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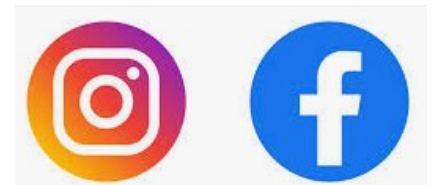
Headteacher: Mr Ryan O'Hearn, BA (Hons)

No. 1 School Newsletter September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for taking time to read our first newsletter of the academic year. I recognise that there have been a number of emails coming your way since we have started back, however I do want to draw your attention to our monthly newsletters. In here you will find details about important information, special events and year group updates. Another way which we communicate information about the curriculum and children's learning is via social media. If you have not yet 'followed us' on any of the platforms below, please take time to have a look as this is a great tool for us to post 'little and often' information about some of the exciting things that children get up to on a day to day basis.

Instagram – @Freegroundsjun
Facebook – Freegrounds Junior School



Kind regards

Ryan O'Hearn
Headteacher

Family Support Worker

Hello! My name is Michelle Brightwell and alongside my role as Playleader with Pippins, I am the Family Support Worker at Freegrounds Junior School. My role in school is to provide support, advice and information to the families within our school community. I can help you with any worries or concerns you may have in relation to your child's education, behaviour or wellbeing. I am also here as someone to talk to and lend a listening ear with any family difficulties you may be facing. My role in supporting families will include the following:

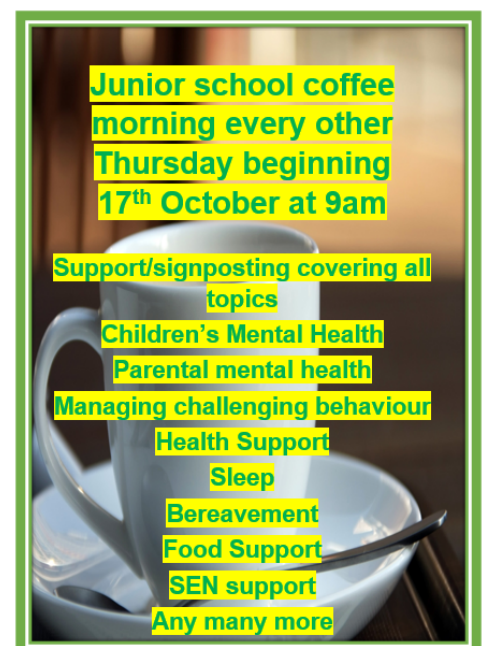


- Meeting with and getting to know families
- Promoting good attendance and punctuality
- Advice and support in promoting positive behaviours at home
- Providing information and signposting to other services such as housing, food banks and other local support
- Providing workshops in school to support parents

If you would like a friendly chat you can contact me via the school office. I can also be contacted Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday via the school office, or find me on the gate most mornings.

I am always happy to hear from anyone and can arrange to have a chat away from the hustle and bustle of the main reception area, perhaps over a cup of tea or coffee and I am more than happy to meet with you outside of school at a local coffee shop or at your home.

Michelle Brightwell
Family Support Worker



Year 3

Settling into Year 3:

Year 3 have made a fantastic start to their school year at Freegrounds Junior School! They have settled in with ease and are working hard to learn all of the different routines, as well as finding their way around a new school. A big well done from your teachers: Mrs Blake and Mrs Parsons, Miss Cockram and Miss Scott for settling in so well!

In Art this half term, the children will be focusing on the artist Andy Goldsworthy. They have already had the opportunity to explore and partake in creating their own land art focused around famous landmarks across the United Kingdom. The children spent time outside in the manipulative play area, using twigs, leaves, stones, acorn cups and other natural items to build the structure of their sculptures. The children needed to show careful collaboration within their teams to help design and create a recognisable sculpture. After creating their land art, the children had the opportunity to listen to other groups talking about their structures and this inspired further questions and conversations linking to both geographical landmarks and using natural items to sculpt with.

In RE this half term, the children are focusing on the concept 'special books'. For this reason, it was wonderful to see the children bring in their special books from home and share them in a class circle time. The children thought really reflectively about why their book was special to them and whether in years to come their book would still be special and why that might be. Everyone showed lots of respect when listening to other children talk about their special books and each child was able to articulate what made their book special to them.



Year 4

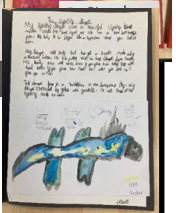
What a fantastic start to Year 4! Pine and Beech classes are really enjoying our very first topic "Our European neighbours", where we have already visited the Southampton Art Gallery, learnt about European artists, located several European countries and much more!

In English, we read "Tell me a dragon" by Jackie Morris. We went on a dragon egg hunt around the school grounds to choose our own special dragon egg, then designed a dragon of our own, thinking about what its eyes, talons, wings and scales are like. We then learnt about how to use descriptive language like expanded noun phrases and similes to make our dragons come alive to our readers. We wrote character descriptions of our dragons and have published them into a class book that will live in the book corner of our classes for the rest of the year to read again and again!

In Maths we are working very hard learning our times tables. Each week we have a different focus and so far we have focussed on our 2, 5, 10 and 4 times tables. We play games like 'hit the button', do speed challenges, chant them aloud and, of course, get lots of practise on TTRockstars!

We visited the Southampton Art Gallery this month to support our learning in Art looking at European landscape artists. Our guide Kate took us on a tour of the gallery and gave a talk on each focus painting, then we did a hands-on workshop sculpting a dragon eye out of wire. It was a wonderfully cultural experience for us all.

Finally, in Science, we have been learning about how plants reproduce. We dissected a lily to identify its reproductive parts such as the stamen, petal and stigma. We then learnt about how pollination happens and how important it is to protect bees and the vital job that they do.



Year 5

What a great start to Year 5! Larch, Cedar and Willow classes are really enjoying our first topic "Out of this World". Visiting Winchester Science Centre was a great highlight with the children particularly enjoying the Planetarium. We have been reading the book "Lunar" by Chris Bradford, a gripping outer-space survival story. In English, we watched the clip "Pandora Discovered" – finding an unknown planet. We are now writing a setting description about different places on the planet.

In Art, the children have been creating an astronaut line drawing to overlay a space background they painted on their first day in Year 5. We are starting the second part of our Art unit, where children will apply their knowledge of value to shade 3D objects in a composition.

In Science, the children made their own heliocentric model of the solar system. First, they made planets to scale and painted their polystyrene ball yellow to act as the sun. Next, they used skewers of different lengths to represent the distance from the sun. Lastly, they labelled the planets with information about its size and distance from the sun. Children have also learnt about the different moon phases and acted out orbiting the Earth. Pupils will conclude this unit by exploring how craters are formed in space and understanding what kind of scientists study space.



Year 6

Wow! What an exciting start to Year Six! Firstly, a huge well done to all the children for such a positive and fun trip to Little Canada. The children took every opportunity to challenge themselves and had such a great time as a result.

Back at school we have been working very hard on a variety of topics. In English, we have been exploring Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens. The children have written a description of the dining hall in the workhouse, making it sound as miserable as possible. We continued looking at the Victorians in history, learning what life was like for people during this time. We particularly enjoyed looking through an old chest full of Victorian artefacts. It was interesting hearing the story of the Victorian maid and how she used each object. In RE we had the opportunity to visit St. John's Church in Hedge End. We learnt all about why Christians believe baptisms are important.



Outdoor Project Update

We are absolutely loving the progress that is being made with our outdoor space! The ropes are starting to be attached to our climbing equipment and the outdoor classroom is just waiting for its roof to be added. Some of us have even started thinking about how we could use the stage at breaktimes and lunchtimes!



Pupil Voice

After a busy start to the year, we would like to announce the class representatives and house captains that have been elected for this year. A massive well done to all those who put themselves forward for these roles: they not only demonstrated their creativity in the way that they presented themselves, but also showed resilience by being brave and not being afraid to 'give it a go'. These children will all play an important role this year in regards to 'pupil voice': the act of listening to their peers and working alongside staff to make the changes to our school that the children have communicated.

These representatives for each class are as follows:

More news on these roles will be updated on our school website.

Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Ash Eco-Rep: Esme F Learning Council: Alice R School Council: Ellie D	Beech Eco-Rep: Katie F Learning Council: Emily D School Council: Matilda Y	Larch Eco-Rep: Jess T Learning Council: Marlee G School Council: Adyha D	Sycamore Eco-Rep: Primrose H Learning Council: Rosa P School Council: Jamie A
Elm Eco-Rep: Flossie SC Learning Council: Charlie T School Council: Elsie-Mae	Pine Eco-Rep: Florence C Learning Council: Zoe W School Council: Lottie D	Cedar Eco-Rep: George M Learning Council: Corey H School Council: Niamh F	Juniper Eco-Rep: Imogen C Learning Council: Abigail School Council: Sophie D
Oak Eco-Rep: Ruben B Learning Council: Chloe L School Council: Summer B		Willow Eco-Rep: Jenson B Learning Council: Isla P School Council: Charlie W	Hawthorn Eco-Rep: Isla B Learning Council: Kaia M School Council: Max W

House Captains

Bramley—Poppy M and Abigail R

Empire—Beau H and Lia J

Russet—Imogen B and Harriet M

Winston—Alex J and Charlie C

Other pupil voice roles which we have across the school are as follows:

Reading Ambassadors

Pupil Librarians

Digital Ambassadors

Sports Leaders

Play Leaders

ICT monitors



Pet Therapy Dog

We are very lucky to have Peggy and her owner Guy visit our school each week as part of the Pets As Therapy (PAT) scheme. Therapy dogs who visit schools can help to raise a pupil's reading standard, boost their self-confidence, improve concentration levels and can have a positive impact on a child's wellbeing. The children love spending time with Peggy and sitting down to read to her and Peggy loves all the attention that she gets. This term, we are focusing on some of our Year 3 children having time to read to Peggy and you can see from the photos how much they enjoy this time.

We feel very lucky that Peggy and her owner Guy still like to come and visit Freegrounds each week.



Friends of Freegrounds Junior School
present their lower and upper school

DISCOS

on

THURSDAY 10TH OCTOBER

£3.50 entry **Years 3 & 4**

5pm - 6:15pm

payments via
SCOPAY

Years 5 & 6

6:30pm - 7:45pm

Drinks, snacks and accessories available to buy
on the night.