



FREEMAN COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

From tiny acorns mighty oaks grow.

Friday 26th September 2025

- Diary Dates**
- September**
- Monday 29th September**
Friends of Freeman AGM,
6:00pm
- October**
- Thursday 2nd, Friday 3rd and Monday 6th October**
Book Fair after school
- Tuesday 7th October**
Parent Consultations
- Thursday 9th October**
Parent Consultations
- Wednesday 22nd October- Friday 24th October**
Year 6 Residential
- Friday 24th October**
Break up for Half Term
- November**
- Monday 3rd November**
Children return to school
- Friday 21st November**
Willow Class Parent Workshop
- Wednesday 26th November**
Hazel Class Parent Workshop
- December**
- Thursday 4th December**
Beech Class Parent Workshop

Opening comment

This week the children have been busy in their classrooms preparing for our annual Harvest Festival; thank you for your donations, I look forward to sharing with you the impact that they have.

The lost property box has been out on a few occasions, and the amount of uniform in there is starting to grow. Please make sure you have a look when you are next on the playground and please remember to label your child's uniform. Thank you.



Attendance Week beginning 22nd September 2025

- Acorn: 98.98%
- Cherry Tree: 97.78 %
- Maple: 96.99%
- Beech: 94.07%
- Hazel: 98%
- Willow: 94.64%
- Oak: 95%

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

House Points so far...

- Brett: 668**
- Deben: 472**
- Orwell: 499**
- Gipping: 459**
- Lark: 592**
- Stour: 533**

Hazel Class

Hazel Class have had a wonderfully busy start to the year!

Every Wednesday, we've been enjoying our swimming lessons at Stowmarket Leisure Centre, building confidence and having fun in the water. In RE, we've explored how Jesus inspires Christians to help and serve others, focusing on the story of Zacchaeus. Our science lessons have introduced us to the fascinating world of classification, where we've been using Venn diagrams to group living things. In art, we've taken inspiration from the vibrant Rainforest to design our own patterns, which we've transformed into beautiful batik creations.



Pupil Premium Funding

Do you receive any of the following?

- Universal Credit with an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for the four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual household income of no more than £16,190

If you can say 'yes' to any of the above you may qualify for Free School Meals (FSM), which triggers Pupil Premium funding

Pupil Premium is **extra Government funding** given to schools for the specific purpose of boosting attainment. Freeman CP School will receive an additional **£1,455 funding per child** which we can use in a variety of ways, including extra support staff and activities, **but we can only apply for this if you claim your free school meals** (even if your child is receiving a lunch at no cost in Reception through to Year 2 or still chooses to have a home packed lunch.)

If your child is in receipt of FSM we can offer financial help towards:

- School uniform
- Breakfast and after-school clubs
- School trips and KS2 residential
- Follow-on music lessons

Exciting Opportunity!

There's a fantastic writing competition you and your child might enjoy taking part in. The BBC's 500 Words contest is now open from 23rd September, and it's a great chance to get creative together!

Can your child write a story of up to 500 words?

Click the link for all the details and how to enter: [500 Words](#)



BBC 500 Words: an exciting opportunity

There's a fantastic writing competition you and your child might enjoy taking part in. The BBC's 500 Words contest is now open from 23rd September to Friday 7th November, and it's a great chance to get creative together!

Can your child write a story of up to 500 words?

There are two age categories: **5-7 and 8-11 year olds** and spelling, punctuation and grammar are not marked.

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



Bury Literacy Festival



This year's Festival runs from Sunday 5th October to Sunday 19th October.

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

Chocolate BINGO

Friday 17th October

3.30-5.00PM

A fun filled family event with a chance to win lots of sweets and chocolate goodies!

Details of how to buy tickets to be revealed soon!



My Clothing

FLASH SALE

Use code **SEP10** at checkout for 15% discount.

Promotional code valid from Thursday 25th to Monday 29th September.

www.myclothing.com

🌿 Introducing Our New After-School Club name: 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



Harvest Celebration

This week, our school came together as a community to celebrate the harvest at our local church. It was a joyful occasion filled with singing, poetry, and thoughtful reflections on harvest traditions around the world.

Each class contributed something special, and the service was a beautiful reminder of the strength and unity within our school. We couldn't be prouder of everyone involved!



Menu Change - Thursday 2nd October

Option 1: Sausage and chips

Option 2: Vegetarian sausage and chips

A choice of desserts will be available, together with jacket potatoes and school packed lunches with ham, cheese or tuna.

World Mental Health Day

To acknowledge World Mental Health Day on **Friday, 10th October**, we invite all children to come to school wearing yellow. This small gesture helps us raise awareness and show support for mental health and wellbeing.

Whether it's a yellow t-shirt, socks, or even a hair accessory – every splash of yellow counts!

Thank you for your support 🧡

Applying for a Secondary School

The admissions process is different for children and young people who already have EHC plans.

However, if you have requested an EHC needs assessment, or this is underway, do still apply through admissions, as there is no guarantee the assessment will lead to an EHC plan.

[Apply for a secondary school place 2026/2027 - Suffolk County Council](#)

Our web information includes:

[Choosing a school for a child with SEND - Suffolk SENDIASS](#)

[Transition tips \(changing school or key stage\) - Suffolk SENDIASS](#)

[SEN Support - Suffolk SENDIASS](#)

[SEN Information Report - Suffolk SENDIASS](#)

[Preparing for the transition to secondary school for children with SEN – webinar recording](#)



**Applying for
secondary school
2026/2027**

**Deadline:
31st October 2025**

The process is different if
your child has an EHC plan.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

On messaging apps, social media and online games, group chats are one of the most popular ways that children connect. Group chats allow messages, images and videos to be shared in one place and help friendships flourish; however, they also come with a number of risks.

TEASING AND BULLYING

Children of all ages are keen to fit in socially, and group chats can sometimes complicate that process. While group chats can foster connection, they can also give way to mean comments or jokes at someone's expense, especially when others join in for laughs. When bullying happens publicly, in front of friends and classmates, it can intensify the emotional impact – adding to embarrassment, anxiety and feelings of isolation for the child being targeted.

UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Children often can't control who is added to a group, which can lead to privacy concerns. Sharing personal details in group chats can be dangerous, and children have no control over what others do with the material they send. Some members of the chat might even decide to use such information maliciously.

PEER PRESSURE

Children may feel they have to constantly stay engaged just to be included and keep up with the conversation. In some cases, they might partake in inappropriate behaviours – like sharing explicit photos, jokes or teasing – just to fit in. Group settings can also encourage children to act in ways they normally wouldn't, or stay silent when they know something is wrong, out of fear of being excluded. Some children may find it difficult to leave toxic group chats.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some group chats may include inappropriate language or imagery. Even if a child isn't actively participating in the conversation, they may still be exposed to this content simply by being part of the group. Some apps have disappearing messaging features, where content is only available once or for a few seconds, which makes it harder for children to report something they've seen.

EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

Exclusion in group chats is common and can take several forms. Sometimes a new group is created specifically to leave one child out on purpose. In other cases, the chat may happen on an app that a child doesn't have access to, making it impossible for them to join in. This can cause feelings of being left out – even unintentionally.

VIDEO AND LIVE CHATS

Many popular apps allow children to engage in live streaming with interactive chats or have group video chats. Anyone can be added to these streams, and often children tag peers in the comments and have conversations which are unmoderated. There's a risk of being exposed to inappropriate or violent content and offensive language, either in the group videos or via the group chats.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats can become an arena for children to compete for social status. Help children consider how people might feel if they behave unkindly. If a child does upset someone, encourage them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

SET SOME GROUP CHAT RULES

Discuss safe group chat practices, such as asking a peer for consent before adding them to a group chat, or leaving a group chat if a stranger is added. Tell children that if they're added to a group they didn't agree to beforehand, it's OK for them to leave immediately.

BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If a child encounters inappropriate content or feels uncomfortable in a group chat, encourage them to block and report the sender and leave the group. Make sure children know it's OK to leave a group chat if they feel uncomfortable or unsafe.

SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Group chats are an excellent way for children to connect and feel like they belong. However, remind them that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded. Instead of responding to the person who's upset them, validate their feelings and empower them by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. You can also encourage children to speak up if they witness others being bullied.

PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

It's vital for children to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Ensure they understand the importance of not revealing personal details – like their address, their school, or photos they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they can't be certain where it might end up or how it might be used.

SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Being bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be an irritating distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to children that they can still be part of a group chat while disabling notifications. In fact, it would be healthier for them to do so, helping them avoid the pressure to respond immediately.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant at 8CyberAware, who has developed anti-bullying and cyber-safety workshops and policies for schools in Australia and the UK. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government, comparing the Internet use and online behaviours of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College