



Respect



Inspire



Achieve

# FREEMAN COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

*From tiny acorns mighty oaks grow.*



**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

## Diary Dates

### September

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September**  
Individual pupil photos

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September**  
Year 6 Residential information  
@3:30pm

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September**  
Harvest Festival at the Church

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September**  
Friends of Freeman AGM,  
6:00pm

### October

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup>, Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> and  
Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October**  
Book Fair after school

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October**  
Parent Consultations

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October**  
Parent Consultations

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October-  
Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October**  
Year 6 Residential

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October**  
Break up for Half Term

### November

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November**  
Children return to school

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November**  
Willow Class Parent Workshop

## Opening comment

I have thoroughly enjoyed visiting all of the classes this week and have seen the children engaging well with their learning. Our new Acorn children have settled incredibly well in to school routines and the children in Years 1 to 6 have adjusted well to their classes and teachers. Additionally, our new Wrap Around Care is beginning to bed in and it has been great to see some new faces attending this week. Don't forget that you can use your Tax Free Childcare Account to pay for sessions. Please book ahead on Arbor if you wish to take advantage of this service.

## Stars of the week



## Attendance Week beginning 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Acorn: 97.63%

Cherry Tree: 96.28 %

Maple: 94.74%

Beech: 97.78%

Hazel: 98.67%

Willow: 96.07%

Oak: 92.14%

Well done **Maple** for being this week's winners!

## House Points so far...

**Brett: 440**

**Deben: 461**

**Orwell: 308**

**Gipping: 292**

**Lark: 396**

**Stour: 340**

## Willow Class

Willow Class have made a brilliant start to the term and are thoroughly enjoying their learning! In music, they've embraced the ukulele with great enthusiasm - learning the names of its parts, how to hold it correctly, and practising their strumming skills. Over in PE, the class has been developing their attacking techniques on the hockey pitch, focusing on controlled dribbling, accurate passing, and creating space to support their teammates. Their growing confidence and teamwork have really stood out during small-sided games.

In the classroom, pupils have been captivated by their guided reading book, *Shackleton's Journey* by William Grill - a beautifully illustrated retelling of Ernest Shackleton's remarkable expedition across Antarctica. This ties in perfectly with their Geography topic, where they've been exploring countries and capital cities around the world.



### Working Together

During the school year, you may occasionally have questions or concerns about something that has taken place. If this happens, we kindly ask that you speak directly with your child's class teacher as your first point of contact, rather than sharing concerns on other platforms. If you're unable to speak with the teacher on the playground, please reach out to the school office, who will be happy to assist you in arranging an appointment.

We truly value your partnership and look forward to working together to support our children in the best possible way.

### Lunchtime Donations!

If anyone has any small word play toys they'd be happy to donate to school, we'd be incredibly grateful.

We're excited to include them in a new lunchtime initiative aimed at making playtime even more engaging and fun for the children.

**Thank you so much for your support!**

### NUT-FREE SCHOOL

A quick reminder that our school is a **nut-free environment**. This means that **no nuts or products containing nuts** should be brought into school, including in packed lunches and snacks.

We have children in school with severe nut allergies, and even trace amounts can cause serious reactions. Your support in keeping all our pupils safe is greatly appreciated.



### 🌿 Introducing Our New After-School Club name: The Den 🌿

**We're excited to share that our after-school wraparound care officially launched last week!**

Led by Mrs Kell, Miss Donovan, and Miss Vickers, this vibrant club offers a wide range of fun and creative activities including arts and crafts, LEGO building, colouring, movie time, outdoor play (weather permitting), planting, and so much more!

It's a lively, engaging space where children can unwind, explore, and enjoy themselves after the school day. Plus, we provide healthy snacks to keep them fuelled and happy!

**The club runs in two sessions:**

- **3:15–4:15pm**
- **4:15–5:15pm**

Each session is priced at **£5 per hour**.

If you're using the government's **Tax-Free Childcare scheme**, you'll only need to pay **£4 per hour**, and the government will contribute the remaining amount. This is the same cost as the other clubs we offer!

## Suffolk County Music Service

Suffolk County Music Service are currently offering young musicians in Suffolk who are Grade 4 standard and above on their instrument, the **free** opportunity to attend our 'Come and Play' Day/s in October.

Young musicians keen to explore jazz can get involved at a special **Jazz Come & Play Day** on **Sunday 12 October**.

Alongside this, the county's flagship ensembles – **Suffolk Youth Orchestra, Suffolk Youth Wind Band** and **Suffolk Young Strings** – are also recruiting.

For those still deciding, a further Free **Come & Play Day** on **Saturday 25 October** offers another opportunity to experience these ensembles.

Further information can be found [here](#).

## Harvest Festival

On Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September, we will be taking the children to the Church for our annual Harvest Festival service. The children may bring in a non-perishable item of food e.g. tin food or pasta that will be donated to the local foodbank in Stowmarket to support their ever-increasing needs. Any donations are voluntary, and we appreciate that times are financially difficult at the moment. However, if you can donate, these can be brought into School on the morning of Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September. Thank you in advance for your support.



## School Photos

A reminder that pupil individual photos and photos of siblings within school will be taken on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September. Please ensure your child(ren) come into school on this day wearing their normal, full and correct school uniform to have their photo taken in. PE kits will not be required.

Please ensure that we are aware if you do **not** wish for your child(ren) to have their school photo taken. You can view your child's(ren's) photo consents on Arbor on the **Student Profile** of the Parent Portal by clicking on the green **View Student Profile** button. If you wish to amend any consents at any time, please put this in writing via email to [admin@freemancpschool.co.uk](mailto:admin@freemancpschool.co.uk)



### School anxiety

Many children and young people are a bit anxious as the school year starts.

For those with SEND, this can be a bigger problem, and may affect their attendance.

Our information and resources may help you.



Links in the above post ...

 SENDIASS logo with the text 'SENDIASS' in a stylized font. Above it, in smaller text, is 'SENDIASS: Supporting Education, Disability, Inclusion & Support Services'.

Information which may help you:

- [School anxiety - Suffolk SENDIASS](#)
- [Support for children who cannot attend school - Suffolk SENDIASS](#)
- [School Anxiety and Refusal | Parent Guide to Support | YoungMinds](#)
- [Wellbeing in education](#) – Suffolk County Council information
- [Anxiety and Wellbeing - The Source](#) – The Source is the primary source of information for children and young people in Suffolk.

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION  
**13+**

SNAP STREAK

**97**

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With over 900 million active monthly users and billions of 'Snaps' sent each month, Snapchat is a popular messaging app among children and young people. It allows users to share fun, spontaneous pictures and videos with friends and family while using playful filters. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures, videos and messages are only viewable for a short period of time.

## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Snapchat's use of artificial intelligence (AI) includes features like the 'My AI' chatbot and AI-powered filters, offering interactive experiences that can be fun but also pose risks. These tools may share unfiltered or inaccurate responses, promote unrealistic beauty standards, and collect personal data. Advanced filters and deepfake-style lenses can distort reality, potentially leading to manipulation, impersonation, or inappropriate content.

## SCREEN ADDICTION

Snapchat boosts user engagement and daily use with features like streaks (daily Snapchat exchanges between you and a friend). When a streak's been going for a few days, users will see a 🍌 emoji. The number alongside it shows the number of days, but if users miss a day and break the streak, the only way to restore it is to pay. This encourages daily use habits, and frequent notifications can keep users returning to the app even more often.

## SEXTORTION

Because Snapchat's disappearing messages feature may foster a sense of safety, users may become targets of sextortion. For example, a predator may pressure someone into sending nude images, then somehow capture those images to threaten and intimidate the victim. This might involve claiming they will share the images with friends or family unless money is paid.

## SNAPCHAT+

Snapchat+ is the platform's premium subscription service, offering early access to new and exclusive features. In June 2025, Snapchat introduced a new tier called Lens+, giving subscribers access to hundreds of senses and AR experiences for playing, creating, and sharing Snaps. These paid features may encourage young users to spend money to access exclusive content, increasing the risk of overspending or feeling pressured to make in-app purchases.

## ACCESSIBILITY

Snapchat is now accessible from a web browser, meaning children can use it on a laptop or tablet without downloading the app. This can make activity harder to monitor, reduce the effectiveness of parental controls, and increase the risk of unsupervised communication or exposure to inappropriate content.

## INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's disappearing messages feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### ACCESS THE SNAPCHAT FAMILY SAFETY HUB

Created with guidance from Common Sense Media, Snapchat has developed a Family Safety Hub that explains how the app works and how to use its in-app protections for teens. It's recommended that you review this guidance before allowing a child to download Snapchat. Remember, the app is only intended for children aged 13 and over.

### BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger connects with a child on Snapchat and makes them feel uncomfortable by pressuring them to send or receive unwanted or inappropriate images, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile to report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user, with a tailored reporting section under the 'Nudity and Sexual Content' category. In this category, there's the option to report somebody for threatening to leak sexually explicit images, or 'nudes'.

### ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

### USE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Sit down with the children in your care and explore Snapchat's privacy settings as a shared activity. You can help them adjust who can contact them, view their stories, or see their location on Snap Map. It's a good opportunity to explain why some settings are safer than others, reinforcing their understanding of online boundaries. Encourage them to regularly review these settings, especially after app updates or changes in their friendship groups.

