

# Bower Grove News



Issue 143

[www.bower-grove.kent.sch.uk](http://www.bower-grove.kent.sch.uk)

March 2024

Dear Readers,

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

It has been lovely to share and celebrate our pupils' achievements in assembly to celebrate their progress each Friday as a whole school. On Thursday's this term our secondary assembly has focused on introducing pupils to hobbies and interests. It has been wonderful to hear about our staff and their hobbies ranging from Fishing, Mixed Martial Arts as well as Singing. On Thursday 21st March we welcomed in Pat and Cheryl from our local allotment. They were able to share stories of how our pupils have grown the most amazing cauliflowers as well as give some ideas on how the area could be used by all our pupils. We look forward to hearing about the stories in the future.



Congratulations to our year 11 pupils who have worked so hard and achieved their first set of mock exams. It is very daunting to experience working in examination conditions and we are very proud of all pupils who achieved this challenge. We are also very proud of pupils in 10C who have all achieved their Entry Level from work they completed in Humanities, Geography, History and French.

Thank you to our inspiring staff team who have worked so hard to give our pupils so many opportunities outside of the classroom. Our Key Stage one pupils have been to 'Explorer Club' each week in our Grove Area. World Book Day and Francophonie Day has given our pupils a good insight into wider opportunities and this week we have 25 year 7 & 8 pupils who have gone to Kingswood on their three-day, two-night residential experience. No doubt the holidays will be a welcome rest to everyone.

Next term we look forward to hearing about year 6 residential trip and our year 8 pupils French trip. Not to mention the eagerly anticipated 'pounding the pavements' where 6 of our brave staff are running from Bower Grove to Paris to raise money for our BGFestival. We look forward to welcoming our governors into school for the day on Thursday 25th April.

I would like to wish everyone a wonderful Easter break and look forward to welcoming pupils back into school on Monday 15th April.

Mrs Cleave ~ Headteacher

## News from the Governors

The end of another term and the start of Spring which I hope means we have made it through the winter months with no problems with bad weather. Governors have once again spent time in school this term with all the regular meetings regarding finance, the curriculum and reviewing the School Development Plan in our Full Governing Body meeting. We have also enjoyed joining the Careers Fair and Parents Evening. Monitoring visits have taken place with behaviour, safeguarding, the school website and wellbeing. We also enjoyed all the pictures on our Facebook page from World Book Day.



The newer members of the Governing Body are settling into their role and getting involved with all meetings and monitoring visits. We do currently have two vacancies for new members to join the team and we are actively recruiting a new co-opted governor with finance experience as well as a member of school support staff.

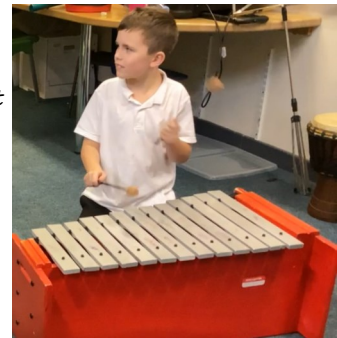
Governors have expressed great admiration for the team of staff that are taking part in the Bower Grove Cirque de Sore Feet (run2Paris) to raise funds for the BGFestival and have been happy to make individual sponsor donations. You can follow their training on our Facebook page and when school returns after Easter we can all help the pupils to fill the milk bottles in their classrooms with coins. Maybe a holiday challenge can be searching around the house for odd coins. The BGFestival is a fabulous event that the pupils really enjoy but it does involve staff in a lot of planning and fund raising – please support them to produce another successful festival. Governors hope you all have a safe and happy Easter Break with lots of sunshine and, hopefully, a visit from the Easter Bunny.

Alison White/Mark Kirby ~ Co-Chairs of Governors

# CELEBRATING CREATIVITY AT BOWER GROVE

## MUSIC

This term Squirrels class were learning about the Titanic in music lessons. They learnt how to play the theme tune (My Heart Will Go On) from the award winning film as well as learning how to play an Irish traditional folk tune called John Ryan's Polka.



## ENGLISH

Year 11 completed their GCSE mock exams in March. Below are some excerpts from pupil's creative writing task, in which they were asked to describe a futuristic world:

*Dawid 11S* - The temporal distributor is a machine not to be messed with, as the wrong code inputted can send you to an irrecoverable time where you have to live the life they are living or die.

*Theo 11D* - In 200 years, I see a world correcting its mistakes. I see a land returning to nature, the miles of land severed and flattened would be returned to ecosystems.

*Bert 11D* - The train was darting through the countryside with strong athletic legs pushing past the trees and shrubs, bushes that bordered 21st century New York.

*Bailey 11D*- An advert plays on the tv above me, projecting, "Welcome to the future. Go to the future by hopping on our train. 5 years? 50 years? 200 years? Hop on and you can see it all!" The ad ends. Silence.

## ART

This term in Art, Badgers class have taken flight into the captivating world of wildlife. Their focus? Birds! In a unique twist, our students worked in pairs to create their bird-themed artworks. One pupil described the bird's features while their partner skilfully translated those descriptions onto paper. Pupils also went on to also drawing from observation where they showcased their understanding of basic shapes, proportion and attention to details. The results were nothing short of mesmerizing. We are proud of every pupil for their active involvement. Both drawing and providing encouragement to their peers, each pupil contributed to the vibrant atmosphere in our art class.



## DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

With Design & Technology this term pupils have been learning about timber joining techniques. They have generated, developed and produced pictured frames to their own specification. They have gained experience in marking out, cutting and joining their creations with mitre joints whilst applying decorative effects with hand rendering techniques, CAD-CAM and heat gun.



## SCIENCE CORNER—TERM 5

### Year 7 – Forces

This term, Year 7 investigated the different forces that they encounter including, friction, air and water. They started the term by using Newton meters to measure force.



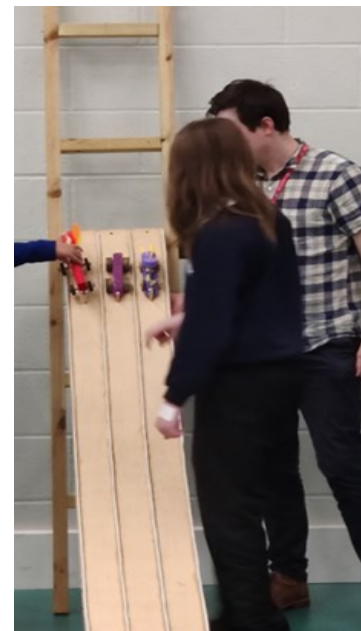
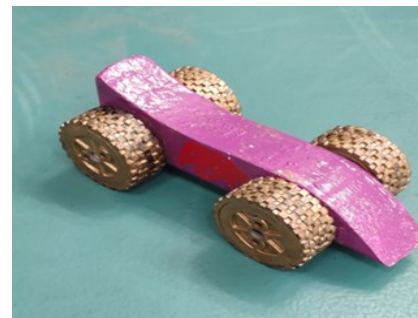
### Year 8 – Air resistance and materials

Year 8 designed and made their own parachutes using a range of materials to investigate which material would cause the least amount of damage to their egg.



### Design and Dash – KsENT Schools Science Competition.

Harry and Frankie from Year 8 were selected to join 8 other schools to race their own designed cars. During the heats, Harry achieved a 1st place, 1st place and 2nd place while Frankie achieved a 2nd place, 1st place and 3rd place.



## SCIENCE CORNER—TERM 5

### Year 9 – Extracting DNA and testing for energy stored in food

This term, Year 9 have extracted DNA from a banana. Interesting fact, humans share 50% DNA with a banana. They have also spent time investigating the energy that is stored within food.



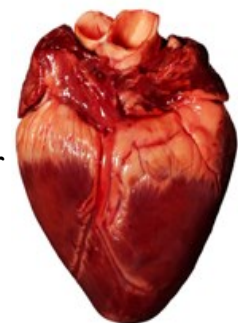
### Year 10

This term, Year 10 had the opportunity to explore the chambers and features of a heart.



### Year 11

This term, Year 11 have spent time revising and preparing for their up-coming exams. However, they have had time for some investigating in science including, dissecting hearts and eyes to explore the main parts and their functions.



## SCIENCE CORNER—TERM 5

### Honeybees:

They have explored spiders/ladybugs/bees/caterpillar's life cycle/frog's life cycle they have learnt that spiders are arachnids. HoneyBees have been busy building and exploring mini-beasts habitats.



### Eagles

Eagles class were exploring how sugar reacts with the acids found in human stomachs, they used yeast extract and warm water to act as the acid.



### Oaks - Rocks and Fossils

Oaks were making 'Sedimentary' chocolate. They grated two different colours of chocolate, put them in a parcel of tin foil and then applied pressure by standing on them gently. When they opened their parcels of chocolate they had pressed chocolate in the same way sedimentary rock is formed.





## Penguin Class

Penguin Class have been attending Forest School this term and have been learning to make fires, exploring nature and all the living things in the woods (newts and worms to link with their Science learning!). Pupils enjoyed making slime, Mothers' Day medals, toasting marshmallows on the fire and having a warm hot chocolate with their snack. Pupils have been independent, curious, enjoyed getting muddy and haven't let the wet weather phase them!



**MOMENTS  
MATTER,  
ATTENDANCE  
COUNTS.**

## Attendance Matters



Currently:

**17 Pupils have 100% Attendance for the year.**

**118 Pupils have over 93% Attendance for the year**

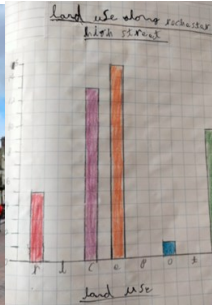
**150 Pupils have over 90% Attendance for the year.**

**Can you improve your attendance?**



As part of the Year 9 Global Learning Urbanisation scheme of work that we have been covering this term and last, 9F & 9V went to Rochester to undertake some Geography fieldwork. The aim of the visit was to gather data on land use on the High Street using the RICEPOTS acronym they had learnt about in class. We were

fortunate with the weather and with clipboards in hand we set off. Pupils worked with a partner to survey different sections of the High Street, noting the name, nature and frontage of each business. Once the data had been gathered we walked to the new developments on Rochester Riverside to see how urban areas are regenerated or former industrial areas are re-developed. On our return to school pupils worked with their partners to turn the raw data into bar graphs.



Task 2 Tally & Key

Code	Category	Tally	Key Colour
R	Residential		Red
I	Industrial	0	
C	Commercial		Orange
E	Entertainment		Orange
P	Public building	0	
O	Open space		Blue
T	Transport	0	
S	Services		Green



After Easter each class will have milk bottle in their classroom in the hope that they can fill it with change before the #Silly6 start their run to Paris on May 10<sup>th</sup>

On Friday May 10<sup>th</sup> classes will use their coins to try to build a mini Eiffel Tower model and then take them to the hall to fill in a floor outline of the Eiffel Tower.

**Please start looking under sofa cushions, in coat pockets and in the washing machine for coinage!**

**Many thanks for your support of our fundraising!**



May 10-11, 2024

## **Year 10 Visit to Mid Kent College**

Our Year 10 pupils visited Mid Kent college Maidstone for the afternoon on Wednesday 28th February. They took part in discussions with the staff at Mid Kent and had the opportunity to speak to lecturers. The children completed a tour of the site and were informed about what qualifications and training is needed to be accepted on different courses.

We had the pleasure of seeing ex-Bower Grove pupils in Years 12 and 13 doing really well and were happy to see us.

Year 10 were a credit to the school and many pupils were keen to explore and think of Mid Kent College as a post 16 choice.



## **Aspire Programme**

As part of the Aspire Programme, 9F have been attending Forest School, working hard by chopping firewood and exploring the grounds for wildlife.

This term, they have enjoyed cooking around the campfire and learning wilderness survival skills.



## Recipe to Try at Home

### Chocolate Easter Nests

Makes 12 cakes

#### Ingredients

- 4 Shredded Wheat
- 200g Milk Chocolate
- Mini Chocolate Eggs

#### Equipment Needed:

- 2 Mixing Bowls, Wooden Spoon, Spatula, 2 Teaspoons, Bun Tin & 12 Cake Cases



#### Method:

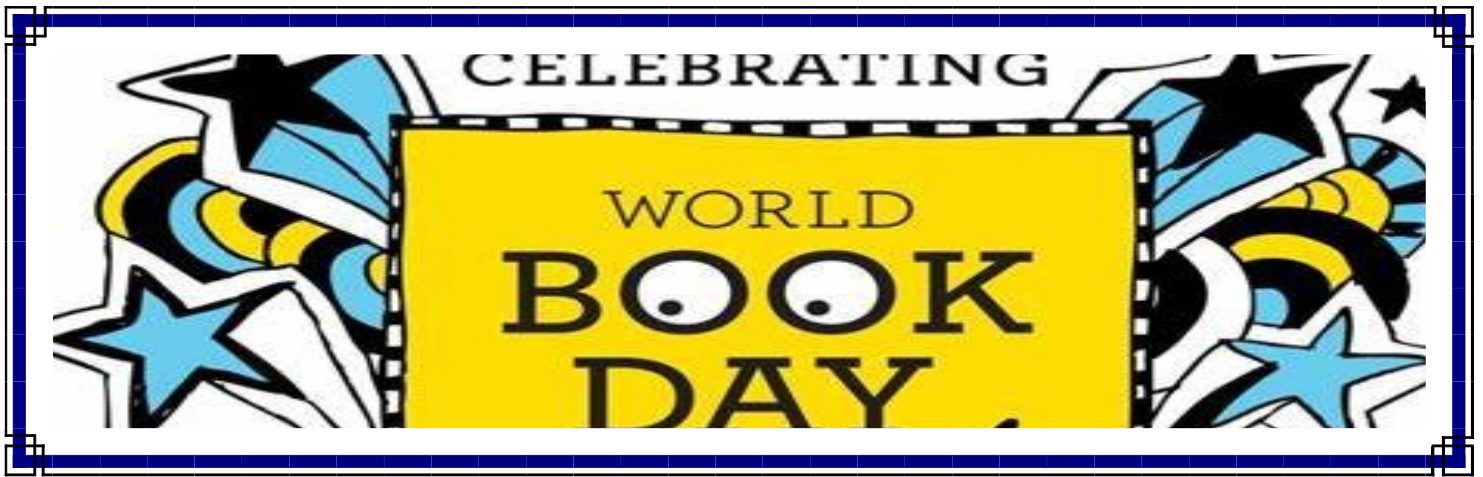
1. Put the paper cases into the bun tin.
2. Melt chocolate in the microwave, using 10 second bursts, melt fully (stir as you go).
3. Add the melted chocolate into the mixing bowl with the shredded wheat.
4. Stir the ingredients together making sure the shredded wheat is coated in chocolate.
5. Using the 2 teaspoons share the mixture between the cake cases and make a dent in the centre.
6. Place the mini chocolate eggs in each 'nest'.
7. Place in the fridge to chill and set.

#### Variations:

Use different types of cereal such as Rice Krispies, Cornflakes or Cheerios

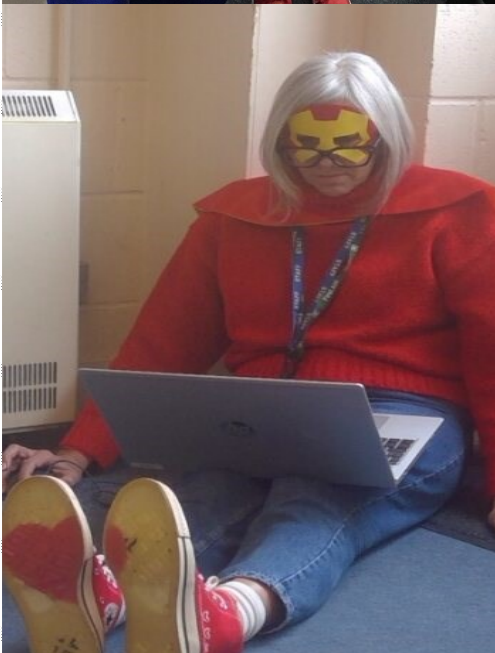
Use white or plain chocolate or other sweets to decorate—Yum!





Spiderman came to Bower Grove and helped direct the taxis safely in and out of the school to make sure our pupils were safe.

On the 7th March, Bower Grove celebrated World Book Day through the theme of superheroes. Classes in KS1/2 enjoyed face painting, a Spiderman-styled Velcro wall, The Flash speed run and other superhero-inspired activities. In KS3/4, pupils competed in a Gladiator Duel, whilst debating the anonymity of superheroes, creating Roy Lichtenstein comic book artwork and using artificial intelligence in Computing to create their own heroes and villains.







Fête de la Francophonie



In the week March 18<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> we recognised French-speaking countries around the world #Francosphère2024. There were daily form time activities with interactive games to win house points, the Défi Dégustation (Taste It Tuesday) was r atatouille and adults had different flavour French crisps to try every day.

On Friday March 22<sup>nd</sup> we celebrated La Journée Internationale de la Francophonie. Each class decorated their door with the flag of a French-speaking country and pupils came in wearing their flag colours so the school looked really colourful. In assembly volunteers tried saying French sentences and an inter-House Kahoot quiz with 50 teams saw Mars come out victorious. Just shows how much they had learnt through the week and in the assembly about French-

speaking countries! Many thanks to Penguins (Joshua & Kadir), Eagles (Jevon, Joey & Theo), Falcons (Riley) 7L (Alexis, Joel & Tommy) and 8S (Frankie B, Henry, Jayden) for presenting in assembly.



In Primary and Impacts, classes pupils focused on their allocated country for the day and learned about its history and geography. Penguins, Eagles and Falcons welcomed Roland and Tom from the Big Wheel Theatre company who put on a fun French drama workshop - amazing concentration and effort by all pupils - 75 mins of non-stop French!



All lessons across the school had elements of French-speaking countries linked in from looking at non-fiction texts about homelessness in France to Fair trade ethical chocolate from French-speaking Africa (Global Learning) via the Réunion rice dish Zembrocal in Food Tech. Badgers had a new food experience with the national dish of Djibouti Skoudehkaris and Foxes also had the chance to try a range of French inspired treats.



It really was a great team effort to make the week work so well and the atmosphere around the school was really upbeat. Thank you to everyone for their support and engagement.







Big Wheel Theatre Co.



FRANCO  SPHÈRE

# ZEMBROCAL RICE RECIPE

 PRÉPARATION : 15 minutes  
 CUISSON : 20 minutes  
 TEMPS TOTAL : 35 minutes  
 PORTIONS :  personnes



## Ingrédients

65g rice  
1 small potato  
50g kidney beans/peas (or both!)  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  onion  
1 garlic clove  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  tsp turmeric  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp thyme  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  tsp chilli - optional

## Préparation

Étape 1: Peel the onion and chop  
Étape 2: Crush the garlic  
Étape 3: Heat some oil in a saucepan and soften the onions & garlic  
Étape 4: Peel the potato and chop into small chunks (1cm)  
Étape 5: Add the rice, the potato, the spices (including salt and pepper) and herbs to the saucepan  
Étape 6: Cover with water (approx. 1cm above the surface) and bring to the boil - do not add too much water - you can add later if you need to - stir occasionally  
Étape 7: When the rice and potatoes are almost cooked (10 mins) add the beans/peas and stir until they are hot  
Étape 8: Enjoy!

# OPEN DAY

We encourage Parents/Carers and their children, to investigate 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 decisions about year 12 and leaving Bower Grove school.

This decision can be helped by attending some of the local College and post 16 provider open events.

The following events are taking place: -

Broadstairs College – Wednesday 17th April 2024 4pm – 7pm

Canterbury College – Thursday 25th April 2024 3pm – 7pm

Dover College – Wednesday 1st May 2024 4pm – 7pm

Folkstone College Tuesday 23rd April 2024 4.30pm – 7pm

Sheppey College Wednesday 24th April 2024 5pm – 7pm

Hadlow College – Saturday 28th January 2023 10am – 1pm

Virtual Apprenticeship Evening Monday 22nd April 6pm -7pm

## Bower Grove Youth Club

Bower Grove run a Youth club during term time. Here are the days and timings:

Mondays 3.15-4.45pm Senior Years 8,9,10 and 11

Tuesdays 3.15-4.45 junior years 5,6 and 7

Pupils have the time to catch up with friends, they have a snack and a drink and have use of computers and gaming, as well as craft activities available, Mrs Wooley tries news ideas every week, including making jewellery, button art, clay, loom bands, Mothers Day mugs and more.

Every week we make use of the facilities in school, such as the dynamite gym. Mr Morgan plans themed dodgeball games in the sports hall. We play pool, table tennis and are looking forward to the warmer evenings to play football and other games on the field.

The Youth Club team Miss Page, Mr Morgan and Mrs Wooley would love to welcome some new members to join in the fun. A letter goes out to pupils at the start of each term with a reply slip attached and it costs £2 per week. Please complete and return the slip and pay via Parentpay or send in cash.



## PE ACTIVITIES

### Key Stage 1:

Frogs and Honeybees this term have been learning a dinosaur dance and have been really enjoying exploring movement to music.

They have also been focusing on Team Building. This has allowed them to understand communicating and teamwork through play.

Our Hedgehogs' class have been focusing on attacking versus defensive work. Understanding how to work as a team in these positions.

### Key Stage 2:

Our KS2 classes have been focusing on ball skills through batting/striking a ball, Handball and Football.

All classes have been learning striking techniques, dribbling techniques and understanding how to work as a team in a game.

### Key Stage 3:

Our onsite KS3 classes have been focusing on Tag Rugby, Badminton, Football, Table tennis, and fitness in the Dynamite Gym.

All of these classes, have been focusing on gameplay and understanding the rules and techniques within each sport.

### Key Stage 4:

Our onsite pupils in Year 11 have been exploring choices of sports in their lessons on a Monday. They have been doing badminton, table tennis, basketball and fitness in the dynamite gym.

Our year 10 pupils on a Friday are still progressing through their Entry level qualifications completing their basketball and circuit training filming.

### Football Fixture

On the 13/03/24 Bower Grove pupils from Key Stage 3 played against Nexus school in a football match. The spirits were high and everyone was having fun throughout the afternoon. It was a tense start with both teams not wanting to concede. Midway through the first half, OB scores making it 1-0. There was a half time talk and a few subs were made. At the beginning of the second half, HH and HR score in quick succession making it 3-0. TS then scored a screamer into the top corner now making the score 4-0. HH scores another banger making it 5-0. HR then scored a stunner into the top corner making it 6-0.

Everybody had fun in this match and we hope to play Nexus again in the future.

Written by Rico 9V





# APPRENTICESHIPS

## which one works for you?

### *Year 11 Careers*

*The Education People's Engagement Officer Team are holding an online parent webinar focusing on Apprenticeships.*

*The aim of the session is to give an overview of apprenticeships, dispel some myths with the opportunity to ask some questions. The target audience is year 11 pupils/parents/carers although other age groups and professionals may also benefit and are welcome to join.*

*The event is taking place on Monday 22nd April 6-7pm virtually through Teams Live (parents do not need a Teams account to access this). The link to book through KentChoices to the registration form as follows:*

*[kentprospectus.co.uk/events/detail/year-11-virtual-apprenticeship-evening-4325](https://kentprospectus.co.uk/events/detail/year-11-virtual-apprenticeship-evening-4325)*

*or use the QR Code*

Apprenticeship Webinar 2024 -  
Registration Form



## 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 29th April 9:30am until 11am. Don't forget to put it in your diaries and book yourself a slot!

Thank you to everyone who attended my session on 'Emotional Wellbeing Strategies'. I hope you were all able to take away some of the guidance we talked about. Don't forget the sessions are online as well as in person so they are more flexible to fit in with your schedule.

The next guided talk will be with Kelly Ingram on 'Understanding Autism'. Kelly will cover what autism is and offer a number of strategies to apply at home and within schools.

This will run on Friday 3rd May 10:00am until 11:30am.

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

Miss A Ford                      LSA

### Welcome New Staff:

Miss E Bassom                      LSA

Mr R Bampton                      LSA

Miss E Hogan                      LSA

Mr A Davey                      LSA

### Congratulations to our Staff who are leaving to have Babies this Term

Miss R Hodges is going on maternity leave



### Dates for your Diary

Monday 15th April	Pupils return to school
Thursday 27th June	Sports Day
Wednesday 3rd July	Summer Fair
Friday 12th July	BGS Festival
Friday 24th May	Term Ends

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

