

Bower Grove News



Issue 142

www.bower-grove.kent.sch.uk

February 2024

Dear Readers,

Happy half term everyone and we wish you all a fantastic break. We hope you enjoy the February homework project with different activities to enjoy over the holiday.

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.



I would like to thank everyone for your kind thoughts and support shown towards our community as we work through the difficult times dealing with the loss of Miss Williams. It was wonderful to read the tributes everyone posted both online and in our book. We will be creating these into a memory book to give to her family. Next term we would like to organise some events to remember Miss Williams with our pupils.

On Friday 8th February we awarded our termly golden tickets to pupils who have achieved excellent attendance over the term. Well done! Any pupil who received a golden ticket is able to take a seat at our Golden Table which really is a treat. It was wonderful to see some different faces at the table.



We have been working hard on our outside areas of the school especially the 'Grove' area. As the weather improves it will be lovely to see more pupils in our area learning creatively outside.

Venture afternoon this term was fantastic with so many different activities for pupils to decide from. I was lucky enough to go bowling and did not get anywhere near the scores that some did. We have some talented bowlers at Bower Grove.

We are really excited to look forward to lots of activities in term four including World Book Day on 7th March and encourage all our pupils and staff to dress up as 'superheroes'. The date for Parents Evening is 6th March and Francophonie Day is on 22nd March.

I would like to wish everyone a wonderful half term and look forward to welcoming pupils back into school on Tuesday 20th February.

Mrs Cleave ~ Headteacher

News from the Governors

This term has definitely gone by quite quickly despite it being a very strange term for school. Our community has been coming to terms with the loss of a very well loved member, Miss Williams. The thoughts of the Governors are with Miss Williams' family at this very difficult time and we have been happy to enable as many of her colleagues as possible to attend her funeral by agreeing with Mrs Cleave's proposal to close a little early on Friday, 8th February. We thank all parents and carers for their understanding at this time.



Governors have held Finance and Strategy Committee Meetings and our new Governors are enjoying learning all about the school and its community.

The Co-Chairs have had several Chair of Governor meetings with Mrs. Cleave to discuss general matters regarding the school. These are held in between formal committee and Full Governing Body Meetings to support the school and to keep us updated on a regular basis.

I wish everyone a safe and peaceful break and I look forward to seeing staff and pupils back in school next term.

Alison White/Mark Kirby ~ Co-Chairs of Governors

CELEBRATING CREATIVITY AT BOWER GROVE

MUSIC

This term, Squirrels and Foxes class were visited by Grahame and Colin from the Kent Music Roadshow. Both classes were treated to the 'Bach to the Future' show which showcased some amazing classical music, some of our favourite film music and even some blues. They got to see how the Clarinet, the Trombone, the Saxophone and the Trumpet were all played and it even finished off with some karaoke for everyone to sing along with. Both classes were very respectful and a great time was had by all.



ENGLISH

Pupils in 8W have been studying 'Myths and Legends'. Below are excerpts from their creative writing task, based on famous Greek and Norse mythology:

Theo (8W) (Hercules and the 12 labours): 'Hercules was told he was a demi-god and he had to complete twelve labours. The first was to kill a lion. It was clever, with tough skin and razor sharp teeth. Hercules went into the cave. He saw the lion and shot an arrow at its head. He wore the lion's head as a helmet.'

Harvey (8W) (Hercules and the 12 labours): The first labour was to kill a lion. It was not an ordinary lion. It was a humongous, ferocious beast. Hercules strangled and wrestled the lion. When the lion died, Hercules skinned it and wore its flesh as a helmet. Hera, Zeus' wife, was furious and told him not to take anything back on his next labour...'

Aaron (8W) (Beowulf): 'The dragon started to snort fire at everyone. Beowulf wanted to fight him. The dragon bit him and made a fire. Beowulf was put on the fire, but the people never forgot him. His name is still coming around today.'

ART

This term in Art Year 7 have been studying Natural forms. They learnt about Artist Georgia O'Keeffe and produced fantastic shell drawings using the grid method and experimented with Charcoal. To create a tonal shell final piece. Well done, Year 7.



DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

In Design and Technology Year 8 have been learning and experimenting with different types of motion, levers and the impact of different types of cam have on rotary motion. They have generated, developed and produced mechanical toys either in line with a specification or with their own design intentions.



Attendance Matters



Currently:

19 Pupils have 100% Attendance for the year.

116 Pupils have over 94% Attendance for the year

What is your current attendance figure?

Bower Grove Festival

In order to raise as much money as possible for our BGStival in the Summer, the Cirque Du Sore Feet Team held a cake sale. Penguins, Eagles and some helpful secondary pupils supported staff in selling these wonderful cakes across the school and raised a whopping £269.95!

Thank you everybody for your tasty donations and for all staff and pupils who visited the sale.



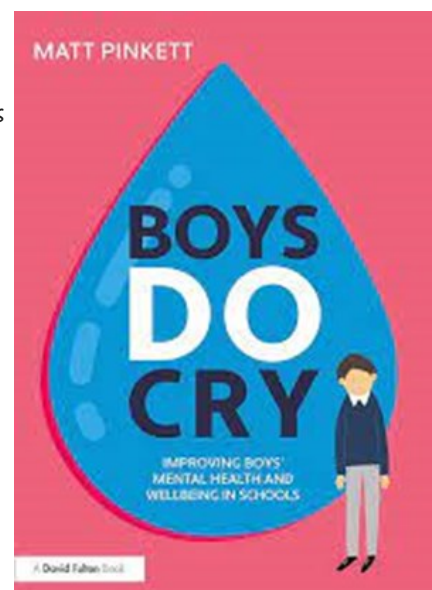
Misogyny Awareness Workshops

On Monday the 29th January we welcomed Matt Pinkett, Author of "Boys Do Cry" and guest speaker.

Our Secondary pupils took part in workshops with their class teams that raised awareness of misogyny and sexism in schools and the impact it has for the future cultures and young people's perceptions.

Children took part in calling out activities and a quiz that taught them how unwanted and inappropriate comments including what is classed as sexual harassment, can be offensive.

Matt also ran a staff workshop after school talking about the activities the pupils did and generally increasing awareness of misogyny and sexism in schools.



Oak-Lympics

This term, Oaks class have been taking part in their own mini Oak-lympics; do you see what we did there?

Pupils competed in timed activities to see how many pieces of pasta they could move from one bowl to another with tweezers, how many peas they could roll

from playdough (this caused much debate about which were actually pea sized and how spherical some were), how many pieces they could cut a carrot into (the carrots were then eaten, leading to discussion on healthy eating), how long a sausage they could roll a piece of playdough into and how much water they could transfer from a container to a measuring flask using only pipettes.

These activities all support the development of fine motor skills, which in turn help us with our pen/pencil control, typing skills, cutting skills, manipulating small items, using cutlery effectively or doing up buttons and shoelaces etc. Scientists have proven it's never too late to improve these skills, so if you'd like to know more about building fine motor skills with your teens and tweens or would like to find some ideas for activities that support this, please see the link below:

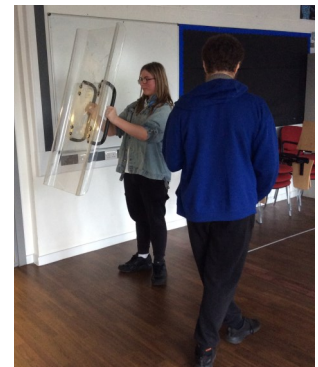
<https://www.beyondfunctionllc.com/25-quotnon-craftyquot-fine-motor-activities-for-older-kids>



Year 11 College

This term our Year 11s as part of their Friday carousel at Mid Kent College Maidstone are doing Public Services, we have been looking and learning at what makes a good leader and teamwork in the services is so important. They have taken part in different fitness tests that need be completed when wanting to join the Police Force or Army. How many sit ups can you do in a minute?

At Rowhill School pupils have been busy with Construction and Bike Mechanics, 2 pupils have impressed the tutor for bike maintenance with their knowledge and enthusiasm. They have changed tyres and repaired punctures. Pupils working in construction have also impressed staff by how they have learned plumbing and bricklaying. The whole group has had some positive feedback from tutors who have commented on their enthusiasm and good manners.



Recipe to Try at Home

Savoury Mince Beef Cobbler

Feeds 2 people

Ingredients

200g Minced Beef
1 Onion
1 Carrot
2 Tablespoons Frozen Peas
2 Tablespoons Gravy Granules
150mls Cold Water
175g Self-Raising Flour
55g Margarine or Butter

Equipment Needed:

Scales, Mixing Bowl, Tablespoon, Knife, Vegetable Knife, Measuring Jug, Plate, Small Bowl, Vegetable Peeler, Chopping Board, Rolling Pin, Pastry Cutter, Saucepan, Ovenproof Dish

Method:

1. Peel and chop the onion finely.
2. Peel and chop the carrot in small pieces.
3. Place the mince into the saucepan and cook until browned.
4. Add the onion, carrot and peas and cook gently for 5 minutes.
5. Add the gravy granules into the saucepan and stir whilst bringing it to the boil.
6. Simmer the mixture gently with a lid on—stirring occasionally until the vegetables are soft.
7. Put the flour into the mixing bowl and add the margarine or butter.
8. Rub the fat into the flour using your fingertips
9. Using a knife to stir mix in the water to bring the mixture together to form a soft dough.
10. Sprinkle some flour on a clean work surface and using a rolling pin roll out dough to 2–3cms thick.
11. Cut out circles.
12. Remove mince mixture from heat and pour into an ovenproof dish.
13. Place the circles of dough on top of the mince.
14. Place the dish in an oven 200°C for 10–15 minutes until dough circles are golden.



*Variations: Some grated cheese or herbs such as parsley can be added to the dough mixture and sprinkled on top. Different vegetables could be added such as diced courgette
Lamb Mince can be used and some ground coriander/cumin added along with diced aubergine*

Calling all Animal Lovers

Would you be interested in helping support the care of our Science class pet, Gordon the Guinea pig?



During the school holidays we are looking to find homes that would be able to care for our lovely guinea pig, Gordon. He is a great little animal and comes with everything you would need to look after him. We only ask that Gordon is picked up from school and returned by a parent or carer.

If you think you could help and would like some more information, please contact the science department via email rthursby@bower-grove.kent.sch.uk.



London Arts Trip

On Wednesday 17th January 2024 our year 10, 11 and oaks class went on a trip to London.

They started off the day going to the Tate Britain and hunted for different art works. Pupils were all intrigued by the size of some of the pieces and the variety of artworks on display.

Once they left the art Gallery, they took a scenic walk to Buckingham palace and enjoyed their lunch with a royal view.



They finished their day watching Wicked at the Victoria Apollo London with great seats. Pupils were amazed by the theatrics and the live music.

It truly was a Wicked day out !

A huge well done to all involved who made the day an incredible experience.

Year 6 Pizza Making



To end Year 6's unit of French on PIZZA this term they made their own!

We have spent this term learning about pizza...the history, why it is so popular in France, the names of the most popular pizzas in France (La Reine: sauce tomate, fromage, jambon, champignons et La Magherita) garnitures (toppings), French fractions words to talk about the proportion of different "garnitures" and also how to give opinions on pizzas with reasons; J'adore le pepperoni car c'est délicieux! Je préfère l'ananas sur ma pizza car c'est miam! Je déteste les poivrons parce que c'est infect! Je n'aime pas les oignons sur ma pizza car c'est immangeable!

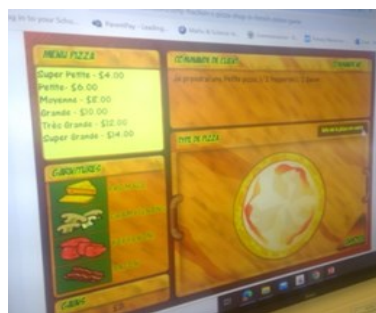


PIZZAS ARTISANALES
SUR PLACE ET A EMPORTER

206 AVENUE PASTEUR
33185 LE HAILLAN

We were able to identify pizza pictures from their French descriptions and we also played a version of Guess Who?

Using a French pizza menu.



Miam Miam!

How's this for a design!



The pizza making was fun (Thank you Mr McMillan for coming in to be the baker) and we even tried a sweet one with rolos in the crust! Miam, miam!!!!



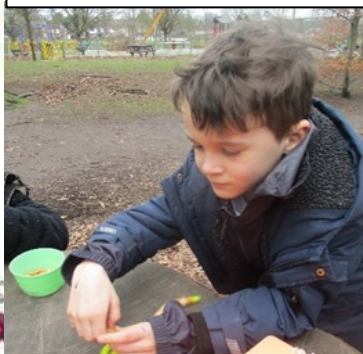


Frogs and Honey Bees Class have been going to Explorer Club each Wednesday.

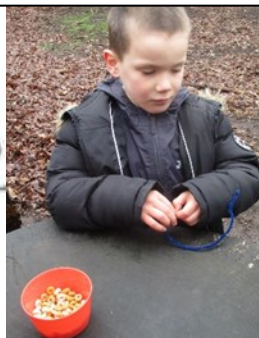
This term we have been taking it in turns to visit the Grove on our school site as well as off-site visits to local parks.



We had so much fun playing on all the equipment. We took it in turns to push our friends on the roundabout. Some of us loved the zipline. We had to be careful not to touch the ground when we whizzed down the rope.



We made bird feeders to hang from the trees in the woods. We used pipe cleaners and threaded on multigrain hoops. Then we chose which tree to hang them from. When we returned to see what happened...they had all been eaten!



Honey Bees Class



For our continued positive behaviour and making the correct choices in our learning we won the Golden Duck.

Honey bees were very excited to win it!

We have been experimenting in science to see which material or object is best for printing. We think it our hands!



Our Literacy focus book this term was Lost and Found. We made our own boat and acted out the story. With junk modelling we made a boat and experimented to see if it would sink or float?!

PE ACTIVITIES

Key Stage 1:

KS1 pupils have been focusing on ball skills, Dodgeball and parachute games. It has been incredibly important for our Hedgehog pupils this term to practice their throwing and catching, as well as putting this in to a game. We like to use dodgeball as a great game to teach our pupils how to win and lose respectfully, whilst also improving their catching and throwing.

Frogs and Honeybees have been practicing a variety of ball skills, from a range of sports. They have been practicing their football (dribbling) skills, basketball (shooting and dribbling) skills and have even been introduced to using some hockey sticks and balls to dribble and shoot in to a goal.

Our fixture this term for KS1 was gymnastic/free running. All of the pupils that had good behaviour the week previous, was able to explore on all of our gymnastics equipment for the whole afternoon.

Key Stage 2:

Key stage 2 this term has been focusing on Netball, Dodgeball and OAA. A big focus for our KS2 pupils this term in PE has been teamwork and working together. We have introduced Netball to our Year 6's (Falcons and Eagles) this term, which has been a huge success learning about different attacking and defending positions. As well as, this we have been focusing on accuracy through learning how to shoot in Netball.

Penguins have been focusing on Dodgeball and Dance this term. In dodgeball Penguins have been looking at where to stand when throwing the balls at the opponent compared to catching their balls. In Dance lessons have been focusing on Space and Aliens. We have been exploring how it would feel to be an astronaut and what it would be like to walk on the moon.

All KS2 have been focusing on Outdoor Adventurous Activities. Due to the weather we have had to keep most of these lessons inside. Despite this, all our KS2 pupils have been practicing their leadership skills, assigning roles in teams and resilience.

The fixture for Key Stage 2 this term is for Year 6's (Eagles and Falcons) and they will be playing a Netball tournament against each other to show off all the skills they have learnt this term. The pupils attending will be chosen based on behaviour.

Key Stage 3:

This term Key stage 3 pupils have been taking part in a variety of sports. They have been learning Football, Table Tennis, OAA and Netball. They have been concentrating on their ball skills and in Football lessons. In Netball they have been focusing on different types of attacking and defending positions and shooting and in their OAA lessons they have been focusing on team building, leadership skills giving people roles within a group working together.

There were two fixtures on offer for our KS3 pupils to work towards this term. We had a dodgeball tournament with a total of 36 pupils in. All these pupils had maintained or improved their behaviour to earn this. The next fixture was a badminton fixture. The pupils involved in this, were all playing games and was combined with Key Stage 4 pupils.

9V have been swimming this term. They have performed so well and their distances have been brilliant. 8W have been to Gymfinity this term and they have absolutely loved it. 9F have been to Survival and have been focusing on their team work and getting out in to the forest.

Classes offsite Term 4: 7L- Swimming 7S- Survival 8S- Gymfinity

Key Stage 4:

The Key Stage 4 pupils this term have done a variety of sports and activities. Year 10 pupils this term has been focusing on their Entry level qualification. Now they have finished their PowerPoints they have been completing their first two sports which are Basketball and Circuit training. They have put in lots of effort for their final filmed assessment. Our Year 11's has been offsite to Cyclopark and Survival. We have ensured that our year 11's continue to stay active in their most important year and are still learning new skills.

The Key Stage 4 fixture this term was a badminton tournament. Due to badminton being our next Entry Level sport focus, we wanted to get our Year 10 pupils playing and our Year 11 pupils showing helping them with their knowledge from the year before.

Classes offsite Term 4: 10C- Cyclopark 10N- Survival

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

It was lovely seeing everyone again for our parent and carer coffee morning. This is a relaxed get together to discuss any current goings on and ways we can help and support you. Our next date is Monday 11th March 9:30am until 11am. Don't forget to put it in your diaries and book yourself a slot!



A fantastic turn out for most recent guided talk with Mr Lawrence and Mr Jacobs on strategies for behaviour. It was great to see so many people in person but also teams in online. This is something we will be offering for all our future sessions.

The next guided talk will be with myself on 'Emotional Wellbeing and Regulation Strategies. It will cover what emotional regulation is, strategies to help development and maintain emotional wellbeing and conclude with a group discussion. This will run on Friday 17th March 10:00am until 11:30am.

Please book any of the following sessions via our email address psg@bower-grove.kent.sch.uk

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Mrs R Dowling

PCSG Lead

Parent, Friends, Teachers Association (PFTA)

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

Staff Leavers:

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

Mrs N Tuppen	LSA retiring
Mr A Ghosh	IT LSA
Mr A House	LSA
Mr S Moriarty	Cover Supervisor

Welcome New Staff:

Mr J Ousby	Satellite Teacher
Mrs L Lawrence-Brown	Teacher 19th Feb
Mr A Davey	LSA 19th Feb
Miss E Hogan	LSA 19th Feb
Mr R Bampton	LSA 26th Feb

Dates for your Diary

Monday 19th February	Staff Training Day
Tuesday 20th February	Pupils return to school
11th March to 14th March	Year 11 Mock Exams Week
Thursday 7th March	World Book Day
Friday 22nd March	Francophonie Day
Thursday 28th March	Term Ends

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Bower Grove Facebook Page

