



Headteacher Daniel Pettitt

Telephone 01449 612067

Fax 01449 674277

Email admin@freeman.suffolk.sch.uk

Web www.freeman.suffolk.sch.uk

Twitter [@FreemanCPSchool](https://twitter.com/FreemanCPSchool)



Freeman Community Primary School Annual Report 2023-24

The past year has been another busy and exciting one for the children at Freeman. The staff work incredibly hard to make their learning as exciting and purposeful as possible.

Summer term 2023 saw the celebration of the King's Coronation with a whole-school street party held in the playground. Children and staff were dressed in red, white and blue and coronation-related craft activities took place throughout the day. Each pupil was also presented with a commemorative bookmark.

Later in the term the children took part in a *Sports Week*, during which they had the opportunity to participate in a range of sports from rugby and tennis to pound dance and Boccia which most of them had never heard of before, let alone tried! The sporting theme continues all year round as children across the school enter sporting fixtures competing against other schools including Tag Rugby, Football, Dodgeball and Gymnastics. They conduct themselves with great sportsmanship, excellent behaviour and are a true credit to the school. We are fortunate enough to have a wonderful team of staff who do a fantastic job to prepare the children for these events. Children in Year 6 also took part in *Bikeability* Level 2, designed to give them the skills and confidence they need to cycle on local roads.

The Summer and Autumn terms also saw lots of school trips with visits to Colchester Castle, Felixstowe, Suffolk Crucial Crew, Duxford Imperial War Museum, The Longshed in Woodbridge, a music performance at the Apex and a French Theatre performance hosted by one of the other Trust primaries in Ipswich. Parents and carers were also treated to a wonderful production of *Pirates of the Curry Bean* performed by our Year 6 pupils.

At the end of the Summer term 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 we have equipped them for the next phase in their educational journey.

Music features highly in school, with popular string and woodwind groups who enjoy learning their instruments with talented peripatetic music teachers. Children in Year 5 also learn to play the guitar and have the opportunity to continue tuition in Year 6, if they wish.

The start of the new academic year saw the appointment of new representatives for our School Council, Junior Road Safety Officers, Year 6 Playleaders and Librarians. More recently, a Rights Respecting School steering group, made up of pupils and staff, has been set up to discuss how we can foster rights-respecting values in our school. The group will also help lead the school to achieve the Rights Respecting School Bronze Award by the end of the Summer 24 term.

During the early part of September, the Tour of Britain made its way around Suffolk and we were among many schools able to cheer the riders on as they passed by the front of the school. In October, children in Year 6 took part in a 5-day residential visit to Bawdsey Manor, during which they participated in a wide range

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

From tiny acorns do mighty oaks grow

of adventure activities including abseiling, canoeing, fencing and a climbing wall. Our school values were reflected in their achievements as they all showed great resilience, independence, curiosity, leadership and empathy, developing teamwork, stronger friendships and respect for each other.

At Christmas, children in Reception and Year 2 performed their Christmas Nativity plays to parents and carers. Children in Years 1 and 3 also entertained residents in Steeple View Retirement with Christmas songs and residents of Langham Care Home in Stowmarket were also treated to a wonderful performance in school, enjoying refreshments afterwards with staff and pupils. Children in Years 4, 5 and 6 taking music lessons with County Music, also performed to parents and carers.

We continue to enjoy good links with the Holy Trinity Church with visits to the Church to celebrate Harvest Festival, Christmas and Easter, together with assemblies in school led by Rev. Paul.

Throughout their time at Freeman, children in Year 1, 3 and 5 take part in Forest School sessions within the school grounds. They learn personal, social and technical skills which help them grow in confidence as they problem-solve and learn how to manage risk.

Our thanks go to Stowupland Friends of Freeman who have been busy raising funds for those 'extra' items that cannot be met from the school budget, including outdoor play equipment, planners for every child and new books for the Library. Throughout the year, they have also organised events including the Summer Fayre, school discos and end of term treats.

Staff and children alike are benefitting from the installation of the Daily Mile/Wellbeing route and we are extremely grateful to the Parish Council for their contribution towards this project.

In education we never stand still and we look forward to another exciting year ahead. It has been a privilege to be part of the Freeman community for the last 10 years as Headteacher of our wonderful school and I feel confident passing the baton on to the next leadership team. Links with the local community have been extremely important to me and I would like to convey my appreciation to everyone connected with the Parish Council, Church and other village organisations.

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

I echo Daniels comments on the comprehensive programme offered by Freeman CPS, the Governors all share in their commitment to the school and offer support via the 3 committees of the Local Governing Body.

We very much value the leadership of the Head Teacher and his Deputy, and recognise that the good work is only able to take place because of the commitment and expertise of the whole staff body.

It is with sadness that we note that Daniel will be leaving Freeman after 10 years in which he has dedicated his leadership and expertise to support the school. He is going to a bigger school, the Governing Body wish him all the very best in his new role. The work to replace him is in place, interviews to be held in April, in the interim we are very pleased to have his Deputy Emma Gerry to act up as the interim head.

Sue Hayter, Chair of Governors