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Freeman Community Primary School Annual Report 2021-22

The past year has been another busy, exciting and disrupted one for the children at Freeman with the impact of COVID19 being felt by many in the Community at Freeman. Following changes to the curriculum made in 2020, many exciting topics have been taught across the school in full for the first time including Festivals from around the World, Grace Darling, Great Fire of London, King Edmund, Anglo-Saxons and Celts, Mayans, Crime and Punishment and many more. The staff work incredibly hard to make the learning as exciting and purposeful as possible for the children.

Last year our Year 6 children enjoyed a very well organised and diverse activities week as trips were still affected by the pandemic. This year, the children in 6 have a residential trip to Whitwell planned for later in the term, our first residential since 2019. The children will be taking part in a range of activities that challenge them physically and socially to work as a team. A great time for all is hoped, although the teachers will be a little tired on their return. Children across the school are beginning to start school trips to enhance their learning with Year 3 and 4 recently visiting the School Farm Fair where all the children, staff and volunteers had a great day!

In the summer term the children took part in a sports week with visits from coaches or participants in various sports teaching the children skills in cricket, cycle speedway, circus skills and martial arts just an example of what the children took part in during the week. Building on the success of previous years we have a similar programme planned for later this term. The sporting theme continues all year round as the children across the school enter sporting fixtures against other schools where they conduct themselves with great sportsmanship, excellent behaviour and are a true credit to the school. Due to the pandemic the number of competitions this year has been reduced and some even held virtually. The children do very well in these tournaments and we look forward to participating in more in the coming terms. We are lucky to have a great team of staff who do a fantastic job to prepare the children for these events.

At Christmas we were unable to perform our nativities as we would traditionally do, however this did not stop our Receptions from sharing their production with their parents by video and our Year 1 and 2 children were able to sing some songs to the residents of Jubilee Court via Zoom.

Music features highly in our school and we have very popular brass and woodwind groups who enjoy learning their instruments with the talented music teachers who come in to our school. Our Year 5 children also learn to play the guitar and we look forward to being able to perform at Trinity Park later this term. The music teacher tells the school regularly how impressed he is with the children and the school and how well they are doing.

We continue to enjoy good links with the Holy Trinity Church with weekly assemblies led by Rev Brin and the Open the Book team which have recently resumed. The children look forward to these assemblies as well as the visits to the church throughout the year.

Freeman Community Primary School, Church Road, Stowupland, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 4BQ

From tiny acorns do mighty oaks grow

At the end of the last school year we said goodbye to our Year 6 children who left us to go on to high school. This is always a time of mixed emotions, joy in recalling their many happy memories at school and sadness when we say farewell to children, some of whom have been with us for seven years, however we know they are ready for the next phase in the educational journey and we are lucky to have such a good high school only next door where the majority of our children go to. The leaver's assembly, held outdoors last year, was an emotional event but we hope that the children and parents leave Freeman with many happy memories of their time with us. We are proud of you all!

In the past twelve months we have installed new windows and doors which have greatly improved both the appearance of the school and the energy efficiency.

Stowupland Friends of Freeman are operating with a reduced committee this year, despite this they have purchased new laptops for the school and continue to fund raise for the different projects we have, including outdoor play equipment and new books for the younger children.

In education we never stand still and we look forward to another exciting year ahead. For more information about all the things we do at Freeman please visit our website, Twitter or see the monthly contributions in Telstar.

Daniel Pettitt, Headteacher

From the Chair of Governors

The last year has shown how flexible and adaptable both pupils and staff have been to the ever changing requirements brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic. We continue to be a busy school with a full roll of pupils, and a committed and competent teaching and support staff, extremely well led by an enthusiastic and experienced Head Teacher – Daniel Pettitt.

Home learning was introduced during the height of the pandemic as laid down by the Government, the Head Teacher ensured all pupils had the necessary equipment to take part in home learning. At the same time a significant number of pupils of key worker parents and other categories had face to face teaching in the prescribed bubbles. Additional cleaning and the new way of working soon became a norm for the children.

The highest level of pupil and staff sickness from Covid-19 occurred during January and February of 2022, but we were able to keep the school open.

Governors meetings continued, all on-line, but we soon got used to them. Several governors have left having given valuable service to the school and have been keen supporters. A successful recruitment process earlier this year means that we now have a full complement of governors – but we are always open to consider new recruits.

Through being part of the Children's Endeavour Trust (CET) Academy we have been able to replace all the windows in the school to improve our energy costs and to reduce noise from the road.

Sue Hayter, Chair of Governors