Please visit our website for further information. Parents should also use their Seesaw login for updates from class teachers.

# Celebrating books and celebrating Easter!

That is the end of another great half term at Bowling Green Academy... a half term that started with World Book Day celebrations and ended with Easter egg hunts. It was also a half term that trips have resumed once again! Our Year 6 class' residential trip to Robinwood was fantastic. Mrs Mellor, Miss Bick and I were amazed at our children's wonderful behaviour, resilience, determination and desire to challenge themselves. Thank goodness no toes or fingers were lost in the terrifying 'piranha pool' and no eardrums were burst with screams on the Giant Swing! Our Reception class and Year 1 have also been exploring – they went to Canon Hall Farm to learn about springtime and lifecycles. Highlights were the ferret race, hilarious meercats and seeing a lamb born just minutes before we got to it. Again, our children were all exceptionally well behaved on their big 'first school trip'.

In Year 2, our History curriculum explores local history. The children's key question this half term has been about the changing use of The Piece Hall. Our children visited and completed several workshops, including weaving and creating a human timeline. In Year 3, the children's Science topic about magnets turned into a series of marvelous experiments. Similarly, Year 4's digestive system topic involved lots of discussions about our bodies... including making poo! In Year 5, our children have become computer game designers – creating, testing and critiquing their game designs. Year 5 have also been learning about rap in Music – they know the Fresh Prince of Bel-Air theme tune word perfectly. Altogether everyone, 'Now, this is a story...'

### **Keeping Safe Online**







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We upload monthly updates for parents and carers about keeping your child safe online to our website. The March and April updates are full of information about parental controls, YouTube channels and smartwatches. The March update is particularly worth noting, containing information about **Poppy Playtime**, a survival horror game that is growing in popularity for young children due to its seemingly child-friendly characters, such as 'Kissy Wissy' and 'Huggy Wuggy'. In reality, the game has many nightmarish scenarios, leaving many children frightened and upset. The game is available on app stores and 'watch through' guides are popular on YouTube and TicTok. For reference, the PEGI rating of Poppy Playtime is age 12+.

https://bowlinggreenacademy.org.uk/wellbeing-safeguarding/e-safety/

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### World Book Day 'book boxes'

For World Book Day this year, we were completely blown away by the incredible 'book boxes' brought in by our children and families. Our 'book box gallery' was the hot topic of the day as children (and adults) browsed the incredible creations. Below is a small selection of the boxes, which inspired lots of fantastic conversations about reading. Can you guess all the books?













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### Staffing

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Today we have said 'adios' to Mrs Whitwam. The children shared some lovely and funny memories of their time with her – with an unsurprising amount of cheese and sausage roll jokes! Mrs Whitwam is already planning on when she can return to see us all, and we wish her every success in her new role as SENCO in Huddersfield. Good luck, Mrs Whitwam! Our Reception children are very excited to impress and 'wow' Miss Bottomley, who will start after the Easter holidays, after spending a fun day with her last week.

We have some great news that Miss Bianchi will be taking on an additional responsibility in school when we return after Easter. She will be our Assessment Leader, working with colleagues within our Trust and at Bowling Green to monitor children's progress.

#### **Curriculum Coffee Morning**



Myself and Mr Andrews will be welcoming parents and carers into school on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May for a Curriculum Coffee morning to talk all about the exciting learning that happens daily in each class. Please do join us if you can, from 8:50 (after registers) until 10:00am. PTA will be providing drinks.

MAT CEO: Mrs A Bennett Chief Operations Officer: Mrs J Firth

Chief Finance Officer: Mrs A Rawson

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Principal: Mr J Stuttard

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### To Robinwood and beyond!

It would be impossible to not share many, many more photos from our fantastic term in school and from exploring further afield, from Canon Hall Farm to The Piece Hall, and from three days away to our Year 4s enjoying time in Forest School.



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#### Mrs Mellor's race for Ukraine

As you would expect, this half term our children have had lots of questions and concerns about the ongoing war in Ukraine. We have addressed this in age-appropriate ways through assemblies, class discussions and by increasing our selection of books in school to represent refugees.

On Good Friday, Mrs Mellor is running her longest ever race – 50 miles! She is running for UNICEF who are raising funds for children and families affected by the ongoing events, and to ensure every child has access to fresh water and nutritious food. If you would like to donate, please visit <u>https://www.tinyurl.com/mellorunicef</u>

Good luck, Mrs Mellor, on your superhuman challenge!



#### Books for The Gambia

These photos have been another highlight of the half term. You may remember we sent some school books to the Gambian Schools Trust last year. Well, now they have arrived and the happiness on these children's faces is delightful. Some of the children pictured held a book for the first time... a book stamped with 'Bowling Green' inside! I truly hope that these books bring as much joy to this community as reading does to our children in school.

### Easter is here!

Finally, have an egg-cellent (sorry!) Easter, everyone. Rest, explore outdoors and eat some chocolate! If you observe Easter religiously, we all send you and your family precious memories. I am already looking forward you seeing everyone back at school on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April.



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