



FREEMAN COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

From tiny acorns mighty oaks grow.



Friday 19th December 2025

Diary Dates

January

Monday 5th January

PD Day – no children in school.

Tuesday 6th January

All children return to school

Friday 9th January

Year 5/6 Chess tournament
@combs
(more details to follow).

Monday 12th January

Yr5 and Yr6 meet the teacher

Tuesday 13th January

YR, Yr1 and Yr2 meet the teacher

Wednesday 14th January

Class photos

Thursday 15th January

Yr 3 and Yr4 meet the teacher

Tuesday 27th January

Year 3 Parent Workshop

Wednesday 28th January

PINs Workshop 3:30pm -5pm

February

Thursday 12th February

PINs workshop 3:30pm-5pm

Opening comment

There have been many highlights to the term with some taking place this week. Acorn and Maple did a fantastic job performing their nativities to parents and carers; it was wonderful to see so many of you in the audience to support your children. Willow have also been to Steeple View to sing Christmas songs and carols to the local residents. The children have worked hard this term, and I am proud of all they have achieved. All of the staff and I wish all of you a wonderful Christmas and a happy and healthy New year. We look forward to seeing everyone back in school on Tuesday 6th January for another term.

Stars of the week



Attendance Week beginning

15th December 2025

Acorn: 92.67%

Cherry Tree: 92.69%

Maple: 92.69%

Beech: 94.81%

Hazel: 95.33%

Willow: 98.15%

Oak: 93.45%

Well done **Willow Class** for being this week's winners!

House Points so far...

Brett: 1566

Deben: 1665

Orwell: 1484

Gipping: 1713

Lark: 1616

Stour: 1528

Acorn Class Nativity

It's been a truly sparkly week as we watched Acorn's Twinkly Nativity! Our little stars shone brightly on stage, dazzling us with their tremendous singing and brilliant acting skills. Every costume added to the magic, making the performance a real constellation of talent! A huge thank you to Mrs Gooderham, Mrs Kell, and Mrs Underwood for directing such a wonderful Christmas production!



Maple Class Nativity

Not only did we enjoy Acorn's Christmas Nativity, but we were also lucky enough to watch Maple's festive performance - *Hey Ewe!* It was a fun, energetic, and joy-filled production that had everyone smiling. The children looked fantastic in their costumes and delivered their lines brilliantly. A big thank you to Mrs Durler, Mrs Oxley, Mrs Larke, and Miss Donovan for bringing this wonderful nativity to life and ensuring its success!



Suffolk PINS Project
Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools

Session 2

Learning and Executive Functioning:
How Parents and School Staff Can Work Together to Support Neurodivergent Children

This workshop for parents, carers and school staff will explore cognitive differences in childhood such as planning, organising and remembering things. The workshop will consider how these differences can impact on day-to-day life and give advice on how schools and parents/carers can support their children and young people with cognitive differences.

These sessions may contain some recorded content which has been developed by the Psychology in Schools Team, Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust, and will be facilitated by the Suffolk Neurodiversity Inclusion Facilitators, part of Early Intervention Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.

When & Where?

Wednesday 28th January 3.30-5.00pm

How do I book my place?

Please email the school office if you will be attending and if you require a free childcare place in 'The Den'.
admin@freemacpschool.co.uk

PINS Workshop

We would like to extend our thanks to all the parents who attended our first PINS workshop. It was wonderful to see so many of you there. The session provided a valuable opportunity for parents and staff to come together, share perspectives, and gain a deeper understanding of both the challenges and the positives experienced on each side.

We would like to invite you to join us for our second PINS workshop on Wednesday, 28th January. You do not need to have attended the first workshop to take part, as each session is designed to stand alone. To support parents, we are pleased to offer a free childcare place in *Our Den* for the duration of the workshop.

Please get in touch with the office to book your space!

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

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

The winning house!

The house that collected the most house points this term was **GIPPING HOUSE!** They have been following the golden rules perfectly!

They will receive their treat after the Christmas holidays. We will let you know when this will be next half term 😊



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



Spring Term- PE Days

Please find below the PE days for next Spring Term. Children will need to come in to school in the correct PE kit on these days; long hair needs to be tied back and earrings removed.

Acorn- Monday pm and Wednesday pm

Cherry Tree- Wednesday pm and Friday pm

Maple- Tuesday pm and Friday pm

Beech- Monday pm and Thursday pm

Hazel- Monday pm and Tuesday pm

Willow- Monday pm

Oak- Thursday pm and Friday pm

Inces of Stowmarket

You may have seen in the local news recently that after 58 years serving the local community Inces in Stowmarket have announced that they are closing. Inces have been stocking our school uniform for as long as we can remember and remaining uniform they hold is available to purchase at a discounted price both in store and [online](#).

Freeman Community Primary School uniform will still be available from "My Clothing" at the following [link](#). We are sure that you will all join us in thanking the team at Inces for their many years of service to our local community.

Get Ready for the Winter Mini Challenge!

An exciting online reading challenge is coming your way from **1 December 2025 to 20 February 2026**.

Are you ready to take it on?

Click the link below to sign up and start your reading adventure: [Summer Reading Challenge](#)

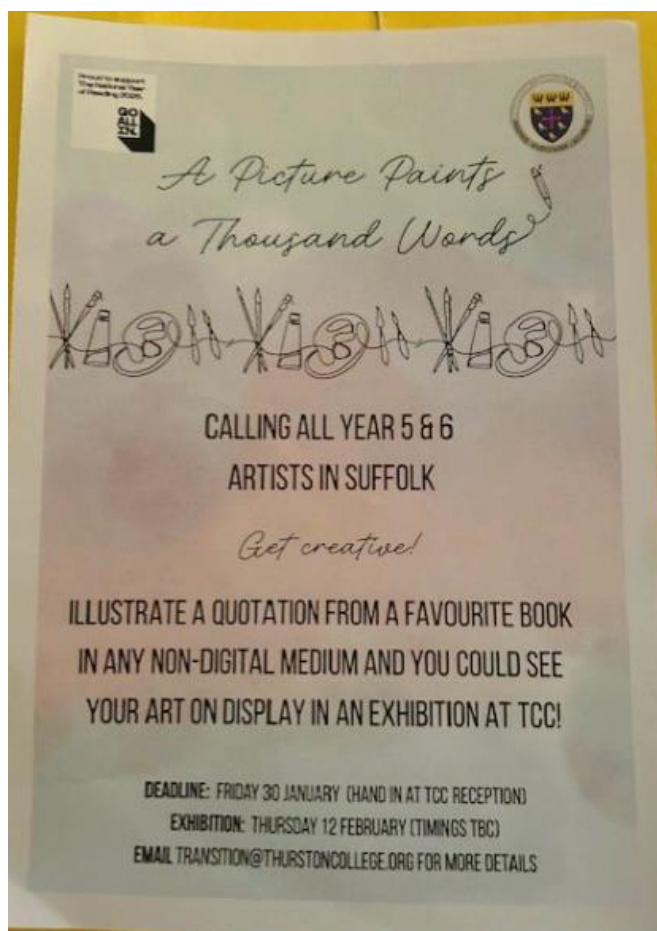


U11 Dodgeball Competition!

Our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils represented the school brilliantly in the recent U11 dodgeball competition. They demonstrated outstanding sportsmanship and competed with determination and enthusiasm. Well done, Freeman!



Art Competition



Christmas Jumper Day

Thank you to those of you who contributed to our Christmas Jumper Day fundraiser last week. As this was our first fundraising event using solely an online Just Giving account, instead of taking cash in School, we are pleased to report that we have raised £72 for Save The Children.



Our Wonderful Christmas Church Service

Today, our school community came together at the church to celebrate the joy of Christmas. The service was filled with festive cheer as the children sang beautifully, shared thoughtful readings, and reflected on the true meaning of the season. It was a special time for everyone to pause, give thanks, and enjoy the spirit of togetherness. A big thank you to the church team, and the staff who joined us and helped make this event so memorable. Wishing you all a peaceful and joyful Christmas!



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about AI TOYS

This festive season, the newest toys on the shelves do not just blink or make noise; they listen. Many now come with artificial intelligence (AI), allowing them to talk, learn, and even respond to a child's emotions. These toys can be educational and engaging, but they also collect, store, and process information. This guide explains what that means for families and why it matters.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

TOYS THAT LISTEN AND LEARN

When a toy uses AI, it collects data such as voice recordings, interactions, and background sounds. This information is sent to remote servers, where it is analysed to improve responses. Your child's voice becomes training data, which may be stored indefinitely or shared with third parties.

WEAK SECURITY PROTECTIONS

Some AI toys have poor password protection or open network connections. Others may have microphones or cameras that stay on, even when the toy appears to be off. This can lead to recordings being made without your knowledge, including conversations unrelated to play.

ARTIFICIAL VOICES, REAL INFLUENCE

For very young children, an AI companion may become one of the first voices they interact with regularly. How that voice shows humour, empathy, or authority can shape how a child learns to communicate. If the model is artificial, then part of what is learned is artificial as well.

PRESSURE TO KEEP ENGAGING

Some toys reward repeated use or track engagement, encouraging children to interact more. When children compare how their toys perform, it creates pressure to play more often. This increases the amount of data collected and can make learning feel like competition.

MARKETING THROUGH PLAY

Toys that learn a child's preferences may feed that data into future advertising. A toy that knows a child's favourite colour or hobby could help a company design more targeted marketing to that child and their family.

PLAYTIME AS DATA TRAINING

The information collected from children helps train AI systems. Their voice, emotional responses, and behaviour shape how machines 'understand' people. Play becomes part of a much larger system that influences how future technologies behave.

Advice for Parents & Educators

START WITH A CONVERSATION

Talk to young people. Explain that some toys learn from what they say and do. Help them understand that even friendly technology should have boundaries, and to ask questions about it. Curiosity is healthy, blind trust is not.

SET LIMITS ON USE

Turn off Wi-Fi or Bluetooth when the toy is not in use. Check for updates regularly, as they can change privacy or safety settings. Treat connected toys like any smart device; they should be monitored, updated, and switched off when not in use.

MODEL DIGITAL AWARENESS

Children learn from adults. If they see you checking privacy settings, reading terms, and talking openly about online safety, they are more likely to do the same. Show them how to question technology in a healthy way.

RESEARCH BEFORE YOU BUY

Look for toys that work offline or store data locally. Check for a free or demo version so you can test how it behaves. Read privacy policies to understand what data is collected, where it goes, and whether it's shared with others.

REVIEW PRIVACY SETTINGS

Find out where the data is stored and who has access to it. Some companies sell or share data with advertisers. If the toy connects through an app, check what it requests access to and limit those permissions whenever possible.

BALANCE AI WITH REAL PLAY

AI toys can be fun and creative, but they are not a replacement for real human interaction. Encourage time away from technology with activities that foster emotional and social development. Use AI toys to support learning, not define it.

Meet Our Expert

Clara Hawking is Executive Director of Kompass Education. She advises governments, school trusts, and global organisations on AI governance and safeguarding, helping schools and families understand how technology shapes learning, wellbeing, and the digital future of children.

