

Bower Grove News



Issue 130

February 2022

Dear Readers,

It has been a challenging term with the numbers of Covid cases higher in school than at any time in the pandemic. Sadly this has led to some class closures. Staff, pupils and parents/carers have been really flexible and understanding. Thank you. Pupils have had to be taught by unfamiliar staff and cope with unexpected changes to their timetables—they have coped brilliantly and are a real credit—well done. It is at least reassuring to know that no one has been seriously ill.



On 12th January pupils from Key Stage 4 had a trip to London and watched the musical—Matilda which was greatly enjoyed by everyone. Squirrels finally got their rewards afternoon which they had missed when their class had to close at the end of the Summer Term, an afternoon at the Ice Hills at Mote Park was great fun. On Friday 28th January we all took part in a Science Day thinking about how everything in nature links together. We found out about a whale and dolphin rescue and enjoyed meeting an owl and a hawk.

All our pupils participated in a sunny 'Rewards Afternoon' on Monday 7th February doing activities they enjoy as a reward for excellent work and super behaviour this term. Hopefully, the half term holiday will reduce the infections in school and we can aim for a more settled term 4.

This term we announced that Bower Grove will be getting our very own Elmer painted by Artist Jill Busby. We also launched a whole school competition for pupils to design their own Elmer. The winner will be cutting the ribbon when our sculpture arrives and will also take home an Elmer toy and book. The winner will be announced next term. Good luck everyone.

Wishing you all a safe and happy holiday and we look forward to welcoming our pupils back to school on Tuesday 22nd February.

Kind regards

Mrs Salter ~ Headteacher



News from the Governors

It has been a busy term for Governors with meetings about School Finance, Learning & Development and Strategy. We had hoped this term would see a return to Governors having their meetings in school in person but sadly Omicron has meant meetings have mostly been virtual. However, some in-school monitoring visits have taken place earlier in the term before our school community sadly saw a rise in cases. The last few weeks have been particularly challenging in school and Governors are extremely grateful to all the staff who have ensured disruption to learning has been kept to a minimum. A big well done too to all our pupils who have coped very well with some learning moving back to on-line.

On behalf of Governors I would like to wish everyone a pleasant break and hope you all stay safe and well. Let us hope the weather continues to be kind to us and that school life is not also disrupted by severe weather as winter progresses.

Mrs A White ~ Chair of Governors

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CELEBRATING CREATIVITY AT BOWER GROVE

ENGLISH

The English department are very pleased to announce this year's theme for World Book Day is Harry Potter.

World Book day is on Thursday the 3rd of March, dressing up is very much encouraged. Here are a few spells to get you going, go ahead and release your inner wizard:

★ *Aguamenti*: produces a jet of water from the caster's wand

★ *Expecto Patronum*: used to cast a Patronus which guards against dementors and can be used for communications

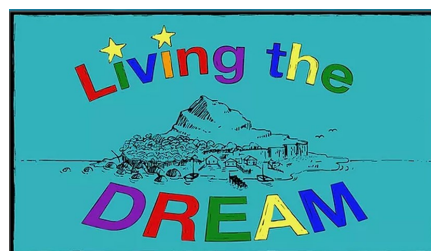
★ *Lumos*: projects a beam of light from the user's wand



ART & MUSIC

Oaks class have been preparing for a multi-arts performance at the Woodville Theatre in Gravesend led by The Big Reveal music charity.

On Thursday 27th January the class took part in a workshop in school which helped them learn the story, the songs and where they got to meet the composer David Burridge the lead actor and musician Matthew Sharp. All pupils from Oaks class had a fantastic day and got to show off their musical skills.



DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Within Design & Technology pupils have been designing, developing and producing personalised mugs.

They have been working to a template within

Powerpoint and Photoshop in order to realise their

design intentions. There have been some amazing mug

designs which family members, friends, staff and themselves have been very

grateful and pleased about. As a new DT Teacher at Bower-Grove I must say

the response to this unit of work has been very impressive indeed. Mr Rowe



LGBT History Month (February)

Following the theme of the fortnight being LGBT History, the Enrichment class had a discussion around this topic. We were challenged to come up with our own Pride Flag using colourful designs and powerful words to help people feel included and valued.



SCIENCE CORNER

Friday 28th January was Science Focus Day all about Interdependence – pupils learned about how nature, humans and animals depend on each other.

Pupils took part in dolphin and whale rescues, met rats, owls and birds of prey, got creative with clay food chains, took nature walks outside amongst a number of other activities!

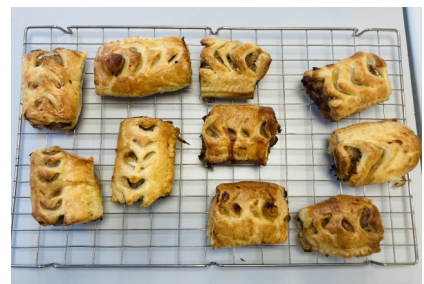
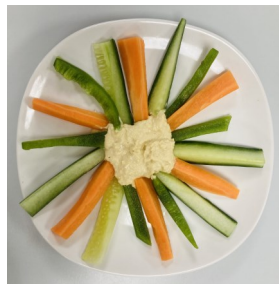
Well done and thank you to all pupils and staff who took part, particularly Mr Stevens for organising the outside visitors.



Aspire Curriculum Year 9

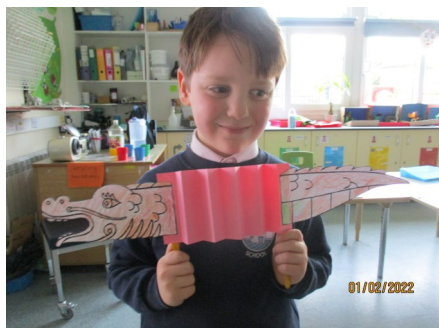
Year 9 (9T) have been taking part in an entrepreneurial catering project for the Aspire Curriculum this term. They have been split into two teams (Team Legion and Team Apollo) in an Apprentice-style competition.

Essentially, each group has completed market research, explored branding and advertising and created a business plan. The remit is to design a menu for staff lunches and provide a catering service within a set budget. Each team is competing to turn over the highest profit from their sales.



Tadpole Class

This week Tadpole Class have been learning about the festival of Chinese New Year. We read the traditional story of 'The Great Race', which explains how the animal zodiac signs were placed in order (2022 is the year of the tiger) and we learnt about many Chinese



traditions that take place around this celebration. We studied some Chinese Dragon dancing performances, learnt how to use chopsticks and then made our own Chinese Dragon puppets.



London Trip

On Wednesday 12th January, pupils from years 10, 11 and Oaks class went on a trip to London. They visited the Tate Britain Gallery and went to watch Matilda the Musical. Pupils and staff had a brilliant day and it was a great experience for everyone involved.



A big thank you to Mr Starks and Miss Vandepier for organising such a brilliant day.



Primary Rewards Afternoon

On Monday 7th February the whole Primary school had their end of term rewards afternoon and we all had so much fun.

Pupils got to choose what activity they would like to take part in, the choices were—Cooking, Cinema, Rocket Making, Lego Building, Sports, ICT, Party and the Park.

All pupils and staff had a fantastic time having lots of fun for the afternoon.



Senior Rewards Afternoon

Senior rewards afternoon took place on Monday 7th February. The pupils got a chance to choose a fun activity in or outside of school for the afternoon. Many activities were on offer including; Bowling, Cyclopark, Football, Gymfinity, ICT, Hair & Makeup and many more. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon and had a chance to spend time with different staff and pupils from other classes.

The next Senior rewards afternoon takes place on Tuesday 29th March. Pupils will get more activities to choose from based on their work ethic and behaviour around school.

Squirrels—Maidstone Leisure Centre Activity Day

Squirrels have been having swimming lessons this term and have been making great progress because they have been listening well to instructions and putting in a lot of effort.

As we are focussing on healthy living as part of our PSHE topic, we decided that we would have a full activity day and see how it affected our mood, sleep and appetite.

After the swimming lesson, the pupils had a picnic lunch together, then spent an hour and a half on the soft play and tobogganing! It was such fun! Everyone ran around so much they were exhausted, they almost drank enough water to fill a pool (important to keep hydrated!) and they nearly fell asleep on the mini-bus home. A lovely day!



Year 11 College

Year 11 pupils are continuing to enjoy the vocational curriculum on a Friday morning at both Rowhill College Longfield or Mid Kent College Maidstone. 11L have returned this term to Rowhill where they have had the opportunity to take part in car and motor bike maintenance, carpentry, or bicycle maintenance. 11K and a member of Oaks have been practicing their culinary skills in the Food Technology and Hospitality suite at Mid Kent College. They have made pizzas, biscuits and cut up a fresh chicken. After half term, the classes will swap again and 11L will have a chance to try out being car mechanics for the term.



Recipe to Try at Home

Papeton (French Style Potato Rosti)

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

Equipment you will need:

Grater, Tea Cloth, Mixing Bowl, Measuring Spoons, Wooden Spoon, Non-Stick Frying Pan, Spatula & Plate

Ingredients:

Makes 1

- * 1 Small Potato
- * 1 Small Courgette
- * 4 Spring Onions
- * 1 Teaspoon Herbes de Provence
- * 2 Tablespoons Flour
- * ½ Teaspoon Salt
- * 1 Egg
- * 2 Tablespoons Oil



Method

1. Put the tea cloth on the worktop and then grate the courgette and potato into the centre
2. Gather the corners of the tea cloth and squeeze the liquid out over the sink
3. Put the potato and courgette into a mixing bowl
4. Finely chop the spring onions and add to the bowl
5. Add the ½ teaspoon of salt, 1 teaspoon of herbs, 2 tablespoons of flour and the egg then mix well
6. Put 1 tablespoon oil into a frying pan and heat
7. Once it is hot add the potato mixture—squash it down into a circle to about 2cm thick—there should be a gap around the edge of the pan
8. Turn the heat to the lowest setting
9. Loosen the Papeton from the frying pan with a spatula
10. Turn the plate upside down on the pan and turn the pan over so the Papeton falls onto the plate
11. Add the 2nd tablespoon of oil to the pan and heat
12. Slide the Papeton into the frying pan to cook the other side
13. Enjoy

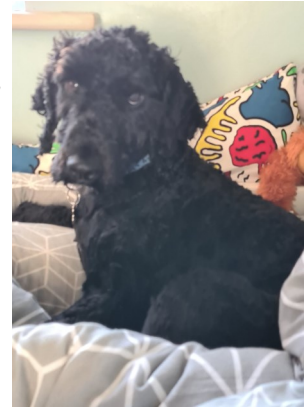
These can be enjoyed with a breakfast or dinner!

Message from Buzz

Woof woof everyone, hope you have had a pawsome start to 2022. I have really enjoyed spending time with you all during this term. Thank you to 7S, Eagles and Enrichment who have let me spend time in their classes, I have been very fur-tunate to be allowed to spend time with you all.

I know a lot of you have been testing positive for the dreaded Covid but please stay paws-ative even though you may feel ruff.

Have a great half term and stay safe. See you soon.



Lots of love Buzz

A Message from Pig & Pog

Father Christmas bought Pig and Pog new sleeping bags for Christmas. We were very lucky to get a photo of them awake because they have mainly slept this term - Ha ha! They love how snuggly their new bags are!

Pig and Pog have had cuddles with some of our older children this term and have helped to make many pupils feel calm and ready to learn

Love Pig & Pog



We ❤️ attendance

We are running an attendance promotion during the month of February. Pupils are encouraged to cross off all the days they are in school during February.

After the 28th February, those that have been in everyday on the poster will receive a prize.

Name: _____

We ❤️ attendance

1st	2nd	3rd	4th
7th	8th	9th	10th
11th	22nd	23rd	24th
	25th	28th	

Colour in a segment for every day in February you are in school.
Get 100% attendance to win love hearts.

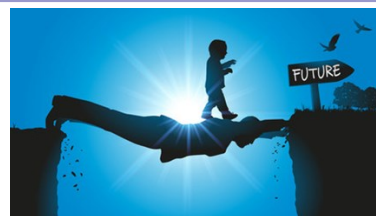
Falcons Class

Falcons class have been visiting Forest School every week this term, enjoying activities such as fire making, den building and carving with knives and axes. Pupils get to enjoy a hot chocolate around the fire and one pupil even made a jacket potato and pea lunch on the fire too!



College Open Days

In year 11 pupils have some pretty big decisions to make about their future and it is important that they are able to make an informed choice. This can be helped by attending some of the local colleges open events. We encourage parents and pupils to start thinking about this as early as year 9 and 10.



Mid Kent College	Maidstone - Wednesday 2nd March 2022	3.30pm - 7.30pm
Mid Kent College	Medway - Wednesday 9th March 2022	3.30pm - 7.30pm
Sheppey College	Wednesday 4th May 2022	3.00pm - 7.00pm
Canterbury College	Tuesday 8th February 2022	4.00pm - 7.00pm
North Kent College Tonbridge	Tuesday 1st March 2022	3.30pm - 7.00pm
Dartford College	Tuesday 22nd February 2022	3.30pm - 7.00pm
Gravesend College	Thursday 24th February 2022	3.30pm - 7.00pm
West Kent College Ashford	Thursday 24th February 2022	4.00pm - 7.00pm

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 11th Feb	Last Day of Term	Tuesday 22nd Feb	First Day of Term
Monday 21st Feb	Staff Training Day	Thursday 24th Feb	Year 7-11 Covid Vaccinations in School
Thursday 3rd Mar	World Book Day (costumes encouraged)	Monday 7th - Thursday 10th Mar	Year 11 Mock Exams Week

Staff Babies

Mrs K Lingham returned from Maternity Leave



Staff Leavers

We said goodbye to:

Mr M Stevens Science Teacher
Mr M Luksich LSA

New Staff

We have welcomed:

Mrs T Sayers Kitchen Assistant
Mr P Rowe DT Teacher
Mrs K Wolland Administrative Assistant
Mr E Jayaram Teacher (after half term)