

Bower Grove News



Issue 140

www.bower-grove.kent.sch.uk

October 2023

Dear Readers,

It is a delight to read so many activities that Bower Grove pupils have been involved in. It is truly remarkable that our pupils have dealt with the transition of new classes and have managed to embrace all the opportunities that they have been presented with this term.

Our Assemblies this term have been a pleasure to see how our pupils grow and respond to performances. A new introduction has been our 'Attendance Dice' which is a giant dice thrown by the class with the highest attendance for the week. The winning class receives a prize that corresponds to the number of the dice that is thrown. Well done to those classes who have won this for Term one. I would also like to commend 15 pupils from across the school who have been selected to attend our Golden Table at the end of term. These are pupils who have achieved outstanding attendance and long may it continue. Our Golden Spoon winners for this term were awarded to 9F and Frogs class who have enjoyed a week of beating the queue passes as well as daily treats.

As this term draws to a close we welcome term 2 on Tuesday 31st October. I would like to remind you about the pupil Homework Project which has been emailed to you. This is a fun, project-based homework that we offer to all pupils to complete during our Half Term holidays. There is a Halloween theme and we look forward to seeing your projects by Friday 3rd November 2023.

Thank you to every one who has supported your children with excellent school uniform. Uniform is really important for our pupils to feel part of the family and it has been lovely to see so many pupils around the school respecting this. Please do remember, as the weather gets colder, to provide your child with a jumper, no hoodies, as coats will need to be removed indoors.

I would like to wish everyone a wonderful Half Term break and look forward to welcoming pupils back into school on Tuesday 31st October.

Mrs Cleave ~ Headteacher



News from the Governors

I can hardly believe we are coming to the end of the first term of a new academic year – my 16th academic year as a Governor at BGS. Governors have been into school this term for all their team meetings and it has been an absolute joy to see the work that has taken place during the summer holidays – we are extremely grateful to our dedicated site staff who work very hard to keep our school looking it's best and welcoming to all.

A particular highlight for me, as Chair, this term was to join some staff and pupils on a trip up to Surrey to collect our new Variety Club minibus. We are privileged to have just one of 25 that are sponsored by Joie Baby and are in their colours so do look out for our bright yellow bus when you are out and about. I have also enjoyed following the Year 11 sailing trip via our Facebook page – if you are not already a follower of our page do consider becoming one so you too can share in the wonderful things that happen in and out of school. Some useful information and reminders are also shared there.

As I said this is my 16th year as a Governor and the start of my 11th as Chair. With this in mind I am delighted to share with you that we have appointed a Co-Chair this year as part of our succession planning. Mark Kirby shares the school's ethos and vision as I do and I am confident he will make an excellent Chair following our year of working alongside each other.

On behalf of all the Governors, I hope you have a good Autumn break and look forward to seeing all of our pupils return on Halloween.

Alison White ~ Chair of Governors



CELEBRATING CREATIVITY AT BOWER GROVE

MUSIC

In Falcons' Music lessons this term, pupils have been learning about Programmatic Music and the Instruments of the Orchestra. Pupils practiced telling stories and representing characters using the instruments.

Luca (pictured) composed an amazing piece on the drum kit which told the story of a predator hunting its prey in the jungle.



ENGLISH

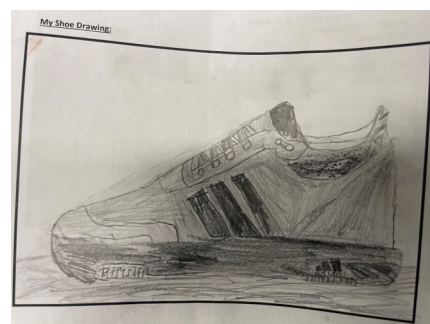
Year 10 have been studying JB Priestley's 'An Inspector Calls'. There have been some outstanding performances in reading the play aloud, with Criegon narrating and other pupils taking on character roles such as Kenzi as Gerald Croft, Edward as Mr Birling, Shannon as Sheila Birling and Kingston as the inspector himself. Jayden has played the role of Mrs Birling superbly and Lewis has grown in confidence as Eric Birling.

Reading the play aloud has allowed pupils to further their understanding of the play script, shown below in Shannon's analysis:

'JB Priestley portrays the character Mrs Birling as snobbish, shown in the quote: 'Girls of that class'. This suggests that she thinks that she is more worthy than everyone else. She is selfish; Mrs Birling doesn't care about anyone. She thinks that girls of working class are a disgrace. The writer's purpose is to show the audience that Mrs Birling is cold hearted and heartless who doesn't show a lot of emotion. The effect on the reader is empathy towards Eva; no one should ever be turned down when in urgent need of help. The writer uses an arrogant tone to show Mrs Birling's dislike.'

ART

In Art this Term, year 7 took part in a baseline assessment where they had the opportunity to showcase their skills in six areas of art: Tone and Form, observational drawing, analysing artists work, drawing using the grid method, collage and composition and reflective writing. All pupils worked hard and as a cohort have produced fantastic pieces of art. Particularly with their observational drawing of their own shoe. Well done, Year 7



DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Within Design & Technology Year 8's have been engaging and experiencing the properties of Thermoforming Plastics by designing and generating Phone, Controller & Tablet Holders with Acrylic.

They have gained a skills base by using a variety of tools & equipment within the workshop ranging from CAM (Computer Aided Manufacturing), Belt Sander, Band Saw and a Strip Heater. Whilst developing their skills they have also gained knowledge into Sustainable Bioplastics, Manufactured Boards and different types of Timber.



Attendance Matters



Currently:

A phenomenal **81** Pupils have **100%** Attendance for the year.

124 Pupils have **over 95%** Attendance for the year

What is your current attendance figure?

Curly's Farm

'I loved spending a day at the Farm.

My favourite animals were the Alpacas and Goats that we took for a walk.

I also liked the baby piglets.

It was my best day of the week and I am so happy I got to go.'

Written by Jimmy (Oaks Class)



Wing Walk

Good news! Despite being absolutely petrified, Becky was so very brave and completed her Wing Walk on Friday 25th August. Climbing up on to the frame wasn't easy and as you can imagine with the wind in her face, it was uncomfortable breathing up there. She said it was an experience and she was pleased that she did it, but she is in no rush to do it again!!.

We invited her to assembly to talk to pupils about her experience and she told them 'if I can achieve this, you can achieve anything you want, so be brave and always strong'.

Rather amazingly, we began with a target of £3000 and she has raised £4020 for Bower Grove School.

Thank you Becky for your bravery.



Rona Sailing Trip 2023

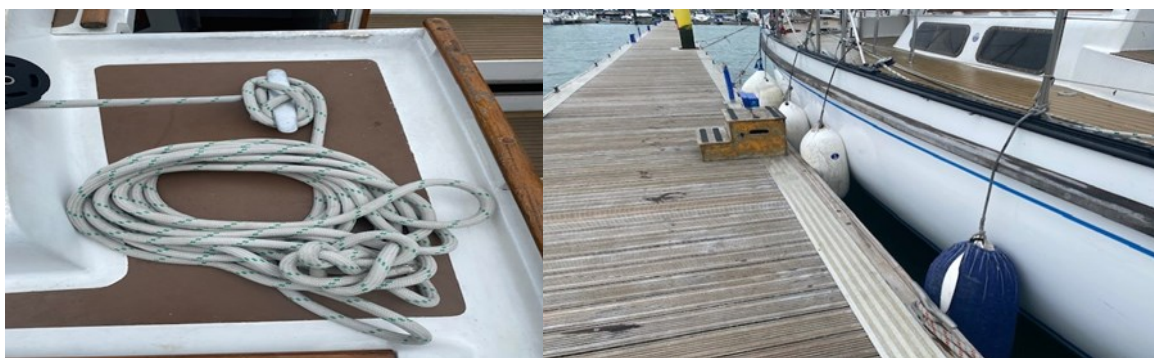
On Monday the 9th October, our Year 11 pupils travelled to Southampton to start their week of sailing across the South Coast of England. As soon as we arrived in Southampton we were kitted up with hard weather skins and boarded the smaller boats that took us to our main vessel "Donald Searle". We had a great crew and we were all under the command of our Captain "Skipper" Chris.



Our first port was Portsmouth where we docked outside the Spinnaker Tower.



On Tuesday we had a whole day at sea where we learnt the very important necessities of keeping safe and working as a team, to able us to reach Yarmouth (Isle of Wight). We learnt that coiling was important to be able to quickly reach, tie ropes to change the sails and the direction of the boat. We do now have some coiling experts! Plus a roaming fender where particular pupils were chosen to mind the dock and protect the boat from hitting the sides.



Rona Sailing Trip 2023

Every morning both sailors and crew made breakfast, washed up, cleaned the decks and prepared the vessel for the next stage of the week's journey. We also had a few cups of coffee to help our early morning get ups and made sure bunks were clean and organised.



On Wednesday we had time on East Cowes and then sailed a couple of nautical miles to West Cowes (Isle of White) where we had dinghy practice and enjoyed walking on land to see some amazing sights including the many ferries passing the seas.



On Thursday we set sail back to Southampton where we came close to the end of our sailing adventure. We set anchor and took part in the final theory practice of the sailing course and pupils demonstrated their rope knots. Our sailors and crew put all their efforts and experience to help sail the boat smoothly back across the South Coast. All pupils passed their start to sail course and were awarded with a certificate and a weaver award for completing and being exceptional sailors. We travelled back to Bower Grove School Friday morning with some very exhausted staff and pupils and everyone back at school was happy to see us.



Year 9 Rochester Castle Visit

Year 9 spent a morning in Rochester looking at the castle as part of their Global Learning curriculum. They have been looking at castle locations and features and using Rochester as a case study to learn about how castles were attacked and defended as well as what castle life was like in medieval times. They all know now how 40 pigs were responsible for ending the siege of Rochester Castle in 1215!

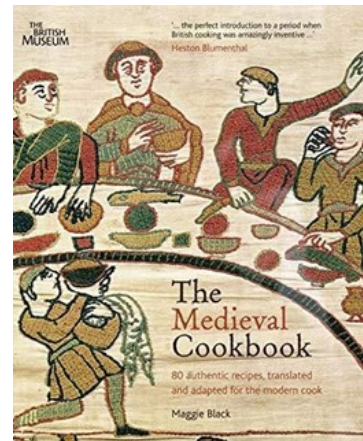


The two classes also visited Rochester Cathedral for the opportunity to see inside another historic building and touch a table made from 5000 year old fossilised oak! The pupils were amazed to see two buildings which can trace their history back over 1000 years.

On our return to school, pupils had the chance to taste some typical medieval food – rose petal bread, cabbage chowder, mushroom pasties, frumenty wheat porridge, apple muse and gyngerbrede – with varying degrees of enjoyment! The cabbage chowder and gyngerbrede were surprisingly popular!

Thank you to the staff teams (Mrs Jones, Mrs Powell, Ms Fellowes, Ms Hassett & Ms Newman) for accompanying the visit.

After Christmas we will be visiting the town again to conduct some Geography fieldwork.



Medieval recipes



You will need:

450ml honey
½ teaspoon white pepper
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 teaspoon ginger
pinch of saffron
2 loaves of bread crumbs

- Heat honey to a slow boil and simmer for 10 minutes.
- Add the saffron, pepper, cinnamon and bread crumbs. Mix well.
- Spoon out into small balls and leave to cool.



Medieval recipes



For 2 loaves you will need:

1 packet dry yeast
375ml lukewarm rose water
1 tablespoon sugar
2 teaspoons salt
400g flour
1 teaspoon butter
food colouring
1 egg white



Rose petal bread

- Make the rose water by simmering rose petals in a small amount of water for 15 minutes. Leave to cool and sieve out the petals.
- Dissolve the yeast in the rose water and stir in the sugar and salt.
- Slowly sieve in the flour and mix with a knife.
- Pour out the flour mixture onto a floured surface and knead for 10 minutes until the dough becomes smooth and elastic.
- Cover and leave the dough to prove for an hour in warm place.
- Divide the dough in half. Form each half into a circle and place onto a buttered baking sheet.
- Mix the food colouring with the egg white and use to decorate the dough.
- Bake in an oven for 40 minutes at 200°C.

Gallagher Competition Winner

Over the Summer holidays the Gallagher Group contacted us to tell us that one of our pupils had won their competition. Year 9 & 10 pupils had attended the Gallagher Careers event back in July and Dawid, (who was in Year 10), designed a Shaun the Sheep character which they printed and sent along with an Amazon voucher for him.

We were all extremely proud and pleased for Dawid and can not wait for the next Gallagher event!



College Open Events

In September, Year 11 pupils and their parents/carers are asked by Kent County Council (KCC) to name their preference for a Post 16 Provider for their child.

Therefore, it is vital that everyone is informed about the choices open to them. As a school we encourage everyone to investigate and visit Post 16 Providers as early as Year 9 and Year 10, so they are fully equipped with the information they need to make the correct decision in subsequent years.

Local college open days are advertised on our Facebook page as well as our website. Currently the following Colleges are having open days on: -



Maidstone Campus

1st Nov 2023 – 3.30pm to 7pm

25th Nov 2023 – 10am to 1pm

Medway Gillingham Campus

8th Nov 2023 – 3.30pm to 7pm

18th Nov 2023 – 10am to 1pm

Dartford College NKC

17th October 2023 – 3.30pm to 7.30pm

Gravesend College NKC

19th October – 3.30pm to 7.30pm

Hadlow College

4th Nov – 10am to 1pm

Tonbridge College NKC

7th Nov – 3.30pm to 7.30pm

Ashford College EKC

15th Nov – 5pm to 7pm

Canterbury College EKC

7th Nov 3pm to 7pm

23rd Nov 3pm to 7pm

Broadstairs College EKC

11th Nov 10am – 1pm

Sheppey College EKC

9th Nov 3pm to 6pm

Kite College Sittingbourne

15th Nov 2023 10am to 3pm

MacMillan Cake Sale

On Friday 29th September we hosted our annual MacMillan cake sale. We want to say a huge thank you to everyone that baked, bought and donated to this wonderful charity. We raised a whopping £292 excluding online donations so without doubt even more than ever before! MacMillan rely on donations and without your help they would be unable to function so thank you again.

Some of the highlights this year were Miss Gates' Burger Cakes, Miss Bass's Vegan Lemon Loaf and Mrs Syretts' Crunchie & Shreddie Cookies.



Harvest Festival Assembly

A massive well done and thank you to our Primary classes for putting on a wonderful Harvest Festival assembly with a mixture of jokes, poems and singing, as well as fun fruit & vegetable themed challenges! Bower Grove pupils and staff were extremely generous with their donations, all of which were kindly accepted by Arthur from the Salvation Army who complimented pupils on their fantastic assembly and their kindness to support those less fortunate than themselves. Well done Bower Grove!



New Minibus

This term we were lucky enough to be told our application to The Variety Club for a brand new school minibus was successful! Mrs Cleave, Mrs White and Mrs White took 3 pupils, Dawid, Bert and Martin to Woking Golf Club for the presentation.

The sun shone for us as we were presented the bus by our sponsor "Joie Baby".

Dawid had prepared a speech to thank both The Variety Club and Joie Baby. The audience was blown away by the speech and we were told it was the best speech they had ever heard!

This bus will allow us to take our pupils out on class visits and residentials and is a very welcome addition to the school.



PE ACTIVITIES

Football Match

On Wednesday 20th September, 19 KS3 pupils were given the opportunity to take part in a Football match on the school field. These pupils were selected based on their good behaviour around school. The teams were split evenly and pupils were either in the green or red team. The game was very exciting and it finished 3-2 to the green team. Both teams showed great resilience and determination throughout and the game was played in a great spirit.



Key Stage 1:

Frogs, Honeybees and Hedgehogs have been taking part in Sensory circuits, gymnastics and ball skill-based lessons. They have been exploring their senses with different activities. They have been learning shapes in Gymnastics and focusing on rolling, throwing, aiming and catching within their lessons.

Key Stage 2:

Foxes, Penguins, Falcons, Eagles and Squirrels have been participating in Hockey, Tag-Rugby and Dodgeball. Team games is something we like to promote in KS2 to get the pupils used to the concept of winning and losing, whilst being good sports people.

Key Stage 3:

8W, 9V and 9F were all offsite this term. 8W went Swimming, focusing on their techniques and distances. 9V have been at Survival, practicing teamwork and tactics. 9F have been to Cyclopark where they are improving their biking skills or even riding a bike for the first time. Onsite, we have had 7L, 7S and 8S where they have been focusing on Basketball, Handball and Dynamite Gym. These games have been improving pupil's teamwork and communication when playing.

Next term offsite Key Stage 3:

7L – Survival

7S – Gymfinity

8S – Swimming

Key Stage 4:

11D and 11S have been offsite this term. 11D have been to Cyclopark where they have been going around different cycling tracks and routes to improve their biking skills. 11S have been to Survival where they are focused on teamwork and planning. 10C and 10N have started their Entry Level for PE this term. They have been creating their own PowerPoints where they have been discussing the skills and tactics needed for basketball as well as, their own strengths and weaknesses. In their practical lessons the pupils have been playing basketball games ready for filming for moderation next term.

Next Term Offsite Key Stage 4:

10C – Survival

10N – Cyclopark

Recipe to Try at Home

Ginger Cake with Caramel Frosting

Cake Ingredients:

200g Butter
200g Dark Muscovado Sugar
3 tablespoons Golden Syrup
3 tablespoons Black Treacle
2 Large Eggs
300ml Milk
350g Plain Flour
2 teaspoons Ground Ginger
2 teaspoons Bicarbonate of Soda

Equipment Needed:

Scales, 2 Mixing Bowls, Glass Bowl, Measuring Jug, Medium & Small Saucepan, Sieve, Cake Tin & Electric Whisk

Method:

1. Pre-heat the oven to Gas 3/Electric 140
2. Grease sandwich tin
3. Beat together the egg and milk mixture—leave to one side
4. Set gas hob to a medium heat/electric 2—put butter, sugar, golden syrup and black treacle in a saucepan and melt until smooth
5. Remove saucepan from heat and allow to cool for a few minutes
6. Carefully and slowly add the egg and milk to the melted mixture in the saucepan and stir well
7. Sift dry ingredients into the mixture and stir well
8. Pour contents into cake tin and place in pre-heated oven for 40-45 mins until firm to touch and springs back, allow to cool before turning it out
9. For frosting place all ingredients into a saucepan on a low heat and stir until melted and smooth
10. Increase the heat and boil rapidly for 3-4 mins whilst stirring and the mixture should start to look like runny custard. Pour into a bowl to cool down
11. Beat mixture with and electric whisk until thick and spreadable
12. Spread over the cooled cake

Caramel Frosting Ingredients:

85g Butter
175ml Double Cream
175g Caster Sugar



Computing Update

This term has seen all Year groups learning about E-Safety and how to remain safe online. Key Stage 1 have been learning about this through themed stories. Key Stage 2 pupils have completed a number of different tasks centred on the SMART rules for remaining safe online.

In addition to how to remain safe online, Key Stage 3, pupils have learnt about a number of E-Safety themes such as security and privacy of data, what a digital footprint is and the repercussions of posting inappropriate content on the internet, and looked in depth at the topic of cyberbullying. In Year 9, pupils have learnt about the safety features on websites/social media and designed their own "mocked-up" website incorporating these.

In Key Stage 4, pupils have had lessons looking at e-safety themes more appropriate to their age range. There was discussion about settings and app use on mobile phones. Pupils were shown how to change settings on their phones / devices to make them more secure, including how to install free anti-virus software on their devices. Useful resources for further discussions with your child about E-Safety can be found at:

<https://www.childnet.com/>

<https://www.internetmatters.org/>

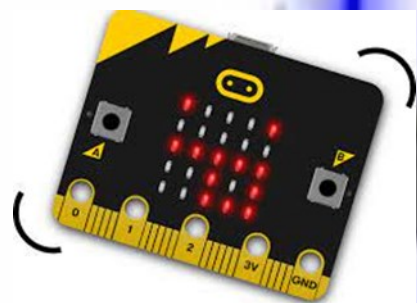
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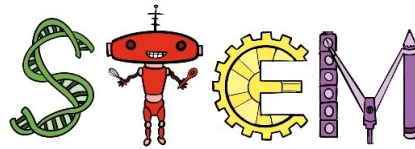
More can be found on the school's website at <https://www.bower-grove.kent.sch.uk/>

STEM Focus Day

Computing was actively involved in the recent STEM Focus Day (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths). Using BBC Micro:Bits, Primary pupils learnt about simple programming. The pupils undertook several programming tasks including making a name badge with scrolling text, making LED lights flash.

In Secondary, pupils undertook a number of different programming challenges that saw them using block and textual programming languages.





Corner

On Wednesday 4th October, we had our **STEM Focus Day**. The day involved lots of fun and exciting activities relating to science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Pupils used and learned about our five STEM skills:

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 appropriate equipment or technology.

Communicating - to share information with others and work as a team.

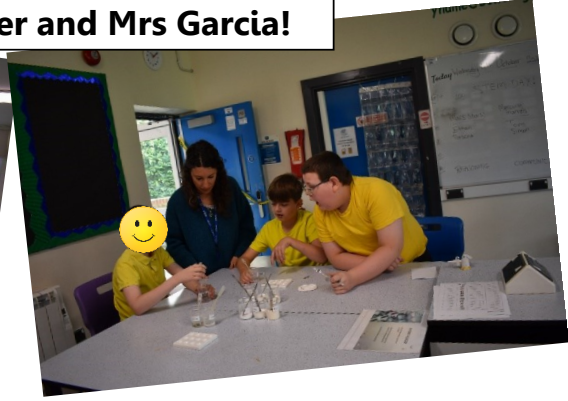


Pupils visited the planetarium for a brilliant show led by Andy from StarDome UK!





Pupils find out who stole the sweets with Mrs Thatcher and Mrs Garcia!



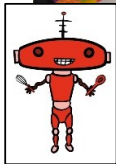
Exploring rockets and static electricity with Mrs Hart and Miss Thursby!





Pupils competed in their house teams to complete a series of maths puzzles and challenges with Ms Burrows, Mrs Daly, Mrs Franklin and Mrs Evans!





Pupils developed their coding skills with Mr Cooke, Mr Newman and Mr Regan.



Pupils learned about the fire triangle and used a flint and steel to light a cotton ball fire.





Pupils in Year 10 and Year 11 chose between adapting a cookie recipe with Mrs Libertucci or building structures with Mr Rowe.

Primary pupils explored links between STEM and other subjects – music with Mr Starks, art with Miss Vandeppeer, and drama with Mr Lacey.





Pupils developed the important skill of team work in their PE sessions with Mr Dowling, Mr White and Miss Percival.



Some pupils played speech and language games and had some sensory fun with Mrs Dowling and Miss Nugent.



And these are just some of the photos and activities!

Our STEM Focus Day would not have been possible without the hard work and enthusiasm of the staff who lead such fantastic session.

Thank you from the STEM Department!



Parent and Carer Support Group; 'Connections' – Together we can

We are excited to announce the re-branding of our Parent and Carer Support Group.

'Connections' will be a termly opportunity for parents and carers of pupils at Bower Grove School to meet together, in an informal and friendly environment to share experiences, strategies and questions.

Our first 'Connections' coffee morning will be held on **Monday 13th November 9:30am until 11:00am** which will be a relaxed discussion over tea and cake with a theme of 'new beginnings'.

Our established PSG group will continue to run 2 further sessions on Friday's at school. Thank you to all of those who attended the first PSG workshop with Stacy Owen who gave a wide range of financial strategies and support.

We are looking forward to our next external training session on

Friday 17th November 10:00am until 11:00am with Sam Read from MIND, which will cover mental health.

Please book any of the following sessions via our email address

psg@bower-grove.kent.sch.uk

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Mrs Dowling



Parent, Friends, Teachers Association (PFTA)

The PFTA are continuing their efforts to raise money for our Senior 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

Halloween Raffle

We have four prizes for the Halloween Raffle and tickets are available to buy with cash from school or via ParentPay until Monday 30th October. The raffle will be drawn on Tuesday 31st October.



Staff Leavers:

We wish the following staff good luck in their new ventures:

Mrs J Kodon LSA

Congratulations to our Staff who had a Baby this Term

Mrs C Grimwood had a baby girl called Elsie



Welcome New Staff:

Mrs C Hart	EYFS Teacher
Mr A Potter	Trainee Teacher
Miss Y Garcia	LSA
Mrs L Fanning	LSA
Mrs R Wadhams	LSA
Mrs Z Kemp	LSA
Mrs C Hanson	LSA
Miss N Featherstone	LSA
Miss A Ford	LSA

Dates for your Diary

Tues 31st Oct	Pupils return to school
Wed 15th Nov 3.30-6.15pm	Frogs, Honeybees, Hedgehogs, Foxes, Squirrels, Badgers, 7S, 7L, 8W, 8S, 9F and 9V
Fri 17th Nov 10-11am	PSG 'Connections' (see above)
Wed 6th Dec 4.30-6.30pm	Christmas Fair

Please do not forget to follow our
Bower Grove Facebook Page

