



FREEMAN COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

From tiny acorns mighty oaks grow.



Friday 17th July 2026

Diary Dates

July

Monday 20th July
PD Day

September

Tuesday 1st September
PD Day

Wednesday 2nd September
PD Day

Thursday 3rd September
First day back at school

Monday 7th September
Year 1&2 Meet the Teacher

Wednesday 9th September
Reception Meet the Teacher

Thursday 10th September
Year 3&4 Meet the Teacher

Friday 11th September
Year 5&6 Meet the Teacher

Opening comment

I am sure you will agree this year has flown by; it has been a pleasure to see the children grow, learn and continue to achieve. I thoroughly enjoyed reading and commenting on each child's report; what was evident throughout is how hard each and every child had worked this year and I hope you are as proud of the children as I am.

The staff and I all wish you a happy and healthy summer break; we look forward to hearing all about your adventures when the children return to school on Thursday 3rd September. Year 6 children; we wish you the very best of luck at High School- you will be amazing!

Stars of the Week



Attendance Week beginning 13th July 2026

Acorn: 99.66%

Cherry Tree: 92.28%

Maple: 95.77%

Beech: 97.41%

Hazel: 93%

Willow: 92.22%

Oak: 99.64%

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

House Points so far...

Brett: 1314

Deben: 1186

Orwell: 1350

Gipping: 1225

Lark: 1217

Stour: 1353

Archery and Parkour Enrichment Workshops

This week, the whole school had the wonderful opportunity to take part in exciting archery and parkour workshops. Thurston Sports Partnership visited the school to lead both activities, and the children thoroughly enjoyed the experience. They were enthusiastic and eager to challenge themselves by learning and practising new skills, many of which they had never tried before. It was fantastic to see their confidence, determination and teamwork grow throughout the sessions, making the day both enjoyable and memorable for everyone involved.



Year 6 Leavers

As another school year comes to an end, we would like to wish our Year 6 pupils the very best as they move on to the next stage of their education. They have been fantastic role models throughout the year, showing resilience, determination and kindness, while creating many wonderful memories along the way.

We are incredibly proud of all they have achieved during their time at Freeman and know they are ready for the exciting challenges that lie ahead. Although they will be missed, we are confident they will continue to shine as they begin their secondary school journey.

Good luck, Year 6 - remember to dream big, work hard and believe in yourselves. We know you will achieve great things!



GOOD LUCK, YEAR 6!

Rights Respecting

Our Rights Respecting Committee created a fantastic stall for the Summer Fete, where visitors could guess how many sweets were in the jar and guess the name of the panda. The children did a superb job organising and running the stall, showing excellent teamwork, responsibility and enthusiasm throughout the event.

A huge congratulations to Maddison and Ted, who were the lucky winners of the competitions.



Staffing Update

We are sad to say goodbye to Mrs Fairburn, our wonderful Office Manager, who is leaving us to start a new job. She has been such a kind, caring and friendly face at the front of the school and will be greatly missed by staff, children and families. We wish her every happiness and success in her new role.

We also have some exciting news to share! Miss Donovan will be getting married in August, and we look forward to welcoming her back in September as Mrs Bland. Mr and Mrs Bland are also expecting a baby in December. We are thrilled for her and send our warmest congratulations and best wishes for this exciting time.

Spare Uniform

If your child has borrowed any spare uniform from school, please can we ask that it is washed and returned. Our supplies are starting to run a little low!

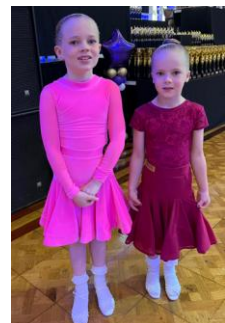
If any parents have any spare uniform in smaller sizes (Reception particularly) that they are able to donate, please bring them to the front office.

Thank you in advance for your support

Some Exciting News...

Isabelle and Everly qualified for the Ballroom and Latin American Grand Final 2026. They performed at the Empress Ballroom, Winter Gardens in Blackpool on the 11th and 12th July.

Everly was a semi-finalist and Isabelle came in 3rd place. We are so proud of them – well done girls!



Summer Fete and Colour Run

We are pleased to announce that the Summer Fete raised **£600** and the Colour Run raised over **£1,300!**

This is an amazing amount of money raised for the school, and we are incredibly thankful to the PTA for their continued support, hard work, and dedication. We are so grateful for everything they do to help our school community. Thank you!



End of Year Church Service.

We came together in church for the final time this school year for an End of Year Service. It was a special opportunity for the Freeman Family community to gather, reflect on the year gone by and celebrate all that has been achieved.

The service was filled with beautiful singing, lovely poems and thoughtful reflections from our pupils, showcasing their talents, confidence and growth. Rev. Andy shared a meaningful message about how the end of one chapter often marks the beginning of another, reminding us that while we say goodbye to this school year, we can also look forward with excitement to the new opportunities, experiences and adventures that lie ahead.

It was a joyful occasion that highlighted the strong sense of community that makes our school so special; we celebrated another successful year and now look ahead to new beginnings.



Year 3&4 Multi-Sports

Last week, Beech and Hazel Class enjoyed a fun multi-sports morning at Stowupland, led by the school's sports leaders. We were divided into three mixed teams representing the USA, Great Britain and France.

The children took part in a range of activities, including archery, vortex throwing, frisbee, hockey dribbling, rugby passing and catching, and mini golf. Everyone worked well together, showed excellent sportsmanship and had lots of fun throughout the morning.

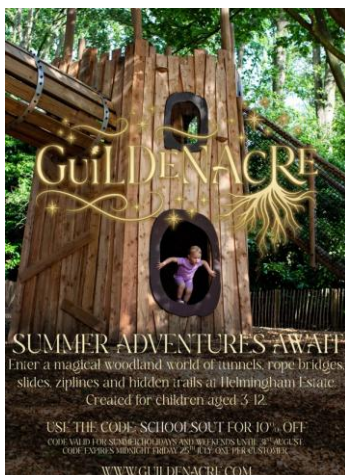
Congratulations to France, who were the overall winners!



My Clothing Discount

Summer Saving Incoming Summer Saving Incoming

From 23–31 July, parents can save 10% on school uniform with code SUMMER26*.



Mental Health Support



Space to Grow information evenings



Virtual sessions

What is the session about:

6pm – 8pm

Tuesday 28th July or

Monday 3rd August

- Delivered by the Mental Health Support Team
- Understanding childhood anxiety and how modern life can affect children's confidence and resilience
- Understanding how changes over the past few decades has impacted parent/carer anxiety and wellbeing
- Understanding the role of play and independence in building resilience
- Simple and practical strategies you can put in place over the holidays to help your child manage their worries and grow in confidence

Please let your school know if you would like to attend one of these sessions as we have limited places.



Active All Stars
Time to shine!

SUMMER CAMPS

TUESDAY 18TH AUGUST WEDNESDAY 26TH AUGUST
9.30AM - 12.30PM
COMBS FORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

OPTION 1 FOOTBALL CAMP AGES 7-12 YEARS
OPTION 2 GYMNASTICS AGES 6-11 YEARS

★ SKILLS ★ FUN ★ TEAMWORK
★ CONFIDENCE ★ FLEXIBILITY ★ FUN

Learn Play Shine!
COST £15
SIBLINGS £13
LIMITED SPACES! BOOK NOW!

Follow us on Instagram active all stars Suffolk
We can't wait to see you there!

Stowmarket Baptist Church
Holiday Bible Club 2026

The Life of Paul

Jesus Changes Lives

STORY - SONGS - CRAFT - GAMES - SNACKS

24th - 28th August
10am-12pm
Ages 3 - 11 years

FOMO 2026 fest
SATURDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER
FOOD MUSEUM, STOWMARKET

MAIN STAGE
example
THE ORDINARY BOYS DEVLIN
REPUBLIC SHONHAWK HOLLOWAYS

RAVER TOTS
AFTERNOON TAKEOVER

John Peel **JOHN PEEL CENTRE STAGE** John Peel
CORCH PARTY

RETROFILE SPANOLED SAM REDMORE
EMERGE ON TOUR KUBRICKS CHEST UNUSIGNED TAKEOVER

www.FOMOFEST.CO.UK

The Solstice Events

Gather and Grow Family

12th July
10am - 4pm
Stowpland 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

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, Carwithen D: Suffolk Suite and Williams J: Star Wars - Suite for Orchestra! "subject to player availability"

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

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

THE SUMMER FESTIVAL
FRAMLINGHAM COLLEGE
29.08.26 | 30.08.26

Pixie Lott
ALISON LIMERICK
SWEET FEMALE ATTITUDE
Amelle (from Supergirl)

Scouting for Girls
LIBERTYX
ROZALLA
PHATS & SMALL
SAINTCLAIR

TICKETS & INFO: WWW.SUMMERFESTFRAM.CO.UK

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 session

BOOK A FREE TASTER SESSION
www.netballkids.co.uk

LOOKING FOR OUTSTANDING CHILD CARE THIS HOLIDAY?

£135pp LIMITED HALF 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 25TH - 28TH
STOWPLAND 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

The Daily Mile children fit for life
IPSWICH TWILIGHT ROAD RACES

Daily Mile Twilight Wave

17th July
6.30pm
Ipswich Town Football Club

Scan the QR Code for your child's **Free Entry**
Use the code: DM2026

QR Code

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 SKIN BETTING

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

'Skin betting' is the term used when players gamble using virtual in-game items, such as weapon 'skins' or character cosmetics. Although these items appear purely decorative, some can hold significant real-world value. Research suggests that children as young as 13 have engaged in this type of betting, often on sites with limited age checks or safeguards, blurring the line between gaming and gambling.

UNREGULATED PLATFORMS

Skin gambling typically takes place on third-party websites that are not licensed or regulated. These platforms often lack age verification, making them easily accessible to children. By linking their gaming accounts, users can deposit skins, place bets, and withdraw winnings as cash or higher-value items – often without adults being aware these activities are happening.

REAL-WORLD VALUE

Skins may look like simple cosmetic upgrades to in-game items and characters, but some are worth hundreds or even thousands of pounds. They can be traded or sold on online marketplaces, meaning they function much like real money. When young people bet with skins, they are risking items of genuine financial value, even if no physical cash is exchanged directly.

INFLUENCER PROMOTION

Some gaming influencers and streamers have promoted skin betting sites in their content. This can make the behaviour appear normal or even desirable, potentially encouraging younger audiences to engage in these activities without fully understanding the risks involved.

SOCIAL STATUS PRESSURE

In games such as Counter Strike: Global Offensive (CS:GO) and Fortnite, rare skins can act as status symbols. Young players may feel the pressure to own high-value items to fit in with peers. This can lead them to take risks – such as using gambling sites – to obtain desirable skins, similar to how branded goods can influence behaviour offline.

LIMITED OVERSIGHT

Skin betting can take place both in-game and on external websites that parents and educators may not be familiar with. Because skin betting does not always resemble traditional gambling, it can go unnoticed until significant losses have occurred, in both items or money.

GATEWAY BEHAVIOURS

Skin betting mirrors many aspects of traditional gambling, including chance-based outcomes, reward systems and excitement. Early exposure to these mechanics can normalise betting behaviours before children and young people even reach legal gambling age. Research indicates that this may increase the likelihood of developing unhealthy habits later, particularly if early wins create a false sense of control or skill.

Advice for Parents & Educators

UNDERSTAND IN-GAME ITEMS

Familiarise yourself with the games young people are playing and learn whether they include tradable or sellable items. Titles like CS:GO and Rust are known for skin marketplaces, but similar systems are increasingly common across games.



LOOK FOR WARNING SIGNS

Be alert to changes in behaviour, such as secrecy around gaming, a strong focus on acquiring specific skins, or a sudden loss of in-game items. These could indicate involvement in skin gambling and provide an opportunity to start a conversation about it.



DISCUSS VALUE AND RISK

Help children and young people understand that cosmetic items like skins can carry real-world value. Explain that losing them through betting is comparable to losing money, therefore reinforcing the connection between in-game actions and real financial consequences.



USE CONTROLS AND SAFEGUARDS

Make use of parental controls and platform settings to restrict trading, purchases, and access to external websites. Where possible, disable marketplace features on games and monitor young people's account activity to reduce the risk of unauthorised transactions.



Meet Our Expert

Nathan David is Head of Foundation and Programme Lead for Esports Coaching at the University Campus of Esports.

Bubba Goeddert is a Senior Lecturer and Head of Events at the University Campus of Esports, as well as President and Co-Founder of the Videogames and Esports Foundation.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College