FREETHORPE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Thursday 16h July 2026

A message from Ms Roberts

As we reach the end of another busy and successful school year, I would like to take this opportunity to say a heartfelt thank you and goodbye.

This year has been filled with so many wonderful achievements, memorable moments, and opportunities for our children to learn and grow. I am incredibly proud of everything our pupils have accomplished. Their enthusiasm, resilience, and determination have been inspiring, and they should all be proud of how hard they have worked throughout the year.

Dates for the Diary

I would also like to thank our dedicated staff, who go above and beyond every day to ensure the children receive the very best education and care. Their commitment and teamwork have made this another fantastic year for our school.

To our Year 6 children, as you prepare to begin the next exciting chapter of your journey, I wish you every success and happiness. You have been wonderful role models within our school community, and although we will miss you greatly, we know you are ready for the exciting opportunities ahead. Remember to believe in yourselves, work hard, and never stop aiming high. Good luck—you will always be a valued part of our school family.

A huge thank you also goes to our PTFA. Your continued support, enthusiasm, and countless hours of hard work throughout the year have made such a positive difference to our school. Whether organising events, raising valuable funds, or giving your time so generously, your efforts are truly appreciated. We are incredibly grateful for everything you do.

As many of you know, this is my final newsletter as Head of School. It is with mixed emotions that I say goodbye. It has been an absolute privilege to be part of this wonderful school community, and I will treasure the memories I have made with our children, families, staff, and governors. Thank you for your kindness, encouragement, and support over the past two academic years—it has meant so much to me.

I wish you all a safe, happy, and restful summer holiday. Thank you for making this such a special place to work and learn, and I wish the entire school community every success and happiness for the future.

With my very best wishes,

Ms Roberts

NURSERY/PRESCHOOL

ROBIN



A message from Robin class adults

We have had a fabulous time in Robin Class, the Mini Monsters Roadshow came in to visit us and brought with them some creatures that we were able to touch and hold. There was Trinny the Tarantula, we weren't able to hold her because her legs are very delicate. But we were able to hold a Millipede, whose legs were very tickly, a bearded dragon, an african snail and a corn snake, who was so long that four of us could hold it at the same time.

We had a paddle and played under the hose during the recent hot weather, which was super fun and a good way to cool down.

Our preschool garden is looking great, with all the flowers now blooming. We have been watering them everyday and this week we harvested some of our peas and ate them for our snack. We will dig up the potatoes next week, as they aren't quite ready.



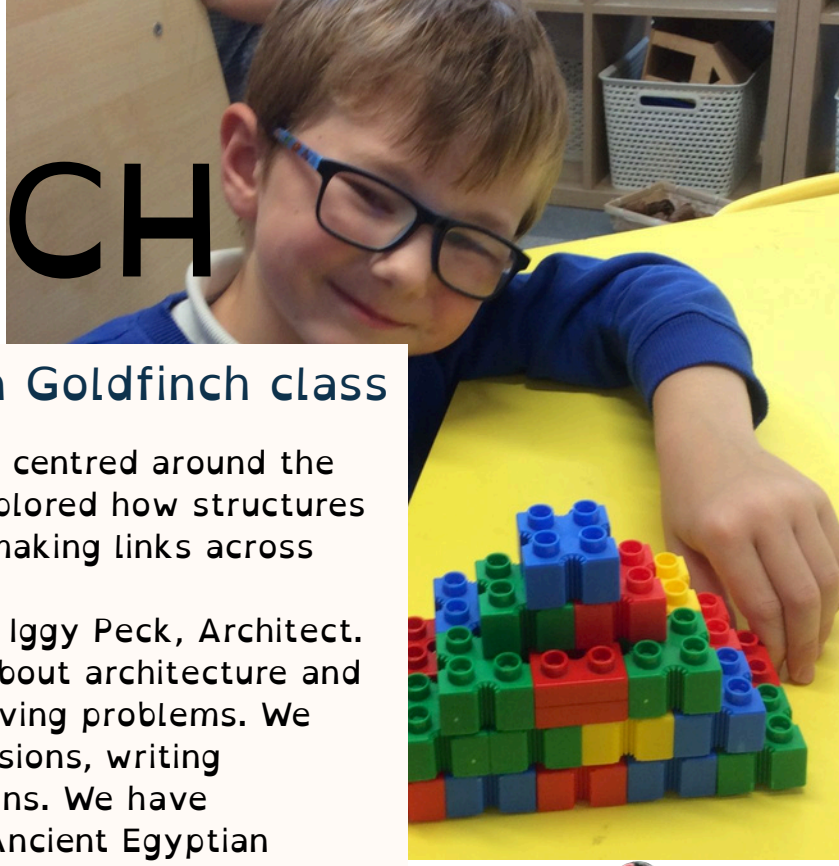
We have been watching a nest in the tree in our outside area and mummy pigeon's eggs have now hatched and she has two babies. Baby pigeons are called Squabs, and we have been watching them grow. It is very exciting.

We've had our Sports day, which was attended by lots of parents and grandparents. The children were all amazing, we are very proud of them all for taking part. Thank you to Mummy's and Daddy's for running with us as well.

We wish all of our families a wonderful summer break, full of lot's of memories.

RECEPTION/Y1

GOLDFINCH



A message from our adults in Goldfinch class

So far this term, our learning journey has centred around the exciting topic "Built to Last". We have explored how structures are designed, built, and improved, while making links across many areas of the curriculum.
In English, we thoroughly enjoyed reading Iggy Peck, Architect. The storyinspired us to think creatively about architecture and the importance of perseverance when solving problems. We used the book as a springboard for discussions, writing activities, and our own architectural designs. We have discovered more fascinating facts about Ancient Egyptian tombs and the impressive pyramid structures that have stood for thousands of years. We explored why these buildings were constructed and investigated the engineering ideas behind their remarkable durability.





Inspired by our learning, we became architects ourselves! We designed and built our own structures, testing them to see how stable they were. Through teamwork and problem-solving, we explored ways to improve our designs, making them stronger and more resilient.

In Maths, we investigated a variety of 3D shapes and their characteristics. We considered which shapes would be most effective when constructing stable buildings and structures. This helped us understand how mathematics plays an important role in real-world design and engineering.

We also explored fractions, learning how to find halves and quarters of shapes and objects. Through practical activities, we developed our understanding of equal parts and how fractions can be used in everyday life.
In PE, we have been developing our tennis skills. We have enjoyed practising our racket control, improving our coordination, and learning how to send and receive the ball with increasing accuracy and confidence.

Have a wonderful summer break, creating lot's of wonderful memories.



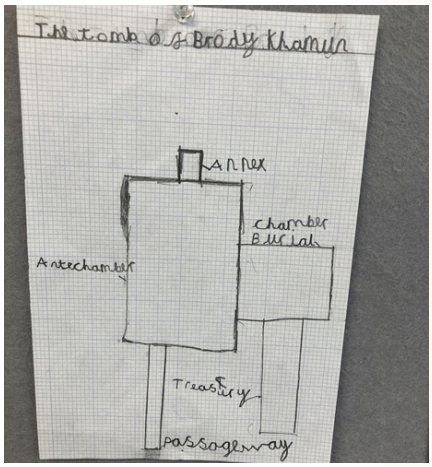
Y1/Y2

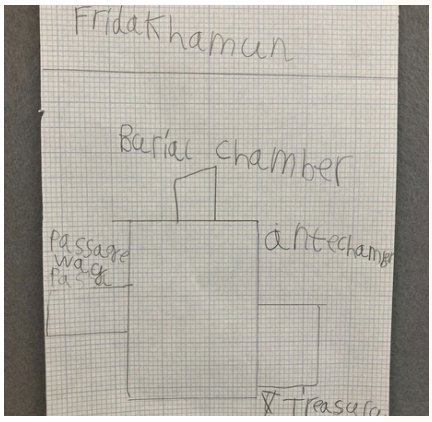
BARN OWLS











A message from staff working in Barn Owl class

Barn Owl class have enjoyed the Built to Last topic, designing structures and becoming architects. We have examined different shapes and materials that would make a structure strong, and designed our own sarcophaguses and even our own tombs! Our English has linked with this too, looking at the book Iggy Peck Architect, and how he had to be very creative in the structures he built and the materials he used to do it.

In maths we moved on from fractions and began looking at time. This is a very tricky concept for our young people, so we have had plenty of hands on sessions making and reading the time. We have discovered how we can even use our fractions knowledge to help us tell the time, and how knowing how a quarter of a circle relates to finding a quarter of an hour. In PE we have been practising our racket and ball skills for tennis. We found that we needed patience and co ordination in abundance! However, the children have, as ever, risen to the challenges set!

It has been a fantastic year in Barn Owls, wishing all our families a wonderful summer break!

Y2/Y3

SWALLOWS

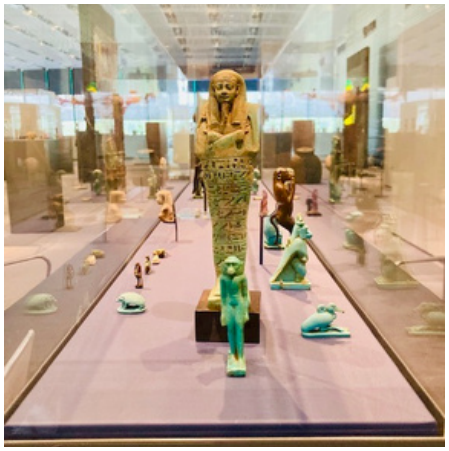
A message from adults working in Swallow class

As part of our Built to Last project, Swallow Class had a wonderful trip to UEA, the Sainsbury's Centre and the Sculpture Park. We worked with an artist called Rachel who showed us around the permanent collection in the Sainsbury's Centre and we were shown various animal-based exhibits that dated back to Ancient Egyptian times! We sketched them and learnt about what different animals and colours symbolised to the Egyptians.
Whilst we were in the gallery, a lady from Washington approached us and said she had been a teacher for 40 years and that she was very impressed by how attentive and interested our children were. We received similar feedback from Rachel who allowed us to do extra activities in the gallery because of the excellent listening skills that the children exhibited. Throughout the day, the children made us very proud with their engagement and maturity.

After a break of doughnuts and lots of water (it was very hot!), we spent the rest of the morning designing and decorating our own animal amulets using clay, powder paint and beads. These, along with our sketches, will be on display in school from next Thursday. In the afternoon, we had lunch in the shade of the trees by the lake, then in pairs we completed the Sculpture Park trail, ticking off each sculpture on the map. We touched Henry Moore sculptures made of bronze and discussed the Anthony Gormley statues of men standing on top of the UEA buildings. Our favourite was the Man of Stones who was hidden amongst the trees by the lake.

This was a wonderful trip out and would make a great excursion in the summer holidays. The children will be bringing home a map of the sculpture park and a leaflet about the free artist-led activities that the Sainsbury's Centre offer to children on Sundays







Y4/Y5

BUZZARDS

A message from our adults in Buzzard class

It has been another exciting and busy few weeks in Buzzard class, with the children enjoying a wide range of engaging learning experiences and making fantastic progress across the curriculum! We have continued their fascinating journey through Ancient Egypt, exploring how the pyramids were built and learning about the incredible achievements of this ancient civilisation. Inspired by their topic, the children have created some beautiful paintings, showcasing both their creativity and historical understanding.

In English, the children have been writing suspense-filled narratives, developing their ability to build tension and show characters' emotions through their actions and reactions. In Maths, they have been exploring fractions and decimals, including tenths and hundredths, while strengthening their understanding of dividing by 10, 100 and 1,000. Our Year 4 children have also worked exceptionally hard in preparation for their Multiplication Tables Check, demonstrating great determination, resilience and a positive attitude throughout. We are incredibly proud of the effort they have shown and the progress they have made.

Meanwhile, our Year 5 children had a fantastic time at their campout! They enjoyed a memorable trip to the beach, where they worked together to create impressive sandcastles and imaginative sand sculptures. They also embraced the outdoors by completing scavenger hunts and producing beautiful pieces of nature art using natural materials they discovered along the way. Not to mention having delicious fish and chips, followed by toasting marshmallows and making s'mores around the campfire. It was a wonderful opportunity for the children to build friendships, develop teamwork skills and create lasting memories together!

I have thoroughly enjoyed teaching Buzzards this year and wish all our families a happy summer!

Y5/Y6

KINGFISHER

A message from staff working in Kingfisher class



Kingfisher Class have spent these final weeks of the year going all in on our end-of-year production, Pantastic!. The children have taken to the stage in a wide range of roles, working hard to learn lines, cues and stage directions, while also coming together to learn a brilliant collection of songs with actions and dynamics. Behind the scenes, they have also helped to build sets and props, using tools and repurposed materials to create practical and engaging scenery for the show. It has been wonderful to see their creativity, teamwork and confidence shine through.

In English, we have brought together portfolios of writing to showcase the children's progress and range across the year. These have included pieces written for different purposes, audiences and perspectives, such as a travel poster for Egyptian holidays, a frog life-cycle fact file, an additional chapter for Harry Potter, and many impressive fiction pieces. In RSE, we have completed our yearly lessons, and the children have approached these sessions with real maturity and thoughtfulness.

There have also been some wonderful highlights to celebrate. The children really enjoyed taking part in Freethorpe in Bloom, planting flowers and crops across the school playground and helping to make our outdoor spaces even brighter and more welcoming. Our Year 5 and 6 representatives were fantastic at the Acle Cluster UEA Athletics, with stories of resilience and sportsmanship that made us incredibly proud. Our Year 6 children also enjoyed their high school transition day and made excellent first impressions, and of course the long-awaited Year 6 water fight was a brilliant way to celebrate all of their hard work after SATs. 'Pantastic' was a performance we won't forget and they all did an amazing job!

Thank you so much for all of your support this year. Your encouragement at home has made a real difference, and it has been a pleasure to work with such a wonderful class and community. We wish all of our Kingfishers and their families a happy, restful and well-deserved summer break.

Well Done!

At Freethorpe, we take great pride in recognising and celebrating pupils who demonstrate positive behaviour, kindness, and a commitment to our core connections. Throughout the term, children who have been positive role models, made excellent progress in their learning, shown compassion, or contributed positively to our school community are celebrated in a variety of ways. Each week, pupils are recognised in our celebration assemblies, where we highlight their achievements in front of the whole school. We also make positive phone calls home to share these successes with families, and some children are invited to our special Fine Dining experience as a reward for going above and beyond. Additionally, pupils can earn house points for good ideas, kind actions, and positive contributions to class and school life. These moments of recognition help build confidence, promote our school values, and ensure every child has the opportunity to shine.





A big goodbye and good luck to our Year 6 children. We will miss you all, but know you are all ready for your next big adventure!

Friends of Freethorpe PTA End of Year Round-Up
Celebrating a year of making memories together!

🌟 Thank You 🌟

As another fantastic school year comes to an end, we'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has supported Friends of Freethorpe (FoF) throughout the year.

We are a very small team of parent/carer volunteers, and every event, cake sale, raffle ticket bought, donation and helping hand has made a real difference. Thanks to your support, we've been able to provide experiences, resources and opportunities that enrich school life for all of our children.

👥 Meet Your Friends of Freethorpe Committee 👥

Chair: Francesca W
Staff Representative: Mrs Collier
Treasurer: Joe C
Secretary: Francesca W
Committee Members: Rachel J, Nicola M, Jacki S, Ros M and Dearbhla H

❤️ It's About More Than Fundraising ❤️

Every event we organise isn't just about raising money—it's about creating memorable experiences, building our school community and giving our children opportunities they might not otherwise have.

Whether it's seeing children laughing at the disco, enjoying a school trip, meeting amazing animals or celebrating special occasions together, your support helps make these moments possible.

✨ What We've Helped Make Possible This Year ✨

Here are some of the events / activities which we have been able to provide thanks to the fundraising which our children and families have taken part in:

Dictionaries for Year 5
Fans for all classrooms
School Disco
The Animal Guyz sessions in school
Coaches for 3 School Trips
Father Christmas' visit to school
Christmas fair
King's Birthday Celebration Cakes
Mini-monsters sessions for Pre-school
Easter fun afternoon and cake sale
Summer fete including entertainment by Moore Madness
Outdoor play equipment for each class
Outdoor clocks
Seeds for gardening project as part of 'Freethorpe in Bloom'
Soup & bread for all children and parents on Harvest Festival

🙋 We Need Your Help 🙋

Could you spare just one hour next year?
Friends of Freethorpe is run by a very small group of volunteers, and we'd love to welcome some new faces.

You don't have to join the committee—every little bit helps:

🎂 Bake a cake
🎪 Help at one event
🎟️ Sell raffle tickets
🎁 Donate a prize
💡 Share ideas
⏰ Give just an hour of your time

The more volunteers we have, the more events we can organise and the more opportunities we can provide for every child at Freethorpe Primary School.

🌟 A Huge Thank You 🌟

Thank you to every parent, carer, grandparent, family member, member of staff and local business who has supported Friends of Freethorpe this year. Your kindness, generosity and time are truly appreciated.

We wish all our families a wonderful summer and look forward to another exciting year of making memories together!