



Weekly Notices – 12

Hampshire County Council Survey

As part of Hampshire County Council's commitment to improve accessibility and enable more people to walk and cycle for short journeys, you are invited to help identify where there are barriers to walking and cycling on your local streets. Hampshire County Council want to hear from all walkers and cyclists, including people who use mobility aids (including mobility scooters), pushchairs or buggies, people who use cargo bikes and trailers, or other adapted cycles. Have your say by visiting <https://hants.gov.uk/barriers-walking-cycling> to complete the survey.

New Play Equipment

Please note that our outdoor play equipment is maintained by Pentagon Play and is for use during designated school hours **only** and under the supervision of Freegrounds Junior School staff. The school cannot be held responsible for incidents/accidents occurring due to unforeseeable circumstances, improper use of equipment, or during unsupervised times.

Christmas Shopping – Thursday 5th December

This is one of the most popular events in school with the children as they have the opportunity to independently choose presents for their family and friends. Christmas shopping will take place on **Thursday 5th December** during the school day.



Each present costs £3 and will come prewrapped by the FoFJS Elves. There is no limit on the amount of presents that can be purchased.

To pay please log into your child's Scopay account and pay for the total number of presents your child is buying. Once logged into Scopay, under the 'Trips and Events' tab, there is an event called FoFJS Christmas Shopping 2024 with a zero balance. You need to custom/change the amount of money you wish to add to your basket so you only pay for the presents you require. Please contact the school office if you have any problems paying online.

On the day, please ensure your child knows who they are buying for, if you feel your child will not be able to remember please send them to school with a written list of recipients. Please also send your child to school with a **named carrier bag** to bring their present's home in.

Rainbow Raffle - Tuesday 17th December 10.45am

Thank you everyone who donated to the rainbow raffle, we have been blown away by everyone's generosity. Two books of raffle tickets will come home next week with children, each ticket costs £1 or £5 per book. Additional books will be available from the office and the draw will take place on Tuesday 17th December at 10.45am.



FoFJS Update

Following the AGM and communication in the last Newsletter the current Chair and Treasurer of FoFJS have made the decision to step down from their key roles in the charity and are now looking for volunteers to take over their roles to continue fundraising for the school. If you would like more information or have any questions about the positions available, please don't hesitate to contact them at friendsoffreegroundsjunior@gmail.com and register your interest by Friday 20th December. To make the hand over as smooth as possible Sarah and Dawn are keen to start working with new volunteers as soon as possible to impart as much information as possible.

Year 3 and 4 Christmas Productions

We are excited to be releasing tickets for our Year 3 and 4 Christmas performance of 'No one wraps like an elf'. The play will last approximately 45 minutes and will be performed on Thursday 12th December (2pm) and Friday 13th December (9:15am) in our school hall.

We are limiting the tickets to a maximum of two per family to ensure that we have enough space for everybody across the two performances. The office will make contact with the lead bookers if more than 2 tickets per family are booked. If you have 2 children in the same performance you can only book 2 tickets. Tickets must be booked for younger siblings.

Tickets to the performances are free, but we will have donation buckets and a selection of refreshments for sale to help raise funds to cover the cost of our licensing fee. Any additional funds raised will go towards a whole class Christmas gift to enhance each classroom's wet play cupboard, e.g., a board game.

Please use the link below to book your tickets, the links go live on Monday 25th November at 12pm.

Thursday 12th December <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/friends-of-freegrounds-junior-school/t-avgmppq>

Friday 13th December <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/friends-of-freegrounds-junior-school/t-rpoxzpr>

Year 5 and 6 A Celebration of Christmas

We are excited to be releasing tickets for our Year 5 and 6 Celebration of Christmas. The performance will last approximately 45 minutes and will be performed on Monday 16th December (2pm) and Tuesday 17th December (9:15am) in our school hall.

We are limiting the tickets to a maximum of two per family to ensure that we have enough space for everybody across the two performances. The office will make contact with the lead bookers if more than 2 tickets per family are booked. If you have 2 children in the same performance you can only book 2 tickets. Tickets must be booked for younger siblings.

Tickets to the performances are free, but we will have donation buckets to collect for the Aplastic Anemia Trust charity. A selection of refreshments will also be for sale to help raise funds towards whole class Christmas gifts to enhance each classroom's wet play cupboard, e.g., a board game.

Please use the link below to book your tickets, the links go live on Thursday 28th November at 12pm.

Monday 16th December <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/friends-of-freegrounds-junior-school/t-pqddqve>

Tuesday 17th December <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/friends-of-freegrounds-junior-school/t-lnggnoa>

Lunchtime supervisor Vacancy

We have a vacancy available for a lunchtime supervisor, this post is for 5 hours a week, term time only. If you are interested in applying or would like more information, please contact the school office.

Family Support Worker Coffee Mornings

Here are the details for our upcoming coffee mornings, if you are able to attend, please complete the attached google docs so Michelle has an idea of numbers.

5th December 9am - Christmas Card Making

Google doc: <https://forms.gle/tLF3jpKV7AaaXAj47>

Parent Code of Conduct

Please follow this link to our parent code of conduct policy, each year this is sent out as a reminder to our parents and carers, please take the time to read it.

www.freegrounds-jun.hants.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=355&type=pdf

Reading volunteers



We are looking for more parents, carers and family members to join our team of wonderful reading volunteers this year.

If you are able to offer a little time each week to come and listen to some of our children read, we'd love to hear from you.

Fill in the Google form below and we'll be in touch.

<https://forms.gle/GsxN7J8tZ6Bm4sTi7>

Fidget Toys

We would like to request that children do not bring fidget toys into school. They can be a distraction in class with some children bringing in a selection of fidget toys that are being shared round their peers and being taken outside at break/lunch times. For the majority of children, these are not needed in the classroom and, as the name suggests, they are used mainly as toys and are not supporting concentration or focus.

Fidget Tools

In school, there will be a very small number of children who have been identified as requiring a small fidget tool or other strategy to help them concentrate and regulate themselves better. These children are known to the SENCO and the school will provide something if required which best meets their need. We use specific fidgets as recommended by occupational therapists and they are used as a 'tool' to support sensory regulation. If they don't appear to be supporting the child then another strategy will be used. Teachers also use a range of strategies to support regulation such as giving the class a 'moving minute' or a 'mindful minute' when needed from our Trick Box programme. Thank you for your support on this.

Aspens Lunches

As a reminder, lunches need to be booked by 8.30am each morning. If your child does not have a lunch the office will make contact with you to request a packed lunch is brought in. If you no longer require a lunch that you have booked this also needs to be cancelled by yourself by 8.30am. Lunches are bookable via <https://select.aspens-services.com/>

Dogs on School Site

We would like to take this opportunity to remind all parents, carers and visitors to our school that dogs are not allowed on site.

Supporting DKMS

One of our pupils has been diagnosed with Aplastic Anemia (bone marrow failure), unfortunately there is currently no perfect match worldwide on the donor register to treat their diagnosis. As a school we would like to help spread the word for the need of more blood and bone marrow donors. Please click the links below for more information.

<https://www.blood.co.uk/>

<https://www.dkms.org.uk/>

Jewellery Reminder

- No jewellery should be worn in school unless there are particular religious or cultural reasons, this includes bracelets that may have been worn over the summer, children will be asked to remove them.
- Children with pierced ears need to wear **small studs only** and these will need to be removed or covered over with micropore tape during PE lessons.
- Make-up, nail varnish and fake tattoos are not allowed.
- Watches are allowed.

Water Bottles

Please can you ensure your child comes to school each day with a reusable water bottle that is of average size. We have seen some large water bottles in school this week and unfortunately, they do not fit into the carriers

Sickness and Diarrhoea

We have seen an increase in sickness and diarrhoea in the school recently. If your child becomes unwell with sickness and/or diarrhoea they cannot return to school until 48 hours has passed since their last episode of illness, unless the office has medical evidence confirming an earlier return. Although we understand this can be frustrating as your child may otherwise seem well it is essential to help prevent outbreaks spreading through classes.

After School Clubs – Available to book for the autumn Term

We have a variety of after school clubs available to book, please click the following link on our website for more information and to sign up.

<https://www.freegrounds-jun.hants.sch.uk/page/?title=Clubs&pid=86>

Inset Days For 2024/2025

Our inset days for the next academic year 2024/2025 are

Friday 14th February 2025

Friday 20th June 2025

Breaktime Snacks

Within our school, we aim to promote healthy eating and we would like to take this opportunity to remind our parents and carers that following are not permitted as a break time snack:

- crisps
- sweets
- chocolate biscuits
- nuts

Examples of snacks that can be eaten at break time:

- Any choice of fruit
- Any vegetable i.e., carrot sticks, cucumber, pepper sticks
- breadsticks, crackers or rice cakes
- cereal bars

We do not want children to be eating their lunch at break time. Please provide your child with an additional break time snack. If you have any queries, please speak to your child's class teacher.

PE Days

Please ensure you send your child to school in the correct PE uniform consisting of black bottoms (girls shorts can be a cycling short but not a hot pant style of short), a white round neck t-shirt, a black or green jumper and proper sports trainers.

Oak class – Tuesday and Friday
Elm class - Monday and Thursday
Ash class - Monday and Thursday

Beech class - Monday and Thursday
Pine class - Monday and Thursday

Cedar class – Monday and Wednesday
Willow class - Tuesday and Wednesday
Larch class – Tuesday and Wednesday

Sycamore class – Wednesday and Thursday
Juniper class – Wednesday and Friday
Hawthorn – Wednesday and Friday

Absence During School Time

We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents and carers who wish to take their child out of school during the school term that an absence request form needs to be completed and given to the office before the absence. Requests cannot always be authorised; however, they are looked at on a case-by-case basis. It is important that we as a school know where children are each day that they are absent for safeguarding reasons, as well as to monitor each child's attendance and their sickness and absence records.

If a child is absence from school for sickness immediately before or after a holiday absence you will be asked to provide confirmation of you holiday dates to ensure the correct processes have been followed. If we have reason to suspect that you have taken an unauthorised absence, we will continue to follow Hampshire County Council's procedures of a warning letter, followed by a Fixed Penalty Notice. Please read our attendance policy which can be found on our website for more information.

Health & Safety

Please can we remind all parents we are a **NUT FREE** school, this includes spreads in sandwiches, for example, **Nutella** and snack bars that the children bring in at break time. There are children in school with severe nut allergies so we ask that you ensure everyone in your family who makes packed lunches are aware.



Parking/driving up School Lane - Please be considerate of our neighbours when parking before and after school to collect your child/children. **Please follow the Highway Code and remember not to park on double yellow lines or zig zag white lines.** School Lane is for access for parents/carers who have been issued a permit (even when it is wet).



Social Media links

<https://www.facebook.com/freegroundsjuniorschool>

<https://twitter.com/freegroundsjun>

<https://www.instagram.com/freegroundsjun/>

Friends of Freegrounds Junior School Facebook group -
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/960606647304903/>

Diary Dates

Monday 3rd December – House Christmas Tree Decorations due in

Thursday 5th December – FoFJS Christmas shopping day

Thursday 5th December – FSW Christmas card making coffee morning and Christmas clothing Swap/Sale

Tuesday 10th December – Cake sale, house competition

Thursday 12th December 2:00pm – Year 3 & 4 Christmas performance

Friday 13th December 9:15am - Year 3 & 4 Christmas performance

Monday 16th December 2:00pm - Year 5 & 6 'A celebration of Christmas'

Tuesday 17th December 9:15am - Year 5 & 6 'A celebration of Christmas'

Tuesday 17th December – FoFJS Rainbow Raffle draw at 10.45am

Wednesday 18th December – Christmas jumper and Christmas lunch day

Thursday 19th December – Year 4 Listen to me performances – more details to follow

Friday 20th December – Finish for Christmas Holiday at 3.20pm

Monday 23rd December – Friday 3rd January – Christmas Holidays

Monday 6th January – First day back to school