



Head Teacher Message

What a wonderful half term it is has been, the pupils have been out on school trips and visits to a variety of locations in the community. It has been lovely to see the photographs of them enjoying themselves and applying skills from the classroom in different locations.

We have some exciting staffing updates to share with you, please look at that page later on in the newsletter and we have also included a list of the staff who are in each class for your reference.

The weather has continued to be wet and soggy but the children are enjoying time in the outside areas, please continue to send spare clothing so that those who want to change after getting wet are able to do so!

The School Council have been up and running since September and they have driven improvements in the school including the introduction of lunchtime clubs, selecting the charity that we are supporting this year as Macmillan Cancer Support and they named our communication robot as Space-man. We raised £110 for Macmillan Cancer Support from the Christmas Raffle.

Next half term there is parents evening and we will be holding an Easter Cake Sale where all donations will be given to Macmillian Cancer Support.

We hope that you all have an enjoyable half term and we look forward to seeing everyone back at school on Monday 23rd February.

Best wishes, Jemma

Important Dates

5th March 2026:

World book day

Wednesdays:

Weekly Swimming lessons for Orange, Blue and purple Class.

March 11th, 12th and 13th:

Parents evenings

Thursday 26th

March:

Parent drop in for Charity Easter Cake sale & Easter crafts at 1:30

May 4th: Bank Holiday
No school

Red Class

This half term, in Red Class, the topic has been 'People who help us'. We have been finding out about firefighters, police, paramedics and doctors, and many more of the special people that help us every day. The pupils have learned about what all these special people do to make sure we are safe and well looked after.

We've even dressed up as Police Officers and have made our very own ID badges.

Through continued use of our interactive phonics scheme 'Rocket Phonics', we are seeing some super progress in the children's understanding and recognition of key sounds and objects.

We have also had yet another super trip to the park this half term. Take a look at the photos.

In addition to this, we have been introduced to our new amazing immersive room. We have interacted with stories, played games and even been under the sea to look at all the sea creatures!

Many of the pupils in Red Class are now very much settled into the daily routines and expectations. We've had lots of fun during messy play sessions, using both our lovely outside playgrounds and some active PE, music and dance sessions in our hall and in the classroom.

We look forward to finding out more about all the fabulous people who help us, after the half term.



Yellow Class

We are so proud to share an update on all the wonderful learning that has been taking place in Yellow Class this term.

The children have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in a wide range of sensory play, creative art activities, and outdoor play, making the most of dry days to explore and learn outside. These experiences have supported the children's curiosity, confidence, and enjoyment of learning.

The children have been gently introduced to the early stages of sensory circuits, which has already shown great benefits. These activities have helped to support focus, regulation, and readiness for learning throughout the day.

In phonics, the children have explored different sounds using sensory materials. This has helped them engage with sounds in a fun and meaningful way. Alongside this, the children have really enjoyed singing and storytelling through maths, helping to build early number skills while developing communication and listening.

As a class we have been working on improving our focus during adult-led group work, and we are incredibly proud of the progress the children have made. They have shown increased engagement, attention, and confidence during group activities — a fantastic achievement for everyone.

Our topic this term, "Grow Grow Grow," has been a big hit. The children have enjoyed going on scavenger hunts, creating paintings using fruit and vegetables as stamps, and exploring a wide variety of flowers through touch and smell. These activities have supported sensory exploration and understanding of the world around them.

All the adults in Yellow Class are so proud of how far the children have come this term. Their progress, enthusiasm, and smiles make every day special, and we are excited to continue supporting them on their learning journey.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.





Green Class

As another half term comes to an end, we are very proud of the progress the children in Green Class have made. They continue to grow in confidence and independence, approaching each day with curiosity, enthusiasm, and a willingness to explore new experiences. It has been wonderful to see them engaging so positively with their learning and enjoying time with their friends.

Our topic this half term, "Down on the Farm," has captured the children's imaginations and offered many rich learning opportunities. Through stories, songs, sensory play, and role-play activities, they have explored farm animals and their environments, developing early communication skills, shared attention, and engagement. These experiences have sparked curiosity and excitement as the children explore new ideas and resources.

The children have also become more confident in the kitchen, taking part in hands-on cooking activities that support independence, life skills, and sensory exploration. They have loved experimenting with different textures, smells, and tastes, and have taken great pride in what they create.

In phonics, the children continue to follow their phonics programme, learning new sounds each week while revisiting previous ones. They have begun working with CVC and high-frequency words through songs, visual prompts, and play, showing growing confidence and enjoyment in exploring sounds and words. Meanwhile, in maths, the children have been discovering shapes through practical and sensory activities, developing early mathematical understanding alongside fine motor and problem-solving skills.

Messy and sensory play remains a key part of our learning, offering opportunities for creativity, self-expression, and sensory regulation. Thank you, as always, for your understanding when clothes come home a little messy — these experiences are a valuable part of the children's development.

Overall, this half term has been full of curiosity, creativity, and progress. The children continue to build upon their communication, independence, and engagement, and as always green class teachers are so incredibly proud of everything they have achieved.





Orange Class

As we come to the end of Spring Term 1, we would like to share some of the lovely learning and progress the children have made during this half term.

In Phonics the children have continued to make great progress with Rocket Phonics. They have been developing their sound recognition skills and growing in confidence during phonics sessions.

In numeracy, we have been learning about length. The children have enjoyed measuring and comparing a range of objects and even themselves, finding out who was the tallest and shortest in the class.

Our science learning has focused on life cycles, with a particular emphasis on the human life cycle. The pupils showed a strong understanding of this topic through hands-on activities, visual resources, and excellent group work. They worked collaboratively to explore each stage of the life cycle and demonstrated their learning in practical and meaningful ways.

In art, the children have been exploring different painting techniques using a range of paints. They have also enjoyed creating their own tie-dye t-shirts and bags, showing creativity and pride in their work.

In PSHE, we have been developing self-awareness, helping the children to understand their likes, dislikes, and personal preferences. This has supported their confidence and ability to express themselves.

The children have thoroughly enjoyed our weekly sensory sessions, which have been a lovely and calming part of the week. All pupils engage really well during these sessions, exploring a range of sensory activities in a relaxed and supportive environment. It is a special time for the children to regulate, explore, and enjoy shared experiences together. This half term, the children have taken part in weekly shopping trips, where they use a list to find items for our cooking sessions. They then made their own lunches, which everyone thoroughly enjoyed. These sessions have supported independence and life skills.

The children have made great progress in their weekly swimming sessions, particularly in developing water confidence. We are very proud of their achievements.

The children have made fantastic progress with their communication skills this half term. They have been using their communication books to communicate with adults and peers in class and have done amazingly well navigating through their books to express their wants, needs, and choices. This has supported their independence and interaction with others.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to sharing more of the children's learning with you in Spring Term 2.

The Orange Class Team ❤️





Purple Class

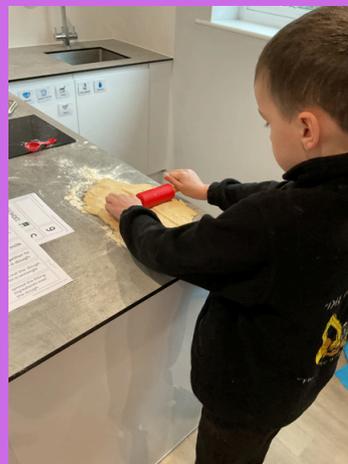
This term, we have been very busy in Purple Class!

In English, we have been reading *The Varmints* and exploring the characters' thoughts and feelings through diary entries, as well as describing different settings. The class has enjoyed reading the book and watching *The Varmints* film, and we compared the similarities and differences between the two versions of the story. In maths, we have been learning about multiplication and division, focusing on the 3 and 4 times tables. We have used a range of counters and objects to support our learning, representing calculations as arrays. We have also been identifying patterns in related multiplication and division facts.

In science, we have enjoyed learning about plants and planted our own sunflower and dahlia seeds. We took part in a variety of investigations, including observing how seeds grow in different environments and exploring how plants transport water. In history, we have been learning about the Romans and exploring different aspects of Roman life and culture. We particularly enjoyed a range of practical activities, such as making Roman roads using food, building catapults, and creating wooden chariot models.

We have also had a great time in our cooking lessons, making a range of different foods. We learned how to cook pizzas and cinnamon buns from scratch, as well as scones and butterfly cakes. We really enjoyed both making and eating them!

In Purple Class, we have continued to build on our understanding of positive relationships and have been learning about different ceremonies. We have continued to enjoy our swimming lessons at Applemore Leisure Centre and have been participating in music lessons, exploring how to use our voices to change pitch and tone. We have been working well together and have enjoyed taking part in lots of sensory play





Blue Class

This half term has been another busy and exciting time for all the children and staff in Blue Class. We have a new member of the Team, Evie has joined us as a Teaching Assistant and we are very lucky to have her.

The underpinning PSHE and life-skills curriculum continues every day and we can see from our observations that the children continue to make positive steps, both in terms of their personal development and also their inter-personal interactions with their classmates and other children and staff within the school. The discreet teaching unit was around 'Respectful Relationships'.

In literacy the focus across most of the half term has been 'The Barnabus project'. This has proved to be a very popular story that all the children have been able to access and produce a wide range of work, both in terms of developing their speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. The staff team have certainly developed their knowledge of a wide range of characters and monsters that the children have both invented and also imported into the work from their wider experiences. We have also looked at poetry, in particular via 'The Spider and the Fly', as well as exploring rhyming couplets. We have completed reading and phonics assessments and this has enabled us to further adjust their personalised curriculum and resources.

In Mathematics we have been developing knowledge and understanding around fractions. Using food as examples certainly seemed to concentrate the mind when it came to ordering fractions in terms of ordering fractions by size. The children have applied themselves well, showing really good levels of resilience when working on what can be a tricky subject area. We have also accessed number work across the whole curriculum and had a special Number day which resulted in a lot of '6-7'.

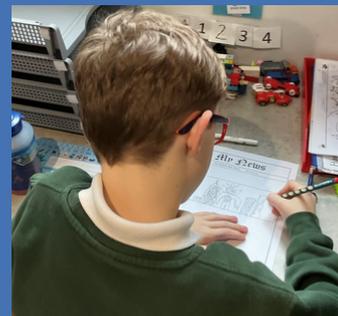
In Science we have looked at Rocks and soil. One result of horrible wet weather has been the localised soil erosion...resulting in some ready-made teaching points as well as more exposed rock to collect for the topic investigation. The wider extraction process of rocks certainly was of great interest to the members of the class who like large machinery.

Blue Class have continued to be great ambassadors to themselves, the class and the school on their weekly trips out. They certainly earn their blue charity chips at the end of the TESCO expeditions. Trips to activities and the weekly swim have also continued with high levels of enjoyment and participation.

PE has also seen some sensory circuit sessions with the OT team and members of the class have also joined in with the new weekly lunchtime Sports club.

The children have continued to cook on a weekly basis and we hope that you have enjoyed the fruits of their labour!

It just remains to say a big "thank you" to all of you for your continued support and we very much value your continued partnership.





Staff Updates



Joshua Webley

We are delighted to inform you that due to the continued expansion and Bower Lodge School now being at capacity we have appointed an Assistant Headteacher and SENDCO. This is Joshua Webley. He will now be attending all the annual reviews and supporting teachers across classes.

Jade Marshall

Jade has joined us as Yellow Class teacher and she will be working on a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. She is an experienced teacher who has expertise in SEND and supporting SEND pupils. She has relocated to the area with her young family. We are delighted that she has joined our school family



Claire Davis

Claire has joined us as our school chef, and she brings with her a wealth of catering experience. She has a good understanding of the dietary preferences of autistic pupils, and we are looking forward to hot meals being served after half term.

As the school has reached full capacity, we have also expanded the teaching assistant team, please see the next page for the staff list for each class. As part of our commitment to staff wellbeing and retention, we are proud to offer a 4 day working week to staff. This does not affect the provision offered to the pupils and school runs five days a week. We ensure that class teams still have 3 staff members per class each day of the week. When teachers are having their rest day, they are covered by one of our amazing HLTAs.

Leavers: Matthew French - Caretaker. Matt has left to pursue other career paths. We wish him every success with his future endeavours and thank him for the hard work and care for our school.

Anton Barnwell - Clinical Psychologist. Anton has been working between Bower Lodge School and Dibden Park School. He has left to follow other personal development opportunities. We would like to thank Anton for his help and support with our pupils and wish him every success.



Classroom staff list

Red class

Teacher: Tim Jeffries
HLTA: Jordan Cooper
TAs: Bryony & Gypsy

Yellow class

Teacher: Jade Marshall
HLTA: Kayleigh Ward
TAs: Sophie & Lara

Green Class

Teacher: Emily Marshall
HLTA: Kayleigh Ward
TAs: Gemma & Chloe

Orange Class

Teacher: Charlene Gyton
HLTA: Jordan Cooper
TAs: Bev & Jade

Blue Class-

Teacher: J-P Cooke
HLTA: Alex Geary
TAs: Lauren, Syd & Evie

Purple Class

Teacher: Joanne Previn
HLTA: Alex Geary
TAs: Esther & Abigale



Communication updates

Class Name	Email to contact
Red Class	Tim.Jeffries@bowerlodgeschool.co.uk
Yellow Class	Jade-louise@bowerlodgeschool.co.uk
Green Class	Emily.Marshall@bowerlodgeschool.co.uk
Orange Class	Charlene.Gyton@bowerlodgeschool.co.uk
Purple Class	Joanne.Pervin@bowerlodgeschool.co.uk
Blue Class	John-paul.Cooke@bowerlodgeschool.co.uk

When contacting Pupils teachers with information please can we ask you to CC our school administrator into those emails to ensure they are seen and dealt with in a timely manner:

hannah.ohara@bowerlodgeschool.co.uk

Keep an eye on our school website News & Events tab as we will be uploading any reminders and events information on there as well as communicating it via email & sending letters home.

<https://www.bowerlodgeschool.co.uk/news-events/>

