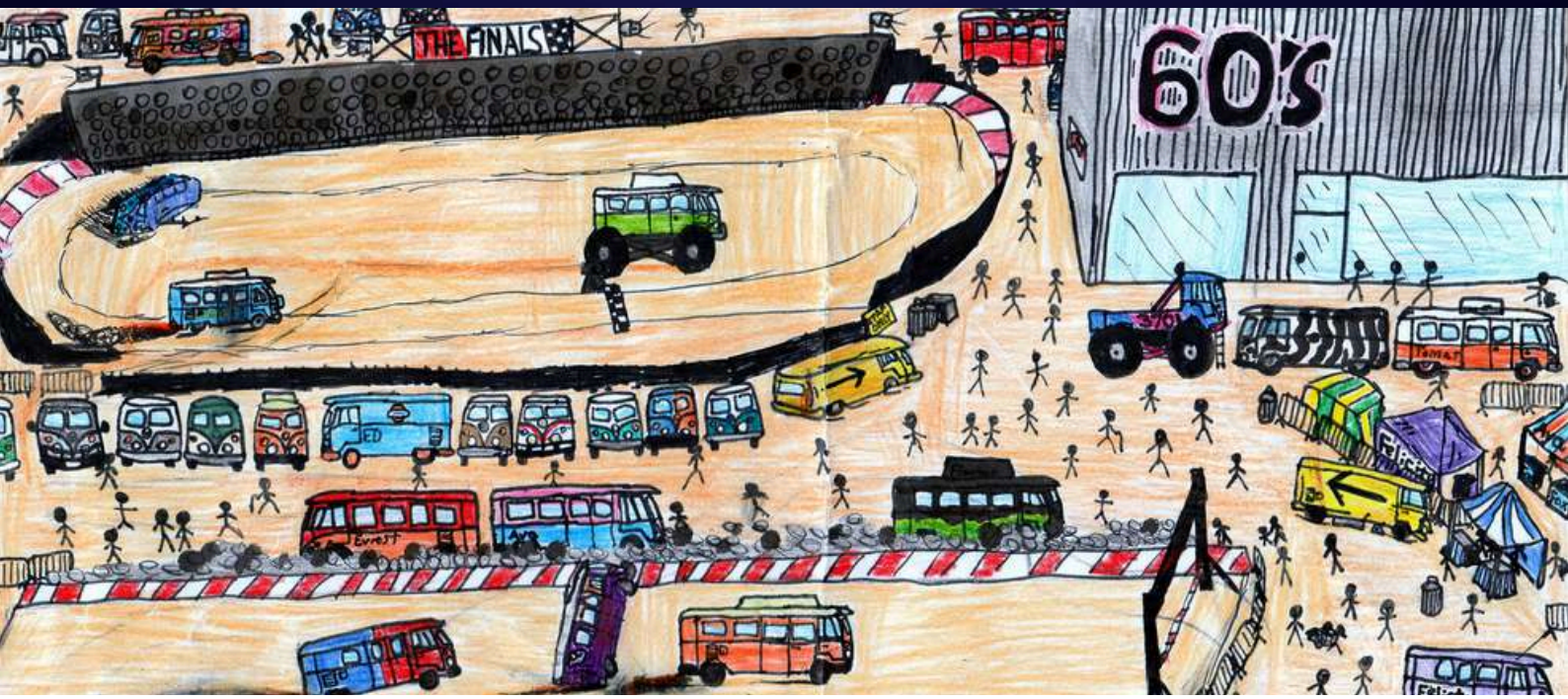
FREETHORPE PRIMARY SCHOOL

WELCOME BACK NEWSLETTER

Friday 4th September 2026



Welcome to a new academic year!

We are delighted to introduce ourselves as Freethorpe Primary School's Heads of School, Kathryn Andrews and Sarah Collier.

A message from Mrs Andrews



Many of you will already know me from my time at Freethorpe, particularly on Thursdays and Fridays, where I have worked as the school's SENDCo and Head of School on a Friday. Until now, I have split my week between Freethorpe and Horning Primary School, where I have also worked as Head of School and SENDCo.

This year, I am really looking forward to focusing more of my time and attention on the pupils, staff and wider Freethorpe community from Wednesday to Friday, while also spending precious time with my own children before they start school.

Outside of school, I am a mum to two very energetic boys, aged one (soon to be two) and three! I often joke that coming to work provides me with a little break from the wrestling, climbing and general madness that comes with having two toddlers!

I have worked within AIM Federation since 2021 and have been fortunate enough to work at Cantley, Horning and Freethorpe in a variety of roles. Before joining the federation, I worked in a large primary school on the outskirts of Norwich, teaching across Key Stage 2 while also overseeing inclusion support for looked-after children and pupils with special educational needs.

I am incredibly passionate about ensuring that every child feels valued, included and able to thrive, and I am very much looking forward to continuing my journey with the Freethorpe community.

A message from Mrs Collier



I am very much looking forward to this next academic year and to sharing the role of Head of School with Mrs Andrews. I have had the privilege of working at Freethorpe Primary School across Key Stage 1 and 2 since 2023 and in that time have enjoyed developing relationships with the pupils, families and the wider community. The well-being of the children is at the centre of what we do at Freethorpe and in my role as Senior Mental Health Lead, I have enjoyed working with many of our pupils to develop their skills, strategies & resilience in managing their own well-being.

This year, I am looking forward to developing our outdoor provision so that every child gets the opportunity to learn outdoors on a weekly basis. We have made good headway on this over the summer, thanks to the support of our families and volunteers, and our forest-inspired school area has had a complete transformation which we will be unveiling shortly. I am also looking forward to enhancing our sports provision and the creative arts which we are able to offer in school.

Previous to working within the AIM Federation, I have taught for many years both in Norfolk and abroad. I have taught in primary and secondary settings, as well as teaching English to adults. As many of you will know, I am passionate about the teaching of writing and am closely involved with Writing Teachers and The National Writing Project.

Outside of school, I have two teenage children, the eldest of which is about to start studying English and Drama at university. I have many interests including gardening, art and cookery which I manage to weave into school-life!



We are excited to lead Freethorpe Primary School and hope to develop an even greater presence for our school within the wider community.

We know that families are at the heart of our school, and we want to hear your thoughts, ideas and aspirations for Freethorpe. We want our small school to continue providing big opportunities for every child.

If you would like to find out more about our vision for Freethorpe, or simply share your views as part of our parent voice, we will be hosting Coffee and Cake on Tuesday 8th September from 9.00am in the main hall.

This will be an informal opportunity to come along, have a conversation and share what you would like to see from our school in the future. We would love to see as many families as possible!



Our Freethorpe Team

We are fortunate to have a fantastic team of staff supporting our children across the school.

- Executive Head: David Hopkins
- Heads of School: Kathryn Andrews (SENDCo and DSL) and Sarah Collier (Mental Health Lead)
- Office Team: Mrs Morris and Miss Tooley

- Preschool: Karen (DSL), Debbie, Chelsea and Hannah

- **Goldfinch:** Mrs Davies, Mrs Johnson, Mrs Thompson and Miss Underwood
- **Barn Owls:** Mrs Short, Mrs Fish, Miss Castro and Miss Tooley
- **Swallows:** Mrs Collier, Mrs Ottley (temporary teacher), Miss Errington, Miss Wright and Miss Underwood
- **Buzzards**: Mr Browne, Mrs Almond and Miss Underwood
- **Kingfisher**: Mrs Newton and Mrs Murphy
- **MSA**: Miss Brown and Mrs Bunting

Meet the Teacher - Monday 7th September

We know that starting a new class and year group can be an exciting time, but it can also bring a few nerves and questions. To help support your child's transition, we will be holding a Meet the Teacher opportunity on **Monday 7th September, after school collection, between 3.30pm and 3.50pm.**

This will provide an opportunity to pass on any information that you feel may be helpful for your child's teacher to know as they begin the new school year. We hope that this opportunity will help both children and families feel settled and confident as we begin the year together.



Academic Planner

As we begin the new academic year, we have shared an Academic Planner containing events taking place throughout the year. We hope that providing families with a full overview of the year will make it easier to plan ahead and ensure that you have plenty of notice for important events. A paper copy will also be sent home with your child, ready for you to stick on the fridge and highlight those all-important dates!

Spare copies will also be available in the entrance airlock should you require an additional copy.

Of course, there may be further events added throughout the year, particularly school trips linked to specific topics and areas of learning. Occasionally, events may also need to be rearranged due to weather or other circumstances beyond our control.

Within the Academic Planner, you will see a number of different events, including:

- **Class Parent Events** – opportunities to join your child's learning in their classroom.
- **Show and Share Assemblies** – assemblies led by individual classes to showcase their learning.
- **'Sustained Effort and Improvement' Award Assemblies** – celebrating pupils who have demonstrated sustained effort and improvement throughout the term. These assemblies will be invitation-only.

We hope that spreading events throughout the year will ensure that there is enough space within our school for all visitors to attend comfortably. Further information will always be shared as individual events approach.



A Busy Summer at Freethorpe!

Although the school may have been quieter without our wonderful pupils, the summer holidays have certainly not been quiet!

We have been busy developing some exciting areas around the school, including the creation of The Den. This is a calming and intimate space that pupils will be able to access for time out, sensory activities or simply to support their emotional regulation when needed.

There has also been a huge transformation of our forest-inspired area. We would like to give enormous thanks to the volunteers from NatWest and Slater Tree Care, joined by parent volunteers, who have worked incredibly hard cutting, strimming, digging, moving, lifting and creating a fantastic open space. Their efforts have taken place in both high temperatures and wet weather, and we are incredibly grateful for their commitment to helping us develop a space that can be enjoyed by pupils from Preschool all the way through to Year 6. If you have any old waterproofs and wellies that you would like to donate to the school to support the use of this area, please donate them to the office. Thank you.

We hope that future non-charity fundraising events will help us continue to maintain and further develop these areas, ensuring that they remain accessible and enjoyable for all of our children.



The Den



forest development



House Points and Freethorpe Francs

The new academic year has already begun with an exciting assembly introducing our House Points and Freethorpe Francs.

House Points

House Points will be awarded to children outside of the classroom for demonstrating our school rules:

Act Kindly. Include Everyone. Make Good Choices.

Children may earn House Points for demonstrating these values in the dining hall, on the playground and field, during assemblies and on school trips. House Points will be collected throughout the week, with the winning house celebrated in our weekly assembly.

Freethorpe Francs

Freethorpe Francs are our children's personal rewards currency. Children can earn Francs for a range of positive behaviours and achievements, including:

- Reading at home
- Completing home learning
- Producing exemplary work
- Demonstrating excellent presentation
- Following school behaviour expectations in the classroom

The children have decided that they would like to collect physical Freethorpe Francs in their own personal money wallets. They will then be able to choose whether to spend their currency in our reward shop or save their Francs towards larger rewards.

We are excited to see how the children use and manage their Freethorpe Francs throughout the year!



Physical Education

PE for children in Reception through to Year 6 will take place on **Mondays and Wednesdays**.

Children should attend school wearing their PE uniform on these days. For safety reasons, please ensure that:

- Jewellery is removed before coming to school.
- Long hair is tied back securely.

Swimming lessons will also commence for our Key Stage 2 pupils shortly, with Year 6 beginning the programme. Further information will be shared with relevant families soon.

We ask that children's PE shoes are kept in their school bag all week incase they are required.

General Reminders

As we begin the new academic year, please can we remind families of the following:



Uniform

School uniform consists of:

- A blue school jumper or cardigan
- A white shirt or polo shirt
- Grey or black trousers, shorts or a skirt
- Black shoes

Please ensure that all clothing is clearly labelled with your child's name. We accumulated a rather impressive amount of unnamed lost property last year!

Personal Items

Children should not bring personal items from home into school. This includes:

- Dressing-up clothes
- Makeup
- Soft toys
- Toys
- Fidget toys or sensory resources

Where a child requires a fidget or sensory tool to support their learning, this should be discussed and agreed with the SENDCo to ensure that it is an effective aid rather than a distraction from learning.

Water Bottles and Snacks

Please ensure that your child brings a water bottle to school every day, along with a healthy, nut-free snack where appropriate. We are sure that many children have eaten you out of house and home over the summer holidays, but they will still need something to keep them going during the morning until lunchtime!

Gates

The school gates close **promptly at 9.00am**. Please ensure that you have left the school site by this time. If you accidentally find yourself locked on site, please enter the main school building and leave via the school office.



Our Head Boy and Girl

We are incredibly excited about the year ahead and have lots to look forward to. Most importantly, we are looking forward to seeing our children grow, develop and flourish throughout the year.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of Freethorpe Primary School. We are proud of our wonderful school community and look forward to working alongside you and your families throughout the year ahead.

Here's to a fantastic year of learning and big opportunities for our children!

With very best wishes,

Mrs Kathryn Andrews
Head of School and SENDCo

Mrs Sarah Collier
Head of School and Class Teacher

SCHOOL CALENDAR 2026-2027

September 2026

Mon 7th (3.30pm): All Classes - Meet the Teacher

Tues 8th (9am): Meet the new Head of Schools

Mon 14th, 21st, 28th: Y6 swimming

Fri 25th: MacMillan Coffee Morning

Tues 29th (2.30pm): Kingfisher Parent Event

Weds 30th (2.30pm): Buzzards Multiplication Themed Parent Event

October 2026

Mon 5th, 12th, 19th: Y6 swimming

Tues 6th (2.30pm): Goldfinch Phonics Themed Parent Event

Thurs 8th: Harvest Festival donations + soup and bread from 3pm.

Fri 9th: 'Hello Yellow!' non-school uniform day

Tues 13th (2.30pm): Barn Owls Parent Event

Weds 14th (2.30pm): Swallows Parent Event

Weds 14th & Thurs 15th: Y6 Bike Ability

Fri 16th: Wacky Hair Day!

Fri 16th (2.45pm): Kingfisher Show and Share Assembly

November 2026

Mon 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th: Y5 swimming

Fri 6th (2.45pm): Buzzards Show and Share Assembly

wc. 9th November: Parent's Evenings (timings TBC)

Fri 13th (2.45pm): Swallows Show and Share Assembly

Fri 20th (2.45pm): Barn Owls Show and Share Assembly

Fri 27th (2.45pm): Goldfinch Show and Share Assembly

December 2026

Mon 7th: Y5 swimming

Fri 11th: PTFA Christmas Event (TBC)

Tues 15th (9.15am): Reception, Y1 & Y2 Nativity

Weds 16th (9.15am): Reception, Y1 & Y2 Nativity

Weds 16th: Christmas Dinner

Thurs 17th (TBC): KS2 Halvergate

Fri 18th: Christmas-themed non-uniform day

Fri 18th (2.50pm): Invite Only - 'Sustained Effort & Improvement' awards

January 2027

Thurs 7th (3.30pm): Y6 Parents SATs Information Event

Mon 11th, 18th, 25th: Y4 swimming

Weds 13th (2.30pm): Swallows Parent Event

Thurs 14th (8.45-9.45am): Kingfishers Parent Event

Tues 19th: Y6 Crucial Crew trip

Tues 19th (9am): Goldfinch Phonics Themed Parent Event

Fri 29th (2.45pm): Buzzards Show and Share Assembly

February 2027

Mon 1st & 8th: Y4 swimming

Weds 3rd (2.30pm): Barn Owls Parent Event

Weds 3rd - Fri 5th: Y4 Hilltop Residential

Fri 5th: NSPCC Number Day! Non-uniform day and cake sale

Fri 5th (2.45pm): Swallows Show and Share Assembly

Fri 12th (2.45pm): Kingfisher Show and Share Assembly

Fri 22nd: Y4 swimming

Fri 26th (2.45pm): Barn Owls Show and Share Assembly

March 2027

Mon 1st, 8th, 15th , 22nd: Y3 swimming

Thurs 4th: World Book Day!

Fri 5th (2.45pm): Goldfinch Show and Share Assembly

wc. 15th March: Parent's Evenings (timings tbc)

Tues 23rd (2.30pm): Buzzards Parent Event

Fri 26th (2.50pm): Invite Only - 'Sustained Effort & Improvement' awards

April 2027

Mon 19th & 26th: Y3 swimming

Thurs 22nd (3pm): Goldfinch Parent Event

May 2027

wc. 10th May: Y6 SATs week

Thurs 13th: Y6 Water Fight

Mon 24th (2.30pm): Swallows Parent Event

Tues 25th (8.45am): Barn Owls Parent Event

Weds 26th (8.45am): Buzzards Parent Event

Thurs 27th: 9-10.30am: KS1 Sports Day & 10.45-12.15: KS2 Sports Day

Fri 28th (2.45pm): Kingfisher Show and Share Assembly

June 2027

wc. 7th & 14th June: Y4 Times Table Check

Fri 11th (2.45pm): Barn Owls Show and Share Assembly

Tues 15th (2.30pm): Kingfisher Parent Event

Fri 18th (2.45pm): Swallows Show and Share Assembly

Thurs 24th & Fri 25th: Y5 Campout

Fri 25th (2.45pm): Goldfinch Show and Share

July 2027

Fri 2nd: Buzzards Show and Share Assembly

Tues 6th: Y6 SATs results released

Thurs 8th (4-6pm): KS2 End of Year Performance

Fri 9th (9-11am): KS2 End of Year Performance

Fri 9th (2.50pm): Invite Only - 'Sustained Effort & Improvement' awards

wc. 12th July: Y6 Isle of Wight Residential

TBC: School Disco

Term Dates

Autumn Term 1
Thursday 3rd September - Thursday 22nd October

Autumn Term 2
Monday 2nd November - Friday 18th December

Spring Term 1
Tuesday 5th January - Friday 12th February

Spring Term 2
Monday 22nd February - Thursday 25th March

Summer Term 1
Tuesday 13th April - Friday 28th May

Summer Term 2
Monday 7th June - Wednesday 21st July

Freethorpe Primary School