Bower Lodge School News Letter 1, Autumn Term 1

Upcoming Events

Bower Lodge School Nativity!

This will take place at St Andrews Church on 11th December at 2:00pm and more details will be shared about tickets after half term.

Christmas Jumper Day!

This will take place on 10th Decmber & we encourge all students and staff to wear a christmas jumper and bring in a donation for Save the Children UK.

Weekly Swimming lessons!

These will continue to take place on Wednesdays for Green, Orange, Blue and Purple Class.

Off Site Community Trips!

A Half term Trip Calandar will be shared with each class with all extra offsite trips after Half Term.

Welcome back to Bower Lodge School!

It has been an absolute pleasure welcoming all our children back for the start of the new academic year.

Reminders

School Christmas Dinners will take place as follows:

Red & Yellow Class - 8.12.2026

Green & Orange Class - 9.12.2026

Purple & Blue Class - 10.12.2026

Please send your child in with a packed lunch on all other days this week when it is **not** their designated Christmas dinner day.

Head Teacher Messgae from Jemma



Welcome back to the academic year 2026 - 2027, it has been a fantastic start to the year. We have welcomed some new staff and pupils to the school, and it has been wonderful to see our Bower Lodge School family continue to grow. I want to extend my thanks to the parents who contributed to the school development planning at the end of the last academic year and we are working hard to put some of these ideas and suggestions into action.

The car park has been a big topic for improving from all parties. The leadership team have secured support from OFG for this project, however, as we are based in the New Forest this is not going to be a quick project. We are in the process of having plans drawn up by an architect so that we can apply for planning permission. I will keep you updated on any developments as they arise.

Another area for development this year is our clubs and activities. We are extending our community trips so that more pupils are accessing the local community more often. Each class will be sent a timetable of trips and visits at the beginning of each half term. We are also in the process of setting up a squirrels group which is part of the scouting organisation. This will run after school between 2:45 - 3:30 once a week and be only for Bower Lodge School pupils. If you would like your child to be part of this group, please can you let Hannah O'hara in the school office know so that we can organise staffing.

We are continuing with our AQA Unit Awards this academic year and were delighted with the achievements of all our pupils.

I hope that you and your families have a wonderful half term break and we look forward to seeing everyone back at school on Monday 2nd November.

School Trip recap



We are very please to say that all classes had at least one opportunity to go on a community trip with their class this Half Term.
Please see below some of each classes highlights.
Each class will be sent a trip timetable for next half term once we return from the break.

Red & Yellow Class Trip to Soft Play





Green Class Trip to the Farm





Orange Class Trip to the Farm



Blue Class Trip to Tesco

Green Class Trip to the Farm







Blue Class Trip to Go Ape





Purple & Blue Class Trip to Climbing

Half Term Highlights

We want to share some highlights from our first term back at school with you all.

On the 5th of October we celebrated Teacher Appreciation Day - celebrating all our amazing teaching staff here at Bower Lodge School.

On Tuesday 13th October Blue & Purple class had a WW1 workshop at school with a external team coming in and teaching them all about WW1 England.







Staffing updates

Laura Davies:
We are delighted to let parents know that Laura had a baby girl at the end of August. Laura is now on Maternity Leave and she is enjoying time with her family and new baby.

Vicky Smith:
Vicky was at Bower Lodge School as a locum OT to support during Laura's maternity leave. Unfortunately, this arrangement did not continue. We are working on OT arrangements to ensure provision remains in place for those pupils who need it. If parents have any questions, please reach out to Jemma Dudgeon, Headteacher or Cath Fisher, Clinical Lead in the first instance.

Kayleigh Ward:
Kayleigh has been successful in securing a promotion and she is becoming a SENDCO at a nursery setting. This means that Kayleigh will be leaving Bower Lodge School on Friday 13th November. We wish her every success with her future.

Jade Le Cointe:
Jade has secured another role in a mainstream school where she will be taking her knowledge of SEND to support pupils in a resource provision unit. Her last day will be Friday 13th November. We wish her every success with her future.

We are currently recruiting for the following roles: HLTA and Forest School Lead. We have some interviews lined up and we will keep parents and families updated when appointments are made.

Jasmine Skelton:
We are delighted to introduce Jasmine Skelton who has joined the team as a Teaching Assistant in Blue Class. The pupils and staff have made her feel very welcome.

Red Class



Red Class

Teacher: Tim Jeffries

Contact: Tim.Jeffries@bowerlodgeschool.co.uk

CC in: hannah.ohara@bowerlodgeschool.co.uk

What a wonderful start to the year Red Class have had. Our current topic is 'All about Me' and we have been learning lots of interesting and fabulous facts about all the children, their families and all the wonderful activities they enjoy both in and out of school. All the children continue to develop their phonic knowledge and communication skills through use of our Rocket Phonics scheme, and every child is now accessing their own personal schedules to gain an understanding of what the expectations and routines are for the day. Some lovely new friendships have been formed in Red Class, and we look forward to finding out more about the children as we move into our Autumn 2 half term.

Yellow Class



Yellow Class

Teacher: Jade Marshall

Contact: Jade-louise.Marshall@bowerlodgeschool.co.uk

CC in: hannah.ohara@bowerlodgeschool.co.uk

Yellow Class have had a fantastic start to the term! We have been busy exploring our new surroundings and learning all about our topic, 'Independent Me'. With support from staff, the children have been encouraged to develop their independence and build important life skills wherever possible. The children have enjoyed a wide range of sensory play experiences both indoors and outdoors, providing lots of opportunities to explore, discover and have fun. We also enjoyed a community trip to soft play, where the children had a wonderful time exploring a new environment, interacting with adults and peers, and developing their confidence and independence. It has been lovely to see the children settling into the term so well, and we are looking forward to all the exciting learning and experiences still to come!

Green Class



Green Class

Teacher: Emily Marshall

Contact: Emily.Marshall@bowerlodgeschool.co.uk

CC in: hannah.ohara@bowerlodgeschool.co.uk

What a fantastic half term we have had in Green Class! The children have worked incredibly hard and have made some wonderful progress across their learning, communication, independence and social skills. We have enjoyed exploring a range of exciting topics and taking part in lots of hands-on, sensory and creative activities, giving everyone opportunities to learn through play and practical experiences. It has been lovely to see the children grow in confidence, develop new skills and celebrate their individual achievements. We are so proud of everything they have accomplished this half term and look forward to continuing this progress after the break.

Well done, Green Class!

Orange Class



Orange Class

Teacher: Charlene Gyton

Contact: Charlene.Gyton@bowerlodgeschool.co.uk

CC in: hannah.ohara@bowerlodgeschool.co.uk

What a busy and exciting first half term we have had in Orange Class! The children have all settled wonderfully into their classroom routines and have enjoyed taking part in lots of different learning activities. In Maths, we have been exploring numbers and patterns, while in Science we have been learning all about the human body. We have continued with our Rocket Phonics sessions and have enjoyed our weekly swimming lessons, as well as a lovely trip to the farm! Our sensory sessions have been a particular favourite, with all the children getting involved, interacting and participating in the activities. It has been lovely to see everyone growing in confidence and enjoying their learning.

We are looking forward to another fun-filled half term!

Purple Class



Purple Class

Teacher: Alex Geary

Contact: Alex.Geary@bowerlodgeschool.co.uk

CC in: hannah.ohara@bowerlodgeschool.co.uk

Purple Class have had a wonderful start to the year! The children have settled back into their routines amazingly well, and it has been lovely to see everyone growing in confidence and enjoying their learning. We have enjoyed lots of exciting activities, including our weekly swimming lessons, indoor rock climbing, Applemore soft play and a fantastic trip to Longdown Dairy Farm as part of our Friday community trips. These experiences have provided wonderful opportunities for the children to develop their independence, build friendships and have fun together outside the classroom. We are so proud of everyone's achievements this half term and look forward to another exciting half term filled with new experiences and learning!

Blue Class



Blue Class

Teacher: J-P Cooke

Contact: John-paul.Cooke@bowerlodgeschool.co.uk

CC in: hannah.ohara@bowerlodgeschool.co.uk

A warm greeting from the Blue Class team! We are thrilled to welcome Ellen, who has integrated beautifully and built a wonderful rapport with the children.

The children have navigated recent changes incredibly well, quickly adapting to their new routines and strengthening their 'Blue Class identity'.

Our half-term theme, 'Independent Me', places independence and resilience at the heart of our work. In Literacy, the children created their own mini-books, while Maths focused on place value and partitioning. Science explored classifying living things to collect data, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed our World War I History workshop.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to meeting you later this term.

Sign of the week this half term -From our Clinical Team

We have been practising the following signs this half term:

Sign of the week

Angry



Clawed hands (or just one hand) move up body sharply to palm up, cheeks puffed, brows furrowed.

Sign of the week

Happy



Both hands open. Palm of dominant hand taps palm of non-dominant hand twice.

Sign of the week

Play



Palm up open hands move in simultaneous circular movements.

Sign of the week

Tired



Tips of bent hands on chest as hands flop downwards twisting from the wrists, head tilted.

Sign of the week

Jump



R 'V' hands (legs classifier) jumps up flexing L. palm or in way to suit context. Repeated for trampoline.

Sign of the week

Walk



Fingers of 'V' hand (legs classifier) brush forward twice along L. palm or in direction to suit context.