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

**No. 2**

**School Newsletter**

**October 2024**

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have arrived at the end of our first half term (all 8 weeks of it)! The children have made a fantastic start to the year, settling into their new classes really well and producing some wonderful work too. It was lovely to hear so much positive feedback from you around your children's handwriting and presentation following our parent/carer evenings which took place a couple of weeks ago. You will know that this is something that the children have been working very hard on and it has been lovely to see such a sense of pride as they realise what they are capable of.

You will also know that we have been working hard when learning about our brains through the introduction of 'Brain Fit' sessions. Although we are in the early stages of this, it has been great to hear children starting to talk about the steps that they are making to take greater responsibility for how they learn best as well as how they conduct themselves around the school. Further information about 'Brain Fit' will be coming in the second part of this Autumn term for parents and carers.

I hope that you have a restful and enjoyable half term with friends and family and look forward to seeing you in November.

Best wishes  
Ryan O'Hearn

### **Important Update: PTA Chair and Treasurer Transition**

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to inform you that the current core members of Friends of Freegrounds Junior School will be stepping down from their roles at the end of the school year. Myself and Dawn have enjoyed bringing you many exciting fundraising events since we set up the charity and we are now looking for volunteers to take over our roles and continue fundraising for the school.

Without a PTA, events such as discos, summer fairs, raffles and colour runs will not be possible. If you would like more information or have any questions about the positions available, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at [friendsoffreegroundsjunior@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoffreegroundsjunior@gmail.com)

**Our next AGM will be held online on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November, please use this link to join us.**

**You're invited to FoFJS AGM**

**Tuesday 12 November 2024 19:45 - 20:15 (GMT)**

**<https://teams.live.com/meet/9330367079018?p=ULJM639hUGkbwZKjQL> Tap on the link or paste it in a browser to join.**

We look forward to welcoming new volunteers and continuing to work together to benefit our children and school community.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Best regards,

Sarah Payton, Chair  
Dawn Belcher, Treasurer  
Friends of Freegrounds Junior School (FoFJS)



### Year 3

Year 3 have had a fantastic first half term at Freegrounds Junior School. We have had lots of opportunities to be creative, learn outdoors and work collaboratively with each other. We have loved using the manipulative play area at lunch times, getting muddy and building dens!

**English** In our recent English unit, we have been performing and creating poems inspired by Joshua Seigal's anthology 'Yapping Away'. When performing our poetry, we experimented with changing our tone of voice, using hand gestures, facial expressions and changing our volume. One poem we have been exploring in great detail is called 'A Classroom Speaks' which personifies different chatty objects in the classroom. We have been using our imagination when writing our own poems personifying items in our own classrooms and what their personalities might be if they came to life.

**Geography** This half term we have been learning about the United Kingdom in our Geography lessons. We have enjoyed learning how to use the atlases when gathering facts about the UK. We have learnt about the different counties which border Hampshire, the main trading ports in England and the four seas that border the United Kingdom. When learning about the different trading ports, we used plastic boats and water to map out the journey these big ships would take coming from different places when delivering goods to ports in our country. The children have also spent time outdoors conducting a field study in groups, drawing similarities between our school grounds and the New Forest.

**PSHE and Circle Time** During our weekly PSHE lessons, we have been discussing what makes a good friend and how we can show appreciation to our friends. In our lessons, we have roleplayed different scenarios and practiced independently problem-solving friendship issues. We have discussed the importance of communication, compromise and resolving conflict. During our Circle Time sessions, we take time to make positive affirmations, reflect on the week we've had, practice our Trick Box skills and make targets for the upcoming week. It has been so lovely to see all children so enthusiastic to share their thoughts during our Circle Time sessions!



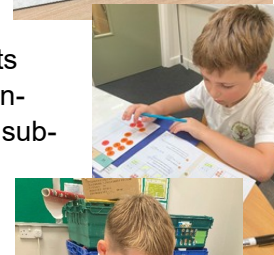
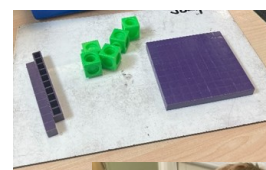
### Year 4

Pine and Beech classes have had a busy October enjoying our topic "Our European neighbours". We have written information texts about major European cities, baked pizzas inspired by Italian recipes and experimented with art styles originating from famous European artists.

In English, we researched our favourite European city to find out facts about it, such as its famous landmarks, foods, culture and much more. We then practised skills to write a non-chronological report about our city before writing an information page about it. We used sub-headings, up-levelled vocabulary, fronted adverbials and conjunctions to make our writing informative and factual for our readers.

In Maths, we have been learning how to add and subtract using formal written methods. We have used concrete resources like base 10 and place value counters to help us understand how and when to exchange.

In Design Technology, we had so much fun learning how to make pizzas. We learnt about the eat-well plate and seasonality before using traditional Italian recipes to design our own pizzas. Then chef Liam came in to teach us how to spread, chop, slice and grate our toppings. Our pizzas were delicious!



Our Art lessons have been focussed on French artists such as Paul Cezanne and Georges Seurat. We focussed on their individual styles of landscape painting, particularly Seurat's pointillism. We experimented re-creating some of Seurat's paintings using cotton buds, small paintbrushes and cocktail sticks.

## Year 5

In Art, we have been exploring different drawing techniques and used a variety of media including pen. To compose a final piece, we produced a universe background using paints and then added our line drawings of astronauts to make them look like they were floating in space. We are really pleased with our outcomes and lots of them are now displayed around the school.

In English, we are busy putting the finishing touches to our ghost stories. By exploring the 5 senses our main character might experience we are building up the suspense and tension of a ghost hunt. It has been really fun to write and read aloud to our partners to see if we have met our objective to chill the reader.

Our out of this world topic, would not be complete without continuing to explore space in our science lessons. Recently we used a variety of balls to represent meteors and flour to represent the moons surfaces to show the impact meteorites have when they hit the surface. It was a little messy with flour flying everywhere but we will remember that the heavier the meteor the deeper the crater that is left behind.



## Year 6

What a fantastic half term Year 6 have had! We have been so busy and everybody has worked incredibly hard. From learning all about the life of Victorians during the industrial revolution in history. To exploring the work of William Morris and recreating our own prints in art. In computing, we have learnt how to create spreadsheet and use formulas to solve multiplication, addition and subtraction. We were able to use this knowledge to plan a party! In English, we have been writing a dialogue between Mr Bumble and Oliver Twist. We worked hard to really get the feelings of the characters across. We looked at a variety of authors including JK Rowling, LM Montgomery, Louisa May Alcott and Catherine Burton to explore how they portrayed the feelings of fear and anger. We then used these ideas in our own writing. We also had an amazing opportunity to take part in the Bikeability course. We loved these sessions and learning how to ride safely on the roads. Even if the weather wasn't great and we got very wet! Have a lovely half term and we are looking forward to our new topic World War Two!



## Family Support Worker: Coffee Mornings for all parents

I regularly hold coffee morning sessions which you are all invited to attend. It's a chance to meet other parents, find out more about key approaches used in school as well as understand more about what I can offer families as part of my role to bridge the gap between home and school.



Listed below are some dates for your diaries.

**Thursday 7th November 9:00-10:00am - How to support children in understanding their worries.**

Please complete the google doc <https://forms.gle/vUXo5G8dkH5Zdpi1A>

**Thursday 21st November 9:00-10:00am—How to support your child with their friendships.**

Please complete the google doc <https://forms.gle/4ZZ48Fbyb7dDSdzEA>



**Thursday 5th December 9:00am - Christmas Card Making and FoFJS Raffle draw at 9:15am**

Please complete the google doc <https://forms.gle/tLF3jpKV7AaaXAj47>

Michelle Brightwell  
Family Support Worker

## Pupil Voice - Trip to London

Our house captains, school council and learning council had an exciting day out in London on Wednesday. The trip started at the houses of parliament, where the children had a tour, learned more about british democracy and even met our local MP Paul Holmes. We then walked around London visiting the sights. We started at Buckingham Palace, had lunch in St James' park, made a wish in the fountains at Trafalgar square, walked past the King's Horseguards and Downing Street, walked over Westminster Bridge and under the London Eye, we saw street performers on South Bank and finished off with a play in the playground at Jubilee Park. It was a very tiring but enjoyable day and we are incredibly proud of how well the children represented Freegrounds!



## Outdoor Project Update

The progress to our outdoor area is amazing and we can't wait until it's finished!

