

Bower Grove News



Issue 150

www.bower-grove.kent.sch.uk

April 2025

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.

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 would ask everyone in our community to support the live consultation that is currently with KCC to paint yellow lines outside the school. We have been working extremely hard to support our local residents and feel with these painted, it will help the traffic congestion by easing the parking crisis outside our school. Please do support this by logging on to <https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/various-roads-barming-maidstone-amendment-16-waiting-restrictions>

It was wonderful to welcome our past pupils back to school for our first Alumni night on 25th March. 38 ex pupils attended the evening from as far back as 2007 and it was wonderful to find out so many young people who have gone on to achieve fantastic outcomes. We will be organising this event every year and welcome any ex pupil back next year.

Thank you to our inspiring staff team who have worked so hard to give our pupils so many opportunities outside of the classroom. In March, 36, Key stage 3 pupils took off to a residential on Isle of Wight. Every pupil reported to have a fantastic time enjoying the challenges that PGL presented and returned in one piece. Thank you all the staff who gave all their time 24 hrs a day.

Next term we look forward to hearing about a key stage 2 residential trip and our year 8 pupils French trip. We also look forward to welcoming our governors into school for the day on Wednesday 23rd April.

I would like to wish everyone a wonderful Easter break and look forward to welcoming pupils back into school on Tuesday 22nd April.

News from the Governors

It is the end of another term and the start of Spring. We have had a period of good weather and the clocks have gone forward and it is nearly time for pupils and staff to have a break.

This term has been another busy one for Governors. There have been meetings of the various committees and the Full Governing Board. Away from all the formal meetings there have been a number of visits into school. These monitoring visits enable individual Governors to sit in lessons where they can observe how well pupils are engaging with their learning and if they have access to all the resources they need to learn. All Governors enjoy this chance to see Bower Grove "at work" and all comment on what an enjoyable experience it is. I am pleased to share with you all that they also report that they see pupils actively engaged and taking part in their lessons with all the right books, equipment etc, that they need.



The Governors would like to thank, teachers, support staff and pupils for another successful term at Bower Grove. I hope that you all get to enjoy some Spring weather and possibly a visit from the Easter Bunny. Stay safe and well during the holidays.

Mr M Kirby ~ Chair of Governors

CELEBRATING CREATIVITY AT BOWER GROVE

MUSIC

In Music this term, pupils have been focusing on Reggae music in Year 8, with a particular emphasis on playing on the offbeat. As part of our learning, pupils have performed 'Lazy Song' by Bruno Mars as a full class band. It's been an enjoyable experience for everyone, exploring the rhythms and sounds of Reggae together.

Meanwhile, both Honeybees and Frogs have been busy developing their skills in keeping time and reading music. The pupils have had the chance to experiment with Boomwhackers, which has been a fun way to learn about pitch and rhythm. They even had the exciting opportunity to try out a full drum kit, giving them a hands-on experience with percussion.

The Open Orchestra and Choir have been practicing to prepare for their upcoming performance at the start of next term. Everyone is working hard, and the anticipation for the performance is growing!



ENGLISH

Year 7 have been working on their creative writing skills. They have been studying a text by Bali Rai called 'The Harder They Fall', in which two boys strike up an unlikely friendship over their mutual love of superheroes. 7H described Batman as part of the unit's activities. Excerpts below:

Lacey: His cape is pitch black, like the midnight sky. His armour is raven and his helmet crow black. His mouth is like a scarecrow. When he sees someone in trouble, he does not hesitate to save only one. He has to save all or it might destroy his reputation.

Brinley: He moves like a ghost in black, lonely. His face his white as the moon. Like a spider, he waits for criminals in his corner and he catches them in his web.

Austin: He stands like he is frozen in time, staring out at the city streets with his piercing eyes. His armour is black like oil and his cape moves swiftly in the wind. Batman is fearless and brave, committed to serving justice.

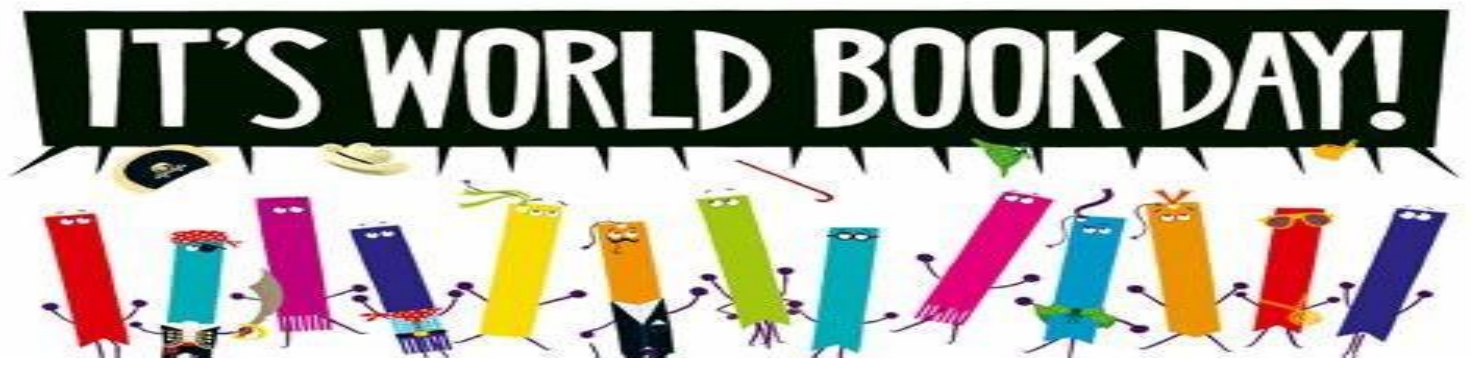
Leo: Batman creeps quickly with his matt black helmet and jet black armour helping him blend into the shadows. His strong jawline shows he is serious and powerful. His cape swirls like a tornado and he stands like a statue.

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

This Term yr 9 pupils have been gaining knowledge and skills about Metals & Alloys. They have generated, developed and created their own ideas using CAD & CAM. They have utilised Illustrator in 'The Creative Cloud' to create a Windows Metafile which has been exported to the Laser Cutter in order to create a cast for the Pewter Casting Machine. Some pupils have decorated their prototype with spray paints or vinyl in order to realise their design intentions.



IT'S WORLD BOOK DAY!



Year 7 Battle Abbey Visit

Year 7 spent the day at Battle Abbey looking at the site of the Battle of Hastings as part of their Global Learning Curriculum. They have been learning about life in England before the Norman invasion of 1066 and have explored the events before and during the Battle of Hastings. They were all given the opportunity to walk around the battlefield to put their learning in to context as well as visiting the Battle Abbey Museum to look at Anglo-Saxon and Norman artefacts and watch a short film about the battle itself. The pupils were really engaged in visualising how the battle took place and the role that the different types of soldiers played.



The highlight of the trip was the talk given by the English Heritage Team who allowed pupils to see and handle different weapons and armour. The pupils really enjoyed trying on different helmets, shields and chain mail and all we excited to handle some example weapons include swords, crossbows, axes and spears. During the talk, pupils were able to ask and answer questions and demonstrate their fantastic learning both from in school and on the trip.





KS3 Residential Trip to the Isle of Wight: Adventure, Challenge and Fun!

On 18th March 2025, 36 excited KS3 pupils and 9 staff members set off on an unforgettable residential trip to the Isle of Wight. The group departed from Maidstone, Kent, early on Tuesday morning, filled with anticipation for the adventure ahead.

The Journey Begins

The 2.5-hour drive to Southampton ferry port was smooth, with a stop at the services along the way for some last-minute snacks and supplies. Spirits were high as the group boarded the ferry, and despite the chilly, windy weather, many pupils braved the deck to take in the breathtaking views of the Solent. Laughter and chatter filled the air as the Isle of Wight came into sight, marking the start of four action-packed days.



Action-Packed Adventures

From the moment they arrived at the activity centre, pupils were straight into the action. Over the course of the four days, pupils took part in a range of thrilling activities designed to challenge their courage, teamwork, and determination:

Ambush – A strategic and exciting team-based activity that encouraged quick thinking and communication.

Axe Throwing – Pupils tested their accuracy and strength under the watchful eye of instructors.

Archery – Focus and precision were key as pupils aimed for the bullseye.

Zip Line – The adrenaline rush of soaring through the air was a highlight for many.

Giant Swing – Screams of excitement echoed as pupils swung high above the ground.

Laser Tag – A fast-paced, competitive game that brought out the pupils' tactical skills.

Jacob's Ladder – A test of strength and teamwork as pupils helped each other climb the challenging structure.

Trapeze/Leap of Faith – A true test of bravery as pupils jumped from a platform to grab a swinging trapeze.

Evenings were just as memorable. A sunset walk to the beach provided a peaceful moment to reflect on the day's adventures, and the bonfire brought everyone together with toasted marshmallows for everyone's enjoyment. A visit to the on-site shop gave pupils the chance to pick up souvenirs and snacks to remember the trip.

Heading Home

The trip concluded early on Friday morning as the group departed the site at 8:30 am to catch the ferry back to the mainland. The return journey was smooth, and the group arrived back at school just in time for registration and form time. Tired but full of stories and memories, pupils went their separate ways, already reminiscing about the incredible experiences they'd shared.

A Trip to Remember

The residential trip to the Isle of Wight was a fantastic opportunity for pupils to step out of their comfort zones, build new friendships, and develop valuable life skills. The combination of adventure, teamwork, and personal challenge made it an experience they will treasure for years to come.



Celebration Tea Party

Term 4 House Competition

In Key Stage 1 our pupils are awarded house tokens by any member of staff for going 'above and beyond'. They can show this through their behaviour, learning, attitude or attendance. Tokens are counted up at the end of the term and the house that earns the most tokens wins a special reward event. In Term 3, Mars was the winning house and pupils in Mars were rewarded with a Tea Party. They enjoyed a selection of delicious treats including home made cakes, sausage rolls, strawberries and biscuits, alongside orange or purple tea (squash!). Well done to the Key Stage 1 Mars pupils and good luck to all the houses in earning tokens for next Terms reward treat.



Frogs Class

Emergency Services

Frogs have been learning about the Emergency services and the vehicles they use. We enjoyed a visit from PC Hughes from Kent police. He talked to us about how we can keep ourselves and others safe. We talked about the reasons we may need help from the police. PC Hughes brought some of the Police uniform for us to try on. We had lots of questions to ask him.



PC Hughes returned to our school in the last week of term but this time he brought his Police vehicle with him. We got to sit inside, hear the sirens and learn how to use the radio to contact Police support. He also showed us what they keep in the back of car for attending road traffic accidents.



Honey Bees Class

Rochester Castle Visit



During Term 4, Honeybees embarked on an exciting journey to Rochester Castle, where we explored the fascinating world of medieval architecture and history. After learning about the different parts of a castle and how they were built in England, we were thrilled to see it all come to life during our visit.



We discovered the various rooms within the castle, including the impressive keep and the grand great hall. Our adventure took us up and down

the spiral staircases, giving us a great workout and plenty of steps for the day! The views from the



windows, arrow slits, and battlements were breath-taking, and we enjoyed imagining what life was like for the castle's inhabitants.

At the top of the castle, we stood on the ramparts and felt like true knights defending the fortress. Some of our classmates even role-played as knights, complete with bows, arrows, and swords, bringing history to life in a fun and engaging way.



Hedgehog Class

Hedgehogs class have loved finding out about the body in Science. We have looked at the names of bones, looked closely at x-rays and decided if animals are invertebrates. We made a moving arm to show the biceps and triceps contracting and relaxing.



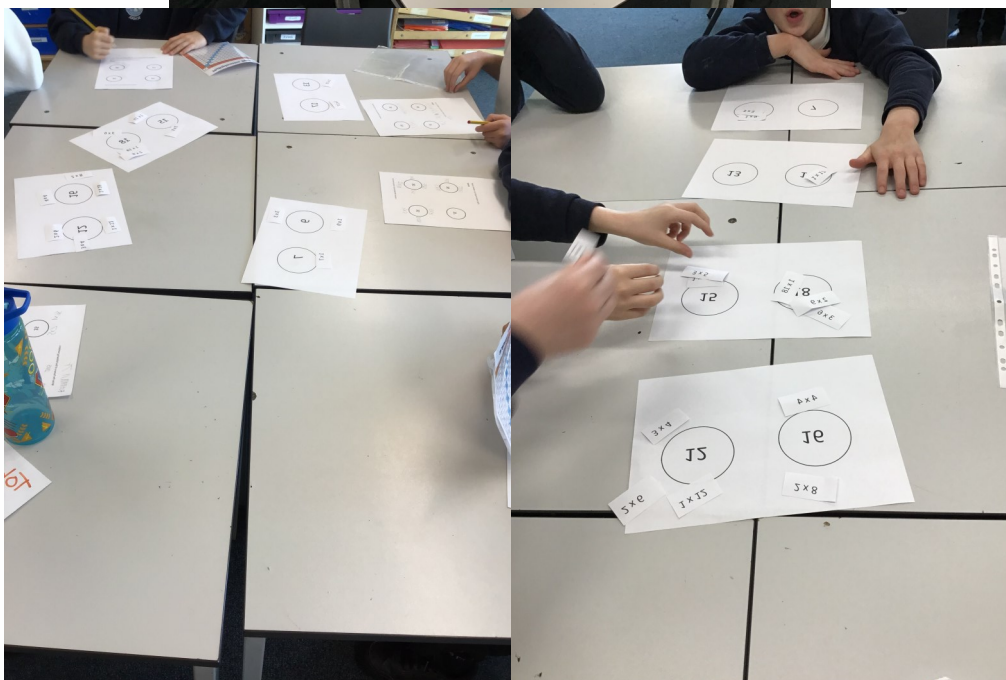
MATHEMATICS

Pupils in Maths we have been using paper straws, elastic bands and play dough to build a bridge/structure that can hold the most weight. Pupils could work in teams or independently and had creative freedom in constructing it. Our winning bridge held the weight of 189 exercise books. We learnt that in order to have strong bridges we must not have weak points so creating layers and lots of surface area is really important.



What is a prime number?

Pupils in Maths worked in groups to understand what Factors were. We used lots of group discussion and can now identify Prime Numbers from their factors.



Apple's Bluewater Workshop Visit

In Computing this term, pupils who attend the secondary lunchtime Computing Club went on a coding workshop at Apple's Bluewater Store.

In this workshop the pupils were



introduced to Swift, Apple's programming language for making apps. Pupils were taught this using the iPad app Swift Playgrounds by

two of Apple's Trainers. This had the pupils learning the key concepts of programming and how to code in SWIFT to achieve goals and complete challenges.



Following the visit, SWIFT and SWIFT Playgrounds has been a focus for those attending the Computing Club on a Thursday.



PE ACTIVITIES

The PE Department have been busy as ever as we move towards summer and lots has been going on for our pupils. Lessons are beginning to take place on the field and a focus on tag rugby has meant this is beneficial for space and a soft landing!. In addition, pupils have been enjoying Badminton and Handball lessons this term.

As part of our world book day celebrations our pupils all had the chance to participate in a boxing workshop. It was wonderful to see so many pupils in sporting related costumes and throwing themselves into the workshop.

Fixtures have been in full swing again this term on a Wednesday afternoon. Our key stage 4 team went to their next South London League event and our resident reporter Callum Year 11 has provided a report below:

"On a sunny Wednesday afternoon on March 5th Bower Grove Under 16s Football team ventured to Long Lane FC in search of victories.

In the first game, the team played really well but with some new additions to the squad they needed time to find their positions and tactics. They ended with a 1-0 battling loss. In the next game the team found their rhythm, but the opposition were strong resulting in a 0-2 loss.

Game three and the team got a goal from a rebound via Oliver Bass and held on for a 1-0 win. The team carried this momentum and in their final two games against more tough teams they secured a 1-1 draw and 2-0 victory."

(Report by Callum G)



PE ACTIVITIES

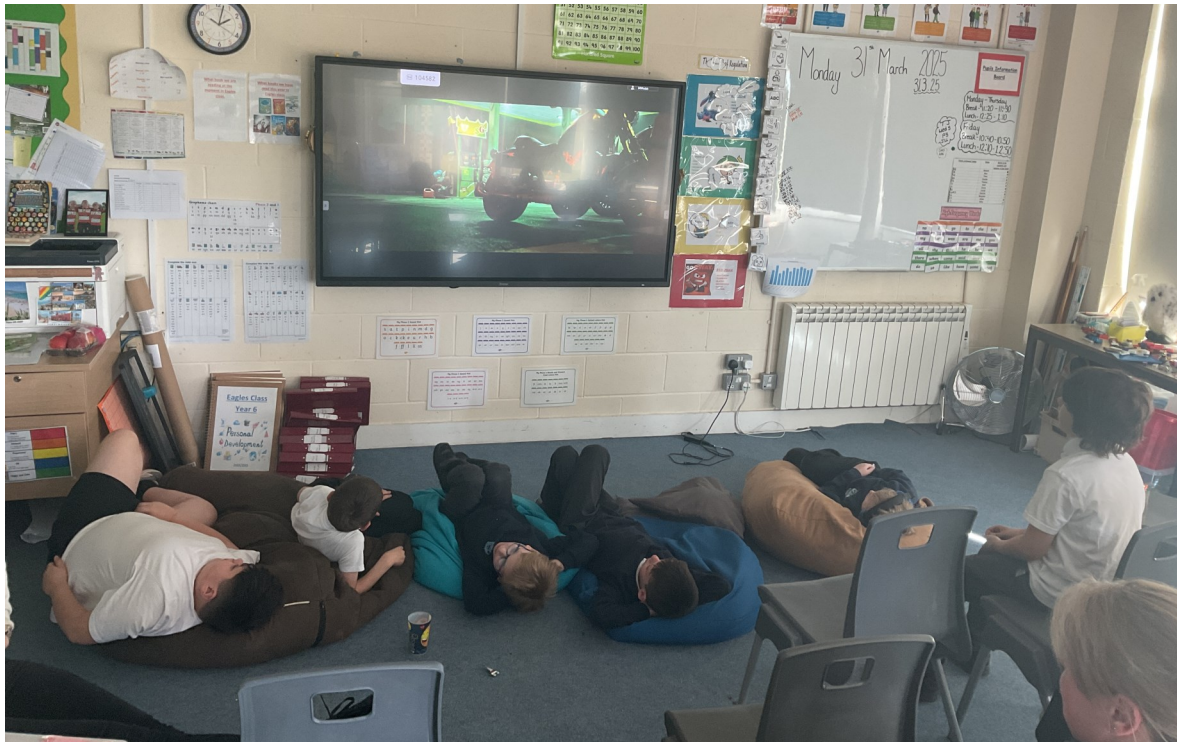
In addition, a key stage 2 team travelled to play Yalding Primary School, and a key stage 3 team played Maplesden Noakes. So, it has been a busy term for Football. Thank you to all our players who have represented the school brilliantly in all of those fixtures. Outside of football we have also enjoyed an internal rewards afternoon for pupils in cricket and bowling. As the sun begins to come out we look forward to a summer term that includes Sports Day, Athletics and many Striking and Fielding Games on the field.



VENTURE

AFTERNOON

On Monday afternoon, primary pupils had venture afternoon. Some of the activities included were Sports, Venture Walk, Park, Cinema and Spa. All pupils thoroughly enjoyed the activities that they had chosen and everyone had a fantastic time.



VENTURE

AFTERNOON

Secondary Venture afternoon took place on Monday 31st March. Pupils had a range of activities to choose from either inside or outside of school. Many activities were on offer including; ICT, Swimming, Apple store @ Bluewater, Barming Heath Park, Hair and Makeup and many more. 21 activities were available to choose from.

The afternoon was a huge success and pupils had an opportunity to mix with different peers and staff whilst taking part in an activity of their choosing. The next Secondary Venture afternoon takes place in term 5. Pupils will get more activities to choose from based on their work ethic and behaviour around school.



Year 7 Bounce Forward

During Bounce Forward sessions, Year 7 were learning about the community and how different members of society can contribute to their local community. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed litter picking in the local area and made a huge impact on the area surrounding Bower Grove School.



OPEN DAY

We strongly encourage Parents/Carers and pupils to explore post-16 education providers early, starting in Year 9 and Year 10.

Applications for college and sixth forms places are submitted early in Year 11, and these provisions are required to be named in annual reviews held in September of Year 11. Early investigation ensures that pupils and families have the necessary information to make well-informed decisions about Year 12 and the transition from Bower Grove School.

Attending local college and post-16 provider open events can play a significant role in helping pupils and parents make confident, educated choices for the future.

The following events are taking place: -

Ashford College	Thursday 1st May 2025 16.30pm -7pm
Broadstairs College	Wednesday 17th April 2025 4pm - 7pm
Canterbury College	Thursday 24th April 2025 4pm - 7pm
Dover College	Tuesday 22nd April 2025 4pm - 7pm
Folkstone College	Tuesday 6th May 2025 4pm - 7.30pm
Hadlow College	Wednesday 4th June 2025 3pm -7pm
Kite college	Friday 3rd October 2025 visit www.Kite College/events to book a place
Mid Kent College Maidstone	Wednesday 5th November 2025 3.30pm - 7pm Saturday 29th November 2025 10am - 1pm
Mid Kent college Medway	Wednesday 12th November 2025 3.30pm - 7pm Saturday 22nd November 2025 10am to 1pm
Sheppey College	Wednesday 14th May 2025 4pm - 7pm
Sports Connect	Several open days across the county visit www.Sports Connect UK for more information



Information can also be found on the Kent choices website on
www.kentprospectus.co.uk/events

Please go online to individual college websites to find out more details and register your interest.

Chocolate Hot Cross Bun Pudding

Ingredients (Serves 6)

6 Hot Cross Buns halved
Butter for spreading
600ml/20fl oz Milk
400ml/14fl oz Double Cream
1 Cinnamon Stick (or ½ tsp Ground Cinnamon)
4 Large Eggs
1 tsp Vanilla Extract
150g/5½ oz Caster Sugar
200g/7 oz Milk Chocolate Egg (or any chopped Milk Chocolate) broken into pieces



Method

1. Preheat the oven to 180c/160C Fan/Gas 4.
2. Spread butter on each half of hot cross buns and arrange the buns in a large ovenproof dish.
3. Gently heat the milk and cream together in a saucepan with the cinnamon stick (or add the ground cinnamon). Remove from the heat to cool slightly.
4. Whisk the eggs together with the vanilla and sugar until pale, then gradually pour in the milk and cream mixture, whisking constantly. Remove the cinnamon stick, if using, then pour the mixture over the hot cross buns and allow to soak in for 15 minutes.
5. Place the ovenproof dish in a large baking tray filled halfway up with water. Sprinkle the chocolate pieces over the top and bake for 45 minutes. Serve hot with vanilla ice cream on the side.



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BRIGADE

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Orders are placed in a queue until 15th and 30th of each month and delivered into School up to 14 days after.



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IMPORTANT SUMMER HOLIDAY ORDER INFORMATION

Last order date for free delivery into school is **13th June** then service switches to *home delivery until **14th September**.
(*Place your home delivery order by **18th July** for delivery before the start of term)

www.brigade.uk.com

Register today to avoid missing out on Brigade promotions or important notifications by scanning this QR code



Term Dates 2024-25

Term 5 2025

Term Begins for all classes
Term Ends

Tuesday 22nd April 2025
Friday 23rd May 2025

Term 6 2025

Term Begins for all classes
Term Ends
Staff Training Day
Staff Training Day

Monday 2nd June 2025
Friday 18th July 2025
Monday 21st July 2025
Tuesday 22nd July 2025

Remember that school finishes at 1.15pm every Friday afternoon

(All other days school finishes at 3.15pm)

2025—2026 Term Dates are available on our website

<https://www.bower-grove.kent.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=695&type=pdf>



ATTENDANCE MATTERS



pupils have 100% attendance for Term 4!

134 pupils have over 93% attendance for Term 4!

139 pupils have over 90% attendance for Term 4!

Can you improve your attendance in Term 5?

Neptune had the highest house attendance for
Term 4 with **87.1%.**

Well done Neptune!

Parent and Carer Support Group; 'Connections' – Together We Can

Coffee Mornings

It was lovely to see some new faces for our fourth Parent and Carer coffee morning last month. Our next session will be on Monday 12th May and we meet with tea and cake for our termly catch up. The following date will be for our last coffee morning of the academic year, Monday 23rd of June. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Guided talks

We had our highest attendance yet for our 'Emotional regulation' training with Sasha and Angela from NEFLT as well as myself. It was extremely informative with lots of strategies to take away in how to best support people with Emotional regulation.

Our next Guided talk will be on Friday 16th May about 'Mental Health' with Rebekah from NELFT. Another relevant session that shouldn't be missed!

Please book any of these sessions via our email address
psg@bower-grove.kent.sch.uk or phone us on 01622 726773

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 S Deacon	LSA
Miss M Cole	Pupil Mentor

Welcome New Staff:

Mrs K Wilkinson	LSA
Mrs R Howarth	LSA

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

