

# Bower Grove News



Issue 152

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

July 2025

Dear Readers,

What an amazing year this really has been and it is such a delight to read about just so many activities that our pupils have been busy achieving.

It astounds me how many trips, visits and residentials our pupils are offered and the wonder of seeing their faces as they leave and then return. For some children these visits are real first-time experiences and are so valuable for their development. Thank you to our wonderful staff for providing these opportunities.

This term has been incredibly busy which started by a big focus on our year 11 pupils. We are so proud of their achievements which for some has been at Bower Grove since Reception year. The celebration events that took place at the end of June demonstrated what outstanding pupils they have become and should be very proud of their journey. Good luck to all of you for your results day on 21st August and for your new courses starting in September.

The fundraising that we have completed this year has been outstanding which started with our Summer Fair raising £2779 at the beginning of July and has continued with our Impacts classes, Badgers & Oaks completing an enterprise scheme and raising £126.50 (Oaks) & £70 (Badgers). This is an amazing feat knowing that all the products on sale were handmade by the pupils in class. To top off the month, we have great delight in reporting that Bower Grove has been selected as Charity of the year by Cobtree Golf Course. It is with such pride and honour that our community is able to achieve these feats and I would like to thank everyone for all your support.

We have finished this term with a new look transition experience, offering all our pupils a five day experience of what life will be like in September. Well done to all our pupils who, despite the worries and anxieties of getting to know new classrooms and staff, completed the week really well.

I would like to wish everyone a wonderful summer holidays and enjoy some well-deserved rest. We would welcome all parents and carers to spend some time in purchasing school uniform so your child feels valued and part of our Bower Grove community in September.

This year, all our pupils will be returning together on Tuesday 2nd September – see you then!

Mrs Cleave

Headteacher



## News from the Governors

This term has been as busy as ever for the Governing Body with visits, meetings, policies to review and reports to read. However, this term also brings some of the fun into the Governors diaries with some of us attending Parents Evening, Sports Day and the Year 11 leaver events. On behalf of the Governors, I'd like to thank all the staff who work hard to make these special events so successful. It was a privilege to join our Year 11 pupils at their leaver's assembly, to watch many of them receive awards and recognition for all their hard work and to hear how they have progressed since joining the school. I was filled with pride for them and for all of the staff.

We wish all those pupils that are moving on from Bower Grove the very best of luck with the next stage of their education.

I would very much like to pay tribute to our dedicated staff team without whom Bower Grove would not be the outstanding school it is today. Governors hope that you all have a happy and restful summer and we look forward to working together with you next year. We also wish all our pupils and their families a safe and happy summer break and we look forward to seeing you all at the start of September.



# CELEBRATING CREATIVITY AT BOWER GROVE

## MUSIC

This term, the Open Orchestra has been busy making recordings of the pieces we have been working on and already looking ahead with some exciting plans for next year. It's been fantastic to hear their progress and creativity in action!

In the classroom, there's been a real buzz of performance across all year groups. Year 9 pupils have focused on the iconic music of John Williams, one of the most successful and influential film composers of all time. From Star Wars to Harry Potter. They have explored what makes his music so memorable – and had a great time learning to play some of his most famous themes.

## ENGLISH

Year 6 (Falcons and Eagles) have been spending some time in the Secondary school. They have been studying a mini-unit on 'The Golden Compass' by Phillip Pullman. As part of the unit, they worked together to create imaginative similes within descriptive writing. Below are some examples of their work:

### Eagles:

Aiden - 'The other bears roared like ogres.'

Thomas - 'As loud as an earthquake, the bears bellowed at each other.'

### Falcons:

Kai - 'The other bears roared like thunder. The two bears clashed like waves.'

Len - 'Lyra was scared, like a rabbit being hunted by a fox.'

Rosie - 'The bears clashed like vengeful Gods'; 'Lyra was scared like a deer caught in headlights.'

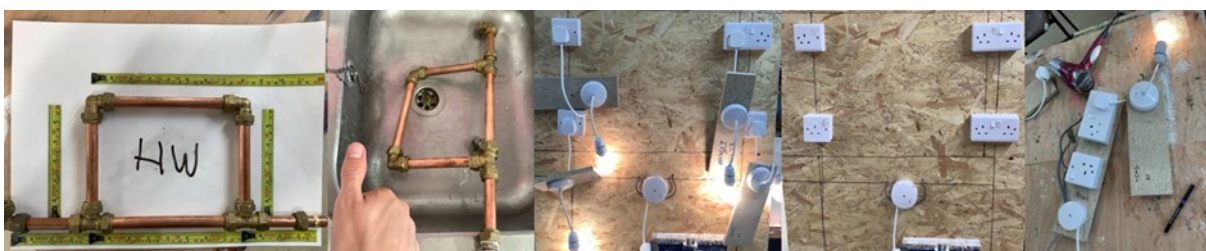
Lucas - 'Lyra was scared like a rat being chased by dogs.'

Joshua - 'Lyra was terrified like a rat being chased by a cat.'

Freddie - 'As loud as ringing bells, the bears bellowed at each other.'

## DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Year 10 Pupils this term have been experiencing Plumbing and Electrical Installation. They have practiced and completed end of unit Assessments in-line with the City & Guilds Level 1 Construction Course to gain knowledge within the Construction Industry. All Pupils have completed both temporary and permanent end feed plumbing tasks. They have also connected Flex to Ceiling Rose and Lamp and assembled a 13amp Switched Sockets Wired RingMain.



# Key Stage 1

KS1 went to Little Fant Farm. It was a very hot day but we managed to have the energy to feed and groom some ponies and then fed 2 goats named Ant and Dec and a pig called Miss Piggy. We also made a sunflower seed pot to take home to plant.



# Hedghogs Class

Hedghogs went to visit Bower Grove's Bees that are living in a hive with Laddingford Bee Keepers Association. Julian, Guy and Marilyn the bee keepers showed us around all the hives and we got to ask lots of questions about the bees and how they make honey. We got to see a live colony of bees through the glass and even spotted the queen bee. Marilyn showed us her rosettes from winning the best Honey in Kent Competition. We were all given a goodie bag which had a pot of Laddingford Honey. Thank you very LDBKA.





# Penguins Class



## Penguins Class Explore Metamorphosis

This term, as part of their learning, Penguins have welcomed some very special classroom guests, tiny caterpillars!

Pupils observed the caterpillars closely as they grew, spun themselves into cocoons, and began the transformation known as metamorphosis. With great excitement and patience, the class watched as the cocoons eventually opened to reveal beautiful butterflies.

After caring for them, feeding them lots of sugary fruits, and learning all about their life cycle, Penguins were able to set the butterflies free into the wild.



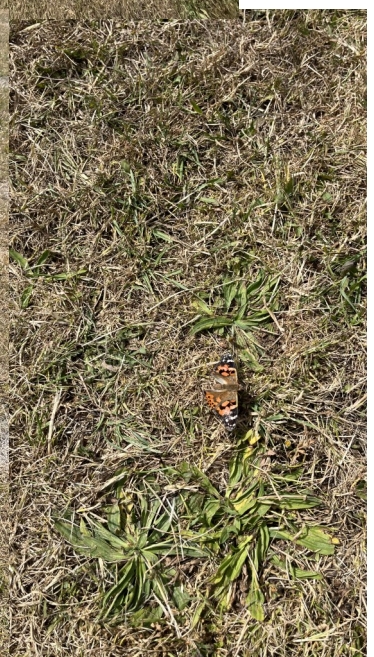


# Penguins Class



## *Penguins Class Explore Metamorphosis*

*Here are pictures of us releasing the butterflies.*





# Year 5 Residential

On Thursday 19th June we went to Wildwood and saw lots of different animals (Connor, W). We saw a baby wolf and a bear in water and went on a big slide in the park (Harvey, L). We then drove to Herne Bay where we had ice cream (Connor, W). After that we went to Chatham Dockyard where we met a lady called Debbie, she showed us around the HMS Cavalier (Marshal, R). We slept on the HMS Cavalier while Phil, the security guard stayed up all night to keep us safe (Johnny, G). On Friday 20th June we went on the HMS Ocelot submarine. Fun fact, it was used until 1991. It was the best day of my school year (Archie, B).





# Squirrels Class

*Squirrels Class have been learning about The Americas. They really enjoyed 'Native Americans' and have created these fantastic Totem Poles as part of their Global Learning topic. Totem Poles can reach upto 60 feet in height, with ours just a little smaller (approximately 6 feet). Squirrels Class discovered that 'Totem Poles' have a spiritual meaning, with a Squirrel symbolising preparedness, playfulness, and resourcefulness.*



# Badgers Class

Badgers class took part in a £5 challenge this term. This was an idea that the pupils came up with to raise money to improve the Grove - our outdoor learning area. Each group was given £5 and they had to research a product to sell that was within their budget. Once they had decided and provided how much it cost they then made posters and made the product if they needed to.

On the day of the sale, they set up their stalls in the classroom and sold their items. It was a really successful morning and the pupils raised £69.30.

Harley said "It was fun, I really enjoyed it."



## Oaks Class Time-Travels to Ancient Egypt

Oaks Class recently stepped into the ancient world of Egypt, during a visit to the Tutankhamun Immersive Experience in London. Through breathtaking 8-metre-high video projections, a 360° VR journey, and a digital Metaverse tomb, we explored the life and legacy of the famous Boy King. We were amazed by original artefacts from Cairo, an AI photobooth that transformed us into ancient Egyptians, and a world-first hologram that revealed the secrets of mummification. Narrated by the real voice of Howard Carter, the experience brought history to life in the most dynamic way. We left feeling inspired, curious, and with a deeper understanding of ancient Egypt.



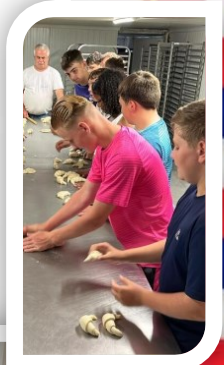


# BOULOGNE SUR MER

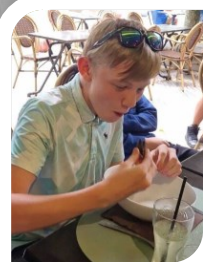


On Wednesday 2 July 18 Year 8 pupils set off for a residential in France. After travelling through the tunnel to Calais the group drove to Wierre-Effroy to visit a bakery to see how they make their bread and croissants. Bruno the baker tested the group on their knowledge of the ingredients but he wasn't

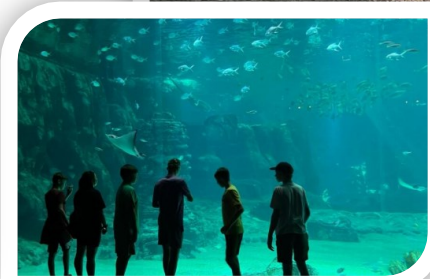
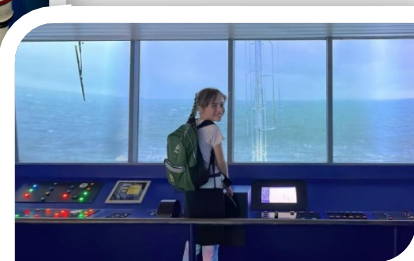
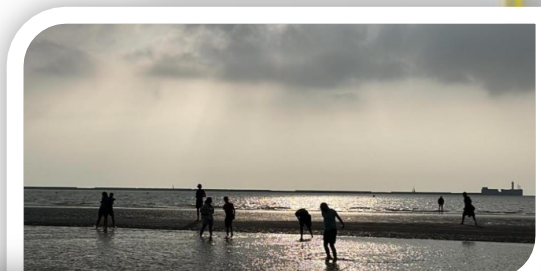
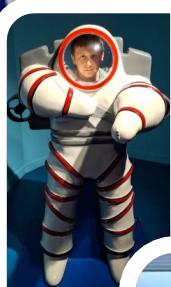
impressed with everyone's efforts at croissant rolling!



The group checked into the youth hostel and enjoyed some relaxation and babyfoot before going to restaurant "Le Marivaux" for dinner which included a chance to try mussels. The evening was rounded off with time to play on the beach and then a walk back to the hostel.

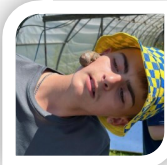


On Thursday Ms Syrett did an early bakery visit to collect baguettes for pupils to make their packed lunches and once breakfast was done we headed to Nausicaa – Europe's largest aquarium. It was a fantastic visit.





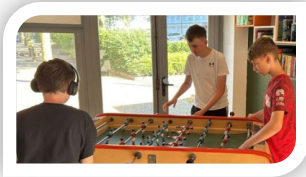
# BOULOGNE SUR MER



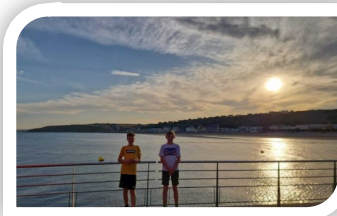
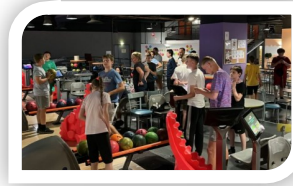
After an elevesnes croissant the group headed to a snail farm to learn about how snails are raised – pupils and adults learnt lots of new things and some people were brave enough to try some different snail delights!



We drove south to Cap Blanc Nez on the coast for a bracing walk and an exploration of some of the WW2 bunkers and gun emplacements

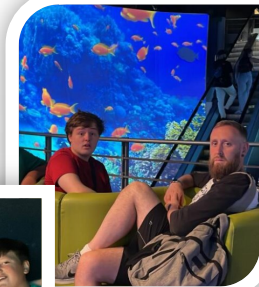


We headed to the supermarket to buy essential supplies (bonbons, biscuits, sirops...) and after some relaxation and babyfoot in the hostel we headed to McDo for dinner and then bowling.



Mr Jacobs headed out for an early run with some of the boys and then the group swiftly successfully cleared their rooms on Friday morning so we were in plenty of time for our shuttle crossing (after pain au chocolat elevesnes of course!). We returned to school safely on Friday July 4<sup>th</sup> ready to get taxis home and catch up on sleep!

Many thanks to the staff team that accompanied the group (Ms Burrows, Mr Jacobs, Mrs Kemp, Mr Lacey and Mrs Wilkinson), giving up their time to enable the trip to happen. For some staff and pupils it was their first BGS residential. It is always a privilege to take pupils abroad for their first experience outside the UK. The group were fabulous company – positive, polite, interested and (mostly!!) well-behaved. It was a pleasure to spend time with colleagues and pupils alike.



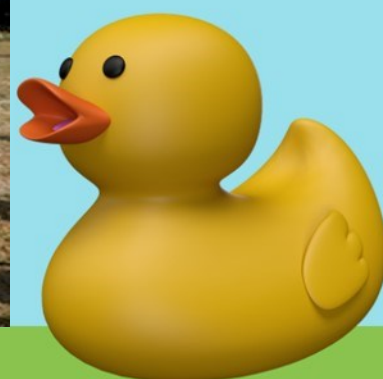
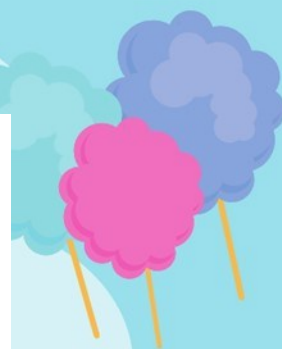
# SUMMER FAIR

*On Wednesday 2nd July we held our Annual Summer Fair. The weather was perfect for the event and it was lovely to see all our guests and long -standing friends of the school and it's community.*

*Thanks to all that attended whether it was to enjoy an ice cream, win a coconut or splash our teachers!*

*In total we raised £2,779.46!*

*Thank you to all our staff and members of the PFTA that worked together to make the event fun for all.*





# UK Parliament

*Helen Grant, MP for Maidstone and Malling visited the school on Thursday 10th July. She enjoyed a musical performance from Frogs Class, a tour of the school from one of our former pupils, Criegon, as well as tea and sausage rolls with the Year 8 Aspire Group. Helen thoroughly enjoyed her visit and would like to come back next year - we look forward to welcoming her.*





# COBTREE MANOR

## *Charity of the Year*

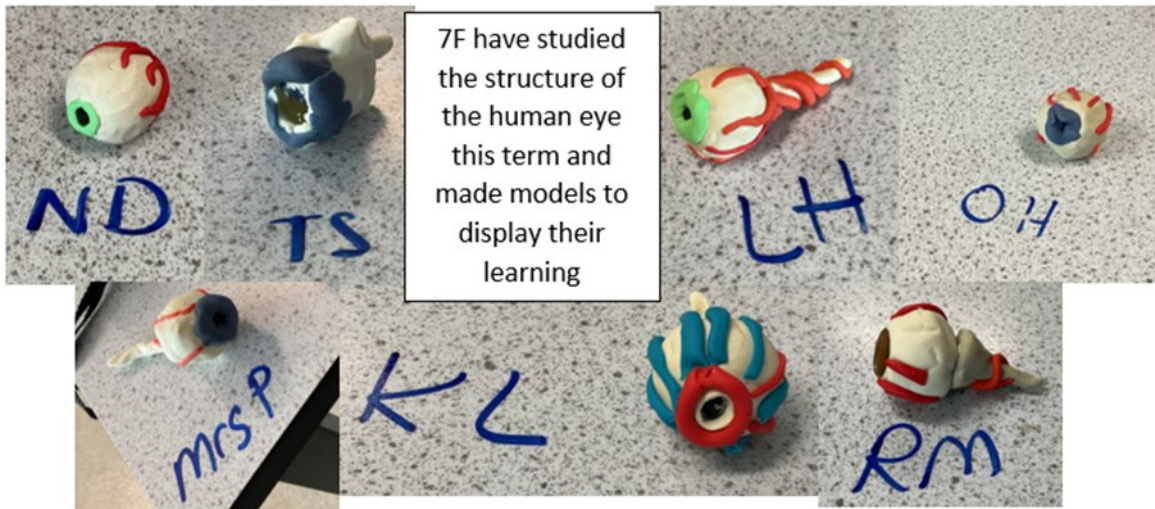
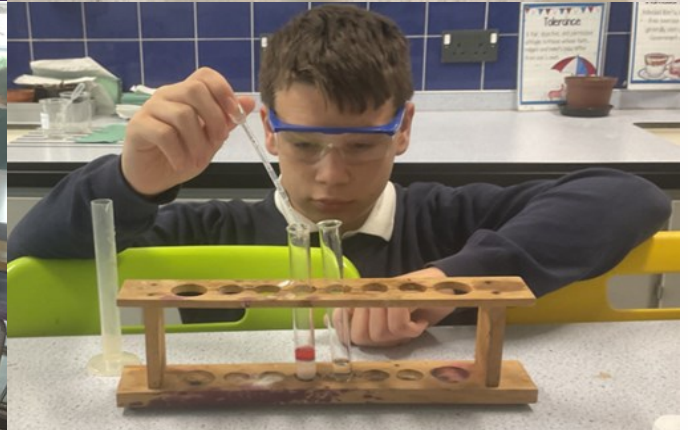
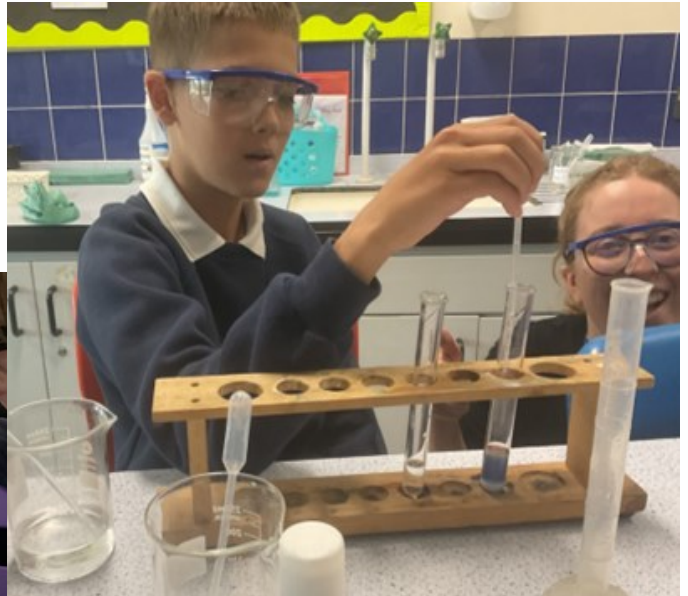
*We were delighted to hear that Cobtree Manor Park Golf Club have chosen Bower Grove as their charity for the year. As part of this Mrs Cleave and Mrs Fletcher attended the Captain's Day on Saturday 12th July. The club organised a raffle and golf competition which raised £2000 for our school. Thank you to Kerriann, Colin and Rob who were our hosts.*

*We are very grateful for all your support.*



# SCIENCE

7H have been exploring a range of chemicals this term. They were set the challenge of using the chemicals to create a rainbow in a test tube.



## PE ACTIVITIES

PE in the summer term is always busy, and this year is no exception. We have had our annual Sports Day, fixtures against other schools and our Sports Awards Assembly, all over the last few weeks and it has been so fantastic to see our pupils celebrated for their successes and efforts in PE and Sport.

Sports day was a wonderful day, and a big thank you goes out to all the parents/carers who came to support and the staff that helped organise and run the day. Our Primary Sports Day was won by Neptune and our Secondary event by Mars. After totting up the scores and the special recognition points, Mars were announced as the winners overall. Well done Mars!!

The following week, in assembly our PE & Sports Awards were given out. Lots of our students were nominated for an award and well done to everyone but the final winners of our trophies were as follows:

*Class of the Year: Penguins*

*The Sportsmanship Award: Liam Suddell*

*Sports Achievement/Team of the Year: Under 16s Football Team*

*The Unsung Hero Award: Alfie J*

*Survivalist of the Year: Romello B*

*Swimmer of the Year: Charlie S*

*Climber of the Year: Carl S*

*Junior Sports Personality: Harvey L*

*Senior Sports Personality: Zac E*



# Simple Tomato Spaghetti

Ingredients (Serves 4-6)

2 tbsp Butter

1/2 tbsp Oil

1 Small Onion (finely chopped)

1 Large Carrot (finely chopped)

2 Stalks of Celery (finely chopped)

1-2 Cloves of Garlic (finely chopped or crushed)

2 Tins Chopped Tomatoes (800g)

1/2 Dried Oregano

Splash of milk (roughly around 100ml)

Salt & Pepper



1. Add butter and oil to a large saucepan and melt.
2. Add the chopped onion and carrots to the pan and cook on a medium heat for 2-3 minutes until it starts to soften.
3. Add celery and garlic and fry for another couple of minutes, stirring regularly.
4. Pour in the chopped tomatoes, dried oregano and milk and mix well.
5. Simmer for 10-12 minutes and liquid reduced so sauce is a bit thicker.
6. Put on a pan of water to boil and cook pasta according to instructions on the packet.
7. When pasta cooked drain with a colander and pour back into saucepan.
8. Season the sauce with salt and pepper to taste then pour enough sauce onto the pasta to coat it then put into a bowl to serve.

## Alternatives:

Add fried mince to make it into a Bolognese

Add chopped mushrooms or any other vegetables to make it a vegetable pasta

Add any other cooked meats i.e. chicken or chorizo

Add a splash of balsamic vinegar to give a tangy taste

Add grated cheese on top

Place pasta with sauce in the dish and cover with mozzarella and bake in the oven

Add fresh herbs like basil instead of dried

# Order Your School Uniform Online

# BRIGADE

## Free Delivery to School Service

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



**SUPPLYING SCHOOLS**  
Since 1990

### 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](http://www.brigade.uk.com)

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



## Term Dates 2025-26

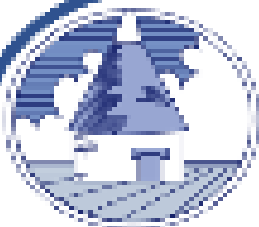
**Term 1**  
**2025**

*Staff Training Day*  
All Classes return  
Term Ends

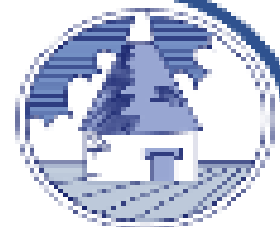
Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025  
Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025  
Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Remember that school finishes at 1.15pm every Friday afternoon

(All other days school finishes at 3.15pm)



### ATTENDANCE MATTERS



4 pupils have 100% attendance for the year!

152 pupils have over 90% attendance for the year!

90 pupils have over 95% attendance for the year!

**Can you improve your attendance next year?**

**Neptune** had the highest house attendance for  
the year with **87.7%**.

*Well done Neptune!*

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



### Coffee Mornings

Thank you to everyone who attended our parent and carer coffee mornings this academic year. It was so lovely to see some new faces as well as our usuals. I hope you have managed to take away some supporting tips and now have a new friend group and community you can lean on in the future. Further information regarding our coffee morning will come out in September 25.

### Guided talks

We had a great group for our 'Understanding Autism' training with Kelly Ingram. It was extremely informative with lots of strategies to take away in how to best support people with autism. Also looking into all the myths that surround what autism is and how it presents. I hope one of our Guided Talks this year has provided guidance and support to allow you to feel more information in that given area in order to support children and adults moving forward.

Our 25/26 dates for our Guided Talks at Bower Grove, 10 – 11:30am are:

To ensure we provide training that is current and useful for you please take 2 minutes to fill in our questionnaire to vote for the top 6 guided talks you would like next academic year.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=eGx4ye70REaBZUEXVyNBC9hpSRkYjSNHqSYOXgwYm5VUOU5CUDk3UUE4QVpEVVI3UTVDSIJFWDNITY4u>

Friday 3rd October

Friday 20th March

Friday 21st November

Friday 15th May

Friday 30th January

Friday 26th June

[id=eGx4ye70REaBZUEXVyNBC9hpSRkYjSNHqSYOXgwYm5VUOU5CUDk3UUE4QVpEVVI3UTVDSIJFWDNITY4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=eGx4ye70REaBZUEXVyNBC9hpSRkYjSNHqSYOXgwYm5VUOU5CUDk3UUE4QVpEVVI3UTVDSIJFWDNITY4u)

Mrs R Dowling  
PCSG Lead



## School dinners increasing from September 2025

As from September 2025, the price of our school dinners will be increasing to £2.80.

A cost comparison analysis has been conducted to ensure that our school is inline with other schools. Bower has not increased its costs for the past 10 years and the increase is a reflection of the increase in cost of living and the increase in food costs.

## 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.

### Staff Leavers:

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

Miss C Fox	SMSC Co-Ordinator
Ms G Barker	Trainee Teacher
Miss Y Wiseman	LSA
Mrs L Nicholson	LSA
Mr M Wilkinson	Art Cover Teacher

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



### Welcome New Staff:

Mrs A Ashby      PA to SLT & HR Assistant