



Freethorpe Primary and Nursery School

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Wednesday 7th February 2018

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- Meet the staff
- Book Week
- Parent's Evening
- Friends of Freethorpe
- Junior Tree Wardens
- Book Week
- Cluster Speech Festival
- Nursery staff

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!

We had a fantastic end to our Book Week with the children and staff arriving in amazing outfits to celebrate their favourite characters. The Book Fair was also very successful and we will be able to spend the commission that is earned from it on books to use across the school. The children thoroughly enjoyed being able to play the games that they had made at home, so thank you for all your contributions. Our display of "Shelfies" has also grown and shows a huge range of books that we are all reading.

Meet the staff:

Robbie Houghton – Interim Executive Headteacher

I have been teaching for 16 years, working with classes from Year 1 to Year 6. I completed a teaching and music degree at the University College of Ripon and York St John, where I thoroughly enjoyed four years of teaching practises in a wide range of locations: from inner-city Middlesbrough to Rotherham and small North Yorkshire villages. Alongside my teaching I continued with the music aspect of my degree which included regular performances with the choir and orchestra in venues such as York Minster. Music has been a fantastic way for me to see, and play in interesting venues such as the Festival Hall and the Royal Albert Hall.

For my final year my focus was solo performance so I spent a lot of time practising and playing my cello, carrying it up and down the stairs to my top floor flat! I have continued my interest in music and spent many hours rehearsing with children at Freethorpe for end of year productions such as Bussy Malone, a wide range of musical events and concerts, as well as teaching the ukulele.

My role as a teacher has changed over time: I have been the Assistant Headteacher at Freethorpe for a large number of years now but my role has also seen me working around the county supporting other schools. I am currently sharing the role of Executive Headteacher with Mrs Burns, working between Freethorpe and Fleggburgh schools. It is the ever changing nature of my job that makes it so enjoyable – no day is ever the same!



Mrs Houghton

by Gracie



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Parent's Evening: If you have not already returned an appointment slip for Parent's Evening please let the office know and we will find you a time to meet with your child's teachers. These sessions will give you an opportunity to find out how your children are progressing and to help identify areas for development too. You will be given the most up to date copy of the target tracker sheets which highlight areas that have already been achieved and those which we will continue to work on. At this point in the year all areas of learning will be re-visited in a variety of ways so there are plenty of opportunities for the children to consolidate what they have done so far this year. However, if there are specific areas that you would like to ask staff about they will be very happy to discuss them with you. You may also wish to ask your child if they have any questions that you can ask on their behalf.

Friends of Freethorpe:

School disco: this week, on Thursday we hold our valentines annual disco and there are some changes to the usual times. Nursery and KS1 will be running from 6 til 7pm and KS2 will be 7-8pm. As usual to run these events we are in desperate need of adult help. Are you able to stay and supervise the hall with other adults or maybe help to run the tuck shop. Whatever time you are able to help us with is really appreciated and will be so beneficial to keeping the disco a safe and fun event for our children.

Next meeting: Our next meeting will hopefully be on Wednesday the 21st at 2 pm. We will be discussing the Easter Fayre, Pocket Money Gift Shops, Nursery fundraising and the village phone box along with other items on the agenda. If you would like to pop along and hear about what we do (joining in would be amazing but not essential) we would love to see you, come and have a cuppa with biscuits. Children are very welcome to come with you.

Did you know that Friends of Freethorpe occasionally run meetings in the evenings too, if you are interested in coming to a meeting but can't make the times we set in the daytimes, let us know so we can try and do the best times for everyone.

Help: Do you have any spare time to help with our events. Either on the day setting up, running a stall or by making games, dropping leaflets or approaching businesses before events. We are in desperate need of some extra help to keep running these events for your children to have fun at and also to provide them with extras at school!

Junior Tree Wardens:

Earlier this year we asked if there were any of our older pupils who wished to become junior tree wardens and since then, those pupils who applied have carried out a wide range of work which has been both challenging and exciting. They may work in the school grounds, both tree planting and carrying out general maintenance in the school gardens, carry out garden maintenance for senior parishioners or visit interesting places. Our Junior Tree Wardens have also worked with John Fleetwood and Andrea Rowlands on ancient woodland along the River Wensum to plant part of 800 saplings as part of a project to maintain this area. The children always have a fantastic time and are very enthusiastic about their roles.





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Book Week:

Purple Class have been looking at Book Week and have written reports about what was happening in school.

In book week every child in the school had to make a game based on a book. This was given as homework for the whole family. On Friday everyone had to dress up as a character from a book and bring their game in to let other people play, including their family, because it was an open afternoon. The outfits were amazing with costumes ranging from the BFG to a shark! The teachers all dressed up as Where's Wally!

During the week there were a range of different activities to complete. Some of us made survival packs as we were looking at Explorers. Others learnt about dragons and characters from the books they were reading in class.

Book Week was amazing fun and we loved learning about the adventures of different people from; the explorer who went over a waterfall to the pilot who crashed into a volcano and the men who shared a sandwich on the seabed!

Making the games as part of our homework was good fun.

Elliot said "I really enjoyed making my game with my sister Ruby and my family."

Joe said "I enjoyed making my game and helping everyone understand it."

It was also good to see that people recognised the effort that we put in to making our games.

"It was great to see the quality of the games and how much people enjoyed playing them" Mrs Kohler.

The Book Fair was good to look at and we were able to choose many different types of book to buy. I am sure it has helped us raise lots of money for the school.

We know Book Week has been really successful because at the end of the day all the children came out of school laughing!



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Cluster Speech Festival:

This week many of our children have been taking part in the Cluster Speech Festival. It is always fantastic to see children shine during these performances and often some of the strongest performers are actually the quietest, least confident children in class. Everyone contributed brilliantly, be that during our in school performances or the ones at Southwood Hall. Each of the categories are judged with the children receiving certificates recognising their successes.

Reception and Key Stage 1:

Olivia and Isaac - Bronze
Group Poem 1 – Silver
Group Poem 2 - Silver

Year 5 and 6:

Archie and Ruby – Gold
Group Poem 1 – Gold
Group Poem 2 – Silver
Poem written and performed by Eleanor - Silver

Year 3 and 4:

Daisy and Grace – Gold
Group Poem 1 – Gold
Group Poem 2 – Bronze
Poem written by Ellie Maunder and read by Ellie and Spencer - Silver

One of the changes that has been made this year was to include a section where children to could perform a poem written by themselves, rather than by a published author. This is the poem that was performed and written by Eleanor.

Poseidon

As he stood, Trident in hand,
The swirling mass of ocean raged around him.
The sky was a metallic grey, blanketed with dense clouds,
Crackling with the promise of thunder.
A clipper, laden with gold and treasure from far off lands,
Tossed from valley to mountain peak,
Trough to wave crest,
Like a toy in a tub.
Sailors hang from the rigging,
In the sure knowledge that if they let go
It will be the last thing they do.
The storm raged, wind howling, rain thrashing,
Until at last she succumbed, bows first into the deep.
Satisfied with the havoc he had wrought
He sank down, with the ship, beneath the raging waves.

Silence,
And immediate calm met him.
The water reflecting the dappled light,
bubbles danced in the rays of the sun
Like delicate turquoise ballerinas.
Swelling, as they rise towards the light.
A shimmer of scales,
A flash of silver.
Absent mindedly, watching the fish as they dart,
In and out of the light.
He drifts back down into the darkness,
His work done for the day.
By Eleanor Barnes

Nursery Staff:

I am sure many of you will have realised that Debbie Aitchison, who works in our Nursery, has not be at work in recent weeks. She has been away from Nursery after having a knee operation in December. Her recovery is taking a little longer than expected but she is missing everyone and hopes to be back soon. Debbie sends her thanks for the flowers and all the get well wishes she has received. And because we are all missing her smiling face, here is a picture of her!





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Diary Dates: (updates have been highlighted)

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