

Bower Grove News



Issue 136

www.bower-grove.kent.sch.uk

February 2023

Dear Readers,

Happy half term everyone and we wish you all a fantastic break. We hope you enjoy the February homework project with the theme of 'Being Active' and look forward to seeing how many steps you take.

This term has been extremely busy and it is lovely to read about all the activities that our pupils have been involved in this newsletter.

Congratulations to 7S and Penguins who have been awarded our termly 'Golden Spoon'. The cooks recommended these classes for their outstanding manners in the dinner hall throughout term 3. It has been lovely to see lots of happy faces as they get to beat the queue for school dinners and enjoy a daily treat during the last week of term.

We have been working hard on our Forest School project with preparing the bank area on our field at the back of the school. The brambles and weeds have been cleared which has left us with a great space to create an outdoor learning area. Our school was selected to be part of the Kent Tree Strategy project. On Tuesday 7th February we welcomed 36 volunteers from Golding Homes, Kent County Council and Medway Valley Countryside Partnership to join with some of our pupils and staff to help plant 191 trees in this area. We look forward to seeing what the growth of these trees brings to our new area.

We are really excited to look forward to lots of activities in term four including World Book Day on 1st March and encourage all our pupils and staff to dress up as characters from female authors. The date for Parents Evening has been moved to 8th March and Francophonie Day is on 24th March.

I would like to wish everyone a wonderful half term and look forward to welcoming pupils back into school on Tuesday 21st February.

Mrs Cleave ~ Headteacher



News from the Governors

I do not know about anyone else but I feel this term has flown by. Governors have held Finance and Strategy team meetings this term where we have been pleased to see Mr Steve Davies joining us to begin his work on the governing board. I have had regular meetings with Mrs Cleave - we call these our COG meetings. COG - Chair of Governors. These are an opportunity for us to talk less formally about what is happening in school and to ensure I am up to date with everything that happens in between our more formal Governor meetings. Sometimes it is also an opportunity to support the school with meetings with visitors. On one of these occasions this term I was also invited to have lunch in the dining hall with some pupils - this is always a treat and a chance to learn what the pupils are doing. It was a Friday so Fish & Chips were even more of a treat and compliments to the catering staff. I also joined a PTFA meeting this term. Other Governors have also been into school and these visits are something the whole team enjoy.

I was honoured to be invited to attend a memorial tree and bulb planting with Charlie Chapman's family. It was a lovely chance to join family, staff and pupils while they shared memories of Charlie. I look forward to watching this area at the back of our field growing over the Spring and Summer months.

On behalf of the Governor team I would like to thank everyone for their support over the teacher strike periods. We appreciate this can cause difficulties for our families but respect and support our staff who take this action alongside their unions. It is helpful to us all that they work with school by ensuring we can plan ahead because they let us know their intentions in advance - we are extremely grateful for this.

I would like to wish everyone a safe break and look forward to seeing staff and pupils back in school on 21st February.

Alison White ~ Chair of Governors



CELEBRATING CREATIVITY AT BOWER GROVE

MUSIC

This term in Music, Hedgehogs class have been having loads of fun learning about the 'BoomWhackers' and how different lengths of tubing can produce different pitches similar to the different keys on a keyboard or on a guitar. The class have especially loved the BoomWhacker playalongs on YouTube which allows them to play along to some of their favourite pieces of music as a whole class.



ENGLISH

This term, Year 9 have been studying *Ghost Boys* by Jewell Parker Rhodes in which the lead character, Jerome, sadly loses his life in a gun related incident. Pupils wrote eulogies which gave them an opportunity to consider tone and language in their writing.

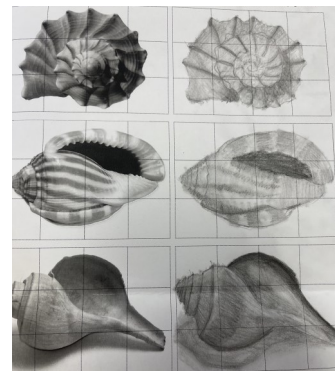
'Thank you all for coming on a day like this. We are all saddened by the death of Jerome, but we can't forget how enlightening he was, putting smiles on everyone's faces. How playful, polite and loving he was.' (Kenzie 9D).

'We will all miss him dearly. Now he's gone, there will be a huge hole in our hearts. We are overwhelmed with how many people love and care for our Jerome.' (Jayden 9D).

'We are gathered here today to reminisce and goodbye to our sweet Jerome. There is a lot of regret; he was so kind and caring.' (Creigon 9D).

ART

In Art this term, year 7 have looked at Artist Georgia O'Keefe and have been working on their observational drawing skills including drawing a real shell charcoal drawing and using the grid method.



DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Within Design Technology this term the Year 9 pupils have been creating a Trophy Project. They have generated, developed and produced prototypes using mixed media. These include timber, metal alloys and PLA 3D printing materials. Some trophies were sports based, family orientated and gaming inspired.



Year 11

On Wednesday 18th January our Year 11 pupils visited the Ben Kinsella Knife Crime Prevention Exhibition at Barking and Dagenham.

This experience enriched them with information about knife crime in the UK and it is the newest and biggest exhibition offering workshops to help educate young people away from violence.



Personal Development: Magistrate Visit

This term Year 10, 9D & Badgers were visited by Alvin Shaw a local Magistrate who delivered workshops on crime and punishment. We are always excited to have Alvin back in school and would like to share his comments. "Once again, the school can be extremely proud of their Year 9 and 10 pupils & Badgers. Their attention, interest, interaction and questions were superb. I am confident they learnt a tremendous amount about the British justice system and the teachers will be able to refer back to the topics we covered to remind the pupils of the potential consequences of their actions during the rest of the school year.

I look forward to seeing you on Thursday 9th March for my final talk with 9L".

Charlie Chapman Memorial

On Friday 13th January 2023 we welcomed Mr and Mrs Chapman to our memorial day to remember Charlie Chapman who sadly died on 12th September 2022. Charlie left Bower Grove in June 2021 to study at Mid Kent College. Pupils and staff took time to remember Charlie for his cheeky smile and happy personality and was always keen to share a story. When Charlie was in school, he loved Christmas and for this reason we have planted four Christmas trees to create 'Charlie's area'.

Red and white, (Arsenal colours!), ribbons were tied to the trees, bulbs were planted and poppy seed were scattered, as we remembered memories about Charlie. We look forward to the space being used by everyone to be able to take some time to think and reflect.



Badgers Class

Badgers class began the New Year discussing resolutions and how difficult it can be to keep them. We identified that regular, small changes are easier to keep than complete lifestyle changes and we thought about what we could do at school. A session became available to use the cookery room and the Dynamite Gym was free at the same time, so once a week, the class splits and either cooks or keeps fit! The class have devised a schedule for the gym including warm ups and stretches and they are cooking from scratch with fresh ingredients. We have noticed progress already in effort and attitude in both classes. Well done Badgers! Many thanks to Miss Bennett and Miss Croombs for lending us your expertise in these sessions too. Couldn't do it without you.



Recipe to Try at Home

Valentine Biscuits

Ingredients:

- * 225g Plain Flour
- * 150g Margarine
- * 125g Sugar
- * 1teaspoon Vanilla Extract
- * 1-2 tablespoon Milk



Equipment Needed:

Scales, Mixing Bowl, Wooden Spoon, Tablespoon, Teaspoon, Knife, 2 Plates, Rolling Pin, Heart Shape Cutters, Baking Tray, Cooling Rack

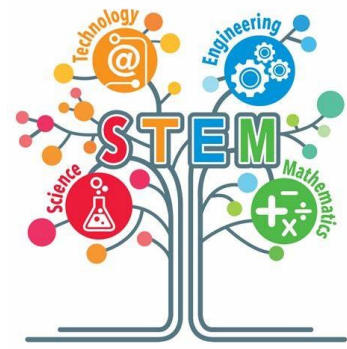
Method:

1. Set oven to Gas 4 or Electric 160°
2. Lightly grease baking tray
3. Cut the margarine into small pieces and add to a mixing bowl
4. With your fingertips rub the margarine into the flour until the mixture looks like fine breadcrumbs
5. Stir in the sugar and add vanilla extract
6. Bring the mixture together to make a ball of dough—if it is a bit dry use the milk to help bring it together
7. Lightly flour work surface and roll out the dough to a thickness of about 2.5cms
8. Cut out heart shapes with cutters and place on baking tray
9. Bake for 15-20 minutes until the biscuits are light golden colour
10. When cooked remove from oven and transfer to a cooling rack—leave to cool
11. When cool decorate as required or dust with icing sugar



STEM FOCUS DAY 2023

Our school held a STEM Focus Day was on Wednesday 25th January 2023. Pupils had the opportunity to attend over 16 different workshops across the school. These sessions included problem solving tasks, reading STEM books, participating in our logo competition and investigating the effect of exercise on pulse rate in the Dynamite Gym. We are grateful to the external visitors and Bower Grove staff who delivered a workshop on the day.



Pupils were introduced to the school's new STEM skills and developed these throughout the day:

- Reasoning - to analyse situations and solve problems
- Discovering - to approach situations with curiosity
- Creating - to use your imagination and think independently
- Resourcing - to select and use equipment and technology to achieve a goal
- Communicating - to share information with others and work as a team

AMAZING AERODYNAMICS

Pupils investigated how the air interacts with everything around it by making different designs of spinners.



Thank you to Jess from Stemazing Kids!

ANIMALS

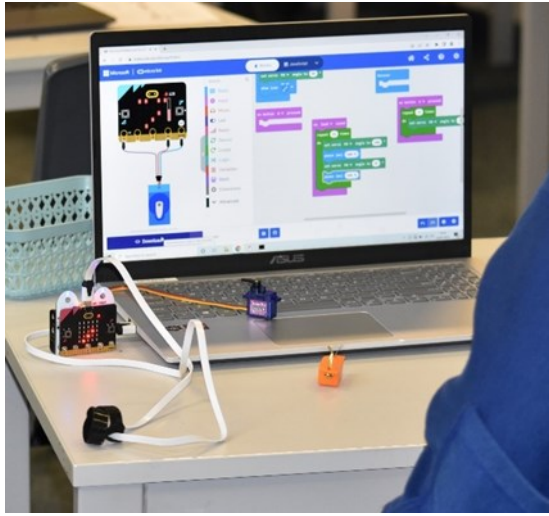
Pupils had a chance to pet and hold a chicken and a guinea pig. They learned about how these animals are cared for and fed.



Thank you to Simone from Craftworks College (part of the Brogdale CIC Group)!

BOX-BOT

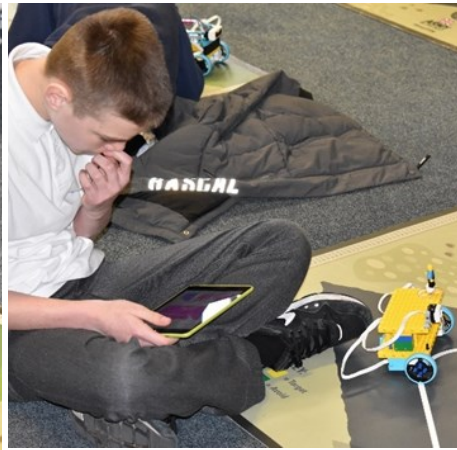
Pupils programmed electronic components to transform a cardboard box into a robotic head with a moving mouth.



Thank you to Sue from U Can Too!

DISASTER RELIEF

Pupils used coding to help the army deliver aid with LEGO Mind-storm robots.



Thank you to Bradley and Jamie from the UK Army!

PLANETARIUM

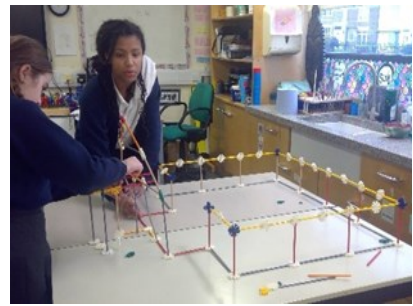
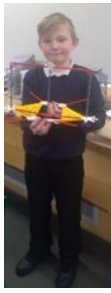
Pupils took a journey through space learning about the vastness of the universe.



! Thank you to Siobhan from WonderDome

K'NEX

Pupils built models and structures using K'Nex.



Thank you to The STEM Hub for lending us these K'Nex kits and providing a link to Hilary (STEM Ambassador)!

CODING

Pupils used coding to program microbits.



COOKING

Pupils used a range of skills to create tortilla wrap pizzas.



SCIENCE DEMONSTRATION

Pupils watched a Science show involving methane bubbles and a Van der Graaf generator.



Thank you to St. Anselm's Catholic School in Canterbury for loaning us their Van de Graaf generator

PE

Pupils participated in team building activities.



DT

Pupils used their engineering knowledge and skills to create the tallest paper tower and the strongest spaghetti bridge. The highest tower was 11 levels high and measured 3.3 meters tall! The strongest bridge was able to hold 3.2kg!

Here are pictures of the Winners:



MUSIC

Pupils made craft stick harmonicas and explored how pitch can be changed.



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:

Term 4

Friday 10th Mar 10-11am



Internet and Online Safety with Ms S Howson

Learn the new updates to keep children safe on their media devices. Be proactive to secure unwanted difficulties and challenges in the home

Term 5

Friday 5th May 10-11am



Behaviour with Mr M Evans

Learn to support behaviour strategies and understand what and when are the best methods to deal with behaviours in the home and at school.

Term 6

Friday 23rd Jun 10-11am



PACT with Mrs A White Chair of Governors

Kent Parent and Carer Forum (Kent PACT). Parent voice helps shape services within SEND. Discover how your voice is heard at a strategic level in Kent.

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



We strongly encourage parents/careers and their pupils, to investigate Post 16 providers as early as Year 10 and Year 9 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.

The following events are taking place: -

Mid Kent College - Maidstone Campus - Wednesday 8th March 3.30-7.30pm

Mid Kent college - Medway Campus - Wednesday 15th March 3.30-7.30pm

Kite College Sittingbourne - Wednesday 22nd March (see website for times)

Sheppey College - Wednesday 19th April 2023 3:00 to 7:00pm

Bemix is a company who supply supported internships for Post 16. They are having a having some information sessions on 14th Feb 2022 Time: 11am - 1pm. Location: Dependent on where young person lives (Gravesham, Medway, Swale, Canterbury - please email referrals@bemix.org for details)

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

Welcome New Staff

Miss C Pattenden	LSA
Mrs A Hicks	LSA
Miss G Said	LSA
Mr A House	LSA
Mrs L Nicholson	LSA

Staff Leavers

We wish the following staff good luck in their new ventures

Mrs M Golabek	LSA
Miss C Isitt	LSA
Mr J Taft	LSA
Mrs K Goldfinch	LSA

Congratulations to our Staff who have had Babies Born this Term

Miss L Grant	Boy
Mr & Mrs Dowling	Girl
Mrs L White	Girl



Valentine Raffle

Ms Chainey who is a member of our PFTA kindly put together two Valentine Hampers which we raffled to raise money for our Sensory Quad Area.

The winners were Liam (Badgers) & Caleb (9D)

We raised £119



Please do not forget to follow our **Bower Grove Facebook Page**



Dates for your Diary

Monday 20th Feb	Staff Training Day
Tuesday 21st Feb	First Day of Term
Friday 17th Feb	Sports Relief
Friday 24th Feb	Francophonie Day
Monday 27th Feb	Venture Afternoon
Friday 31st Mar	Last Day of Term