

Bower Grove News



Issue 133

July 2022

Dear Readers,

This is my farewell as I leave for my retirement at the end of this school year. Twenty five years has flown by and I have enjoyed every moment. It is a pleasure and privilege to have worked with such amazing young people and their families. We are saying farewell to several other long serving staff this term. Mrs Shalders, one of our Assistant Headteachers is leaving us after 21 years of service, Mrs Nudds, one of our LSA's in Oak Class is retiring after 21 years. Mrs Coleman, one of our Maths Teachers is retiring after 22 years. Mr Croft our Maths Subject Leader is leaving to teach at Snowfield School after 10 years and we wish them all the very best for the future.



It has been an exciting term with lots of events and activities including residential stays and school trips. We enjoyed a fabulous Sports Day and it was lovely to welcome families back to cheer on our able competitors. Well done to Mercury who were the overall House Cup Winners for 2022.

Our Summer Fair was a great success raising £2448.56 towards our new Junior Playground Equipment.

On Friday 15th July our school field was transformed into the BGFestival and with fabulous weather we enjoyed a morning of music and entertainment.

Our Farewell Assemblies and Community Lunch were poignant events for both staff and pupils. We have celebrated 60 years of educating children this year with an anniversary photograph on the field.

I count myself extremely lucky to have had a career I have loved and to have been part of such a special community for so many years.

Continue to do great things Bower Grove School because 'Together we Inspire and Achieve'.

Kind regards and very best wishes for the future.

Mrs Salter ~ Headteacher

News from the Governors

What a wonderful and exciting term this has been for the school and for us as Governors. We have engaged in business as usual with meetings of all our teams and visits to school but there have been many more "social" visits this term. We have enjoyed being included in Sports Day, the summer fayre, assemblies and Open Evening. I felt particularly honoured to be invited to the Year 11 Leavers Event and was so proud to listen to their achievements and plans for the future. It was wonderful to hear them pay their own personal tributes to the school and staff that have supported them. Another highlight for me was to be present when Elmer was brought home to us and I am looking forward to the work being completed over the summer that will see him settle in his new spot. I am writing this just ahead of the BGFestival and am so excited to have been invited – my festival gear is hanging up ready along with a nice big hat and sun cream.

Of course, there have been some emotional moments too – saying goodbye to Mrs Salter, who I was involved in recruiting and who I have worked alongside for her 7 years as Head as well as 11 years as a parent when my son was at the school, has been hard but I really wish her well for her retirement and know that we will remain in touch. As well as the more formal school events to mark her exit, Governors had a farewell buffet and presentation for her at our last meeting of the school year. We are all looking forward to working alongside Mrs Cleave as she settles into her role leading the school.

The end of term also sees some other staff moving on to new challenges and one or two others also retiring. Governors are extremely grateful for all their hard work during their time with us and wish them well for the future. Similarly, we wish all those pupils that are moving on from Bower Grove the very best of luck with the next stage of their education. We hope everyone will remember where to find us when it is time for the Christmas Fayre. In closing I want to pay tribute to our dedicated staff team without whom Bower Grove would not be the outstanding school it is today. Governors hope you all have a happy and restful summer and look forward to working together with you next year. We also wish all our pupils and their families a safe and happy summer break and look forward to seeing you all at the start of September.

Alison White ~ Chair of Governors

P.S if you are reading this and thinking how lucky my team and I are to play such an active role in the life of the school then please get in touch as we have a couple of vacancies coming up on the Governing Body.

Published by the Parent's, Friend's and Teacher's Association

CELEBRATING CREATIVITY AT BOWER GROVE

ENGLISH

In Year 7, pupils have been studying John Boyne's 'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas'. As part of the unit of work, pupils wrote letters from various characters in the novel. Below is an extract from Rico's work.

'Dear Gretel,

As you know, I have been transferred for promotion. I'm still wondering when I can see you again. I really miss your smile. I hope the little man is doing ok. Is he still reading those stupid explorer books about the British? How are your mother and father? I honour his work and bravery to the Fatherland. I feel lonely without you and wish you the best for the future.

Love Kotler'

ART & MUSIC

This term Penguins Class have been developing their keyboard skills. They have been working on their sight-reading, mobility around the keyboard, correct finger techniques and learning pieces of music. This picture is Freddie Sharp doing a brilliant version of the Star Wars theme tune.



DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Within DT this term the Year 10's have been marking out, cutting and assembling a mixture of timber joining techniques. These include, halving joints, bridle joints and mortice and tenon joints.

Learners have been working to specification and have generated, developed and produced a small table or foot rest.



Hedgehog Class

Hedgehogs class went for lunch at the Montalbano restaurant last week. Pupils have been learning about Italy including the food and culture. They enjoyed authentic Italian food and were able to use some of the Italian words they had learned.

A big thankyou to the owners and staff at the Montalbano restaurant for a fantastic meal. Hedgehogs class gave the restaurant 5 stars!



Falcons Class

This term, Falcons Class visited Teston Park in Tenterdon and the Medway River for a picnic, ice cream, river walk & play in the new park! Pupils were in awe of the lock on the river, bravely walked past a large herd of cows and independently ordered ice creams from the kiosk with lovely comments from the owner who praised all pupils for their wonderful manners.

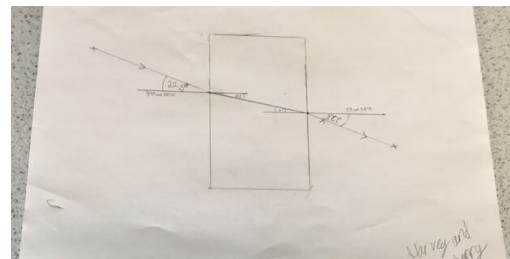


SCIENCE CORNER

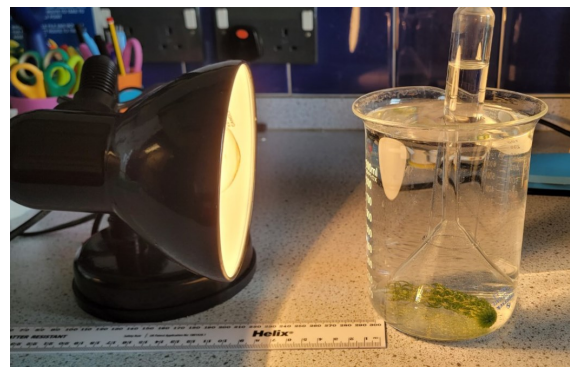
Year 7 have been learning about sound and investigated why we have 2 ears! Year 8 have been studying rocks and have used chocolate to help understand the 'choc cycle'. They also investigated the effects of acid rain on rocks: Below are some pupil observations:

Rock Type:	Observations
Calcium Carbonate	A Few Bubbles
Chalk	Lots of Bubbles
Sandstone	Rotted Away at Bottom
Clay	Nothing—Darker—Melting
Granite	Nothing
Quartz	Dissolving Fizzing Bubbling

Year 9 have been studying waves and have bent light rays! The picture shows pupils calculating the angles that light has been refracted.



Year 10 have been studying biology and investigated how plants are affected by light intensity using pondweed.





BOULOGNE SUR MER

On Wednesday 29th June Year 8 pupils set off for a residential in France. After travelling through the tunnel to Calais the group drove to the Old Town of Boulogne in order to carry out a photo i-spy task in groups...the winners were Team Green (Mr Lacey, Mrs Woolley, Sam, Criegon, Jake, Rosie and Shannon)



We then went to a small, family run business to see how they make their biscuits.

The group checked into the youth hostel and enjoyed some relaxation and table football before going to dinner where some people tried snails.

On Thursday pupils enjoyed an early morning pupil vs adults football game before visiting a bakery to see how they make their bread and croissants. Bruno the baker tested the group on their knowledge of the ingredients but he was not impressed with everyone's efforts at croissant rolling!

After lunch on the sea front we headed to a snail farm to learn about how snails are raised – pupils and adults learnt lots of new things.



After some free time the group set off for a McDo dinner and bowling (Callum got the highest score) before walking back to the hostel.

The group returned to school safely on Friday July 1st ready to get taxis home and catch up on sleep!

Many thanks to the staff team that accompanied the group, giving up their time to enable the trip to happen. It is always a privilege to take pupils abroad for their first experience outside the UK. It was especially good to take a group to France after a 3 year break due to circumstances beyond our control.



Recipe to Try at Home

Eton Mess

Ingredients:

Makes enough for 2

- * 500g strawberries, hulled and chopped
- * 300ml double or whipping cream
- * 2 meringue nests
- * 1 tbsp icing sugar
- * Sprigs of mint

Method

1. Whip the cream in a large bowl until thick
2. Stir in the icing sugar
3. Roughly crush the meringues into the bowl and stir gently
4. Add the chopped fruit and stir again until just combined
5. Spoon into serving dishes or wine glasses top with a sprig of mint and enjoy!

Additions:

- * Change the fruit to raspberries or any other soft fruit
- * Make your own meringues and keep them whole and layer the fruit and cream between them in stacks
- * Stir some melted chocolate through



Bower Grove Festival

On the 15th July Bower Grove School held their second ever music/arts festival , BQStival 2022. The weather was bright and sunny and as soon as the pupils came into school the field was ready and just the spectacle itself was so exciting.

The day started with the staff band performing songs on the main stage and getting everyone moving and singing along before we went off and started all the activities.

Some of the activities included circus skills, a bouncy castle, an inflatable mega slide and a football darts board. There were face painters, stilt walkers, temporary tattoos, an ice cream van and loads more to



do to keep everyone entertained, we were even visited by the police who brought along some of their dogs and dog handlers. On the main stage we were treated to a performance by professional musician

'Joey Oscar' who played some covers that we could sing along and dance to.

For lunch everyone sat with their classes and ordered their favourite pizzas from the school kitchen and we had some more performances from pupils across the school.

The day finished with the staff band performing some upbeat songs that got everyone singing along and cheering. It was a brilliant day and everyone really enjoyed themselves, we just can't wait for next year.



Thank you to everyone who helped make such an amazing day happen.



Sports Day 2022

After lots of practicing of track and field events within our PE lessons, the pupils got to celebrate all of their efforts by showcasing their skills at Sports Day 2022. The level of sportsmanship and encouragement throughout the day was amazing from all pupils.

We had the primary pupils putting in the hard work in the morning and the senior pupils to follow in the afternoon.

Everyone was looking smart in their house colours, ensuring they were representing their house in the best way.

Finally, once all pupils had tackled each event with Mars winning the Junior Sports Day and Neptune winning in the Senior Sports Day, the overall winners were finally decided once we added up all the points for our special mentions from the day. Our winners for Sports Day 2022 are..... Mercury!

Well done to all pupils for participating and encouraging others in all events, the day would not have been such a success without you all. Thankyou to all staff for ensuring the day ran smoothly and for making it special for all our pupils and carers.

Lastly, after nearly three years we were finally able to allow parents/guardians to spectate again and what a pleasure it was, thankyou all for coming and making the pupils day even better.



Parent Support Group

PSG contact - Miss C Higgins psg@bower-grove.kent.sch.uk

The next PSG events are:

ADHD with Author Declan Henry

Term 1

Friday 23rd September 10-11am

Declan Henry holds a Bachelor of Arts degree (Honours) in Education and Community Studies and a Master of Science degree in Mental Health Social Work. He is an author of six books and numerous published articles.



Physical and Sensory needs with Mrs R Dowling

Term 2

Friday 18th November 10-11am

This will be an informative and practical workshop exploring how to support children with sensory needs. Easy activities to use and try at home and in the classroom.



Attachment Theory with Mrs C Green and Mrs K Candy

Term 3

Friday 27th January 10-11am

'Get Attached'

How to support our young people's well-being and behaviour through attachment practice. This workshop aims to explain why many of our young people behave and express themselves in the way that they do. Attachment theory will be explained and supportive strategies and resources shared. These strategies are used by Bower Grove staff within the school environment but can also be used at home too.



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 arm-chair 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

The Annual General Meeting of the school PFTA will be held on Tuesday 13th September 2022 at 3.30pm. All parents are welcome to attend. We are also keen to enlist any parents wishing to be part of this fundraising group.

'Time to Talk'

HearSay Charitable Trust based in Maidstone has been requested by Bower Grove school to provide a support group for parents.

This will be an opportunity for parents to share their worries and concerns confidentially within the group, whilst meeting other parents who share a similar parenting journey.

The aim of the group is to empower and give parents the confidence to make changes and enable their children to achieve their full potential and improve the relationship that they can have with their children.

The group will be informal, non-judgemental and run by a counsellor acting on behalf of HearSay.

We look forward to meeting you and supporting you.

Years R,1,2,3 as 30.09.22 at 10.15 - 11.45am.

Year 4,5,6 as 21.10.22 at 10.15 - 11.45am



Bower Grove Summer Fair

Thanks to everyone for coming along and supporting us at our Summer Fair. The Mayor of Maidstone, Derek Mortimer, also came along to join in with all the fun.

It was a really lovely event and we are pleased to tell you that we have raised an amazing £2448.56. Well done everyone!!



Year 6 Safety In Action

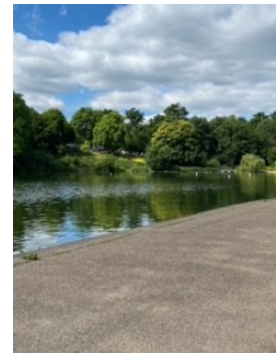
Year 6 pupils spent the morning at Safety In Action, where they explored how to keep safe in different scenarios. Fire safety, road and rail safety, water safety, electricity safety and online safety were some of the topics that pupils learned about. Pupils enjoyed walking around in groups, joining in with various workshops and asking lots of questions.



Enrichment

Enrichment enjoyed a great school trip this week firstly visiting Mote Park in Maidstone where they walked around the lake, found the secret play area, ate a fantastic picnic and were treated to an ice cream. Then it was onto Gravity trampoline park where the pupils and staff alike had a very fun but tiring hour bouncing!

"It was the best trip ever" according to one of the pupils.



Satellite

Satellite Class had a fantastic day at Leeds Castle, we fed the ducks, had a tour around the castle, enjoyed the play area and had a delicious ice-cream.



Falcons Class

Falcons Class Teacher Miss Nicholls is running The London Marathon in October to raise money for Blood Cancer UK, a charity dedicated to beating blood cancer through investing millions of pounds into research, transforming treatments and saving lives. If you would like to sponsor Miss Nicholls and donate towards the incredible work BCUK do, please head to <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/bethnichollsbcuk> - a huge thank you in advance!

Message from Buzz

I hope everyone is keeping cool in the heat. I love laying on my cool mat and eating ice cream, (dog friendly versions obviously). Well done all of you who took part in Sports Day, I saw the photos and had my own version at home. I cannot throw very far but can catch pretty well. Keep safe over the summer and I look forward to seeing you all in the new school year.

Message from Pig & Pog

Pig and Pog had their Summer bath and a lovely manicure so they are all fresh smelling and beautiful again. Admittedly Pog hated it and shouted all the way through but here is a couple of photos from their Guinea Pig Spa Day.



Autumn Term Return Date

On Friday 2nd September all pupils in Primary (including Satellite), Squirrels Class and Year 7 will return to school. On Monday 5th September all Primary, Squirrels, Badgers, Oaks Class Year 7 and 11 will return to school. All remaining year groups will return on Tuesday 6th September 2022.

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 1st Sept	Staff Training Day	Friday 2nd Sept	Term Begins see above
Monday 26th Sept	School Photos		

Staff Leavers

We said goodbye to:

Mrs L Salter	Headteacher
Mrs D Shalders	Assistant Headteacher
Mrs S Dann	Teacher Satellite
Mrs J Coleman	Teacher
Mr A Croft	Teacher
Mrs V Fekete	Teacher
Miss A Lamb	Teacher
Mrs S Owen	Finance Officer
Mr L Fawcett	Pupil Mentor
Miss L McKenzie	Medical Lead
Mrs S Nudds	LSA
Miss K Mitchell	LSA
Miss C Bower	LSA
Mrs L John	LSA
Miss S Sands	LSA
Mr J Gibb	LSA
Mrs A Liiv	LSA
Miss E Sharpe	LSA
Miss T Nowers	LSA

New Staff

We have welcomed:

Mr L Norton	Head of Science & Maths
Mrs O Clarke	Teacher
Mrs M Stockwell	Teacher
Mrs T Franklin	Teacher
Mrs D Hewitt	LSA
Mr D Cornford	LSA
Mrs J Howarth	LSA
Miss S Turnbull	LSA
Miss K Elkington	LSA
Mrs H Palmer	Kitchen Asst
Miss C Cleave	Temporary Site Team Asst