



Respect



Inspire



Achieve

# FREEMAN COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

*From tiny acorns mighty oaks grow.*



**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

## Diary Dates

### November

#### Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November

Children return to school  
Flu Vaccinations

#### Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November

Year 6 trip to Duxford

#### Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November

Willow Class Parent Workshop

#### Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November

Hazel Class Parent Workshop  
@2pm

#### Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November

Year 4 trip to The Longshed

### December

#### Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December

Prospective parent show round

Beech Class Parent Workshop

Year 5 CET Christmas Concert  
– more details to follow.

#### Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December

Cherry Tree Class Parent  
Workshop @2pm

#### Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December

Oak Class Parent Workshop  
@2pm

#### Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December

Year 2 Nativity to parents in the  
afternoon

## Opening comment

As the first half term draws to a close there have been lots of successes to reflect on; the children's return to school into new classes after the holidays, participation in sports competitions (more in this newsletter), fantastic achievements in the number of house points that have been received and the Year 6 residential to Bawdsey.

I and the staff are very proud of everything each and every child has achieved, and wish you all a restful half term. We look forward to seeing everyone back in school on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

## Stars of the week



## Attendance Week beginning

### 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Acorn: 98.64%

Cherry Tree: 95.93%

Maple: 97.27%

Beech: 96.67%

Hazel: 97.33%

Willow: 97.5%

Oak: 96.43%

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

## House Points so far...

**Brett: 1657**

**Deben: 1808**

**Orwell: 1467**

**Gipping: 1497**

**Lark: 1621**

**Stour: 1425**

### The winning house!

**Deben** House have earned an impressive number of house points each week; they've finished this half term in first place with a whopping 1,808 house points!

To celebrate their success, Deben House will enjoy 20 minutes of extra playtime and a non-uniform day during the first week back after half term. More details will be shared with you soon.

### Staffing update

After many years at Freeman, in many different roles, Mrs Boyce has decided it is time to retire; her last day with us will be Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November. We thank Mrs Boyce for everything she has done to support the school over the years.

As you know, Mrs Lewis is leaving us this week; we wish her well in her retirement. I am sure you will join me in thanking her for all of her hard work and support. Mrs Jenny Fairburn has joined the team as Office Manager, and is becoming a familiar face to parents when they visit the office or call the school!

### Acorn Class

In reading and writing sessions in Acorn Class, the children have been reading 'Pumpkin Soup.' They have enjoyed being outside creating their own Pumpkin Soup recipes. This has meant they have had to share, communicate effectively and listen to other people's ideas.

The children have been working hard on blending sounds this week too. They are becoming more confident in finding the sounds in words and then using their robot arms to say each sound. Some children are also becoming experts at writing down words with the sounds they hear. Not bad for one half term in Reception!

The children have settled into school life so well and we are so proud of how far they have come in such a short time. Well done Acorn Class – keep up the excellent learning!



## TTRockstars

I'm delighted to share that **Year 6** were the champions of last week's Battle of the Bands! As a reward for their fantastic effort, they've earned an extra ten minutes of golden time.

A special congratulations goes to the following children, who were our Most Valuable Players – they contributed the highest number of correct answers to help secure the win!

Year 5	Year 6
1 <sup>st</sup> Jake	1 <sup>st</sup> Immi
2 <sup>nd</sup> Ezra	2 <sup>nd</sup> Edward
3 <sup>rd</sup> Isla	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thomas

## Medical Conditions

Please be reminded to keep school updated with any medical conditions that your child may have or if any medical conditions have changed. This is really important so we are aware of how we may need to treat your child.

If your child has any long-standing medical conditions, please ensure you have completed Health Care Plan in the office.

If you are unsure of what medical conditions we have on file for your child, please contact the office.

## 🌿 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

## 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.

## Cross Country

A huge congratulations to Bea, Ellie, and Thomas in Year 6, who qualified for the Royal Hospital School's Cross Country event last week! They all represented our school brilliantly, showing great determination and sportsmanship – we are incredibly proud of them.

A special mention goes to Thomas, who ran an outstanding race and finished 16th out of over 120 runners! His fantastic performance means he's now qualified for the next round, which will take place in Woodbridge this January.

Well done to all three of you – what an amazing achievement!



## My Clothing

To continue supporting families 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**



## Year 6 Residential at Bawdsey Manor

Our Year 6 children left school just before lunch time on Wednesday to begin their residential at Bawdsey Manor, and returned Friday afternoon. The children have had a wonderful time with lots of new experiences including zooming down zip lines, archery, the leap of faith, whittling wood and much more! A huge thank you to Mrs Clarke, Mrs Booth and Mrs Wescombe for supporting the children.



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about FORTNITE



## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With over 650 million registered users, Fortnite remains one of the most played and discussed online games globally. Known for its vibrant graphics, fast-paced gameplay, and cultural crossovers with everything from music artists to superhero franchises, the game continues to capture the attention of young people. This guide outlines the risks trusted adults need to know about, including game updates, and offers practical safety tips to help address them.

### ALWAYS ONLINE

There's no single-player, offline mode in Fortnite; it can only be played online. Internet access can sometimes be an issue when you're out and about, both in terms of connectivity and using up data. You may find that dedicated, young Fortnite players are often less enthusiastic about family time or trips away – such as days out and holidays – than you might expect.

### IN-GAME COSTS

Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases – limited-time cosmetic 'skins', music tracks, LEGO items, and battle passes. Children can feel pressured to spend money on V-Bucks – the in-game currency – to avoid missing out, particularly as exclusive items rotate frequently. Some items may not return to the store for years, while Battle Pass rewards are often "gone when they're gone".

### VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

There's no avoiding that Fortnite is about shooting other players to eliminate them from the contest. That said, there's no blood or gore. The violence is rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent comical touches to lighten the mood, such as mini-games and emotes. Guns and other weapons often look and behave realistically, so discretion is advised. Past seasons have introduced characters and references from mature franchises like The Witcher and Halo.

### CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT

Fortnite is popular with many gamers of various ages. Crossplay allows friends to play with each other, regardless of whether they're on an Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo Switch or PC, while the Party Chat feature allows them to talk to each other during the game. This can put youngsters at risk of exposure to strangers, inappropriate language, and cyberbullying.

### FREQUENT UPDATES

Seasonal releases introduce new map changes, gameplay mechanics, and cosmetics. Ongoing updates can increase screen time and potential for obsession as children try to unlock rewards before the season ends. These regular renewals help to hold players' interest, but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep coming back. Seasons often change thematically.

### POP CULTURE REFERENCES

Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from films and TV shows like Power Rangers and Avatar: The Last Airbender, to comic book characters including Batman. Other collaborations with series, artists, and influencers may expose children to music, language, or ideas that are more suitable for older audiences.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### DISCUSS SAFE SOCIAL INTERACTION

Talk with children about who they're playing with online. Coordinate play time with the child's friends for socialisation and safety in numbers. Encourage them to avoid private voice chats with strangers and remind them not to share personal information. Use real-life examples to explain potential risks, and remind them that if they see something concerning, they should tell a trusted adult.

### ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER

Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously on the same console or computer. This can be a good option for siblings or for when a child's friends visit, but it also offers an opportunity for parents to do something fun with their child, while making sure they're playing the game safely. Who knows? You might even teach them a thing or two!

### SET SPENDING LIMITS

Fortnite's rotating store is a not-so-subtle mechanism for coaxing players into buying sought-after items before they disappear for weeks or months. This could lead to surprise transactions on bank cards if children are tempted into an impulse purchase. Parents could consider getting a prepaid card for the child or ensuring that purchases require adult authorisation. This can be done through parental settings on a console or account settings in the Epic Games app on PC.

### BE WARY OF SCAMS

The immense popularity of Fortnite with younger audiences – that are generally more trusting – means there's no shortage of scammers looking to fraudulently obtain passwords and other personal data through techniques like phishing. As the developers point out on many of Fortnite's loading screens, they never ask for a player's account password outside of the game. Make sure any young player knows this.

### Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is an experienced freelance writer and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for seven years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



### SENDIASS Information Sessions for Families Autumn 2025

While we're reviewing the best ways to deliver our service to families, we have a limited offer of live training sessions for the summer. These sessions all received positive feedback from families.

We have a comprehensive library of training and information videos, accessible at any time from our [SENDIASS YouTube channel](#) which we hope will help you.



#### SEN support in schools.

Online session exploring the process of support in schools for pupils with special educational needs and how parents/carers and their children are involved.

22<sup>nd</sup> September 2025

10am – 11:30am

[Click here to register](#)



#### EHC needs assessments

Online session coproduced with families and practitioners explaining the purpose, threshold and process of an EHC needs assessment and how families are involved. Parents/carers and practitioners are welcome to join.

8<sup>th</sup> October 2025

6pm – 7:30pm

[Click here to register](#)



#### Annual Reviews of EHC plans

Online session coproduced with families explaining the purpose and process of an annual review and how you and your child are involved. Parents, carers and multi-agency practitioners are welcome to join.

4<sup>th</sup> November 2025

6pm – 7:30pm

[Click here to register](#)



#### Personalised stories

Online session for parents/carers hosted by SENDIASS where specialist teachers from the Communication and Interaction Service will explore how personalised stories can help children and young people understand social norms and expectations.

12<sup>th</sup> November 2025

10:30am – 11:30am

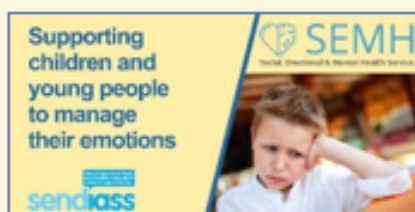
[Click here to register](#)

## Information for Parents & Carers from SENDIASS



**Understanding children and young people's behaviour as a communication need**  
Online session for parents and carers, hosted by SENDIASS, where 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.

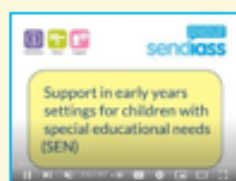
19<sup>th</sup> November 2025 10am – 11:30am  
[Click here to register](#)



**Supporting children and young people to manage their emotions.**  
Online session for parents and carers, hosted by SENDIASS, where specialist teachers from the Social, Emotional and Mental Health Service will explore ways to help children and young people understand and manage their feelings, also strategies schools may use and advice schools can access to support pupils with these needs.

4<sup>th</sup> December 2025 10am – 11:30am  
[Click here to register](#)

See below for details of our SENDIASS session recordings which families and practitioners can access at any time, to watch at their own pace and in their own time and share with family members or teams.



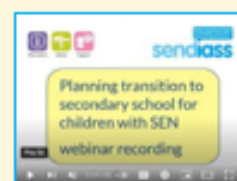
[SEN support in early years settings](#)



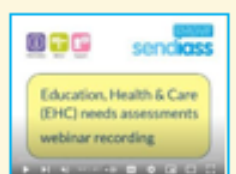
[SEN support for pupils with special educational needs \(SEN\)](#)



[Preparing for Transition to Primary School](#)



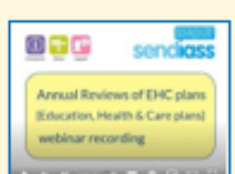
[Preparing for the transition to secondary school for children with SEN](#)



[Education, Health and Care needs assessments webinar recording](#)



[Drafting and Finalising an EHC plan](#)



[Annual reviews of EHC plans](#)