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No. 1

School Newsletter

September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for taking time to read our first newsletter of the academic year. We have been really excited to welcome you and your children back to school for the new academic year and have been incredibly impressed to see all of them ready to learn and embracing new challenges.

We have lots of exciting activities and events planned for the coming term and look forward to sharing more information with you over the coming weeks. We will share lots of your child's learning via our social media pages so if you do not follow us already, please do so.

Instagram – @Freegroundsjun

Facebook – Freegrounds Junior School



Finally, we recently sent out a link to encourage parents to share their thoughts and ideas about things that could be discussed at a parent forum meeting later this term. The form will stay open for two more weeks and we encourage you to have your say. <https://forms.gle/xBNHqHMTdCmwSvmt9>

Kind regards,

Mrs Blake and Mrs Davies
Acting Headteachers

House Captains

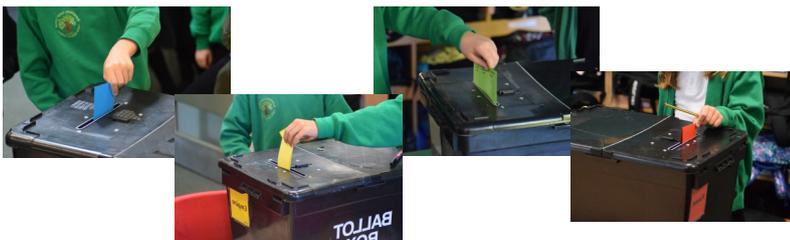
On Monday 15th September, we held our House Captain elections. We were incredibly impressed with the confidence shown by all children who stood for the role. After a democratic vote, the following pupils have been elected to represent their house:

Bramley—Niamh and Lewis

Empire—Corey and Logan

Russet—Fynn and Marlee

Winston—Jessica and Amelia



Pupil Voice

Thank you to all of the children who put themselves forwards for our other Pupil voice roles. Staff are now spending time reading the letters and the children will be informed about their roles on Friday 26th September.

Family Support Worker

Hello Parents and Families,

My name is **Michelle Brightwell**, and I am the **Family Support Worker** here at Freegrounds Junior School. My role is to support you and your children in any way I can during your time with us. I aim to help create a seamless and positive relationship between home and school, always with the children's wellbeing at the heart of what I do.

This introduction is not only for our **new Year 3 parents**, but also for our **existing Year 4, 5 and 6 parents**. Whether you are new to Freegrounds or have been with us for a while, I am here to support you and your family.

One of the ways I do this is by hosting **coffee mornings** that bring together parents, extended family, and children. These events provide a space to connect, share experiences, and support one another as we help our children navigate life.

This year, I've also introduced some exciting new opportunities:

- **Cookery classes** for parents, run with Chef Liam.
- A **gardening club**, where I'd love grandparents to join us as volunteers to share their skills and wisdom with the children.
- **Online family cooking events** (via Teams) each term. These are fully funded by Eastleigh Borough Council, and families who sign up receive all the ingredients they need to join in from the comfort of their own kitchens.

I would be especially delighted to hear from any **grandparents** who would like to get involved with our gardening club. Your knowledge and experience can make such a difference to our children's learning and enjoyment. Additionally, if anyone works for a company who may be able to give donations or sponsor this initiative, I'd love to hear from you too.

I look forward to meeting you all, and to working together to support your children throughout their journey here at Freegrounds Junior School.

Warm regards,
Michelle Brightwell
Family Support Worker



Year 3

We're so proud of how well our Year 3 children have settled into the new school year! They've shown great enthusiasm, resilience and embraced new routines with a positive attitude. It's been a fantastic start and we are very excited to see all they will achieve. A big well done from your teachers Miss Scott and Miss Cockram.

In Art this half term, the children will be focusing on the artist Andy Goldsworthy and Gillian Ayres. Over the coming weeks, if they haven't already, your child will be creating their own land art focused around famous landmarks across the United Kingdom and will have the opportunity to use our new upstairs art room. Ash Class recently spent time outside in the manipulative play area, using twigs, leaves, stones, acorn cups and other natural items to build the structure of their arch sculptures. The children needed to show careful collaboration within their teams to help design and create their arch sculpture. Elm class have visited the new upstairs art room to complete the painting of their complementary colour wheel. Lots of time and care was taken with mixing specific primary colours to create other colours that were then neatly added onto the colour wheel. We were all very excited to see these new colours being created and enjoyed working out how to make them lighter and darker.



In Geography this half term, the children are learning about the United Kingdom. Already, the children have been using atlases to locate the different seas surrounding the British Isles; matching countries and their capital cities together and deciding which landmarks go where on the map. We've also looked at the five main ports across the United Kingdom and the children were able to practically drive their cargo containers around to drop their products off at the different port locations. There's lots more learning to complete in Geography but already we are off to a strong start.

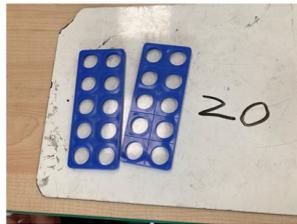


Year 4

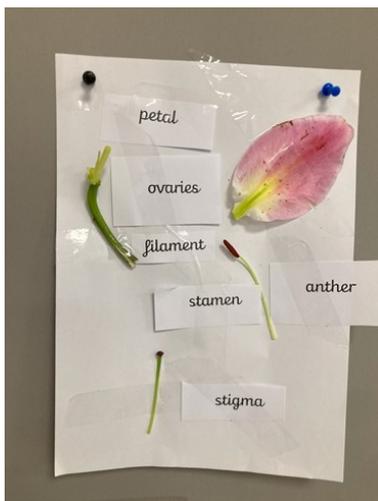
What a fantastic start to Year 4! Pine Maple and Beech classes are really enjoying our very first topic "Our European neighbours", where we have already visited the Southampton Art Gallery, learnt about European artists, located several European countries and much more!

In English, we have been reading several poems about 'Wind', with a focus on how the poet shows the changing character of the wind. We have looked at vocabulary choices including use of verbs and how they change throughout the poem and then considered whether we love or loathe the wind and why. We have written lots of little extracts of poetry based on the poems we have read and will be learning how to use our voices to perform poetry using the stage in our fantastic school grounds!

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 took us on a tour of the gallery and introduced us to a variety of sculptures and paintings by European artists. We also did a hands-on workshop sculpting a figure 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.

Shoebbox appeal

This year we are supporting the Wessex Rotary shoebbox appeal by holding an inter-house competition. Everybody who donates a shoebbox for the appeal will earn a point for their house. The house with the most points will receive extra playtime and the house cup will proudly display their coloured ribbons. So, by donating a shoebbox filled with goodies not only will you be spreading kindness and bringing joy to children around the world, you'll be supporting your house team here in school.

An email was sent last week which included a detailed instruction leaflet.

Boxes can be collected from the school office and must be brought into school, with £2.00 attached, no later than **Friday 10th October**.

Rotary SHOEBBOX APPEAL

Year 5

Year 5 have enjoyed the start of their 'Out of this World' topic by getting creative in their Science lessons. After an initial lesson learning about the solar system, the children created their own heliocentric models – the sun in the centre surrounded by all eight planets. Using team work and resilience the children put their models together focusing on accurately colouring the different planets and placing them in the correct order from the sun.

Inspired by looking at photos of the solar system and galaxies we began our Art unit, on black paper we experimented with different techniques of splattering paint to achieve a star speckled background. Our final outcome will be a mixed media picture of an astronaut in floating in Space – keep an eye out for a display of our final pieces.

Our topic is also closely linked to our reading and both classes have begun to explore Space themed texts including, 'The Astronauts Handbook' and 'Lunar'. In English, we will be writing Ghost poems and stories, during computing lessons we are continuing to learn to code and will be writing algorithms for quizzes and in PE we will be taking some mindful moments through our yoga practice.

We have all enjoyed our start to Year 5 and are looking forward to continuing our journey into outer space!



Year 6

Welcome back, and a very warm welcome to Year 6! We've had a fantastic start to the year, full of exciting learning and creativity.

In English, we have been studying the poem *Sympathy* by Paul Laurence Dunbar. We explored how Dunbar carefully chose structure, vocabulary, and imagery to show the contrast between freedom and being trapped. We also looked at the context of the poem—learning about Dunbar's life in America in the early 1900s and how his work later inspired many during the civil rights movement. Using his techniques as inspiration, the children wrote their own poems highlighting contrasting ideas, and the results were brilliant.

In Maths, our focus has been on place value. The children have been learning to understand the value of digits up to one million. We have used place value counters, Gattegno charts, and number lines to help us visualise and represent numbers in different ways.

Science has taken us into the world of light and shadows. In our very first lesson, the children designed and created their own shadow puppets, which were a big hit! We then explored how light travels in straight lines and interacts with opaque objects to form shadows.

In art, we have begun studying the work of Victorian artist William Morris. We discovered how he was inspired by the natural world and used it as a central theme in his designs. Taking inspiration from his work, the children created their own pieces of artwork using natural materials, with some stunning results.

It has been a wonderful start to Year 6—well done, everyone! We are looking forward to all the exciting learning and opportunities ahead this year.



5C needs in our community



We are launching a brand new space on our newsletter to celebrate children who are trying to make a difference to others in our community. Through our Brain Fit lessons and the Empowerment Approach we have adopted in school, the children have learnt how important it is for them to have their 5C needs met.

We would like to use this space to recognise and celebrate children who are supporting members of their community to have their 5C needs met too. It could be that they help an elderly relative to feel capable by teaching them how to do something new or donate blankets to the homeless to help them feel comfortable. Whatever your child may do to show kindness and to support members of our community, we would like to hear about it. Please email information in alongside any pictures if you have them.

Diary Dates

Thursday 25th September– Individual photos (Yellow photographers)

Family Support Worker Macmillan Coffee Morning (9:00am)

Monday 29th September– Year 5 trip to Science Centre

Tuesday 30th September– Bramley Reading Café (9:00am-9:20am)

Wednesday 1st October– Winston Reading Café (9:00am-9:20am)

Thursday 2nd October– Empire Reading Café (9:00am-9:20am)

Friday 3rd October– Russet Reading Café (9:00am-9:20am)

Monday 6th October– **INSET DAY**

Monday 27th October—Friday 31st October– **HALF TERM**

Thursday 13th November– Year 5 Wessex River visit in school

Monday 17th November– Year 6 trip to Portsmouth D-Day museum

Thursday 20th November– Year 3 trip to Butser Ancient Farm

Friday 21st November– FoFJS Disco (Year 3/4 4:30pm-5:40pm and Year 5/6 5:50pm-7:00pm)

Thursday 4th December– Year 4 Listen2me concert to parents (Pine 9:15am/ Beech 10:00am/ Maple 11:00am)

FoFJS Christmas shopping event

Tuesday 9th December– Year 5 and 6 Christmas performance 1 (9:15am-10:15am)

Wednesday 10th December– Rock 2 the beat concerts AM (time TBC)

Year 5 and 6 Christmas performance 2 (2:00pm-3:00pm)

Thursday 11th December– Christmas jumper and lunch day

Monday 15th December—Friday 19th December– Year 6 Bikeability (more details to follow)

Wednesday 17th December– Year 3 and 4 Christmas play 1 (2:00pm-3:00pm)

Thursday 18th December– Year 3 and 4 Christmas play 2 (9:15am-10:15am)

Friday 19th December– **LAST DAY OF TERM**

Monday 22nd December—Friday 2nd January– **CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS**

Monday 5th January– **SPRING TERM BEGINS**