



FREEMAN COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

From tiny acorns mighty oaks grow.



Friday 17th April 2026

Diary Dates

April

Monday 20th April

Year 3&4 Meet the Teacher after school

Tuesday 21st April

Year 5 Meet the Teacher after school

Wednesday 22nd April

Change in Date Year 6 Meet the Teacher after school

Tuesday 21st April

Year 6 SATs worries drop-in clinic at lunch time

Thursday 23rd April

Brett House non uniform and extra play reward
Year R, 1&2 Meet the Teacher after school

May

Monday 4th May

Bank Holiday

Week beginning 11th May

Year 6 SATs week

Wednesday 20th May

Year 5 visit to Cambridge Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology

Week beginning 25th May

May Half term

Opening comment

Welcome back to all children, parents and carers for the last full term of the year! We hope you all had a restful Easter break. It has been great to see all of the children back in school and the sunshine on our return. It has been another busy start to the term with Years 3 and 4 going on a trip to the Farm Fair, held at Trinity Park in Ipswich. I am sure that there will be more trips to come and look forward to sharing what the children get up to outside of school with you. If your child is going on a trip, please ensure that consent is given via Arbor.

PE Days

Please see below for PE Days for each class this term.

Acorn	Monday and Wednesday
Cherry Tree	Forest School Tuesday (from 28 th April) and PE Wednesday
Maple	Tuesday and Friday
Beech	Monday and Thursday
Hazel	Monday and Tuesday
Willow	Wednesday and Friday
Oak	Thursday and Friday

Year 5 will have an additional Forest School Session due to the short Spring Term. Their last Forest School Session will be on Tuesday 21st April.

Attendance Week beginning

23rd March 2026

Acorn: 99.17%

Cherry Tree: 92.79%

Maple: 96%

Beech: 99.07%

Hazel: 96.67%

Willow: 96.74%

Oak: 96.38%

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

House Points so far...

We look forward to sharing the first House Point totals with you next week!

Brett House will have their non uniform and extra play time reward on **Thursday 23rd April** as they were our House Winners in the second half of the Spring Term.

Acorn- Winnie the Pooh Helps the Bees!

Acorn Class have been reading 'Winnie the Pooh Helps the Bees' this week. In the book, Pooh is wondering where the bees have gone and how he can get them to come back to make him some more honey. The children have learnt that bees need flowers to collect pollen and nectar, so we have been busy planting our own flowers in pots using compost and watering them in order for them to grow.

The book has also taught the children that bees need to drink and that they need something to stand on in the water so they don't go swimming! The children filled some plates with water and added stones to provide a safe place for them to stand and drink.

They also went for a bee hunt in the flowers we had already grown to see if they could see any bees in action!



Suffolk Parent Carer Forum

Invites parents and carers to our

SEND Reforms Focus Group

This focus group is an opportunity to share your thoughts and feelings on the SEND reforms with us.

Thursday 30th April 10:30 – 12:00

This is a virtual meeting hosted on Microsoft Teams and requires registration. If you would like to participate and share feedback, please email info@suffolkpcf.co.uk to register your interest



Working towards a brighter future for Suffolk's children and young people

suffolkpcf.co.uk 01473 760933 info@suffolkpcf.co.uk



Suffolk Parent Carer Forum

Invites parents and carers to our

Reasonable Adjustments Workshop for Parents and Carers

Kindly provided by Unique Neuro Wellness Ltd.

Thursday 7th May 10:30 - 11:15

This is a virtual meeting hosted on Microsoft Teams and requires registration. If you would like to participate and share feedback, please email info@suffolkpcf.co.uk to register your interest



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Suffolk Parent Carer Forum



SAVE THE DATE

MID SUFFOLK OPEN EVENT

An opportunity to meet professionals and find out about services, voluntary and support groups.

**Stowmarket
United Reformed Church**

**Wednesday 17th June 2026
10AM – 1PM**

More information to follow nearer the time

01473 760933 info@suffolkpcf.co.uk www.suffolkpcf.co.uk

[FACEBOOK.COM/SUFFOLKPCF](https://www.facebook.com/suffolkpcf)

Sports Day 2026

We have planned to hold sports day on Wednesday 24th June this year, with children completing their races in the morning.

We would like to invite parents to watch the children's races (times to be confirmed) and stay in school to have a picnic lunch with your children.

In the afternoon, the children will then complete a Sponsored Colour Run, please find more information about this below.

If sports day needs to be cancelled due to adverse weather, we have a back up date planned for Wednesday 1st July.

Trips

We are delighted to have several exciting trips planned for some classes during the summer term. If you have received an email about a trip for your child, we kindly ask that you review and respond to it as soon as possible so we can ensure full payment is received and the trip can go ahead.

If you anticipate any difficulty or delay with making a payment, please contact Mrs Coleman.

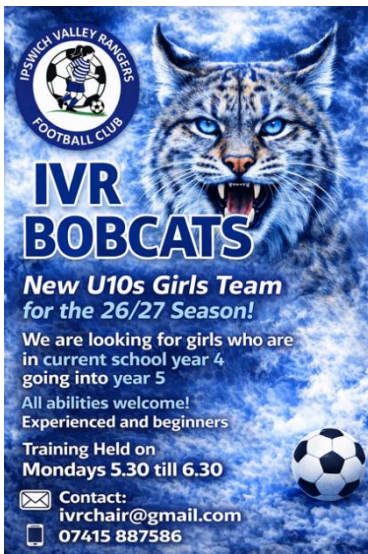
Book Recommendations

Looking for book recommendations for you child who has been hooked by a particular series or author and are now ready to branch out?

Follow the link below to the Books for Topics website who may be able to help! Books for Topics help readers of all ages discover new books or authors they will love.

<https://www.booksfortopics.com/booklists/branching-out/>

NEW Year 4 and Year 5 Girls Football Team



PSNICH VALLEY RANGERS FOOTBALL CLUB

IVR BOBCATS

New U10s Girls Team for the 26/27 Season!

We are looking for girls who are in current school year 4 going into year 5

All abilities welcome!
Experienced and beginners

Training Held on
Mondays 5.30 till 6.30

Contact:
ivrchair@gmail.com
07415 887586

Friends of Freeman; Sponsored Colour Run

We're excited to welcome back our much-loved Sponsored Colour Run this summer! To help make the event even more successful, we're looking for local business sponsors who would be featured across our communications while supporting fundraising for our village school. If you work for, or know of, a company that might like to get involved, we'd love to hear from you.

We're also on the lookout for parent volunteers to help on the day—especially those who don't mind getting a little messy! Please get in touch if you'd like to be part of the fun.

Speak to Mrs Oxborrow at school or email megan@friendsoffreeman.co.uk



24th June

Sponsor & Volunteer Opportunities
megan@friendsoffreeman.co.uk



My Clothing Discount

Use code **INTAKE26** at checkout to enjoy 10% off all orders until 31st July*

Year 3 and 4 visit to the Farm Fair

This week, Years 3 and 4 visited the farm fair at Trinity Park in Ipswich to support their learning in Geography.

The children visited a variety of stands and completed practical, hands-on activities as well as watching demonstrations of farm machinery. They found out more about the emergency services, found bones and animal skeletons in Owl Pellets, saw how sausages were made and tasted some freshly cooked sausages,

learnt about how potatoes become crisps and learnt about the cereals grown locally and what they become after they are harvested; the children also enjoyed a tractor and trailer ride. The highlight was seeing some animals and their young up close. This includes cows and calves, sheep and lambs, alpacas and cria and pigs with their piglets. Thank you to the parents who supported the trip!



SCHOOL GOVERNOR VACANCY

Join Our Governing Body – Make a Difference at Freeman Community Primary School and for the future of Stowupland!

Are you passionate about education and eager to make a positive impact in your community?

Freeman Community Primary School is looking for volunteers to join our governing body as Governors. As a Governor, you'll play a vital role in setting the school's strategic direction, supporting and challenging our leadership team, and ensuring the best outcomes for our pupils.

This is a voluntary role, open to all individuals from all walks of life.

What We Offer:

- A chance to develop new skills and gain valuable experience in governance and education
- Ongoing training and support to help you fulfil your role
- The opportunity to work with a committed and friendly team
- The satisfaction of making a difference to children's lives and your local community

What We're Looking For:

- Individuals who are committed, curious, and willing to learn
- Good communicators who are able to work as part of a team
- People who will bring enthusiasm, integrity, and a willingness to support our vision

No previous experience in education or governance is required – just a commitment to helping our school succeed!

Location: Freeman Community Primary School

Commitments: What we need from you is:

- 6x evening meetings per year – one each half term
- 3x committee meetings per year – one each term
- Occasional visits to the school to find out more about the learning

Safeguarding: Freeman Community Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. All appointments will be subject to satisfactory safeguarding checks including a Disclosure and Barring check.

How to Apply: If you are interested in this exciting opportunity to support your local school and shape the future of our pupils, please contact our Office Manager, Jenny Fairburn for more information or to request an application pack.

**Freeman Community Primary School, Church Road, Stowupland, Stowmarket IP14 4BQ.
T: 01449 612067 E: admin@freemancpschool.co.uk**

From tiny acorns do mighty oaks grow

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about APP & PLAY STORES

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Since the introduction of Apple's App Store and Google's Play Store, an estimated two million apps have been made available on each. Ofcom's 2025 media use and attitudes report states that more than half of children aged between 3 and 7 use apps or sites to communicate with each other, and, by the ages of 10 to 12, 45% of children are playing games on their mobile phones. This guide will help you ensure that children use the app stores and their content safely.

MALICIOUS APPS WITH MALWARE



Although Google and Apple must approve the apps on their official stores, inappropriate content sometimes slips through the net. For example, in 2025, the security company Kaspersky found that multiple iOS and Android apps contained screen-reading software, primed to look for passwords and stealing crypto-wallet recovery phrases captured in screenshots.

UNOFFICIAL COPYCAT APPS



Both official app stores contain copycat apps – often games – designed to look like popular rivals, mimicking their branding, layout and logos. While these will usually just offer a poor experience packed with ads as a quick money-making exercise, they're also more likely to be vessels for malware than the products they're counterfeiting.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT



As the App Store and Play Store are for all ages, there's a lot of content available that's inappropriate for children. Examples include apps that have references to alcohol, drugs, sex, violence or gambling. In general, these are sensibly age-rated, but social media sites such as YouTube and TikTok, which both have an App Store age rating of 12+, can be gateways to adult material.

PREDATORY IN-APP PURCHASES



App-making is a business, and most creators have found that "freemium" software is the way to make money. That means the app will be free initially but will either require the user to watch ads or rely on them making in-app purchases. Some "free" apps can be predatory, and there are plenty of examples reported where parents have racked up huge bills on behalf of their children's app activity.

ADDICTIVE BY DESIGN



Phone addiction is fast becoming recognised as a real concern, and apps are a big part of this. Freemium apps have a real incentive to keep children checking in every day in order to generate more ad views or secure extra in-app purchases. This can interfere with schoolwork and other offline hobbies.

SIDLOADED BANNED APPS



"Sideloaded" – the more complicated practice of installing applications on a device from sources other than the official app stores – bypasses Google's and Apple's security procedures; however, it is possible for tech-savvy users. This opens up huge risks – not just apps that would be forbidden by Apple and Google, but pirate ones packed with malware too.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ACTIVATE PARENTAL CONTROLS FOR APPS



Both Google and Apple have apps that can give adults greater control over children's phone activity. "Screen Time" (iPhone) and "Family Link" (Android) have a range of features, such as letting you set age-related restrictions on the app stores, require permission to download an app, set daily time limits on specific apps, and control real-world spending.

DO YOUR RESEARCH



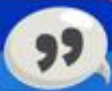
If children ask permission to download an app, do your due diligence and research it. Read the app summary and search the internet for reviews and discussions to establish its legitimacy, safety and appropriateness – if it doesn't seem to be appropriate, look for safer alternatives instead.

LOOK BEYOND THE REVIEWS



App store reviews are helpful, but they are easily gamed, and some unscrupulous developers will pay for quick reviews to give their work perceived legitimacy. Take more than a cursory glance at listings by digging out the one- and two-star reviews and looking closely at the developer – for example, if they've published a lot of unrelated apps, that's a red flag.

TALK TO YOUR CHILD



Talk to children and make sure they're aware that apps can be risky. As part of a wider talk about internet literacy, ensure they don't download apps outside of the official channels, nor grant apps permission to access their camera, microphone, or photos without a good reason. Make sure they understand that in-game currency costs real-world money.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, The Telegraph, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.

