people including the Mayor of Maidstone. The Fair and later in the term our Secrets Room raised £3,099.29.



Our Key Stage 2 production 'Mr Humbug sees the light' was a triumph. We were so very proud of our pupils remembering their lines and acting so well on the stage in front of a live audience.

We have enjoyed Christmas Lunch and Christmas Parties along with a wonderful Carol Service at St Andrews Church for our senior pupils.

Earlier in the term on the 8th November our Year 11 pupils embarked on a week of work experience and the feedback from employers was impressive. Some of our pupils assisted around school and demonstrated a very professional attitude in their new roles.

The generosity of our families is very heartening having supported the Poppy Appeal and Children in Need events this term. Thank you all.

This term we have said farewell to Mrs H Dalton the school Business Manager. Mrs Dalton is retiring after 23 years loyal service to the school. She has managed the school budget and overseen lots of developments in our school building.

The dark cloud of Covid remains with us and we cautiously await news from the government about the New Year, but for now we have kept school as familiar as possible and have given our pupils the joyful experiences they deserve. Wishing you all a safe and happy Christmas and look forward to welcoming our pupils back on Tuesday 4th January 2022

Kind regards

Mrs Salter ~ Headteacher



News from the Governors

Term 2 has been another busy one for Governors with meetings, monitoring visits and welcoming new Governors to the Team. We have been delighted to welcome Mrs M Hunt to the Governing Board with immediate effect and look forward to confirming Mrs T Butler to the team in the New Year.

It is also a lovely term to be in school and joining the pupils as they look forward to Christmas. It was a real treat to see the Bower Grove Christmas Play – Mr Humbug Sees the Light – earlier this week. The pupils from Eagles, Falcons, Squirrels, Foxes and Penguins all spoke, sang and performed wonderfully. A huge well done to them all and a big thank you to their class teachers and support staff for their hard work in pulling it all together.

On behalf of the Governors I would like to say that we really hope everyone in our community stays well and is able to enjoy the "Plan B" Christmas Break. The weather has been kind to us so far this winter and we hope this will continue in the New Year so that everyone can return to school without disruption.

Happy Christmas and we look forward to working with everyone in 2022.

Mrs A White ~ Chair of Governors

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CELEBRATING CREATIVITY AT BOWER GROVE

ENGLISH

Falcons Class

This term Falcons class had a visit from Gareth P Jones, author of 'Death or Ice Cream?' and other children's stories. Pupils worked with the



author to create an exciting, adventure story using a selection of props and themselves as characters. Gareth also performed a song that he wrote alongside the 'Death or Ice Cream' book which the pupils really enjoyed.



ART & MUSIC

ArtsMark Gold Award

On the 15th November Bower Grove School achieved the ArtsMark Gold Award. The ArtsMark is the creative quality standard for schools and education settings, awarded by Arts Council England. This achievement was only possible through all the hard work from both pupils and staff across the school and the amazing arts opportunities that the pupils have at our school. By achieving this award we have proved that every young person at Bower Grove can be creative and access a diverse, high-quality cultural education.

A big thank you to Mr Starks and Mrs Shalders for working hard to ensure we achieved this award.

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

10C have been designing storage boxes this term. This is a design from RM who has created a dog toy box for his 3 beloved doggies at home. Well Done!



Year 11 Work Experience



A huge well done to our Year 11 pupils who took part in 'The Work Experience' week in November. pupils were placed in many local places of work, some organised by the Work Experience Co-ordinator Mrs Cooper and some placements provided by friends and family.

All the pupils had a successful week, many of them gaining the skills and confidence to enable them to think about careers for the future.

We would like to thank all those who supported our pupils and gave them the opportunity to explore the world of work.



SCIENCE CORNER

How Do Santa and the Reindeers fly

It's a burning question at this time of year, "how do Santa and the reindeers fly?"

Science has pondered this for years! Well we, in Bower Grove Science Department have worked secretly on this and have come up with the Science that makes it happen.

We all know that magnets of the same pole repel each other (Primary Science). Well, the Elves converted Santa's sleigh runners into super conductors (KS4 Science), then, facing the North Poles down towards the Earth, the sleigh is repelled away from the Earth, the same as the shuttle train at Gatwick Airport, giving the sleigh lift.

As Santa reaches the Southern Hemisphere, the clever software rotates the runners so the South Poles face towards the Earth, and the lift is maintained.

So, Bower Grove Science has accounted for the lift of the sleigh but, what about the reindeer? how do they move forward? Well, it is here that Sir Isaac Newton's Third Law comes to our aid (KS3 Science). He says "For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction". So, as we all know Herbivores (Primary and KS3) produce lots of methane gas. Those clever Elves have built into the harnesses for the reindeer, an ignitor system to light the gases, this completes the fire triangle (KS3) of oxygen, fuel and heat and this propels the reindeer and sleigh forward. Add the lift generated by the antlers of the reindeer (working like an aircraft wing [KS3]) that gives the classic reindeer higher than the sleigh look we are all used too.

So Bower Grove Science has solved the mystery but at the end of the day all you have to do is believe in.....MAGIC

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year Bower Grove Science Department



Christmas Lunch & Jumper Day

On Weds 15th December Bower Grove once more held the annual Christmas lunch. Our school cooks provided us with a scrummy offer of 300 traditional turkey meals with all the trimmings as well as mince pies and gingerbread Christmas trees.

Pupils and staff also had the opportunity to share festive jokes and sing Christmas songs as well as lots of shouts of "Brussels" and "Sprouts"! Thank you to all the cooks for their hard work.



Youth Club's run up to Christmas is 'on a Roll'

The last 2 sessions Youth Club members have enjoyed making their own DIY advent calendars. They created an elf, reindeer (complete with red nose), snowflakes and of course the big man himself....Santa.



Each design is filled with a chocolate and a jingle bell for that Christmassy sound! It was so lovely to see how they chose different ways to present their calendars. A big thank you to everyone who supported Youth Club by bringing in toilet rolls!



Year 8

This term Year 8 have been working on the Charles Dickens book "A Christmas Carol" in English class. As part of the lesson some of the pupils had the opportunity to try some Christmas pudding with cream and surprisingly most of them tried it liked it and had never had it before at Christmas time.



Squirrels Class Forest School

Squirrels class have been busy on Thursday mornings this term out in the woods.

They have learned how to collect stones and twigs and use a flint and cotton wool to make their own fires.



We cooked bacon over the fire and roasted marshmallows.
Yum!

They have all learned to use a variety of tools safely, including hatchets, whittling knives and saws.



Bower Grove Christmas Tree

Maidstone B&Q donated Bower Grove's inside Christmas tree this year. Store Manager Ant Jones and Roberta Farci brought the tree along with lights & decorations and set it up in reception with the help of local PCSO's Jaz Pay & Val Jacobs. The end result was fantastic and a huge thanks to B&Q.

Mollie and Charlie from Foxes Class came to have a look.



Tadpole Class

On Thursday 9 December, Tadpole Class visited The Reindeer Centre in Bethersden, where they met Father Christmas. Luckily everyone was on the nice list and all the children were given a lovely present.



The children wandered through the beautiful grottos but everyone's favourite part of the day was feeding the reindeers!



Christmas Wreath

The oasis floristry foam base was donated to the school from Arabesque Florist on Tonbridge Road Maidstone who also donated a raffle prize for our school fair. Thank you. Pupils CP and JC in Oaks helped make the wreath with foliage from our school grounds and other foliage was donated by Mr Stevens and Mrs Tuppen. It is now at St Andrews Church and was seen by the pupils when they attended the Carol Service.



Star Wars Visitors to Christmas Fair

We were lucky to have some characters from Star Wars visit us during our Christmas Fair. There was a rumour going round that inside the costumes were Mr Fawcett, Mr Lawrence and Mr Moor—but that could not possibly be true—could it?



Recipe to Try at Home

'Christmas Pud' Chocolate Muffins

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

Equipment you will need:

Scales, mixing bowl, tablespoon, teaspoon, palette knife, sharp knife, wooden spoon, fork, small & medium basin, measuring jug, plate, spatula, sieve, muffin tin, 10 muffin cases & cooling rack

Ingredients:

Makes 10 Muffins

* 100g sugar	Mixing Bowl
* 75g margarine	Mixing Bowl
* 150g plain flour	Plate
* 1 teaspoon baking powder	Plate
* 50g cocoa powder	Plate
* 1/4 teaspoon salt	Plate
* 125 mls milk	Measuring Jug
* 1 egg	Small Basin
* 5 glace cherries halved	
* 4 tablespoons icing sugar	
* Green icing pen	



Method

1. Set oven to Gas 6/Electric 200
2. Put 10 cases into the muffin tin
3. In the mixing bowl cream together the sugar and margarine until light and fluffy
4. Into the mixing bowl, sieve the dry ingredients from the plate
5. Crack the egg into the basin and beat with a fork
6. Add the beaten egg to the measuring jug with the milk and mix well
7. Add the mixture from the measuring jug into the mixing bowl, a little at a time, stirring as you go until all the liquid has been used
8. Fill the muffin cases until all the mixture has been used
9. Bake for 20-25 mins until the muffins are spongy to touch
10. Remove from the oven and allow to cool on cooling rack

Decoration

1. Mixing the icing sugar with 1 tablespoon warm water in a medium basin to make the icing
2. Drizzle the icing over the muffins
3. Add one of the halved cherries to the top of the muffins
4. Using the green icing pen draw on 2 small green leaves on each of the muffins

Message from Buzz

I have had an amazing term and really enjoyed the Christmas Fair. I had a go at the teddy tombola and won Sully from Monster's Inc. Mrs Ingram also treated me to a hot dog!

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and I hope you have all been good so that Santa visits. I am not sure if I am on the good list as I keep putting holes in socks and stealing and hiding Mrs Ingram's slippers.

See you all next term.

Lots of love Buzz



A Message from Pig & Pog

Do you like our new Christmas hats? Even guinea pigs love Christmas! We have decorated our houses with tinsel and lights and are very excited to see what Santa brings us. Sadly, we do not have any carrots to leave for the reindeers this year as we chomped them all down ourselves.

We have been carol singing and our particular favourites are "Good Pig Wenceslas", "Hark the Herald Angels Squeak" and "Ding Dong Merrily on Hay".

Merry Christmas everyone! Hope you and your families all have a great time!

Love Pig & Pog



Primary Rewards Afternoon

Some of our pupils chose to go to Little Fant Farm for their rewards afternoon and had a fantastic time.

Pupils got to go and spend their money on Christmas gifts at the little market and enjoy a Hot Chocolate.

Other pupils got to enjoy activities around school like Arts and Crafts, Sports, Baking, Bingo, Christmas Film and Party.



Foxes Class

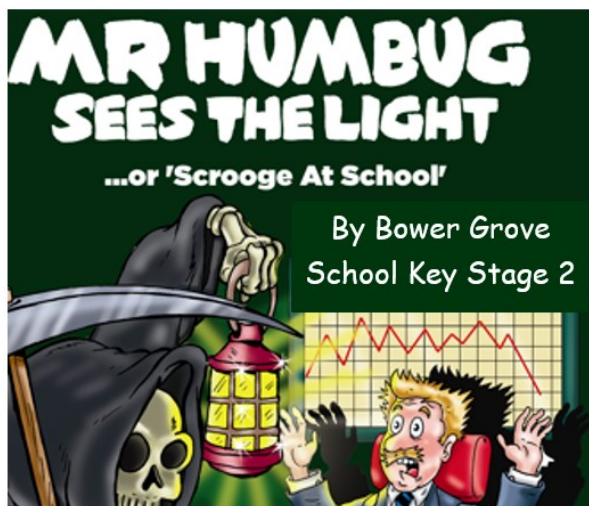
Foxes class went on a trip to Penenden Heath and took part in games such as Man Hunt. They celebrated a class mates birthday in a den with cake, a great time was had by all.



Primary Christmas Production

What a performance! Key Stage 2 performed a fantastic Christmas production of "Mr Humbug Sees The Light" with pupils wearing superb costumes and spending lots of time practising lines.

A huge well done to all the brave pupils, hard-working staff and of course the tremendous support from parents who came to watch. We hope you all enjoyed it!



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

Dates for your Diary

Friday 17th December	Last Day of Term	Tues 4th January	First Day of Term
19th July	Last Day of the school year for pupils		

Staff Babies

Mrs K Lingham is returning back from maternity leave after Christmas



Staff Leavers

We have said goodbye to:

Mrs H Dalton	Business Manager
Mrs C Foley	Science Teacher
Mr M Lukasik	Site Manager
Miss O Sharrock	LSA
Mrs A Shovlin	LSA
Mrs M Tarnowska	LSA
Mrs M Frankham	LSA
Mr T Kirby	LSA
Mr D Shaw	LSA

New Staff

We have welcomed:

Mr N Thornewell	Site Manager
Mr M Payne	IT LSA
Miss K Hassett	LSA
Mr C Morgan	LSA
Mrs A Liiv	LSA
Mrs E Hadaway	LSA
Mr C Burr	LSA
Mrs T Hayward	LSA
Mr J Waterson	LSA
Mrs M Golabek	LSA