

Bower Grove News



Issue 151

www.bower-grove.kent.sch.uk

May 2025

Dear Readers,

Thank you to all our staff for writing such wonderful reports on all the activities that pupils have been completing over the term. It is wonderful to read the opportunities that our pupils are given.

A huge thank you goes to all our staff for the unbelievable number of out of the classroom activities that our pupils have been offered. From residential to day trips we are extremely proud of our pupils for taking on new challenges and visiting places that are new to them as well as demonstrating such respectful and responsible behaviour outside of school.

Thank you to all parents, carers and our pupils for working really hard on improving their attendance to school. As you will know, every day is extremely important for your child and we are passionate about providing all our pupils the very best experiences for every day of their school life. Well done to Hedgehogs and 8L for being the two highest classes with their attendance and are able to wear their non-school uniform on the last day of term. I would like to remind you about the pupil Homework project which has been e mailed to you. This is a fun, project-based homework that we offer to all pupils to complete during our half term holidays. We look forward to seeing your projects by Thursday 5th June.

Our year 11 pupils have demonstrated real courage and confidence with the start of the GCSE season which will continue into next term. We are really looking forward to celebrating the journeys of our year 11 pupils in our leaver's events prior to their leaving date of Wednesday 18th June.

Next term is going to be a very busy term with planning transition into new classes. We will continue with our transition week for all pupils in the school to experience what life is like in their new classes in September. This will be 7th – 11th July. More information will be shared next term.

I would like to wish everyone a wonderful Half term break and look forward to welcoming pupils back into school on Monday 2nd June

Mrs Cleave

Headteacher



News from the Governors

I hope that everyone has been enjoying the sunshine that we have been having. This has been a very interesting and good term for Governors with all our usual meetings, finance, resources, Chair of Governors and Head Teacher meeting and one of our shining highlights of the school year – The Governor In-Day.

This is a day that school organise as many Governors as possible to come in and see the school in action. This year it included Learning Walks where we got to dip into classes for short periods to see how the pupils are engaging with their lessons.

We always enjoy lunch with the pupils at lunch time, this is a real opportunity to meet with them outside of the classrooms. It was also nice to be reassured of the many opportunities provided for staff to help them to manage their own wellbeing as they dedicate so much time to the wellbeing of our pupils. It was also nice to meet with some of the new teachers to the school and to meet some of the support staff of Bower Grove.

A particular highlight was a performance from the school choir and open orchestra who delivered a superb performance. Later in the day we received information on GDPR, Cyber Security as well as teacher training and the phonics scheme.

Thank you to the school Leadership Team for their time in putting together such a varied timetable, the teachers and pupils for accepting our interruptions to their lessons without faltering from their learning, the catering staff for providing lunch and my fellow governors for giving up their time.

On behalf of the governors I hope everyone has a good break and stays safe over this time.

Mr M Kirby ~ Chair of Governors



CELEBRATING CREATIVITY AT BOWER GROVE

MUSIC

This term, Year 7 pupils have been exploring the ukulele, developing their skills and learning various techniques. Year 8 has focused on Gamelan music, diving into the rich cultural and rhythmic traditions of Indonesia. Meanwhile, the Open Orchestra has been working on the song "What's Up" by 4 Non Blondes, and recently, they've welcomed several new members, adding fresh energy and perspectives to the group.

ENGLISH

Year 11 pupils are preparing for their forthcoming GCSE English Language exams. As part of Paper 2 (Writer's Viewpoints and Perspectives), they have been practicing such forms as formal letters, speeches, newspaper and magazine articles. Below are some examples of a practice question, whereby pupils voiced their opinions on corruption in sport:

Edward P (11C) - Did you know that about 20% of the world place bets on sport? There are even people playing the sports who are gambling! Some players bet on themselves and 'rig it', but players doing this can get in trouble because it's illegal.

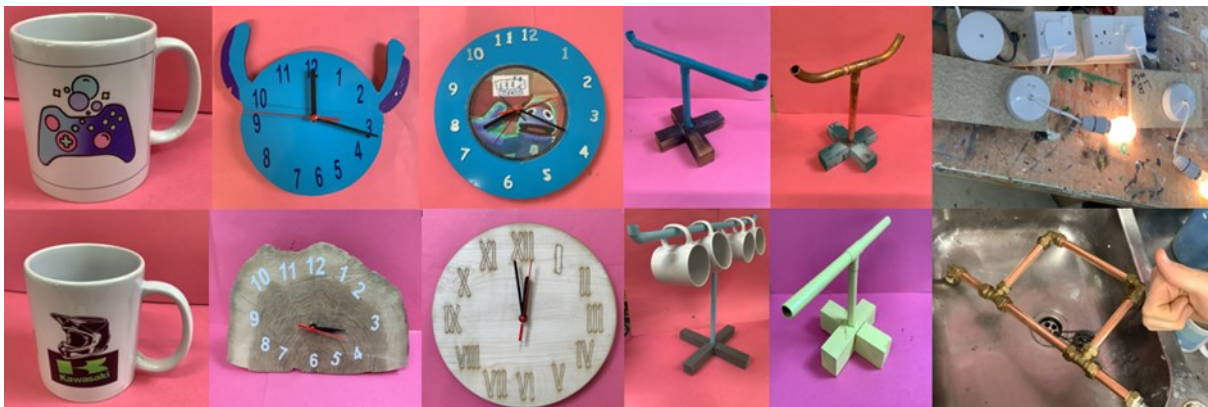
Kingston F (11C) - With basketball being a primarily black athlete dominated sport, this leaves a lot of room for abuse, coming from fans or even coaches, which could affect player's mind-set and mental health.

Kenzi S (11C) - FFP stands for FIFA Fair Play rules where teams can't use money they haven't earned. One of the 'BIG 6' teams had 115 charges of FFP and bought players with this money and won the league that year!

Shannon C (11T) - Drugs in sport has become a life and death risk. Some of the players have done drugs; but this comes with many issues. They could become addicted and it could end up costing them their career. They could also become violent.

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Within Design & Technology Yr 7 pupils have been developing Logos using CAD and applying to a range of products. Yr 8 pupils have been making Time pieces with this assistance of CAD & Cam and Yr 9 pupils have been experiencing and gaining skills and knowledge into Timber Halving Joints whilst cutting and fixing copper piping in order to create a mug stand. Yr 10 pupils within the Construction Course have been learning how to wire a ring main and cut and connect compression fittings to copper piping.



Key Stage 1

Key stage one had a stay and play session this term. Some of parents and carers came to join in with some activities linked to our topic. We made fruit kebabs, fresh lemonade and planted some flowers in our outside classroom.



HOUSE

FOCUS

DAY



On Friday 16th May we held our very first House focus day on the four areas of need.

Our year 6-9 pupils as well as staff in their houses had the surprising time to identify sensory and physical objects and enjoyed the slime!

To mention a few things that happened on this day; our sports hall was turned in to a sensory circuit and the gym had challenges for all.

Great to see everyone in their house colours and trying hard to work in new teams.

Our KS2 pupils had a trip out for the day to work on their team building.

KS1 pupils were working together in their house to make fruit kebabs.



HOUSE

FOCUS

DAY



15/05/20

HOUSE

FOCUS

DAY

House Teams Rise (A Fun Focus Day Poem)

By Mr C Moor

*In a school where stars align,
Three bold houses brightly shine —
Mercury, yellow, swift and full of grace,
Dashing minds that win each race.*

*Mars steps in with fiery cheer,
Hearts of courage, never fear.
Bold in red, they take the lead,
With strength and will to brave and speed.*

*Neptune, deep as ocean skies,
Wise and calm, with thoughtful eyes.
In seas of blue, they chart their way,
With steady hands, they seize the day.*

*Today's the day we come as one,
To learn, to grow, to have some fun.
A focus day, where dreams take flight,
Each house brings its special light.*

*Games and goals, ideas that gleam,
Together we're a mighty team.
Though we wear a different hue.
We share the sky, the gold, the blue.*

*So cheer for Mercury, Mars, and Neptune,
From morning bell to setting moon.*

*In this school, we all belong —
Different beats, one mighty song.*



VE Day – The Hub 8/5/25

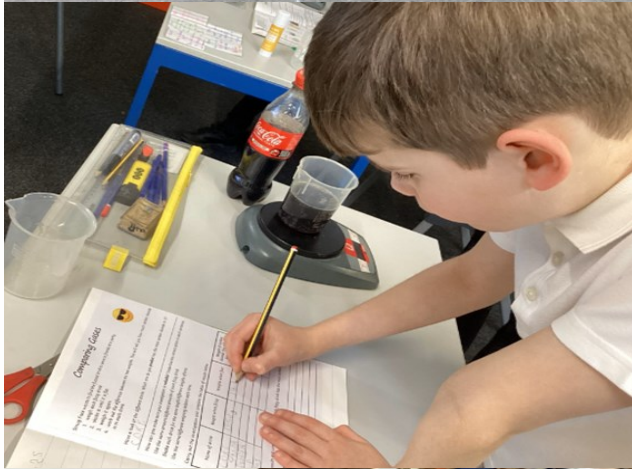
We completed some work in the Hub to celebrate 80th anniversary VE day. Our pupils showed great knowledge, completing a word search, quiz, colouring the flag bunting, making a spitfire paper plane and writing some facts.

Mrs Nyholt kindly made us a Victoria sponge to finish off our celebration.



SCIENCE

Satellite pupils have been busy completing practical activities recently, learning about electricity, investigating gases, the water cycle and melting points.





Year 9 and 10 pupils were very fortunate to receive a visit from Sports Connect, an SEN Post-16 sports college based in Kent. The tutors and pupils, including one former pupil from Bower Grove, confidently shared information about their programs and led a fun kick-around on the school field.

Sports Connect operates six sites across Kent, each offering different faculties and catering to a variety of special educational needs. Their inclusive, sports-based education programs are designed to inspire, motivate, and support young people.

For more information, please visit their website: Sports Connect UK.

They also have open days throughout the half term. Details are provided below.

SPORTS CONNECT
OPEN DAY SCHEDULE

MAY 27TH	MAY 28TH	MAY 28TH	MAY 29TH	MAY 29TH	MAY 30TH
10AM-12PM	10AM-12PM	10AM- 12PM	10AM-12PM	10AM-12PM	10AM-12PM
AYLESFORD	BAYPOINT	FAVERSHAM	APPLEYARD	WHITSTABLE	MEDWAY

sportsconnect.uk

Basic Motor Maintenance

Term 5 - Aspire

During this term 9F had the opportunity to learn basic motor maintenance.

A mechanic was invited to the school and taught the pupils various skills:

- Identifying different engine components
- How to change a wheel
- How to top up washer fluid
- How to check and top up the oil



Basic Garden Maintenance

Term 5 - Aspire

During this term 9F had the opportunity to visit the allotment and learn basic garden maintenance skills:

- Allotment etiquette
- How to upkeep a shed – sand/paint
- Names of different tools

to



PE ACTIVITIES

This has been another busy term in PE. We would like to celebrate the successes of our KS2/3 rounders team who attended a fixture at Fairview School in Medway and played brilliantly, narrowly losing 19.5 to 19 on the day. Well played all. In addition, we had an internal rounders fixture which was a great afternoon in the sun.

In school, lessons have been shifting to a summer sports focus and preparation for sports day. The lines for the track are now down and pupils are participating in athletics, rounders and tennis. In our recent House Focus Day, it was great to see pupils taking on the physical challenges set in each of the areas with such energy and positivity.

Finally, just an early reminder that Sports Day will be on June 26th this year, with our primary years participating in the morning and secondary pupils in the afternoon. Last years programme was a great success so the day will look very similar, and we look forward to pupils challenging the school records and participating for their house teams.



Under 16's Football Team Winners

A massive well done to all of our Under 16's football team who managed to win the overall year end winners' trophy for their football league. As a squad they attended 5 events through the year and came out on top with a great performance this week.

Well done to everyone who played a part...

Bobby P, Alfie B, Harry R, Ethan W, Alfie B, Oliver B, Caleb B, Layton B, Samuel D, AJ D, Antony F, Callum G, Hayden H, Riley M, Kenzi S, Tom S, Harley W.

Congratulations!



YOUTH CLUB

Join us For Term 6 Youth Club

Senior Youth club years 8,9,10 and 11 – Mondays 3.15pm – 4.45pm

Junior Youth club years 5,6 and 7 – Tuesdays 3.15pm – 4.45pm

This runs for 5 weeks over Term 6 – pupils to be collected at 4.45pm



Ask for a letter, come along for



Crafts

Themed Activities



A Thank you from Miss Page for making her time at Youth club so much fun

Youth club will be Led by Mrs L Woolley from Term 6



Games, different sports and so much more

VENTURE AFTERNOON

Secondary Venture afternoon took place on Tuesday 20th May. Pupils had a range of activities to choose from either inside or outside of school. Many activities were on offer including; Bowling, Climbing, Cooking, ICT and many more. 18 Activities were available to choose from.

The pupils had a lovely afternoon and were able to take part in an activity of their choosing and had the opportunity to mix with different peers and staff around the school. This was the last Venture afternoon for this academic year.



VENTURE AFTERNOON

All primary children were off site for venture afternoon.

Everyone had fun enjoying activities such as; Man Hunt, Cobtree Park, Bowling, Clare Park and Venture walk.. Jacob even got a strike!



Year 6 Kingswood PGL Residential

This term our Year 6 pupils were invited to attend the annual activity days at Kingswood, Ashford. For many of our pupils, this would be their first experience of staying away with the school!

On Wednesday 30th April, we packed the school transport and headed for Wildwood Animal Park; we even managed to cross the rope bridge and see brown bears. After lunch, and due to the hot weather, we took a short journey to Herne Bay to enjoy an ice lolly.

Upon arrival at Kingswood, we were let into our accommodation. Pupils were allocated their room and began the long process of unpacking and making their beds; well done to those who managed this without any fuss and even helped their peers!

The remainder of the time saw us all participate in a variety of activities, which included: Archery, Giant 3G swing, Problem Solving, Laser Tag and High Equilibrium.

There were also optional morning and evening activities. Night time football was very popular, a morning run was less so! We all returned home on Friday 2nd May just in time to get transport home.



Chicken & Cheese Quesadillas

Ingredients (Serves 2)

Salsa:

- 1 Yellow Pepper (seeds removed and diced)
 - 1 Small Mango (peeled and diced)
 - 8 Cherry Tomatoes (cut into quarters)
 - 3 Spring Onions (Chopped finely)
 - 1 Tsp Chopped Jalapeno Peppers *or*
 - 1 Small Red Chilli (optional—finely chopped)
 - 1 Lime (juice only)
- Salt & Freshly Ground Black Pepper



Quesadillas

- 4 Flour Tortillas
- 150g/5oz Cheddar Cheese (grated)
- Cooked Chicken or Turkey (shredded)
- 1 Green or Red Pepper (seeds removed and finely diced)
- Small Handful Coriander Leaves (chopped)
- Soured Cream and Guacamole to serve (optional)

Method

1. For the Salsa, mix all of the salsa ingredients together in a bowl and season to taste with Salt and Freshly Ground Black Pepper.
2. For the Quesadillas, lay two of the tortillas out on a flat surface. Top each with the cheese, followed by the chicken, peppers and coriander. Place the remaining tortillas on top and press down gently.
3. Heat a frying pan over a medium heat and add one of the quesadillas to the pan. Fry, without adding any oil, for 2-3 minutes on each side or until the tortilla is crisp, the cheese melted and the chicken heated through thoroughly. Keep warm whilst you cook the second quesadillas.
4. To serve, cut the quesadillas into quarters and arrange on plates. Spoon a little soured cream on top and serve with the salsa and guacamole on the side.

Alternatives:

Replace chicken with ham, change the vegetables, instead of sour cream and guacamole try tzatziki.

Year 10 Work Experience

Our year 10 pupils have completed their first week of Work Experience. We had pupils in various placements from Dog Grooming, Retail, Catering, Hairdressing, Animal Management and child care.

Some of our pupils returned at the end of the working day looking very tired, having worked extremely hard.

Well done to year 10. We Look Forward to doing a second a week in year 11.





Many local open days occur later in the year, so we encourage parents, carers, and pupils to start investigating post-16 providers as early as Year 9 and Year 10. This early research ensures they are fully equipped with the necessary information to make the right decision in the following years.

Please explore any providers your young person may be interested in by visiting their websites or checking our website for more information.

Here is a list of a few local open days:

Maidstone MKC	Wednesday 5th November 2025 – 3.30pm to 7pm
Medway MKC	Wednesday 12th November 2025 3.30pm to 7pm
Medway MKC	Saturday 22nd November 2025 10am to 1pm
Maidstone MKC	Saturday 29th November 2025 10am to 1pm
EKC, Ashford College	Saturday 14th June 2025 10am to 3pm Tuesday 24th June 5pm to 7pm. See - www.ashfordcollege.ac.uk for more details
EKC Folkstone College	Thursday 19th June 4pm – 7pm See EKC Folkestone College Further and Higher Education in Kent for more details.
EKC Dover College	Thursday 12th June 3pm – 6.30pm. See 'We are here to broaden opportunity' Dover College for more details
EKC Broadstairs	Thursday 26th June 2025 5pm to 8pm. See 'We aim to help everyone achieve their goals' Broadstairs College for more details
EKC Sheppey College	No dates advertised yet – register with them for up to date information - Open Days - Sheppey College
EKC Canterbury	Wednesday 18th June 4.30pm – 6.30pm See 'A destination of learning for East Kent' Canterbury College for more details
Kite College, Sittingbourne	Friday 3rd October 2025 – visit their website for more details. www.kite-college.org/open-days/
North Kent College, Tonbridge Campus, Gravesend Campus and Dartford Campus.	No dates confirmed till the Autumn -Register on line for details on - Events at North Kent College News & Upcoming Activities

This term, Year 8 pupils had the opportunity to visit Mid Kent College for an insightful and engaging tour of the campus. During their visit, pupils explored various departments, including the beauty therapy suites, the vibrant art department, and the exciting e-gaming section. They also had a chance to view the college's canteen facilities, which added to the overall positive experience. Pupils were thoroughly impressed by what they saw, with several expressing a keen interest in potentially attending the college in the future.



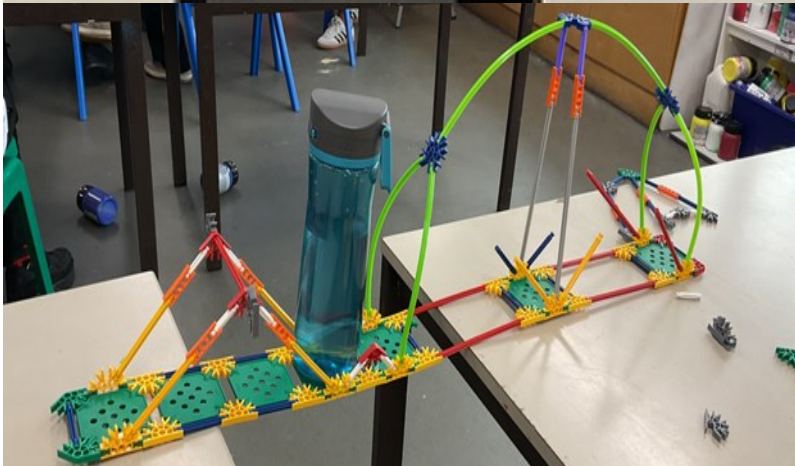
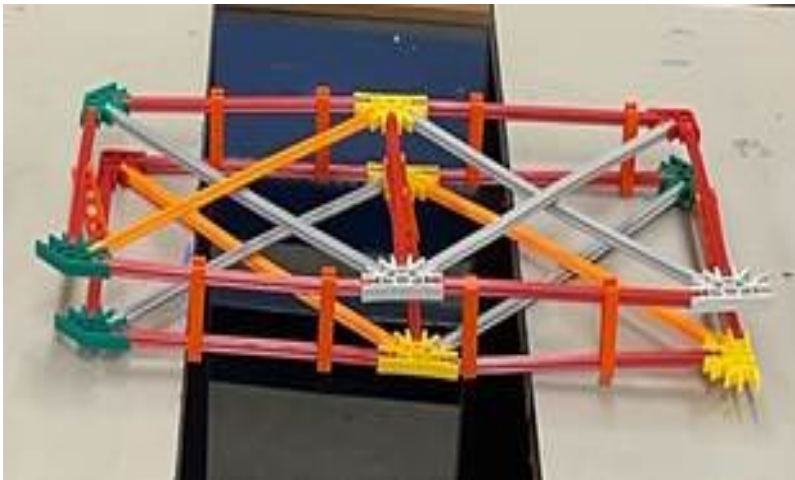


Construction Youth Trust – KS3 & 4

Year 10, Year 8 and 9F had a workshop with Construction Youth Trust, who visited to talk about the wide range of careers within construction and how they link to the curriculum. Pupils then were tasked with constructing a bridge using K'Nex to connect 2 tables and the challenge was to make it sturdy enough to withstand the weight of a water bottle. Year 11, Year 7 and 9W will get to have the workshop in Term 6.

“BK Y8 – I learnt how that one construction job works and building the bridge was good”

“CY Y8 – I now understand that there are more jobs in construction”



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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)

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



Term Dates 2024-25

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

Term Dates 2025-26

Term 1 2025

Staff Training Day
All Classes return
Term Ends

Monday 1st September 2025
Tuesday 2nd September 2025
Friday 17th October 2025

Remember that school finishes at 1.15pm every Friday afternoon

(All other days school finishes at 3.15pm)



ATTENDANCE MATTERS



88 pupils have 100% attendance for Term 5!

139 pupils have over 93% attendance for Term 5!

159 pupils have over 90% attendance for Term 5!

Can you improve your attendance in Term 6?

Neptune had the highest house attendance for
Term 5 with **86.59%**.

Well done Neptune!

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

Coffee Mornings

Our next and final session will be on Monday 23rd June to meet with tea and cake for our termly catch up. Looking forward to seeing everyone there for our final meet up of the academic year.

Guided talks

We had a great turn out for our 'Mental health' training with Rebekah from NEFLT. It was extremely informative with lots of strategies to take away in how to best support people with mental health.

Our next Guided talk will be on Friday 27th June about 'Understanding autism' with Kelly Ingram our Autism specialist from Bower Grove School. Another relevant session that should not be missed!



Please book any of these sessions via our email address

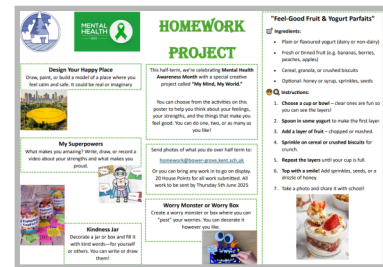
psg@bower-grove.kent.sch.uk or phone us on 01622 726773

Mrs R Dowling

PCSG Lead

Homework Project

Please do not forget to complete some or all of the Homework Project to win 20 house points. Send your work into school via email to homework@bower-grove.kent.sch.uk or bring in a hard copy to school.



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 V Corcoran ICT Technician
Miss M Dalton-Barrett LSA
Miss L Achiburi LSA

Welcome New Staff:

Miss S Bottiglieri LSA

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

