



Freethorpe Primary and Nursery School

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Wednesday 10th January 2018

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- Meet the staff
- Artsmark
- Parents Evening
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- Friends of Freethorpe
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- Key dates, including updates

Currently our whole school attendance is

94%

Please help us reach our target of 96% plus.

Welcome back to the start of 2018. I hope you have had a relaxing break and enjoyed all the festivities. This term you will notice a few changes to staffing: Robbie Houghton and Maureen Burns are sharing the Executive Headteacher role, with Robbie working Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday; and Maureen working Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Mr Glen Wickham will be teaching Purple Class for the first half of each week, with Mrs Kohler remaining as the class teacher for the second half. We will also be saying goodbye to Mandie Reynolds who has spent a number of years working across the school as a teaching assistant. She is moving on to new challenges with a role at a Norwich school.

Meet the staff:

Martin Arnold is our school caretaker. He works daily at the school, but many of you may never see him as he works very hard once most of us have left the building!

"My name is Martin Arnold. I am 79 years of age and have been caretaker of Freethorpe Primary School for the past 14 years. I was born in the east end of London (Bethnal Green) in September 1938.

My primary school years were a bit on and off because of being evacuated out of London for about three years due to the Second World War. However, my high school education was very good. I ended up being head boy of my school. I left school in 1953 aged 15 years and went straight in to an electrical apprenticeship for a very large company – Unilever. I qualified in 1958.

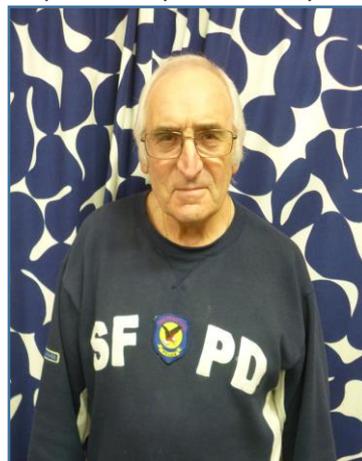
I got married in 1962 to Angela and we have 3 daughters, 6 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. To date we have been married 55 years.

Having lived in Enfield Middlesex since getting married, in 1991 we moved to Corton in Suffolk, and in 2013 we moved into a village in Suffolk called Blundeston.

I was employed as an electrical technician for the James Paget Hospital and then acquired a position at Ipswich Hospital NHS trust. I retired aged 65 from the Norfolk and Norwich NHS trust. During my working life I have also been a shop steward, health and safety representative and a first aider in my last two positions.

I have also played football professionally for Leyton Orient and Ipswich Town as a goal keeper between 1950 and 1960. I have completed ten marathons, including 3 London Marathons. I have also completed 'The Knowledge' – the test for Black Cab drivers in London. I have volunteered for Suffolk Police, and was a Public Governor at the James Paget for 9 years, as well as being a parish councillor. I enjoy playing the alto saxophone and bass guitar: my ambition is to get into a rock group.

I really enjoy my position at Freethorpe Primary School very much."





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Artsmark:

Earlier in the school year we heard about some of the children's achievements with their Artsmark projects. We are delighted to say that their hard work, along with the cross-curricular approach to teaching the arts at Freethorpe Primary, we have achieved the Silver Artsmark award. This is a nationally recognised award that recognises the range of teaching and learning on offer in schools in relation to the arts, which includes Art, Design and Technology, music, drama and performance. You will notice the award logo appearing on our letter heading shortly and Mrs Newton is already planning for the future – how do we achieve the gold standard? Well, during the next year there will be a range of activities that will all contribute towards our projects for the next level. Some of these will be solely for the children, others will include families and working with external organisations, all of which will be great fun!



**Artsmark
Silver Award**
Awarded by Arts
Council England

Parents Evening:

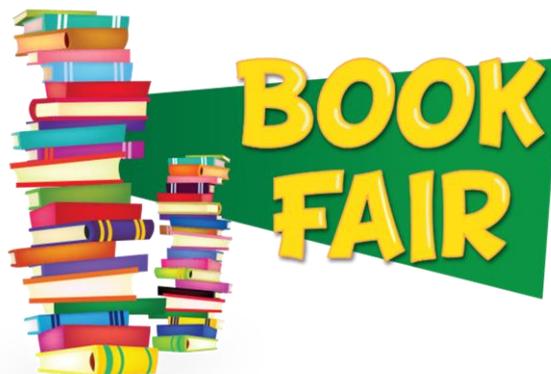
We are changing the timings for the Spring Term parents evening this year. Instead of the usual timings we will be offering slots for you to meet with your child's teacher between 2:30pm and 7:30pm on Tuesday 20th February and then from 3:50pm until 5:30pm on Wednesday 21st February. You will be able to book a 10 minute appointment which will allow you to discuss the achievements your child has made as well as looking at the areas that they need to work on next. Please look out for the appointments letters which will be sent out about 2 weeks before the 20th February.

Book Week:

We will be holding our annual Book Week from 29th January to 2nd February. This is an opportunity to celebrate reading and the huge range of books that are available for our children to read.

As in previous years we will be having the Travelling Book Fair in school all week. This gives pupils a chance to purchase books to share at home, whilst also helping raise money for the school – the commission earned is used to purchase new books and resources for our school library. There will be chances for the children to visit the book fayre during the school day, as well as opportunities for you to look around with your children.

This year we will be having a dress up day on Friday 2nd February, where children can come to school dressed as a character from their favourite book. We will also be holding an open afternoon when you will be able to come into school and look at the work the children have been doing during Book Week. There will also be activities that you can share with your children in each of the classes.





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Friends of Freethorpe:

Happy New Year to all of you. I just wanted to take this opportunity to say 'Thank you' to all of you for your continued support over 2017.

Once again our families have been amazing at supporting and attending our events, and also donating gifts and prizes. With all of your help, the staff and that of the wider community we have finally managed just before Christmas to buy the cover for the outside classroom. In September we were able to give each classroom and nursery £100 to buy an item(s) or an activity for their rooms and groups. The children were able to give their input into this with the teachers guidance of course! Unfortunately we cannot manage a swimming pool as yet, although it was suggested quite often! We also part funded coach trips across the years for their trips and supplied materials for the grounds, gardens and planters. Last year was a big year for decorating with many of you coming together to help part furnish and decorate the staff toilet and also the outside and green class toilets in a sea theme. We introduced a Buddy Bench into the playground where a child can sit if they have no one to play with and the idea being that hopefully another child in school will see and ask them to join them. We supplied an interactive mobile screen and stand that is housed in Purple Class, a brand new and fairly compact laptop trolley, housed in Blue Class and a blackout den and visual aids for sensory play and learning. Hopefully you will agree that all your fundraised money was well spent and put to good use. As we look ahead into 2018, Friends welcomes your input into activities you would like happen, with the first main activity being the Valentines disco before the start of half term. Once again, a huge thank you from all of us on the Friends committee for all of your support.

If you have access to Facebook, keep updated with events on the 'Freethorpe School Hub' page; it's also place to ask questions with other parents. The page is not for negative comments, please address any concerns to school directly but hopefully it's a useful place for information. Have a look and see!

Stay and Play is back this Thursday at 9am for any children in the community from birth to school age. It's good value at £2 per family and includes drinks and healthy snacks and biscuits for the children and tea and coffee for adults. First week is free!

Mercury News Cover:



Olivia "It is something to remember the school by and it was spirit-lifting."
Pupil Ellie said: "It was very good fun because the whole school was doing something together."

At the end of the Autumn term it was fantastic to see the children taking part in a Flashmob dance on the school playground. I am sure everyone who came to watch enjoyed the experience as much as we did in school. The Mercury newspaper covered the event and if you haven't already seen the coverage, it is still available online.





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Nativity:

It was fantastic to see Key Stage 1 and our Early Years pupils perform in their nativity before the holiday. There was a vast array of fantastic costumes and the children thoroughly enjoyed rehearsing as well as performing to a large audience. The Nursery pupils sang their Christmas songs brilliantly and loved joining in with the event. It is always so positive to see how quickly the children learn all the song words, as well as any lines and actions that they have – I am sure some of them are still singing their parts now, post Christmas!



Christmas Concert:

Key Stage put on a fantastic show at Halvergate Church in December. Each class worked hard to learn a new Christmas song in French, German or Spanish and performed these with an amazing confidence and enjoyment. There were some superb instrumental pieces and Christmas readings – it is always a pleasure to see how keen all the children are to take part in events such as these. Thank you for the generous donations at the end of the concert which were split between Halvergate Church and the school. Well done Key Stage 2!

Parking:

Please can we ask that when parking to drop off or collect your children that you park responsibly: recently there have been times when local residents have been unable to safely park or leave their own drives. 8:45am and 3:30pm are very busy times, however, it is essential that parking allows both adults and children in the area to remain safe. Thank you.



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Diary Dates: (updates have been highlighted)

Friday 19 th January	Year 5/6 Sportshall Athletics
Tuesday 23 rd January	Visit from an Laura Samuel International Athlete
Monday 29 th January	Book fair, school Book Week
Friday 2 nd February	Open Afternoon for parents – Book Week activities
Tuesday 6 th February	Cluster Speech festival
Wednesday 7 th February	Cluster Speech festival
Thursday 8 th February	Valentine’s disco
Friday 9 th February	Year 6 STEM and Maths day at Acle Academy – details to follow
Tuesday 20 th February	Parents Evening 2:30pm – 7:30pm
Wednesday 21 st February	Parents Evening 3:50pm – 5:30pm
Friday 23 rd February	Cluster Rugby event
Thursday 1 st March	Cluster multiskills activity – Year R, 1 & 2
Fri 2 nd – Sun 4 th March	Hilltop Residential for Year 3 – 6
Tuesday 13 th March	Year 6 Music day at Acle Academy – details to follow
Thursday 22 nd March	Cluster Country Dance Party after school
Monday 26 th March	Key Stage 1 Cluster Football
Tuesday 27 th March	Year 6 Easter Egg Hunt – Acle Academy, details to follow
Wednesday 28 th March	Cluster Film Festival
Monday 14 th May	Year 6 SATs week
Monday 21 st May	Year 6 level 2 cycling course taking place this week, details to follow
Thursday 7 th June	Year 6 Tea Party at Acle Academy, times tbc
Thursday 14 th June	Cluster Open Concert
Friday 29 th June	Sports Day and family picnic
Tuesday 10 th July	Year 6 Parents Information evening at Acle Academy
Friday 13 th July	Choir performance at Freethorpe Methodist Chapel - evening
Tuesday 17 th and Wednesday 18 th July	Key Stage 2 Summer Production, including 2 evening performances at 7pm
Tuesday 24 th July	Leavers Assembly 10:30am

2017/18 Term dates:

Friday 9th February	3:30pm School closes for half term
Monday 19th February	8:45am School opens for Spring 2
Wednesday 28th March	3:30pm School closes for Easter holidays
Monday 16th April	8:45am School opens for Summer 1
Monday 7th	May Bank Holiday
Friday 25th May	3:30pm School closes for half term
Monday 4th June	8:45am School opens for Summer 2
Tuesday 24th July	3:30pm School closes for summer holidays