



## Weekly Notices – 17

### **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.

### **Coffee Morning - Resilience and independence**

Michelle is hosting a coffee morning focusing on resilience and independence on Thursday morning from 9am. Following a presentation by Michelle **your child will be able to join you** for the remainder of the session to complete an activity together. Please complete this google doc if you are able to attend

<https://forms.gle/Q5TB63NCcm3NcoJk8>

### **Aspens Theme Day**

Here are a couple of pictures of the food Aspens served on their theme day on Thursday. The next theme day 'Power Heroes' will be in February (more details to come).



### **After School Clubs – Available to book now**

We have a variety of school clubs available to book now for the Spring term, they include,  
Theatre Kidz

Team Spirit - Multi Sports

Netball Club – **New for 2025**

Funky Play Bricks (Lego)

Rock2TheBeat, during school hours

Team Spirit - Dodgeball

Computer Xplorers

Team Spirit - Football

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>

### **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.

### **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](http://www.freegrounds-jun.hants.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=355&type=pdf)

## 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.

## 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 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.

## 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.

### **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 – Updated for January 2025**

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 - Wednesday and Friday

Ash class - Monday and Wednesday

Beech class - Monday and Wednesday

Pine class – Tuesday and Wednesday

Cedar class – Tuesday and Wednesday

Willow class - Tuesday and Thursday

Larch class – Tuesday and Thursday

Sycamore class – Monday and Friday

Juniper class – Monday and Thursday

Hawthorn – Monday and Thursday

### **Absence During School Time**

We would like 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 absent from school for sickness immediately before or after a holiday absence you will be asked to provide confirmation of your 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).



### **Supporting DKMS**

One of our pupils has been diagnosed with Aplastic Anaemia (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/>

### **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**

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January – Coffee Morning – Resilience and independence

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January – Mexicolore visit for year 5

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January – Year 4 Stubbington meeting to Parents at 3.30pm

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February - The Empowerment Approach, Online Parent Information Evening 19:30 – 20:30

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February – INSET DAY**

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February – HALF TERM**