



Bower Lodge School

Head Teacher Message

I cannot believe how fast this year has gone. I firstly want to start by thanking all of you for your support of your child, the class teams and the whole staff team.

This has been an incredibly successful year for Bower Lodge School, and we could not have done it without our parents and carers and the feedback that you give to us. I have personally appreciated the comments given to the Ofsted Inspectors - both in person and through the online form, comments from annual reviews and the feedback given during the parental workshop this term to support the writing of the development plan and setting our ambitions for next academic year.

I am incredibly proud of our pupils and the progress that they have made this academic year. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to watch them grow, develop and flourish. I am proud of the way they have embraced new experiences, accessed their community and sat in the theatre to watch performances. It was a really proud moment sharing this with you all at our class end of year celebration assemblies.

All pupils have received social stories about next academic year and spent the last two- weeks in their classes for September 2026. This has been very successful and will reduce the anxieties about returning to school in September.

I hope that you all have a wonderful summer break, are able to enjoy some sunshine and time with families and loved ones. Please see the back of this newsletter for some family events that can be participated in over the summer holiday, and we look forward to seeing everyone back to school on Thursday 3rd September 2026.

Best wishes, Jemma

Important Dates:

Friday 17th

July 2026:

Last day of school before summer break

Tuesday 1st & Wednesday 2nd September 2026:

Inset days -No school

Thursday 3rd September 2026:

Back to school

Red Class

In Red Class this half term, we have continued our topic of 'Come Outside'. The weather has been so kind to us, it has enabled the children to explore and play outside lots and lots. From outdoor PE sessions to trips to the park, water trays sprinklers and hoses, watching plants grow, seeing our caterpillars turn into beautiful butterflies and more, the children have had an absolutely fantastic end to the year.

Jordan, Gypsy, Bryony and I have all loved watching the children grow and flourish in Red Class throughout the year. It has been an absolute pleasure to have all of your wonderful children in our class. The progress they have made is immeasurable - their confidence, communication skills, understanding of the structure and routines we have in place and how they've all gone from strength to strength in all these areas has been a true joy to watch. We are confident they will continue to flourish as they move through our school. I and the Red Class team hope you all have a super Summer and we look forward to welcoming your children back to Bower Lodge in September.



Yellow Class

What a fantastic term we've had in Yellow Class as we've been exploring our topic, "Express Yourself!"

The children have been expressing themselves through a variety of creative experiences, including art, music, storytelling, and imaginative play. We have also enjoyed lots of sensory play, with water activities and edible sensory trays proving to be a big hit. These activities encouraged the children to explore different textures while supporting their communication, creativity, and confidence.

We've shared a range of stories with Shark in the Park becoming a firm favourite! The children had so much fun using telescopes to spot sharks, which inspired lots of imaginative play, excitement, and wonderful conversations.

This term, the children also enjoyed a trip to the soft play centre. They loved exploring a different environment, confidently climbing, balancing, crawling, and sliding while developing their physical skills. It was lovely to see the children encouraging one another, trying new challenges, and having so much fun together.

It has been a wonderful term filled with laughter, exploration, and creativity. We are so proud of how confidently the children have expressed themselves and embraced every new experience.



Green Class

Green Class have had another fantastic half term and have thoroughly enjoyed our topic, Seashells by the Seashore. The children have loved exploring all things seaside through a range of exciting, hands-on activities. They have enjoyed sensory beach-themed tuff trays, water play, seashell investigations and seaside crafts.

One of the highlights of the half term has been our weekly visits to Tesco. The children have grown in confidence each week, practising important life skills such as travelling safely within the community, choosing items, waiting patiently, and developing their independence. It has been wonderful to see how much their confidence has grown during these outings.

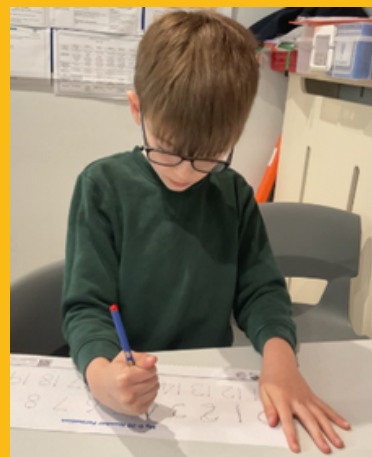
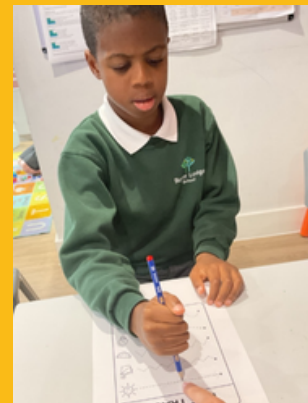
We also enjoyed a very special visit to Carlos Ice Cream Parlour, which linked perfectly to our seaside topic. The children had a fantastic time choosing their own ice cream flavours, practising turn-taking, making choices, and enjoying a real-life community experience together.

As we come to the end of another wonderful academic year, all of the Green Class staff would like to say how incredibly proud we are of every single child. It has been a privilege to watch each child grow in confidence, develop new skills, and make such fantastic progress throughout the year. Every achievement, no matter how big or small, has been celebrated, and we are so proud of the resilience, determination, and enthusiasm the children have shown. We would also like to thank all of our families for their continued support throughout the year. We wish all of our children a happy, safe, and enjoyable summer break.



Orange Class

This half term, Orange Class has enjoyed exploring our topic, ****Land and Sea****, through a range of engaging and sensory activities. In Maths, we have been developing our understanding of numbers to 20 and beyond using practical resources and hands-on learning. In Literacy, the children have continued to build their confidence with Rocket Phonics, letter formation and fine motor activities. Our Science learning has focused on ****From City to Sea****, where we have explored different environments and the animals and plants that live within them. In Art, the children have created colourful land and sea animal collages using a variety of materials and textures, while in PSHE we have been learning about the world we live in and how we can all help to look after our environment. Communication continues to be a key focus throughout the school day, with the children making excellent use of their communication books to support their learning and independence. The children have also thoroughly enjoyed their weekly cooking sessions, where they have developed important life skills, alongside their weekly swimming sessions and shopping trips, which continue to build confidence, independence and community skills. We are incredibly proud of all the progress the children have made this half term and would like to thank you for your continued support throughout the year. We hope you all have a wonderful, safe and relaxing summer break, and we look forward to welcoming the children back in September.





Purple Class

It has been a busy and exciting term filled with hands-on learning, creativity, and memorable experiences.

In English, the class explored poems and narrative stories. They then applied their learning by creating comic strips linked to their forces topic, developing characters and settings to bring their scientific understanding into storytelling.

In Mathematics, pupils have been working with time, money, and fractions. They also developed their data handling skills by creating bar charts and pictograms. Some pupils took the opportunity to use specialist equipment to measure temperature, presenting their findings in pictogram form.

In Science, the children explored forces, focusing on push and pull. They designed and tested ramps using different objects, investigating how varying surfaces and angles affected the speed of movement. They also explored magnetism, learning about north and south poles and discovering which materials attract and repel.

Other highlights this term included a fantastic visit to Southampton City Farm, where pupils had the opportunity to pet and interact with a range of animals. They showed great enthusiasm and confidence when holding snakes and guinea pigs, demonstrating curiosity and respect for the animals.

A further highlight was the therapy dog visit, where all pupils interacted brilliantly, showing kindness, calmness, and excellent engagement.

During the recent heatwave, pupils took part in a range of enriching outdoor activities designed to keep them cool and engaged. These included water play sessions, shadow seeking investigations linked to science learning, and a highly enjoyable pool party.

Pupils also enjoyed ice lollies as a refreshing treat while staying safe in the heat.

In Cooking, children developed their practical skills by preparing a variety of sweet treats and desserts, including cake pops, apple crumble, and brownies. They showed great teamwork, enthusiasm, and pride in their finished products.

Overall, it has been a highly productive term with pupils showing great enthusiasm across all areas of learning.





Blue Class

Summer 2 has been a lively and rewarding half term for Blue Class. Our whole-class theme of Push and Pull has provided many enjoyable opportunities for the children to investigate, create and take part in practical learning experiences.

PSHE and life-skills learning remains an important part of each day. Across the half term, the children have continued to build their confidence, develop communication skills and strengthen their relationships with peers, staff and members of the wider school community.

This half term's focused PSHE learning has centred on Being Safe. The children have considered safe and unsafe behaviours in a variety of familiar situations and have discussed who they can speak to when they need help or reassurance. They have also explored the idea that, as they get older, they may take on more responsibilities. This has included thinking about making sensible decisions, caring for others and developing independence in everyday routines.

In Literacy, the class has enjoyed working with *The Rabbits* by John Marsden and *There's a Snake in My School!* by David Walliams. Both texts have prompted a wide range of reading, writing, speaking and listening activities. The children have explored characters, events and settings, while also sharing ideas through discussion and drama. One especially successful creative activity linked to *The Rabbits* was Aboriginal dot art. The children approached this work with patience and enthusiasm, producing imaginative pieces that they were very pleased to share. Individual reading, phonics and fluency work has continued through tailored activities and interventions, alongside Star Reader, Accelerated Reader and Rocket Phonics.

Mathematics has included regular work on core number skills, as well as practical learning linked to money and time.

The children have been keen to handle coins and notes, identify their values and work out amounts in familiar contexts. They have also explored electronic payments through their involvement in the weekly Tesco shopping trips. Using money in this practical way has helped the children understand why these skills are useful in daily life. Work on time has continued through classroom activities, routines and real-life examples.

Monday shopping and cooking sessions have remained a valuable and popular part of the week. The children have taken an active role in selecting and buying ingredients, including items needed by younger classes as well as those required for Blue Class cooking. They have developed their ability to follow recipes, prepare food and sample unfamiliar ingredients. There have been plenty of enjoyable results from the kitchen this half term, although the staff's favourite was undoubtedly the banana muffins!

In Science, the children have investigated Forces and Magnets as part of our Push and Pull theme. They have explored movement and considered how forces can cause objects to begin moving, slow down, stop or travel in a different direction. The class has also investigated magnetic attraction and repulsion through hands-on activities, with many children keen to test their own ideas and predictions.

Our visit to the INTECH Science Centre was a memorable experience for the class. The Planetarium session was particularly popular, while the interactive exhibits gave the children opportunities to explore scientific ideas through experimenting and discovery. It was a much-enjoyed day and a real highlight for many pupils.

Blue Class has continued to take part positively in community visits, swimming and wider enrichment activities. The children have represented the class and school well, demonstrating growing confidence and awareness when out in the community.

In PE, the children have taken part in gym-based activities designed to develop balance, coordination, strength and control. They have also worked alongside a partner during selected tasks, practising cooperation, listening and taking turns. Sensory circuits have remained part of the timetable, helping children prepare physically and emotionally for the school day.

Thank you for the encouragement and support you have given throughout the year. We appreciate the strong relationship we have with our Blue Class families and wish everyone a safe, enjoyable and well-deserved summer holiday.



Therapy Dog visit

On Thursday 4th June we had a special visit at Bower Lodge School from Barney, a therapy dog from the Hampshire bereavement charity Simon Says.

All the pupils were given the opportunity to meet Barney, in the school hall. Here they were supported by their class team and the clinical team with core boards and vocabulary to help the understand and share what they enjoyed.



Sign Supported English

At Bower Lodge School, we use Sign Supported English (SSE) to help support communication and language development. SSE uses signs from British Sign Language (BSL) alongside spoken English, allowing children to hear words and see signs at the same time. By signing as we speak, we help children to understand language more easily and encourage them to use signs to communicate their own thoughts, needs, and feelings. Each week, we introduce and practise a Sign of the Week. This half term, we have been focusing on the following signs:

Sign of the week Ok / Fine / Alright  Closed hand with thumbs up pointing slightly out move in outwards circles. Eyebrows raised for "are you ok?" etc.	Sign of the week That / There  Index finger points with short movement towards referent (with eye gaze)	Sign of the week Wash  This is a mime e.g. pretend to wash your hands or your body using both hands.
Sign of the week Clean  Right hand moves forward/right along left palm. Hand on top can be flat or perpendicular	Sign of the week Dry  Thumbs rub across the fingertips from little fingers to indexes. One hand can be used.	Sign of the week Here / This  Index finger makes two short downward movements. Two hands can be used.

We encourage families to use these signs at home whenever possible. Seeing and using the same signs in different environments helps children build their confidence, understanding, and communication skills.

Thank you for supporting your child's communication journey with us.

Term Dates 2026-2027

Bower Lodge School

2026 - 2027 School Calendar

September '26						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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October '26						
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November '26						
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December '26						
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January '27						
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February '27						
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March '27						
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April '27						
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May '27						
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June '27						
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July '27						
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Aug '27						
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



School Closed/ Holidays



Inset Days



Transition Weeks



Parents Evenings



Bank/ Public Holidays



Communication updates

Class Name	Email to contact
Red Class	Tim.Jeffries@bowerlodgeschool.co.uk
Yellow Class	Jade-louise.marshall@bowerlodgeschool.co.uk
Green Class	Emily.Marshall@bowerlodgeschool.co.uk
Orange Class	Charlene.Gyton@bowerlodgeschool.co.uk
Purple Class	Alex.geary@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/>

