

Bower Grove News



Issue 134

www.bower-grove.kent.sch.uk

October 2022

Dear Readers,

As the new Headteacher it is an honour to welcome everyone to our first newsletter of this year. It was wonderful to welcome all our pupils back in September. Our new Leadership Team look forward to meeting you all on our parents evening in November.



This term has been a busy term with the pupils getting to know their new class teams. We opened our new classroom, Badgers, which is for pupils in Key Stage three on our Impacts pathway. We enjoyed our Key Stage one and two Harvest Festival on 30th September and would like to thank you for all the contributions which were donated to the Salvation Army in Maidstone.

We have all enjoyed our newly named 'Venture' afternoon on 17 October which celebrates our pupil's achievements. Many of our pupils have enjoyed some visits including Year 10 pupils to the Knife Angel, Badgers Class experiencing how to write & send a postcard and our Year 11 pupils who went on a Sailing Residential around the Isle of Wight.

Our talented Artists have entered the Maidstone Scarecrow Festival which runs from 22 - 29 October. We look forward to spotting our Scarecrows around Maidstone.

We are delighted to announce the winners of the two Halloween Hampers who were Romello & Leo both in 7L. This raffle raised £212 towards the Sensory Quad area project. Thank you to those who purchased a ticket.

We are looking forward to welcoming pupils back on Tuesday 1st November 2022. Good luck with the Half Term Project.

Mrs Cleave ~ Headteacher

News from the Governors

The first term of the new academic year is always a busy time for Governors and this year especially so as we watch the new management team in school settle and develop.



We've had a Full Governing Body Meeting where I was again voted into the Chair, supported by Miss T Butler who has stepped up to Vice Chair. We have welcomed Mr E Lacey as our new Staff Governor and Mrs A Nyholt. We are shortly to be joined by Mrs P Johnson our new Parent Governor and Mr P Mpedzisi as a newly co-opted Governor. The Finance and Strategy Teams have also had their first meetings of 2022/23.

I have enjoyed being in school and seeing all the work that has taken place during the Summer - the junior playground looks amazing and I am told the children have enjoyed the new play equipment. Not to be left out the senior area has benefitted from a lovely new deck area thanks to our own Site Team. Internally school is looking bright, clean and tidy after the site team spent the Summer painting all the corridors. On behalf of the Governors I would like to publicly thank all the staff for the work they did over the Summer ensuring everything was in place for the pupils to make a successful return.

Alison White ~ Chair of Governors

CELEBRATING CREATIVITY AT BOWER GROVE

ENGLISH

Year 11 have been completing short stories, based on the theme of 'Heroes' for their Entry Level qualification. Below are two excerpts, describing the setting for their stories:

Mackenzie 11T: 'An old, broken-down wagon laid outside the tavern surrounded by puddles formed by the rain. The tavern was also old with bone-stone walls, a fawn tiled roof and a single hanging lantern glowing brightly due to grey skies. Music came from inside with a golden glow beaming out of the open doorway. The sound of owls came hooting from the overhanging tree branches.'

Ryan 11C: 'A silent, peaceful place, it brims with life, shining fern-green from a distance. It is a rural place with farms and stone paths with little wooden houses on the side. The fields glimmer with lights whilst all the crops rest. There is no place I've seen greener. In the middle of all this, lies a great mill, with a water wheel on its side, a great flow running all over the village, like a wind current.'

Alfie 11T: 'The smell of freshly cooked meat, the clanking of linen-coloured plates, the laughter of the children playing outside. It is all here at the local family diner. The sign showcasing the diner was rusty, penny coloured and had light patches where some of the letters used to be before they fell off. Past the rusty sign, and among the horde of menus with enticing images begging customers to pick them up, sat a simple man.'

ART & MUSIC

This term pupils have made a start to their Arts Award in either Music or Art. In their Music lessons, pupils have all chosen an instrument or a piece of musical equipment to develop their skills on. Some pupils are improving their guitar or base skills, some are developing their rapping skills and lyric writing. Dawid (pictured) is learning how to play the drums and has managed so far to play two rock beats accurately and in time.



DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

The Year 10 & 11 Construction Groups have been working on a Plumbing Unit within the new City & Guilds Level 1 Construction Diploma Course. They have utilised tools and equipment to develop skills in marking out and cutting copper piping.

They have fixed them together using end feed compressing fittings, push fittings and integral soldering ring fitting. They have also tested an end of unit assessment by linking it up to the mains water supply which measures 3 bar in line with the course.



Knife Angel Trip Year 10

Year 10 had a fantastic opportunity to visit the Knife Angel exhibition in Maidstone. The sculpture, made from over 100,000



seized blades, was created to highlight the negative effects of violent behaviour. Not

only does the Angel act as a symbol of anti-aggressive behaviour, but also as a

beautiful memorial designed to celebrate those lives who have been lost through these violent and thoughtless actions.



Harvest Festival Assembly

Our Harvest Festival Assembly on the 30th September was organised by the Key stage 1 and 2 pupils. Pupils and Staff brought in food which was donated to the Salvation Army in Maidstone. We are delighted and astonished by the generosity within the Bower Grove Community.

Thank you for your support.



Venture Afternoon

Everyone enjoyed our newly named Venture afternoon on Monday 17th October.

All pupils had a wonderful time being able to mix with other children from other classes taking part in their chosen activity.

The activities our pupils could choose were:

Paper Mache Jellyfish, Arts and Craft, Sports, Painting, Clever Fingers, Party, ICT, Film, Bowling, Pool, Football, Manhunt, Cyclopark, Dodgeball, Cooking, Band Practice, Dog Walking and D&T.



News from our Allotment

Enrichment and Impacts Classes have been hard at work preparing our raised beds ready for winter. Since the summer we have harvested tomatoes, courgettes, salad leaves and raspberries. We still have cabbages and broccoli to come. We are very grateful to our neighbours and friends at Glebe Lane Site who have gifted us some beautiful pumpkins and even a table and chairs for when we need a rest and a cup of tea or squash.



Eagles Forest School

All the pupils in Eagles Class have had a fantastic time



exploring the forest, playing in the tank that is built out of wood, making zip lines, working as a team to build dens, building fires to roast marshmallows and lots of games of man hunt. We have been lucky enough to find newts down by the lake and enjoy the last of the good weather.



Year 11 Pupils experience College

Year 11 pupils go to college every Friday to either Rowhill or Mid-Kent. They have been taking part in various activities showing great work ethic in their practical skills. The pupils are learning construction, bike mechanics and motor mechanics. Well done year 11 keep up the good work.



Badgers Class (Impacts KS3)

At the beginning of this school year, Badgers Class began. A new class and a brand-new classroom!

The badger is an animal that enjoys spending time with family and friends. They form strong community ties and care for each other. Badgers can be protective, strong willed and determined.



The pupils in Badgers Class share many of these great qualities and certainly have a good 'sett' up in their newly built classroom. Badgers are clean and tidy animals and the class is doing well at keeping their new classroom clean and tidy too.

Whilst badgers are black and white in colour, not everything in life is and the class are learning that acceptance, adaptability and flexibility are useful skills to have. The class sometimes 'badger' the adults and they are learning that you need to be patient and respectful to be able to have mature and positive interactions. One big difference between badgers and Badger Class is that there is certainly no time for sleeping during the day. We are too busy learning!

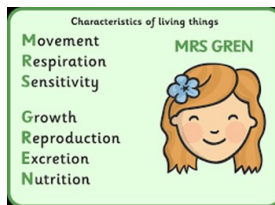
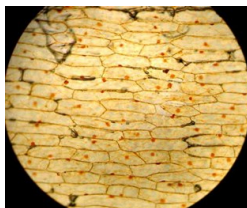
Show Racism the **Red Card**

On Friday 21st October we celebrated the day with an assembly and then wrote in **red** all day as a way to mark the occasion. We have been discussing different people's experiences and learning to show racism the **red card**.

SCIENCE CORNER

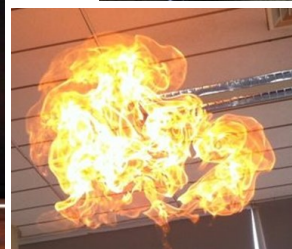
Year 7

Pupils began the year with an introduction to the Science lab. They used a range of equipment and learned about lab safety. Pupils learned about cells and how we can decide if something is alive.

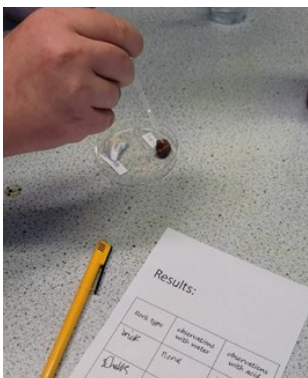
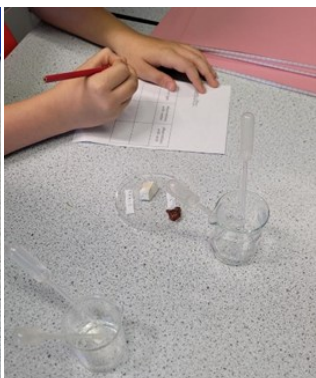


Year 8

Pupils have been learning about food and nutrition. They carried out an experiment to test for different food types. Pupils also learned about combustion through the whoosh bottle demonstration and methane bubbles.



8F also did an investigation about acid rain.



Year 9

Pupils have been learning about forces and motion. They have investigated different types of forces as well as speed. Pupils have also learned about genetics and evolution.



Year 10

Pupils have been learning about the periodic table. They have explored the difference between elements, compound and mixtures. Pupils formed the compound magnesium oxide from magnesium and oxygen.

Year 11

Pupils have learned about electricity and magnetism. They applied their knowledge in order to build electromagnets.



Extra Curricular

Alfie won the Maths Scavenger Hunt on Thursday 16th October.

Harvey built a bridge that supported a kilogram during Venture Afternoon.



Parent Support Group (PSG)

This group is now being organised by Miss Higgins and is a group established to provide support for our adults at home and outside agencies. These are the next workshops which you are welcome to attend:

Physical and Sensory needs with Mrs 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 Green and Mrs 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.



To book your place on these workshops email psg@bower-grove.kent.sch.uk

Christmas Fair



Christmas is approaching fast and we are starting to arrange our Christmas Fair which will be taking place on Wednesday 7th December. If you would be interested in helping out either with sorting items for stalls or helping out at the Fair please let the office know. We are asking for donations for the fair on Wednesday 23rd November 'Willy Wonka Day' bring chocolate or sweets and Friday 2nd December 'Bring a Bottle Day'. Thank you for your support in advance.

Parent, Friends, Teachers Association (PFTA)

The PFTA are continuing their efforts to raise money for our Sensory Quad Area. 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

'Time to Talk'

This year we are working in partnership with HearSay Charitable Trust based in Maidstone to provide a support group for our adults at home.

This is an opportunity for adults at home to share their worries and concerns confidentially within the group, whilst meeting other adults who share a similar parenting journey.

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

Adults at home with pupils in Frogs, Hedgehogs and Foxes - Friday 2nd December 10.15am - 11.45am

Adults at home with pupils Penguins, Falcons, Eagles, Squirrels & Satellite - Friday 9th December 10.15am - 11.45am

Please either email school (office@bower-grove.kent.sch.uk) or write in your child's school planner to let us know if you would like to attend. If you have any further questions please contact Mrs Candy, Assistant Headteacher.



Recipe to Try at Home

Cheese and Onion Pasties

Ingredients:

- * 200g Plain Flour
- * 100g Block Margarine
- * Cold Water
- * 150g Cheese
- * Half Onion
- * 2 Small Eggs or 1 Large Egg
- * Salt & Pepper

Makes enough for 3 Pasties

Equipment Needed:

1 Scales, 2 mixing bowls, 2 plates, knife, fork, tablespoon, teaspoon, measuring jug, rolling pin, pastry brush, grater, baking tray, sieve, small bowl or plate

Method:

1. Turn on oven to Gas 6/Electric 220
2. Lightly grease the baking tray and line with parchment paper
3. In a mixing bowl sift the flour and add margarine chopped into cubes
4. Rub margarine into the flour using fingertips until it looks like breadcrumbs
5. Add water a little at a time and mix with a knife until it comes together and wrap in clingfilm and put in the fridge to chill
6. For the filling—grate the cheese and onion finely and add to the other mixing bowl with the egg (use only half an egg if it is large) and stir together to make a paste
7. Remove pastry from fridge, sprinkle a little flour on the work surface and roll out the pastry to ¼" thick
8. Cut out circles using the small bowl/plate
9. Put equal amounts of the mixture onto the centre of each circle
10. Using the pastry brush (or your finger) wet the edge of the pastry and fold the circles in half and press the edges together to seal and then crimp with fingers or press a fork around the edges
11. Place on baking tray and brush with egg
12. Bake for 20-25 minutes until golden brown—Serve hot or cold
13. Alternatives—add potatoes, bacon or any veggies

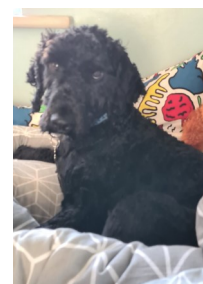


Message from Buzz

Hi Everybody

It was so nice to see everybody back this term and enjoying school. I have been on lots of lovely walks and thank you for giving me space when you see me. I love seeing you all, but it can be quite scary if lots of you crowd round me. Hope you have a lovely half term.

Lots of love



PC Bradford Departs

It was with regret that we said goodbye to our Police Liaison Office on Friday 14th October. PC Bradford has been working with our school for a year and has contributed to lots of our pupils in helping them to be safe in our community. PC Bradford is moving to live in London and left with a Bower Grove Mug and Pen.



Dates for your Diary

Mon 31st October	Staff Inset Day	Tues 1st November	First Day of Term
Weds 23rd November	Willy Wonka Day to donate Chocolate or sweets	Fri 2nd December	Bring a Bottle Non-Uniform Day
Weds 7th December	Christmas Fair	Mon 12th December	Key Stage 1 Production
Tues 13th December	Key Stage 2 Production	Wed 14th December	Christmas Lunch
	Fri 16th December	Last Day of Term	

Staff Leavers

We wish the following staff good luck in their new ventures

Mrs Cochrane LSA (Aug 22)
Miss Tuff LSA (Aug 22)
Mrs Ireland Educational Systems Lead
Miss Quinn Pupil Mentor
Miss Turnbull LSA

Welcome New Staff

Ms Stockwell Teacher Global Learning
Mr Norton Teacher Science & Maths
Mrs Dadswell Teacher PE
Mrs Sheffield Teacher English
Miss Alger Teacher Hedgehogs
Mr Hollett Trainee Teacher Falcons
Miss Layzell LSA in Penguins
Mr Ottaway LSA in Foxes
Mr Clarke ICT Technician
Ms Beadle LSA in Falcons
Mrs Trainor LSA in 9D
Miss Thursby LSA in Badgers
Miss Drogomirecki LSA in Oaks
Mr Regan LSA in 8V
Miss Dalton-Barratt LSA in Frogs
Mrs Stringer-Woodbridge LSA in 9L
Mrs Gould LSA in 7S
Ms Isitt LSA in 10D
Mrs Hamilton EHCP & Data Manager
Mrs Dallas LSA in Frogs

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Bower Grove Facebook Page

