



Freethorpe Primary and Nursery School

Contact us: office@freethorpe.norfolk.sch.uk 01493 700215

Wednesday 24th January 2018

Contents of this newsletter

- Meet the staff
- Book Week
- Meet an Athlete
- Friends of Freethorpe
- Book Week
- Gardening Club
- Sportshall Athletics
- Anglian Water visit
- Parents Evening

Currently our whole school attendance is

96%

Well done everyone, we have reached our target of 96%. Now let's see if we can do even better!

It feels as though we may be getting a little closer to Spring now as there is still some light at the end of the school day! The children have also been commenting on the fact that the mornings are actually slightly lighter too, so we must be getting there! We are looking forward to seeing many of you at our Book Week Open Session on Friday 2nd February at 2pm, as well as seeing the family contributions to our homework challenge, details included later in newsletter. I hope to also see lots of pictures appearing on our Shelfies display next week!

Meet the staff:

Mr Wickham joined the staff at Freethorpe at the start of this term. He is currently working with Year 5 and 6 in Purple Class.

"I grew up and was educated in Great Yarmouth where I excelled in Sport, particularly Football. I achieved my GCSE's at Great Yarmouth High School and "A" Levels at Great Yarmouth College. My ambition was to play professional Football. My parents still live in Great Yarmouth and my sister in West Norfolk.

Aged 18, I left home and attended Brunel University in West London to study a four year B.Ed. Honours Degree in PE & English and qualified with Teacher status in 1993. During my studies, I was fortunate to work for Brentford Football Club as a community coach and play semi-professional Football for Enfield Town, Maidenhead and Egham. I also represented Great Britain Students at Football. In 1993, I had professional trials with Barnet FC but was unsuccessful; I wish my right foot was as good as my left!!

During University, I qualified as an FA coach which enabled me to work for Brentford. I was fortunate again to achieve a coaching position in the USA where I would spend 3 months a year coaching American children aged 5-18. We would stay with a different family each week and were treated like royalty. I was fortunate to work in places like Dallas, Chicago, Long Island and Denver, Colorado. After University, I would return for a month, but to my two favourite destinations: Denver, Colorado and Santa Fe, New Mexico.

My first teaching job was at Greenacre First & Middle School in Great Yarmouth where I was a Y5 teacher and PE Co-ordinator. After two years, I decided to travel again, moving to Blantyre in Malawi, Central Africa, where I completed a VSO role at The Mount View Primary School. This was a fantastic experience, although, not so good when the electricity went down and the rainy season arrived after Christmas. During this voluntary role, I was able to visit Cape Town in South

Returning home in 1997, I was appointed as a PE & English teacher in Essex, I was to spend the next 17 years in South Essex where I would work in several schools. I was Head of PE for 10 years and then promoted to Gifted & Talented Co-ordinator later on. After achieving an Outstanding from our friends, the OFSTED inspectors, I was promoted again to Whole School Teaching & Learning Coach where I was able to help younger teachers with their introduction to working in secondary school.





Contents of this newsletter

- Meet the staff
- Book Week
- Meet an Athlete
- Friends of Freethorpe
- Gardening Club
- Sportshall Athletics
- Anglian Water visit
- Parents Evening

In 2015 I returned home to Norfolk and set up home with my partner in Belton, Norfolk. I was fortunate to return to my childhood school at GYHS as an English Teacher. I then was appointed a temporary PE teacher at Wymondham College and Cliff Park Ormiston Academy in Gorleston.

In my spare time I enjoy Go-Karting and golf with my son who is aged 13 and when I can, my partner and I enjoy trips to Manchester where there are some fantastic shopping opportunities and the Theatre of Dreams where my beloved Manchester United play!!

I am excited about my new role at Freethorpe and look forward to working with the students inspiring them to be the best they can be!"

Book Week – 29th January to 2nd February:

We have a couple of activities that we would like to our families to engage in during the next week.

"Shelfie" display:

We are going to be having a "Shelfie" display on the board opposite the photocopier. This is an opportunity for children, parents, grandparents to pin up a photograph of their book shelves. We will create a montage display which we can use as a talking point about books with the children but we will also get them to vote for different categories such as: neatest, most creative, tidiest, etc. When you have your photograph you can bring it in to add to the display any day next week. I will make sure there are enough pins on the board ready for all your pictures!

Family homework – reading game competition:

This week the homework for all children in the school is linked to Book Week. It is an activity for the whole family – your challenge is to make a Reading Game which can be played by primary aged children. It should be exciting and aim to encourage children to engage in reading. How you do this is up to you – time to get creative! If you have more than one child in the school, you only need to produce one game: part of this activity is about working together as a family. The finished games should be brought into school by Thursday 1st February. They will then be available for families to play during our open afternoon on Friday 2nd February. School will be open for parents and family to visit from 2pm on Friday.



Which member of staff took this "shelfie", do you think?

Freethorpe Telephone Box: Part of the Parish Council's plans for Freethorpe include refurbishing the telephone box in the village. It is going to become a community resource: housing a book exchange; a place to showcase local events and work. As part of the school's work with the community we are going to be refurbishing it and are looking for volunteers to help us do this. Whether you are able to help board out the telephone box or help create planters to go around the outside, we are looking for your help. Please get in touch with Mrs Burns if you are able to offer any support with this exciting project.



Contents of this newsletter

- Meet the staff
- Book Week
- Meet an Athlete
- Friends of Freethorpe
- Gardening Club
- Sportshall Athletics
- Anglian Water visit
- Parents Evening

Meet an Athlete Sponsored event:

All of the pupils in the school enjoyed having a visit from Laura Samuel - athlete and triple jumper. All pupils had the opportunity to be sponsored for the event and took part in a circuit of activities within the school hall. All money raised from the event will go towards school funds and will be hopefully used to re-paint the markings within the school hall. Here are some of the children's thoughts about the event:

Benjamin "Some people have been really pushing their exercise. It looks fun."

Leo "I think it was fun because there was music playing and you get to have some exercise."

Sammy "It was definitely hard but it was a big work out."

Colman "It made me very exhausted"

Marjorie "It was really fun. She motivated me and made me feel happy. She is a really nice person."

Kacey "I liked that we had music and we did it in a rhythm."



Friends of Freethorpe:

Diary Dates: 8th Feb - Disco

7th, 8th, 9th March - Pocket Money Gift Shop

23rd March - Easter Fayre

We would really appreciate help at the school disco, especially for Key Stage 2 as they tend to be the liveliest group, if you are able to help in the shop or be in the hall to help with safety, any amount of time would be greatly appreciated. Our families are so generous with their time and support at these events but we really do rely on parent/guardian and carers help to be able to continue all our events. Please can you let the office or one of the committee know if you are able to stay and help out.

Nativity recording - Please accept our apologies for the delay in getting the discs available to parents, we assure you it has not been forgotten about the recording, we are experiencing some difficulties with editing but hopefully it will be with you shortly.

At our meeting last week we were approached by Karen Ellis, the Nursery Manager, to help with renovating her outside play area. Currently the fencing is very damaged and worn, the space is very limited and some outside toys and storage are due for replacement. As Friends of the school we are always looking for new areas in which we can help provide resources to support the learning taking place. Karen has asked if 'Friends' can help in any way, especially with fences, new outside blackboards, paving and some minor landscaping and watertight storage. It would take Friends quite some time to fundraise to be able to help with all these areas and as much as we would like to it will not have any immediate impact for our children there. So we wondered if our families may know of anyone who could possibly help or may be able to put us in touch with any persons or companies that could. It's a huge ask and I appreciate not necessarily a small task, but should you be able to help please contact Karen in Nursery, Tracey Bean or any other Friends Committee member. Thank you.

Your Committee:

Chair - Tracey Bean

Secretary - Trudie Cunningham

Treasurer - Marcia Burrows/Emily Harvey

Other Members - Dawn George, Kayley Errington, Carmen Taylor, Gemma Howell, Melanie Craske, Samantha Buckley, Anna Owen, Sandy Key, Natalie Pentney

If you have any questions or thoughts that you may like to ask at any time throughout the year, any one of your committee will happily chat with you.



Contents of this newsletter

- Meet the staff
- Book Week
- Meet an Athlete
- Book Week
- Gardening Club
- Sportshall Athletics
- Anglian Water visit
- Parents Evening

Gardening Club: For the last few years the children have worked hard with staff to develop the school garden. The gardening club have successfully grown a wide range of fruit and vegetables. We would love to ensure that this continues and the garden area develops even more as we head towards the spring and summer. If you, or family members, are able to offer any time to help us continue with this fantastic work please could you let the office know and we will be in touch to see how we can best use your time and skills.

At present we are looking for donations of large plant pots. If you have any unused large plant pots that we could use in the school garden we would be very grateful of donations.

Sportshall Athletics:

A group of 20 Year 5 and 6 pupils represented the school on Friday at the Norwich East Sports Partnership Sportshall Athletics event at Sprowston High School. They had great fun competing and enjoyed working with other schools.

"I tried my best in everything and enjoyed the relays."
Hollie

"Once I had done the first activity I wanted to do them all." Freya T

"I was nervous until the first race, then I felt proud of my racing." Kai

"I liked the kick boards to boost my running."
Olivia O

Anglian Water:

Year 1 and Year 2 took part in an Anglian Water workshop run by Rachel Harvey. They learnt about how to conserve water and the work that Anglian Water do in our region. They also learnt about what we should flush away in the toilets and what we shouldn't! All of the children received a colouring picture and pencil for taking part. Many thanks to Anglian Water for delivering the workshop



Parents Evening:

Letters will be sent home at the beginning of next week so you can book a slot to meet your children's teachers. If your forms are returned by Wednesday 7th February then we will be able to inform you of your time slot before half term. For children in Year 1 and 2 you will be able to meet with your child's group teacher – this is the person who teaches them English and Maths on a daily basis. Mrs Branch teaches Year 1 and Miss Webb teaches Year 2.



Contents of this newsletter

- Meet the staff
- Book Week
- Meet an Athlete
- Book Week
- Gardening Club
- Sportshall Athletics
- Anglian Water visit
- Parents Evening

Diary Dates: (updates have been highlighted)

Monday 29 th January	Book fair, school Book Week
Thursday 1 st February	Bring family homework in to school
Friday 2 nd February	Open Afternoon for parents – Book Week activities from 2pm onwards
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