

Bower Grove News



Issue 135

www.bower-grove.kent.sch.uk

December 2022

Dear Readers,

Happy Christmas everyone and we hope you all have a fantastic Christmas holiday. It has been such a busy term full of learning and fun activities and I hope you enjoy reading about them in this newsletter.



Thank you to everyone who worked hard on our October homework project with the theme of 'Learning at Home'. It was lovely to see so many pupils who enjoy the practical projects. As a community we have worked extremely hard at fund raising this term with our Poppy appeal raising £128.69 and Children in Need on Friday 18th November raising £173.71. Thank you to everyone for your help and support for both of these charity fundraising events.

Our Christmas events this year started on Monday 5th December with a fantastic Christmas tree outside of the school donated to the school by Mossys Garden Centre. (thank you Mrs Gravenell for helping us with this!). We are extremely grateful for the support of everyone to achieve the best Christmas Fair yet. It was a wonderful surprise to see so many people attend including past & present pupils as well as a guest appearance from singer Jay Antonio of the Drifters and one past pupil who arrived on his Christmas decorated tractor. A first for Bower Grove!

This last week of term has been a real joy with every day bringing a different Christmas surprise. Our catering team have been congratulated for cooking us the most amazing Christmas dinner with entertainment from our pupils and staff. Our Junior Christmas performances have brought a smile & a tear to our eyes with the most amazing costumes, singing and acting – some real budding entertainers. Thank you, parents and carers, for everyone who chanced the snow and the ice to get here.

Monday of this week brought a snow day to Bower Grove and I would like to say thank you to all the parents and carers for your support and flexibility. It has been a really testing time, with the snow not melting, and ensuring everyone's safety. The pupils have really enjoyed the time playing in the snow. I would like to say a big thank you to an ex pupil who managed to clear the snow on our playground areas with his snow plough.

We wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year. I look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 3rd January 2023. **Mrs Cleave ~ Headteacher**

News from the Governors

Governors have been delighted to welcome our new Parent Governor, Mrs Johnson, to our meetings this term but sad to have to say goodbye to one of our Co-opted Governors – Mrs Quinn who has stepped down due to family commitments. In our last news item we mentioned that we had hoped to welcome Mr Mpedzisi onto the board – he will not now be joining us as he has been offered a career opportunity out of Kent. However, we have been fortunate to have been contacted by Mr Davies who is about to retire from a long career as a primary school leader and has a keen interest in Special Education. We were delighted to give him a tour of the school and welcome him to our last Full Governing Body Meeting. We feel he will bring a lot of experience to the Governing Board.



One of the nicest parts of being a Governor is being invited into school for the Christmas celebrations. It was wonderful to see the Christmas Fair being so well supported and we are grateful to the PTFA for all the work they put into making this a special evening. Special thanks to Mrs Gravenell who spent many hours in school sorting, wrapping and folding! Governors also had the chance to join the carol service at the church, Christmas performances and Christmas lunch. Early on Monday morning I was faced with supporting Mrs Cleave to make the difficult decision to close school following the snow that came down during Sunday evening which left many roads across Kent in treacherous conditions. It is never easy to have to make a decision like this but given that many of our pupils and staff have long journeys into school, we must always focus on safety first. Thanks to the superb work from our site team with some help from staff, the site was safe and we could re-open on Tuesday. I hope that all our pupils and their families were able to enjoy this snow day and that we will not be faced with many more this winter!

On behalf of the Governing Board, I would like to wish all our pupils, their families and our staff a safe and happy Christmas break. We look forward to working with everyone again in 2023.

Alison White ~ Chair of Governors

www.bower-grove.kent.sch.uk

CELEBRATING CREATIVITY AT BOWER GROVE

ENGLISH

Year 10 have been reading 'The Woman in Black' by Susan Hill. As part of exploring the gothic horror genre, pupils wrote their own description of a haunted setting. Some short samples are below:

'Rushing harsh winds whistle around the abandoned theme park, swinging the carousel as they lay in place.' Theo 10D.

'It was shadow black in the forest. It almost felt like someone, or something, had turned off a light.' Adam 10W.

'The castle was deathly dark. All light seemed to be repelled from the premises. A thick fog descended as far as the eye could see.' Bert 10D.

'I can hear taps tripping and water hitting the floor, echoes of chains getting dragged and keys rattling.' Jesse 10W.

MUSIC

On Monday 14th November we were honoured to be visited by an ex-member of the Drifters and solo recording artist, Jay Antonio. Jay had recently released a song that highlights issues surrounding climate change and was visiting schools and encouraging pupils to think about



making changes and being more economically minded in their day to day lives. Jay spoke briefly to all the senior school in Monday's performance assembly but 9D had a whole lesson with Jay where they got to ask questions about his music, his career and climate change. For the second half of the session 9D learnt Jay's song 'Do you care?' for Jay to sing along. It was a really inspirational visit for the pupils and Jay enjoyed the school so much he even came back and sang at the Christmas Fair.

ART

Year 9 have worked hard this term in Art. They have been learning all about portraiture starting with tonal studies of facial features. As well as looking at and analysing artworks by Jenny Saville. They will be continuing with portraiture next term where they will explore etching, chalk pastel and painting portraits.



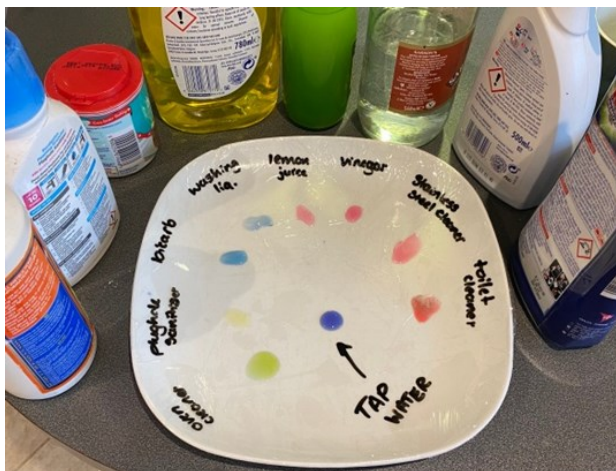
DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

DT this term Year 8 and 9 pupils have been engaging in a range of activities which have included: joining techniques, mixed media, systems & control all with or without a Christmas based theme. These include thermoformed, timber based, tree decorations, free standing festive items with or without flashing LED's.



SCIENCE CORNER

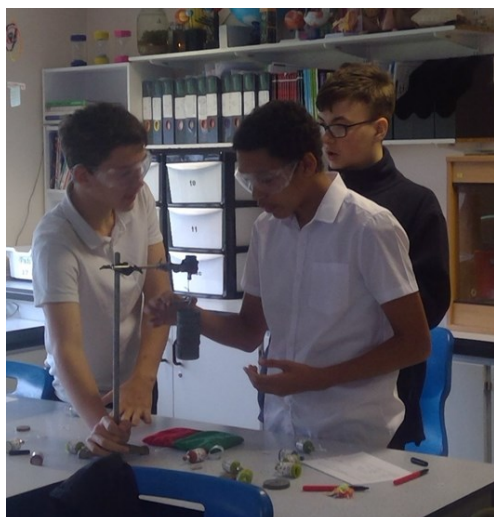
Year 7 Acids and Alkalis, Energy Transfers



Year 8 Fluids, Plants and their Reproduction



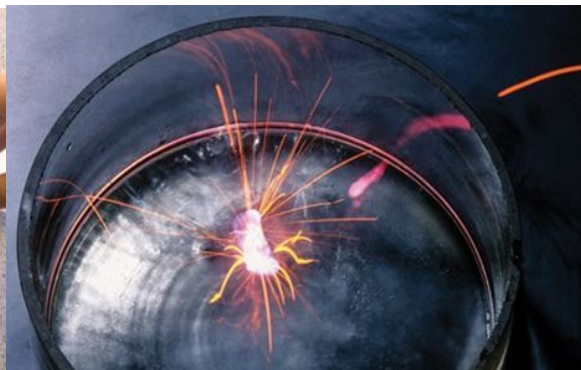
Year 9 Forces & Motion, Atomic Structure
and the Periodic Table



Year 10 Cells, Genetics, Inheritance and
Table Modification

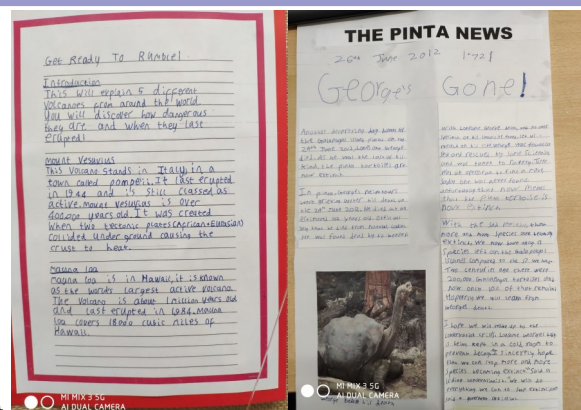


11 Chemical Reactions



Satellite

Satellite have been busy this term getting ready for the Christmas festivities. In between play rehearsals, hoop decorating and art activities the children have been developing their writing skills; Year 6 have created newspaper reports and Years 4 and 5 have created non-chronological reports. They have all been checking that they are using the features needed for their particular writing genre. In Science we have been growing our own bacteria and exploring gases, liquids and solids.



Swimming

This year, Swimming is back for key stage 2 and 3 pupils. Each class will go to Maidstone Leisure Centre for a term each and practice their strokes and water safety. We are delighted to have Swimming back on the curriculum and that pupils have the chance to go offsite and develop their skills. So far, Penguins and Falcons have successfully enjoyed a term each on a Thursday and 8V and 8F on a Tuesday. After weeks of learning skills and working hard, the pupils then get a chance to show how far they can swim. Pupils are given a certificate with their distance at the end of term in assembly. The classes so far have shown great maturity and work ethic throughout their lessons. Next term, the two classes Swimming will be Squirrels and 9L.



Rona Sailing Trip

In October a number of year 11 pupils attended a four-night sailing residential, organised and led by the Rona Sailing Trust. On Monday morning eleven pupils (Mr Jacobs, Mr Lawrence, Miss Percival and Miss Quinn) took the minibus to Southampton docks where they were met by the sailing team. The group were then divided across two 80ft sailing boats named Donald Searle and Rona II.



The Bower Grove pupils were all shown necessary teamwork skills to sail the boat safely and within the next three hours had arrived at the Isle of Wight. All cooking and cleaning was done by the pupils, with some staff guidance. Over the next four days the boat was sailed to Portsmouth and back to complete a full lap of the Isle of Wight.

Great fun was had by all involved and the Rona Sailing Team were, again, highly impressed with the pupils, commenting that they were one of the best groups they have had. It was especially pleasing to hear that some of the sailing crew specifically request to attend the annual Bower Grove trip as they like working with the pupils; which is feedback we have now had for consecutive years.

Frogs Class Science

In term 2 Frogs class have been exploring and investigating different materials.



They added water to different materials and mixed them together.



Next, they observed and discussed the changes that happened. Together we used different vocabulary to explain how the materials felt.

Squidgy slimy cold Squashy sticky soft hard

Year 11 Pupils

In Year 11 pupils have to make some important decisions about their future. It is really important that they were able to make an informed choice in their Annual Review meetings in September and choose a post 16 placement.



Therefore, we encourage parents/careers, and their pupils, to investigate post 16 providers as early as Year 10 and Year 9 at so they are fully equipped with the information they need to make the correct decision in the subsequent years. This decision can be helped by attending some of the local College and post 16 provider open events.

In the new year the following events are taking place: -

Ashford College - Thursday 19th January 2023 4pm - 7pm
Broadstairs College - Saturday 28th January 2023 10am - 1pm
Canterbury College - Tuesday 31st January 2023 4pm - 7pm
Dover College - Wednesday 25th January 2023 4pm - 7pm
Folkstone College Thursdays 26th January 2023 4pm - 7pm
Hadlow College - Saturday 28th January 2023 10am - 1pm
Kite College Sittingbourne -Wednesday 28th June 2023 10am - 3pm
Mid Kent College - Maidstone Campus - Wednesday 8 March 3.30-7.30pm
Mid Kent college - Medway Campus - Wednesday 15 March 3.30-7.30pm
Sheppey College - Wednesday 18 January 2023. 15:00 to 19:00

Please go on-line to individual college websites to find out more details and register your interest.

CHRISTMAS AT BOWER GROVE SCHOOL

Christmas Tree, Father Christmas & Hoops



Christmas Fair

We had a fantastic gathering where people from the community and ex-Bower Grove pupils visited the annual event. We raised an overall total of £3791.46. The school received some valuable and lovely feedback on the Facebook page.



KS1 Christmas Production 'Nativity'

Hedgehogs narrated and Frogs did the acting for the Nativity Story. They sang 'Little Donkey and Twinkle Twinkle Christmas Star'. Parents shed a tear at the wonder of seeing their children in the first production at school.



KS2 Christmas Production 'No One Wraps like an Elf'

All pupils took part and performed fantastically and their performance was outstanding.

A huge thank you to parents and carers for the costumes that you provided and the Satellite for all their hard work in making all the props.



CHRISTMAS AT BOWER GROVE SCHOOL

Christmas Lunch



Year 8 Community & Citizenship

Pupils in year 8, as part of this terms work on community and citizenship in PD lessons, wanted to do something lovely for people in their local community. They made bookmarks and Christmas cards to give to older people in residential care homes.



Bower Grove Fish Tank

The School fish wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. They will be enjoying the holiday at Mrs Martins House.

Why are fish so smart? Because they swim in schools!

BOWER GROVE PUPILS ENJOYING SNOWDAY



BOWER GROVE PUPILS ENJOYING SNOW IN SCHOOL



Parent Support Group (PSG)

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

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

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.



Sessions are run at Bower Grove School from 10.15am - 11.45am

The dates are as follows:

Term	Frogs, Hedgehogs and Foxes	Penguins, Falcons, Eagles, Squirrels & Satellite
Term 3	Friday 3 rd February	Friday 10 th February
Term 4	Friday 17 th March	Friday 24 th March
Term 5	Friday 12 th May	Friday 19 th May
Term 6	Friday 30 th June	Friday 7 th July

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 about Time to Talk please contact Mrs K Candy, Assistant Headteacher.

Recipe to Try at Home

Stained Glass Christmas Biscuits

Ingredients:

- * 175g Plain Flour
- * 115g Block Margarine
- * 125g Caster Sugar
- * Bag of Boiled Sweets



Equipment Needed:

Scales, Mixing Bowl, Pallet Knife, Tablespoon, Wooden Spoon, Rolling Pin, Medium Round or Star Cutter, Mini Christmas Cutters, Baking Tray, Greaseproof Paper, Cooling Rack and a Straw

Method:

1. Set Oven to Gas 4 or Electric 180°
2. Line the baking tray with a sheet of greaseproof paper
3. Cut the margarine into small pieces and add to the mixing bowl
4. Add the sugar and cream until light and fluffy
5. Add the flour and bring the mixture together to make a ball of dough—if your mixture is a little too dry add a tablespoon of milk until dough begins to form
6. Lightly flour work surface and roll out the dough until the thickness of a £1 coin
7. Using the round or star cutter cut out rounds and place on baking tray
8. With the smaller Christmas cutters stamp out the middle of the biscuit and remove—place to one side
9. Place a boiled sweet into the middle of each biscuit
10. Using the end of the straw, stamp out a small hole near the top of each biscuit
11. Bake for 15-20 minutes until they are a golden colour
12. When cooked remove from oven and leave to cool until the sweets have hardened
13. When decorate as required



Badgers Class Trip to Reculver Towers

On a freezing cold Monday morning, Badgers class set off to visit the ruins at Reculver Towers and to re-enact a Roman versus Celts battle. The area was deserted because of the weather. We had the ruins, the play area and the beach to ourselves and everyone soon warmed up running around. Miss Page led the Celts as Boudicca and the Romans used their home made defensive shields and Spathas (swords) to fend off the Iceni tribe warriors. The battle was a draw, although we know that really the Romans triumphed over Boudicca's resistance. The class had some chips as a treat for bravely conquering the cold!



Sensory Work

This is sensory work completed this term from Frogs, Hedgehogs and Fox's class. They have been working on their fine motor skills such as cutting, sticking, colouring, threading, painting independently.



Falcons Forest School

This term Falcons have been attending forest school where they have been building dens, making fires and exploring nature. Pupils have enjoyed whittling and carving with different tools such as chisels and knives, learning how to use these safely whilst making nature inspired Christmas decorations. As the weather got colder, pupils enjoyed bacon & egg baguettes around the fire and even got to toast their own marshmallows.



Dates for your Diary

Tues 3rd January	First Day of Term
Mon 23rd January	HPV Vaccine Year 8 & 9
Thur 26th January	STEM Focus Day
Tues 7th February	Rewards Afternoon

Welcome New Staff

Mr J Taft	LSA
Mr A House	Casual LSA
Mrs A Hick	LSA
Ms H Weller	LSA
Ms G Said	LSA
Ms C Pattenden	LSA

Please do not forget to follow our
Bower Grove Facebook Page



Staff Leavers

We wish the following staff good luck in their new ventures

Miss S Turnbull LSA

Staff Babies

Miss L Grant Frogs Class Teacher (28 Dec)

Mrs R Dowling Sensory and Wellbeing
Co-ordinator (20 Jan)

Mrs L White LSA (23 Jan)

