



FREEMAN COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

From tiny acorns mighty oaks grow.

Friday 7th November 2025

Diary Dates

November

Thursday 13th November
Year 6 trip to Duxford

Friday 21st November
Willow Class Parent Workshop@2pm

Wednesday 26th November
Hazel Class Parent Workshop @2pm

Thursday 27th November
Year 4 trip to The Longshed

December

Thursday 4th December
Prospective parent show round

Beech Class Parent Workshop@ 2pm

Year 5 CET Christmas Concert – more details to follow.

Wednesday 10th December
Cherry Tree Class Parent Workshop @2pm

Thursday 11th December
Christmas Lunch

Friday 12th December
Oak Class Parent Workshop @2pm

Opening comment

It has been wonderful to welcome everyone back to school this week; we hope you all had a restful Half Term break. The school has launched straight back in to learning with new topics to explore; this week Year 1 have been making smoothies and Year 4 have been baking. We also look forward to welcoming parents into school for our first Parent Workshops of the year.

A reminder to all; please ensure that your child’s uniform is labelled-there is a lot of uniform in lost property with no names in that the children will need as the weather turns!

Stars of the week

Attendance Week beginning 3rd November 2025

Acorn: 96.59%
Cherry Tree: 92.59%
Maple: 98.05%
Beech: 97.04%
Hazel: 97.33%
Willow: 95.71%
Oak: 95.67%

Well done **Maple Class** for being this week’s winners!

House Points so far...

Brett: 185

Deben: 175

Orwell: 174

Gipping: 180

Lark: 175

Stour: 179

Oak Class

Last half term, Year 6 explored the fascinating world of volcanoes, earthquakes, and physical processes. This captivating topic truly ignited the children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning. They delved into the science behind tectonic plates, how they form and how their movement leads to dramatic natural events such as volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, and tsunamis.

To bring their learning to life, the children designed and constructed their own volcano models, choosing from four distinct types: stratovolcano, shield volcano, fissure volcano, or caldera volcano. Each child carefully crafted their volcano to showcase the unique features of their chosen type.



After building their models using papier-mâché, they painted them with care and creativity. The highlight of the project was the thrilling moment when they erupted their volcanoes, using a chemical reaction to simulate a real explosion—an unforgettable experience that reinforced their understanding in a fun and memorable way.



Children in Need: Friday 14th November

Children In Need will be celebrated on **Friday 14th November**. Children are invited to come in to school on this day dressed either in spotty clothes, something yellow or non-school uniform for a voluntary donation to Children In Need. We suggest a voluntary donation of £1 but as this is an inclusive event all children are invited to wear non-school uniform. If your child normally has PE on Friday, they can still wear spotty, yellow or non-school uniform, if they are wearing suitable shoes for PE and are able to do PE in whatever they are wearing.

Lunchtime Co. are creating a luscious Children In Need desert to celebrate the occasion.



Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day

We're excited to celebrate Christmas in true Freeman style!

Our Christmas lunch will take place on Thursday, 11th December. This also happens to be Christmas Jumper Day, so children are welcome to dress up in their festive jumpers and join in the fun!



Christmas Craft Fair



Parent Governor Vacancy

A reminder that we still have a vacancy for a Parent Governor on the school's governing body.

If you have an interest in education and can commit to one evening, six times a year and occasional visits during the school day, we would be very pleased to hear from you.

Please contact the office for an application form or to discuss the role in more detail.

Don't forget about Wraparound Care: The Den!



Freeman Community Primary School's Wrap Around Care is now open!

"The Den" is now available every school day.

Session times: 3:15pm-4:15pm and 4:15pm-5:15pm

Cost: £5 per session

Tax Free Childcare Accounts can be used. Parents pay £4 a session, the Government tops up the rest!

Please ask the office for more information



My Clothing

My Clothing are pleased to be able to offer another discount period that runs until the end of the year.

The details are as follows:

Code: 10%myc2025

Expires: 31st December 2025



Disco

Thursday 20th November!

Times:

R,1&2 : 3.15 - 4pm

3&4 : 4.15 - 5pm

5&6 : 5.15 - 6pm

£2.50 includes drinks & sweets to take home!



❖ Save the Date- You're Invited! ❖

Tea, Coffee & Chat
with PINS – Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools

📅 Date: Thursday 27th November

🕒 Time: 2-3.15pm

📍 Venue: Freeman Primary School

Come along for an informal get-together with other parents and carers
This is a safe space to:

🗣️ Share experiences

👂 Hear about PINS and what it means for our school

🤝 Connect with staff and families

What is PINS?

PINS is all about inclusion. It brings together health, education, and parent carer teams to build knowledge and understanding across the whole school – staff, parents, and carers – so every child can thrive.

Everyone is welcome – whether your child is neurodivergent, or you think they might be, or you'd just like to learn more.

We look forward to seeing you! ❤️



Rainbow Donations



Come in non-uniform on 20th November with a donation in your class colour, all non perishable items welcome to fill our Christmas hampers.

Acorn - Gold



Cherry - Pink



Hazel - Blue



Maple - Purple



Willow - Yellow



Beech - Green



Oak - Red



SENDIASS Information

SENDIASS provides arms-length, confidential and impartial SEND information, advice and support to children and young people with SEND, and their parents/carers. See below two sessions which parents can book onto for support and advice.

1. [Personalised Stories to support social understanding](#) (opens PDF flyer)

Booking is open for a session for parents and carers, hosted by SENDIASS.

Specialist teachers from the [Communication and Interaction Service](#) will explore how personalised stories can help children with understanding social norms and expectations.

12th November 2025 10:30am – 11:30am

[Click here to register](#)

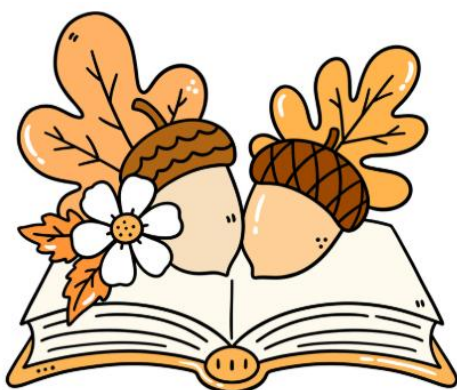
2. [Understanding Children and Young People's Behaviour as a Communication Need](#) (opens PDF flyer)

Booking is open for a session for parents and carers, hosted by SENDIASS.

In this session for families, specialist teachers from the [Speech, Language and Communication Service](#) will explore how to support the communication skills of children and young people, through our own responses, to better understand their behaviour.

19th November 2025 10am – 11:30am

[Click here to register](#)



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about POKÉMON TCG POCKET



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Pokémon TCG Pocket is a mobile version of the hugely popular Pokémon Trading Card Game, downloaded over 100 million times on Android and iOS. Players collect cards, battle others online, and open packs of cards – known as booster packs – to expand their decks. While the core game can be fun and helps develop tactical and numeracy skills, its design encourages spending and can feed addictive behaviours – making it important for adults to understand the risks.

ADDICTIVE PACK OPENING



Booster packs rely on probability to provide rare or powerful cards. The excitement of opening them – and the dopamine rush when finding a sought-after card – can become addictive. Unlike purely cosmetic loot boxes, the cards here are integral to competitive gameplay, adding extra pressure for serious gamers to collect more.

QUICK BUT ABSORBING



Card battles last around five to six minutes, making it easy to fit in “just one more game”. This quick format, combined with the drive to win, can lead to prolonged play sessions and increased screen time without noticing. With limited-time ranked Match seasons constantly being refreshed – an opportunity to accumulate points and earn profile emblems – players may find themselves drawn into this game mechanic repeatedly.

PREMIUM PASS PRESSURE



A monthly subscription gives players access to exclusive missions, rewards, and an extra daily booster pack. Missions and rewards are replaced each month, providing an incentive to stay subscribed. While some premium rewards are exclusive, others are available through free play – making the pass more about faster progression and obtaining cosmetic items than true necessity.

ENDLESS PACK LOOPS



New themed sets of cards are released each month, ranging from around 85 to over 370 cards per expansion. This constant cycle encourages players to keep opening packs in an effort to complete collections or improve their battle decks, potentially promoting unhealthy spending habits. With the introduction of limited-time booster packs, some players may feel increased pressure to collect these cards while they're still available.

COST OF BOOSTER PACKS



Although free to play, with set rewards and two free booster packs given daily, players can exchange Poké Gold if they wish to open more, and a small amount of Poké Gold is rewarded for free as the player levels up. Poké Gold is also sold in bundles that are often just short of what players need to open extra packs, encouraging them to buy additional bundles.

COMPETITIVE ONLINE PLAY



Interactions in Pokémon TCG Pocket are relatively safe – there's no messaging between players, friend requests require player approval, no real names are used, and card trading is restricted to fair trades between friends. On the other hand, the competitive nature of online play can still cause frustration, over-investment, and isolation if children spend too much time focused on the game.

Advice for Parents & Educators

MONITOR SPENDING HABITS



Set clear boundaries around in-game purchases. Treat Poké Gold as an occasional rather than routine reward, helping children develop healthier attitudes towards digital spend.

SET REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS



Talk about the unpredictable nature of booster packs and prepare children for disappointment when duplicates appear or rare cards don't surface. Understanding probability can help minimise disappointment – use the game's built-in offering rates guides to find out more about it.

PLAY TOGETHER



Card battles can help children learn tactics, problem-solving, and rule-following, as well as numeracy skills. Playing alongside them is a great way to share in their enjoyment, while also modelling balanced play and keeping an eye on how much they're investing in the game.

TEACH FAIRNESS



Losing a battle can be discouraging, especially when money has been spent on collecting the cards to build a deck. Support children in recognising the importance of fairness, learning from both wins and losses, and making considered choices when trading cards.

Meet Our Expert

Dan Lipscombe is a videogame journalist and children's book author with over 15 years of experience. Specialising in technology and gaming, he has written extensively on how digital platforms affect young people and has been playing games for more than three decades.

