



# FREEMAN COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

*From tiny acorns mighty oaks grow.*



Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026

## Diary Dates

### May

**Week beginning 25<sup>th</sup> May**  
May Half term

### June

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June**  
Children return to school

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June-Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June**

Year 4 Multiplication Check Window

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June**

Year 6 Bikeability Group 1

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June**

Year 1 Parent Workshop @ 2pm

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June-Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June**

Year 6 Bikeability Group 2

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June-Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June**

Year 6 Bikeability Group 3

**Assessment Fortnight for children in Years 1-5**

Week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> June

**Week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> June**

Year 1 Phonics Screening

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June**

Reception Parent workshop @2pm.

## Opening comment

In celebration assembly this week, the children were very excited to see who the winning house was for the half term- well done Lark House! This week also brought a range of reasons in a variety of subjects as to why children were awarded Stars of the Week. It's fantastic to hear how well the children are doing across the curriculum; well done to all.

As the weather warms up- it's looking lovely for the half term break- please can parents make sure all children bring a sun hat and water bottle to school. Please ensure that these are named so we can return any lost items to their owners! The staff and I wish you all a restful half term and look forward to seeing you all return on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026.

## Stars of the Week



## Attendance Week beginning 18<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Acorn: 92.67%

Cherry Tree: 91.15%

Maple: 94%

Beech: 94.81%

Hazel: 94%

Willow: 91.04%

Oak: 93.82%

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

## House Points so far...

**Brett: 1138**

**Deben: 1119**

**Orwell: 1338**

**Gipping: 1155**

**Lark: 1352**

**Stour: 1079**

## Willow Class

As part of Year 5's Ancient Maya topic in History, this week they visited the University of Cambridge Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. The children thoroughly enjoyed being taught about Ancient Maya history by an archaeologist. She taught them about using artefacts to explain daily life in the past, the importance of the cacao bean and how two kings fought for power. Next, the class had a multisensory handling session that included obsidian arrows, jade, a bean grinder and they smelt copal used as incense. The children explored the museum's collection and were shocked at the vast size of a totem pole. Willow Class sketched their favourite pieces and had a wonderful experience immersing themselves into the past.



## House Winners!

Well done to Lark House, who have earned an incredible 1352 house points this half term! The children will be rewarded with a non-uniform day and extra break time. Parents will be emailed to confirm when this will take place upon our return after half term. Well done, Lark!

Stowmarket  
THE LOCAL

**HALF TERM AT THE REGAL**  
A FAMILY-FRIENDLY DAY OUT THAT'S OUT OF THIS WORLD!  
"THIS IS THE WAY" TO SPEND YOUR MAY HALF TERM

THE SQUID WHIP  
**THE MANDALORIAN AND GROGU**

THE SHEEP DETECTIVES  
A MIND BAZING MYSTERY

Scan me to find out more!

regal@stowmarket.org  
01449 612825

THE REGAL  
STOWMARKET

**LOOKING FOR OUTSTANDING CHILDCARE THIS HOLIDAY?**

**£135pp**  
LIMITED HAF PLACES

Themed around a popular musical or play, a Little Voices Theatre Week is packed from start to finish with a mix of creative activities that will help your child:

- burn off energy
- release tension
- build confidence
- learn new skills
- make new friends

and, most importantly, have loads of fun!

Don't miss out! Limited spaces available. Book now to secure your child's spot.

**AUGUST 25<sup>TH</sup> - 28<sup>TH</sup>**  
STOWUPLAND HIGH SCHOOL,  
STOWMARKET, IP14 4BQ  
9:30am - 4pm (early drop off from 8:45am)  
For more information and to book:  
07362 429298  
suffolk@littlevoices.org.uk  
www.littlevoices.org.uk/suffolk

OPEN TO ALL CHILDREN AGED 4+ YEARS OF AGE  
(NOT JUST LITTLE VOICES PUPILS!)

**Little Voices**  
BIG FUTURES

**There's no getting bored on our watch!**

DRAMA & SINGING LESSONS OF DISTINCTION

## Quadkids Tournament

This week it was Year 5 and 6's turn! Mrs Kydd took the children on Tuesday afternoon to the Quadkids athletic competition, where they had a lovely time! They ran 600m, sprinted 75m, threw a vortex, did a standing long jump and a team relay. Every child showed determination and excellent teamwork qualities. Team 1 finished 3<sup>rd</sup> and Team 2 in 6<sup>th</sup> place. Well done to all involved!



Colchester + Ipswich Museums  
Department for Work & Pensions  
Museum of Work & Pensions  
Museum of Work & Pensions

MA Museums Association  
JULIA RAUSING TRUST

Joy at the Jobcentre  
**on Safari**

**Africa Alive**  
Lowestoft

May 26th 2026  
10:30 am to 3:30 pm

- Free entry to Africa Alive
- Free Activities
- Free Guided Tours

Please speak to your Jobcoach for further details and to register  
Return Coach trip from and returning to Lowestoft Jobcentre Carpark.

To book onto this event, or find out more, please contact us at:  
ipswichjobcentre.familycommunityteamsuffolk@DWP.GOV.UK

*Arc Sen Family Support CIC*

Coffee mornings  
Monday Sudbury  
Salvation Army hall, station road 10.30-12.30

Wednesday Mildenhall  
Jubilee centre, 10-12

Thursday Bury St Edmunds,  
Bay Tree Cafe St Johns street 10-12

Advocacy service  
Support in meetings at school and local authority  
Advice On EHCP's  
Advice in DLA  
Behaviour support  
Sleep support  
Pretty much anything SEN

Contact us on  
Jellyham33@outlook.com  
Find us on Facebook Arc Sen Family support CIC

## Sports Day 2026 and Friends of Freeman Colour Fun Run

As previously communicated, we have planned to hold sports day on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June this year, with children completing their races in the morning. Parents are invited to watch their children in their races. The race times are as follows;

9:00am- Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children

10:30- Whole School Break

11:00am- Year 3, Year 4, Year 5, Year 6 children.

12:00-1:00 Whole school lunch- parents are invited to bring a picnic and stay in school to have lunch with their children on the field. If you would like your child to have a school lunch that day, it's no problem, the children will be served their lunch, and they can come and eat with you outside!

We please ask that all parents ensure that they either take their rubbish home with them or put their rubbish in the bins that we will have available. Please ensure that you do not bring any alcohol and do not smoke or vape whilst on site.

In the afternoon it will be the Friends of Freeman Colour Fun Run. Parents are also invited to stay to watch and cheer the children on as they get covered in brightly coloured paint! The times each class will be running are as follows;

1:15- Year 5 and Year 6

1:40- Year 3 and Year 4

2:05- Year 1 and Year 2

2:30- Reception

Children will be given an ice pole at the end of their run and once they have taken part, they will be able to stay and watch the rest of the groups complete their event. Each child will need sunglasses or swim goggles to avoid the paint going in their eyes. If your child would like to get changed at the end of the event, please send them in with spare clothes.

If your child does not want to participate, please do not worry, they will be able to come and watch with their class and they will still be able to enjoy an ice pole afterwards with their friends.

Parents will be able to use the toilets at the Church Hall throughout the day. We look forward to seeing you there!

### Friends of Freeman; Upcoming events!



**Disco**  
Thursday 4th June!  
Times:  
R,1&2 : 3.15 - 4pm  
3&4 : 4.15 - 5pm  
5&6 : 5.15 - 6pm  
£2.50 includes drinks & sweets to take home!



**Summer Fete**  
Friday 10th July

- Stalls
- Games
- Yr 6 entrepreneur tables
- Bouncy Castle
- Ice cream Van



### My Clothing Discount

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

### Parking

If you need to use the layby outside the front of the school to park your car, please do not block the gates to the Church. These need to remain clear for access to the Church at all times.

A reminder that parents are able to park in the Village Hall car park for drop off and collection. Thank you.

## Art Club

This half term's group at Art Club have been experimenting with colour and techniques. In one session the children were completing hand inspired art, one piece used contrasting colours and patterns and in the other piece the children had to create a base shape, then be creative creating animal pictures. In another session, the children printed honeycombs using a duplo brick and made bees to stick on. I am sure you will agree we have some budding artists in the school!



## SEND Coffee Morning

# SEND Coffee Morning

Freeman Primary School



**You're Invited!**

**SEND Coffee Morning- Come and Join Us!**

Do you have a child with special educational needs or Disabilities (SEND)? We would love to welcome you to our friendly and supportive coffee morning.

<p><b>What's it all about</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Find out about our 'Universal Offer' and 'Targeted Support'</li><li>Meet our SENCo</li><li>Chat with other parents and carers</li><li>Ask questions in a relaxed setting</li><li>Share ideas, experiences and support</li></ul>	<p><b>Event details</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Date- 9<sup>th</sup> June</li><li>Time- 9.00am</li><li>Location- Freeman Primary School</li></ul>
<p><b>What is the Universal Offer and Targeted Support?</b></p> <p>The universal offer is everything that is available to all children in school not just those with additional needs. We will also have a look at the targeted support available within school.</p> <p>♥ We look forward to seeing you!</p> <p>★ <b>Everyone is welcome- we hope you can join us!</b></p>	<p><b>What to Expect</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A warm and welcoming atmosphere</li><li>Helpful information about SEND support</li><li>Friendly, informal discussions</li><li>Tea, coffee and biscuits provided</li></ul> <p>Please notify the office- <a href="mailto:admin@freemancpschool.co.uk">admin@freemancpschool.co.uk</a> if you would like to attend.</p> 

Mrs Durler warmly invites parents and carers to join the first in a series of coffee mornings focused on a range of SEND topics. Each session has been thoughtfully selected in collaboration with parents. These mornings offer a valuable opportunity to connect with others, enjoy relaxed and informal discussions, and learn more about key SEND issues.

Please indicate your interest by emailing the school office

[admin@freemancpschool.co.uk](mailto:admin@freemancpschool.co.uk)

## PE Kit Reminder

Please can I remind all parents of our PE Kit, there are several children coming in to school wearing other clothing such as football tops, or patterned jumpers. Children should be wearing a plain white t shirt, black or navy-blue shorts/jogging bottoms, and a plain black or blue jumper. Please do not allow your children to wear a hoody for PE, as this can present with a safety risk.

A number of children are also wearing jewellery to school. Please can I remind parents that your children should not be wearing jewellery such as necklaces, bracelets or fashion earrings. On PE days, earrings should be removed before coming to school, or your child should have tape with them to cover their earrings up as again, this does present as a safety risk.

Thank you for your understanding.

## PCSO Speed Camera Visit

This week, we were very lucky to have a visit from our local PCSO's. They worked with our school councillors to develop an awareness of speeding in our local area and took them out to the front of the school with Miss Watson to have a go with the speed gun!



## Additional Stars of the Week!

When it came to awarding Stars of the Week this week, it was particularly difficult to choose two children who stood out, so we decided to choose them all!

Last week, year 6 showed excellent resilience, determination and worked incredibly hard every morning when completing their SATs papers. We are all very proud of them, and we are sure you are too! Well done Oak Class.



## Additional Support Courses for Parents

Three new courses offered by FACE, separate from the school membership. Full access to all three courses for £6.99/month Complete at your own pace, cancel anytime.



### Building Emotional Resilience

Work through six stages of directed exercises to help your child (and yourself) improve emotional resilience.



### Facing Defiance

A specific strategy aimed at supporting parents of children aged 5 to 12 with ADHD, ODD or just very challenging behaviour.



### You & Your Teen

A skills building course for one parent and one teen (12 years old and above) to learn how they can both improve their communication with each other.

www.familyadvice.co.uk  
Online Courses for Parents page  
info@familyadvice.co.uk



Previous attachment

Suffolk COUNTY MUSIC Service

Start your next adventure

Join a County Music Group and unlock opportunities you'll never forget.

With bespoke programmes for Suffolk's finest young musicians playing at a high-level, our County Music Groups offer exciting performance opportunities throughout the year at prestigious venues.

Repertoire for all ensembles next season is yet to be decided but SYO hope to perform: Bruckner: Symphony No.4, Carwinthen D: Suffolk Suite and Williams J: Star Wars - Suite for Orchestral "Subject to player availability"

For more information and how to join visit:  
suffolkcountymusic.co.uk/take-part/county-music-groups

Suffolk County Council | Supported using public funding by: Department for Education | ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND | Suffolk Music HUB

# Netball play sessions Stowmarket

Classes for: 2-3.5yrs | 3.5-5yrs | 5-7yrs | 8-11yrs

Come join us at 'Netball Kids' for exciting classes where you can learn new skills, improve your game, and make awesome friends!

Book a FREE TASTER SESSION

www.netballkids.co.uk

## Flatford Nature Day Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Visit Flatford for our May half-term Nature Day

Join in for free, nature-themed activities and crafts including:

- Pond dipping
- Bug hunting
- Tree trails
- Making nature's colour palette
- Using a solar telescope

...and much more!

Drop in activities 11am - 4pm

Enjoy the outdoors around Flatford for the day. There will be something for all the family!

www.flatford.org.uk

## The Solstice Events

# Gather and Grow Family

12<sup>th</sup> July  
10am - 4pm  
Stowupland Suffolk

ALL THE GOODNESS FROM GATHER AND GROW BUT FOR FAMILIES. A CALM, MINDFUL, FAMILY DAY OF CONNECTION, CREATIVITY AND TOGETHERNESS. NOT ENTERTAINMENT, BUT SPACE TO SLOW DOWN AND TRULY BE TOGETHER.

MINDFULNESS WORKSHOPS, SPACE TO BE, STORYTELLING, DRUM CIRCLE AND MORE.

FROM £11 A TICKET

COME AND CONNECT WITH YOUR LOVED ONES

THE SOLSTICEEVENTS

www.thesolsticeevents.com

## THE SUFFOLK SHOW 2026

WEDNESDAY 27 MAY & THURSDAY 28 MAY

A FUN FAMILY DAY OUT!

UNDER 15s GO FREE

SCAN ME

www.suffolkshow.co.uk

## IPSWICH TOWN FOUNDATION

# SOCCER SCHOOLS & HOLIDAY CAMPS

Join us this May Half Term for a week packed with football-based fun at locations across the region, including:

IPSWICH BURY ST. EDMUNDS FELIXSTOWE WOODBRIDGE  
CLAYDON STOWUPLAND BECCLES 11-16 & GIRLS ONLY  
TOWN TOTS BLUEY'S BALLERS YOUTH DISABILITY

With a range of sessions available, visit [ipswichfoundation.co.uk](http://ipswichfoundation.co.uk) to find out more

## BURY ST EDMUNDS Schools Out Activities

Suffolk's number one Activity Camp is returning to South Lee Prep School in Bury St Edmunds this coming Holiday. With over 100 jam-packed activities, there's something for everyone to enjoy!

Offering dedicated early years facilities, a performing arts studio, modern cooking facilities and amazing sports pitches, it's the perfect setting for your child to spend their holiday!

SOUTH LEE PREP SCHOOL  
Newton Road, Bury St Edmunds IP13 2BT  
Ofsted Number: EY293837

WE ACCEPT GOV.UK The Free Childcare

Trustpilot

TO BOOK VISIT [www.schoolsoutactivities.co.uk](http://www.schoolsoutactivities.co.uk)

## KICKS & TRICKS Activity Camp

May Camp 2026  
Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May - Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May

Ofsted Registered Venue

VENUES EVERYDAY

- Beaumont Primary School
- Bosmere Primary School
- Broke Hall Primary School

TUES-THURS Ipswich School Sports Centre

EARLY RISERS 8AM-9AM £5

DAY CAMP 9AM-5PM ONLY £35

EXTRA FUN 5PM-6PM £5

HALF DAY MORNING 9AM-12:30PM ONLY £20 AFTERNOON 1:30PM-5PM ONLY £20

For more information visit:  
[www.kicksandtricks.co.uk](http://www.kicksandtricks.co.uk)  
info@kicksandtricks.co.uk

# **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](mailto:admin@freemancpschool.co.uk)**

*From tiny acorns do mighty oaks grow*

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MINECRAFT

As the best-selling game in history, Minecraft has made a name for itself by empowering audiences of all ages to harness their creativity. Originally an indie hit, it's become a cultural phenomenon with merchandise, spin-off titles, and wider media adaptations. Even if you don't know your Creepers from your Endermen, this guide will explore the risks of Minecraft in 2026 and explain how to support a safe gaming experience for the children in your care.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### PUBLIC SERVER COMMUNICATION

Many players enjoy Minecraft with others, including friends and unknown players online. In-game text chat is commonly used to coordinate building projects and gameplay, and this can extend to adding friends to voice chat. While often harmless, this creates risks around contact with strangers, and in some cases server hosts may expose IP addresses (if hosting independently), which raises privacy and security concerns.

### GRIEFING BEHAVIOUR

Some players deliberately damage or destroy other players' creations. This behaviour, known as 'griefing', is a form of bullying that can undo hours of effort and cause frustration or distress to affected players. Although many servers treat griefing as a serious offence, enforcement varies. Children who prefer to build independently may feel safer working on private worlds or controlled servers.

### ADDICTIVE GAMEPLAY LOOPS

Minecraft's creative focus can make it easy for players to lose track of time. The cycle of gathering resources and building projects can be highly engaging, which may challenge agreed screen-time limits. If not managed effectively, this can impact children's sleep, schoolwork, and real-world social interaction.

### SCARY GAME ELEMENTS

Although often compared to digital construction toys, some gameplay modes include hostile creatures with unsettling sounds and sudden encounters. While there is no graphic violence, younger players may still find zombies, spiders, or dark environments frightening. These experiences can lead to anxiety or reluctance to play, depending on the child's age and sensitivity.

### IN-GAME SPENDING

Minecraft requires a one-off purchase after a free trial, usually around £16, but additional spending is possible. Players can buy cosmetic content or subscribe to Minecraft 'Realms' for private servers. Without supervision, children may make unintended purchases. Subscription services and add-ons can also increase overall costs over time if not monitored.

### ONLINE INTERACTIONS

Playing with others can introduce broader online safety concerns, including exposure to inappropriate language or behaviour. Some players may attempt to move conversations beyond the game, which can increase risks to children's safety and welfare. Children may not always recognise these situations, meaning guidance and ongoing conversations about safe interactions are essential.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### CHOOSE SUITABLE GAME MODES

Creative or Peaceful modes remove hostile creatures and reduce the pressure during gameplay. These options allow children to focus on building and exploration without fear of attack. They are also ideal for shared play between adults and children, creating a calmer environment to learn the game and enjoy collaborative projects.

### USE PRIVATE SERVERS

Setting up a private server helps control who can join a child's game. Access can be limited to trusted friends through passwords or invitations. This reduces the likelihood of unwanted interactions and gives adults greater oversight. While some options involve a subscription fee, they offer a safer and more controlled multiplayer experience.

### DISCUSS ONLINE STRANGERS

Children should understand that not everyone they meet online is who they claim to be. Clear guidance about not sharing personal information is essential. Encourage children to report any worrying or uncomfortable interactions and reassure them that they can seek help without fear of punishment. Open, ongoing conversations help build their confidence and awareness of these issues.

### SET SPENDING BOUNDARIES

Agree on clear rules around purchases before letting children play, and use device settings or platform controls to restrict spending within agreed limits. Explaining that in-game currency uses real-world money can help children make informed decisions. Regularly reviewing purchases together can also prevent unexpected costs and encourage responsible behaviour.

### Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes spent 7 years in games media, before moving into the games industry via PR and marketing. A parent himself to a Minecraft-loving son, he understands why it's so important to stay safe online.

