

Bower Grove News



Issue 131

April 2022

Dear Readers,

It has been a busy term since we returned in February. We have enjoyed World Book Day on 3rd March with so many wizards in school and even live owls!

Our Year 11 pupils have had a dry run at their examinations through our Mock Exams week from 7th March. It was delightful to welcome so many parents back into school for the classes who had Parents Evening in two years and so lovely to have our school buzzing with positive feedback.

On Friday 18th March we all wore red to school to celebrate Comic Relief and raise money for this worthy cause. We raised £382.96— Thank you.

It was great to have pupils attending an away game of football against West Heath School on 23rd March, read on to find out the results of the match!

On Wednesday 30th March Falcons and Eagles classes visited the Titanic Exhibition.

Our Easter Raffle raised £377 for the new Junior school playground.

1st Prize—Aiden Squirrels Class

2nd Prize—Callum 8L

3rd Prize—Harry Eagles

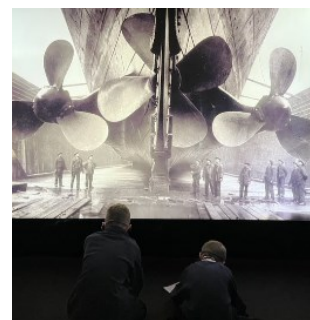
Bonus Prize—Mrs Gough Tadpoles

A huge thank you for all your donations for Ukraine—we delivered two full minibuses to the delivery depot.

Wishing you all a happy Easter Holiday!

Kind regards

Mrs Salter ~ Headteacher



News from the Governors

The clocks have gone forward, we have had a period of good weather and Easter is nearly here. Time for children and staff to have a break. As usual the children have done well in their work and challenges this term. A recent full Governing Body meeting included praise for achievements which is a common theme for Bower Grove pupils.

On a personal note can I highlight Gatwick Airport for their recognition of life challenges for children and indeed adults. If you land at Gatwick this summer from a foreign trip (more likely now as Covid restrictions reduce) I can highly recommend anyone in your party that has recognised mental health issues wears a sunflower lanyard (green and yellow) particularly approaching passport control. There is now a dedicated lane (lane 1) which avoids all the stresses of queuing. These lanyards are available when you fly out from departures at the assistance desk next to the family security lane (far right of terminal). Thank you teachers, support staff and children for another successful Bower Grove term from your Governors.

Mr H Law ~ Vice-Chair of Governors

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CELEBRATING CREATIVITY AT BOWER GROVE

ENGLISH

Year 11 completed their GCSE English mock exam in March, showing an excellent ability to write imaginatively and creatively under pressure, demonstrated by these examples of description:

Jake Dixon: 'Markets and previously populated bistros were now near almost unrecognizable, rubble, a sombre pile of once was.'

Jake Hearn: 'The village was tarmacked with blood, dust and pieces of crimson coloured brick. Thick clouds of charcoal black hung high above. The streets were silent, desolate and ghost-like.'

ART & MUSIC

This term pupils in Foxes class have been learning a piece of Classical Music called 'The Hall of the Mountain King' by Edvard Grieg. The piece of music was composed for the Norwegian play 'Peer Gynt' and helped depict a traveller making his way through a dark cave that he finds out to be the home of the troll king. The music gets faster and more exciting as Peer Gynt is chased by the army of the trolls until he eventually escapes and continues his travels. All the pupils in Foxes class worked really hard and performed an excellent rendition of the piece made famous by the Alton Towers adverts.



DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Within the workshop pupils have been learning about and experiencing different joining techniques within the production of products made of timber.

Ryan Matthews of 10C generated, developed and produced a multifunctional item consisting of a money box and jewellery holder for a member of his family. He applied vinyl decoration to one side, whilst cutting and shaping acrylic in the shape of lavender to hold both rings, necklaces and bracelets.



My Fun Trip to Battle Abbey

On Wednesday 9th March we went to Battle Abbey. When we arrived we went to the castle to be greeted by our tour guide. She taught us about what happened during the Battle of Hastings and let us hold some stuff from that era. First we saw the armour, then we saw weapons and I was allowed to hold one of the shields. She told us the story of what happened and it was really fun and interesting.

After that we went to see the battle area and where Harold was buried. Then we went to see a film about what happened. Then we got to hold and feel how heavy the weapons were. We then went to see the battlefield and went into the castle and went up the tower to the rooftop. We went to the park for some lunch and we enjoyed playing in the play area.

Finally we said bye to the tour guide and came back to school.

Written by Maison Glover



Forest School 9T

At Forest School we get to explore and hike around the forest. We play games using acres of magical forest allowing our imaginations to run wild!

Forest School let us use our imaginations to make things. I have been making a wooden replica of a Panzer tank. There is a giant swing and you can swing very high. We can light fires and there is an old bed frame that is used for cooking and making delicious hot chocolate. There is also a pond which is home to lots of wild creatures like newts.

Written by Dawid Domagala

SCIENCE CORNER

This term pupils have been studying a range of topics including the human body and plants. Year 9 were surprised to discover that we are eating the flower parts of broccoli as well as the roots of lots of other food that we eat.



These are some of the white flowers Year 9 have observed turning red to show where the water travels to in a plant

Year 11 have worked really well during their topic on human biology and have completed both Entry Level and mock GCSE assessments this term – well done!

Bower Grove School Fixture against West Heath School

Our Journey to West Heath School was a long 40 minutes but our team's spirit was still high, as we arrived at the facilities of the school, the sights were absolutely uncanny with 38 acres of land with multiple pitches that ran on for miles.

Finally, we made it to the pitch and had about 5 minutes to warm up. When the whistle came we thought we were ready! The first few minutes we had possession of the ball but could not do anything with it and unfortunately conceded a goal. Not to long after that a second goal occurred leaving the coaches and players of Bower Grove in a bit of shock.

For a few seconds when the ball was being reset, the players of our team looked at one another and did not get agitated or annoyed at anyone and played like it was a new fresh game and the determination of the team brought us back one goal which finally brought a glimmer of hope and then we were a new team.

Later scoring a second goal we brought the first half of the game to a close, the score of the first half was 4-2 to Bower Grove. The final score, Bower Grove won 9 - 2.

On the way back to school, the atmosphere was buzzing and we even played the Three Lions theme song on the bus.

Thank you to our coaches, players, to West Heath School and their players for the match. A special thank you for the people behind the scenes who made this fixture a reality.

Formation going into the game

Head Coach: Mr White

Assistant Coach and Bus Driver: Mr Marshall

Sonny - Striker

Jake - Captain and centre defensive midfielder

Kian - Right, left wing and centre back.

Jack - Left back defender

Adam - Centre forward

Malloy - Right back defender

Byron - Goalkeeper and defender

Alfie - Goalkeeper

Ethan - Right wing

Goal Scorers:

Jake - 4 Kian - 2

Adam - 1 Sonny - 2

Written by J Hearn



World Book Day

Bower Grove celebrated World Book Day on Thursday 3rd March with a Harry Potter themed event. Pupils and Staff dressed up as their favourite literary characters and enjoyed a visit from the Kent Owl Academy, a magical meet with the wizard Dumbledore and feasted on a delicious Hogwarts lunch. Pupils also took part in lessons such as wand making, ancient runes and quidditch.

Well done to everyone - it really was terrific fun!



'Living the Dream'

On Wednesday 2nd March Oaks class went to the Woodville Theatre in Gravesend to perform in a multi-arts production called 'Living the Dream'. The class and all the pupils across the participating schools were absolutely amazing and that is made clear in this excerpt from a review by Professor Irving Benjamin.

"Living The Dream" certainly lived up to its name in fulfilling the organisation's goal of meeting the needs of children and young adults with learning and physical disabilities. Students from more than a dozen schools from the Kent special Educational Needs Trust had not only been trained to perform the complex music and dramatic staging of the story created by Martin Riley, but also built the elaborate costumes used in the performance. These included a seven-foot animated monster arising from the deep, an erupting volcano, a fully articulated bird with a twelve-foot wingspan and wild white horses!"

"I felt privileged to be present at this magical performance, bringing together the well-established creative talents of the Big Reveal team in promoting the nascent creativity in their young participants."



Recipe to Try at Home

Macaroni Cheese

Equipment you will need:

Scales, 2 Saucepans, Whisk, Measuring Jug, Palette Knife, Tablespoon, Teaspoon, Wooden Spoon, Cheese Grater, 2 Plates, Colander, Oven-Proof Serving Dish

Ingredients:

Makes enough for 4

- * 600ml Milk
- * 60g Margarine or Butter
- * 60g Plain Flour
- * 1/2 Teaspoon Mustard
- * 60g Cheese (plus extra cheese for the top)
- * 200g Macaroni



Method

1. Cook the macaroni in a saucepan as per the instructions on the packet and drain through the colander
2. Grate cheese onto a plate
3. In a saucepan melt the butter add the flour stirring all the time and then add the milk a little at a time until all added
4. Keep stirring all the time until thickened
5. Stir in the cheese until it has melted
6. Add the cooked pasta and cook until heated through
7. Season with salt and pepper
8. Pour into the Oven Proof Dish
9. Add extra grated cheese on the top and bake in the oven until golden

Additions:

- * Add cooked chopped bacon before pouring in the Dish
- * Add sliced tomato to the top before putting it in the oven
- * Add a tin of white crab meat in the sauce
- * Add cooked pieces of chicken

Message from Buzz

I would like to wish you all an amazing Easter holidays. Make sure you stay safe and remember Mrs Ingram's assembly on what dogs can and cannot eat. If you remember, dogs cannot eat chocolate as it can make us ill. So, think of me eating my normal dog biscuits.

See you in 2 weeks. Lots of love Buzz



A Poem from Pig & Pog

We're all excited that Spring is coming
The birds are cheeping and insects are humming
All day we are munching fresh new grass
The children chatting to us as they pass
Our tummies are getting a little bit tubby
Some might even call us chubby
The children plant vegetables seeds for a guinea pig feast
Food on tap all year at least!
Once we're full we're ready for a cuddle
Living at Bower Grove just isn't a struggle
Love Pig & Pog



Satellite

Year 3/4 have been busy this term exploring rocks, fossils and soil in science. They have been comparing rocks, making fossils and investigating the drainage of different soils through filtration and testing the PH level. Year 5 & 6 have spent their science lessons exploring properties of materials; they have carried out a range of experiments, including, investigating the best materials for filtration.

Comic Relief Day

On Comic Relief day, we had a surprise visit from the Environmental Health Officer. After all the rigorous checks, the kitchen team seamlessly achieved it's usual five stars. A fantastic achievement and I am sure you will all agree, what a wonderful catering team we have.



Another surprise visitor later that morning as Mrs Rigby (our HR Manager) joined the serving team led by Mrs Giles, serving the Comic Relief cakes alongside the baked beans! She thoroughly enjoyed it with all the pupils being very polite across all lunch sittings.

Youth Club

The pupils this week in Youth Club made some lovely cards and gifts ready for Mothering Sunday. They decorated cards using egg boxes to make teacups (complete with teabag) and handwrote personal messages. The secondary pupils also made lemon and lavender sugar scrubs to give as gifts which looked and smelt gorgeous.



Falcons & Eagles Trip to Titanic Exhibition

In the last week of term, Falcons and Eagles were fortunate enough to visit the Titanic Exhibition in London after studying the Titanic during topic and English lessons. Pupils completed an activity using an audio guide and by looking at original and replica artefacts throughout the exhibition, including the grand staircase, a giant iceberg, postcards and letters from passengers on board. Pupils then had lunch and explored in a local park and thoroughly enjoyed their day.



Parent Support Group

Our Parent Support Group has been running for 30 years providing a regular opportunity for parents of children with special needs access in interesting speakers and time to share with other parents. Our PSG has been led for this time by Jo Cousins and ex-parent of Bower Grove. Sadly Jo has decided it is time to retire so we bid her a fond farewell and give her a huge thank you for keeping the PSG running helping so many parents over the decades.

Going forward the PSG contact will be Miss C Higgins
psg@bower-grove.kent.sch.uk

The next PSG events are:

Friday 13th May—Sensory Needs and Wellbeing—Miss R Snell

Friday 10th June—Young People and Safety on Line—Mr M Evans

Friday 8th July—Kent PACT—Parents and Carers Together—Mrs A White



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 1st April	Last Day of Term	Tuesday 19th April	First Day of Term
Monday 2nd May	Bank Holiday		

Staff Leavers

We said goodbye to:

Mrs S Owen	Finance Officer
Miss L McKenzie	Medical Lead
Mrs K Lingham	LSA

New Staff

We have welcomed:

Miss S Sands	LSA
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