FREETHORPE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Thursday 22nd October 2026



A message from Mrs Andrews and Mrs Collier as we conclude Autumn Term 1

It has been a lovely start to the Autumn Term at Freethorpe, although the mornings and evenings are certainly becoming much chillier and darker as we head into the autumn months!

Children from Reception to Year 6 have been exploring a range of learning opportunities linked to our Roman topic. One of the highlights was our fantastic Roman Day, which brought history to life for the children and gave them an exciting opportunity to immerse themselves in Roman life. The children were incredibly lucky to experience this, and they are still talking about it weeks later! A huge thank you to Mrs Short for organising such a memorable experience and to the Friends of Freethorpe for their generous financial contribution, which ensured that every child could take part.

We have also enjoyed welcoming families into school for our class parent events, where parents and carers have joined children in activities linked to creative writing, art, phonics and reading. It has been wonderful to see so many families engaging with their children's learning, and we hope our Show and Share assemblies will be equally popular. Kingfishers kicked off this term's assemblies last week, confidently sharing their knowledge of Roman structures, roads and armies. We look forward to seeing the other classes showcase their learning over the coming weeks.

Our Head Boy, Head Girl and other pupil leaders have also been busy helping to organise and support some fantastic events this half term. These have included our Macmillan Coffee Morning, Harvest Soup and Bread event, and Harvest food donations. We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm, kindness and responsibility our pupils have shown in supporting these events and contributing positively to our school community.

Since the start of the academic year, we have introduced a weekly behaviour focus to help ensure that low-level behaviours are managed consistently and that learning time is protected. Next half term, we will continue this work with a particular focus on respect. This means showing respect towards our peers and adults, listening carefully, making kind choices and taking care of the resources and environment around us. These small, everyday actions make a significant difference to the experience of everyone in our school. We would really appreciate your support in reinforcing these messages at home, helping us to ensure that all children can learn, feel safe and enjoy their time at Freethorpe.

Looking ahead to next term, the children will continue their Roman learning, with a sprinkle of Bonfire Night celebrations and Christmas festivities along the way! Further information about our EYFS and KS1 Nativity and KS2 Halvergate performances will be shared shortly after the October half-term break. We are already looking forward to another busy and exciting term.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and for being such an important part of our school community.

We wish all our families a lovely, restful and safe half term. We look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for another fantastic term at Freethorpe!





These are the four main rivers that make up the northern and central network of the Norfolk Broads. These are also our house names.









NURSERY/PRESCHOOL

ROBIN



A message from Robin class adults

Robin Class have been making the most of the Autumn sunshine. We have enjoyed exploring the outside area. We practised den building and making pictures using leaves, conkers and acorns which we found in our garden area.

Everyone took part in making a large 'Darren' the squirrel picture for our display board, and have been adding leaf printing, hedgehogs and pumpkins.

All the children have settled well into preschool and are getting used to our routines. They all love to be the daily 'Handy Helper', who is responsible for ringing the bells at snack/circle times, helping to set the table for snacktime, and leading the way at tidy up time.

We are beginning our Family week next week, so please email Karen your family photos to be displayed in preschool. The children really enjoy looking at the pictures with their friends talking about their families.

With the colder weather approaching, remember to bring in a coat for your children, ensuring it is named.

Don't forget to check out Freethorpe Preschool facebook page to see all the exciting things we are doing in Robin Class. This is different from the main school page.







RECEPTION/Y1

GOLDFINCH



A message from our adults in Goldfinch class

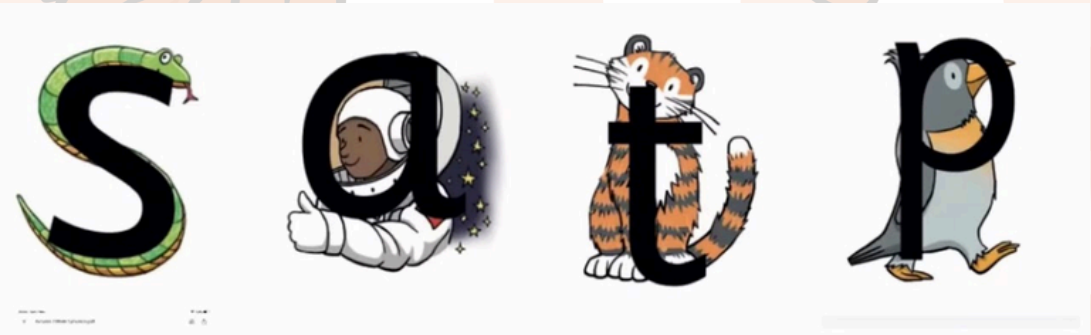
Goldfinch Class have made a brilliant start to the school year, and it has been lovely to see how well the children have settled into their new routines and learning. They have been working hard and embracing all the exciting learning opportunities Year R and Year 1 have to offer!

The children have made a fantastic start with their phonics learning. Our Year R children have been learning to recognise and say the individual sounds from Phase 2, as well as developing their early reading skills by blending sounds to read words and segmenting words orally. Our Year 1 children have been busy recapping the sounds they learnt in Year R and are now moving on to learning alternative digraphs. This is an important step in developing their reading and spelling skills. It has been wonderful to see the support you are providing at home with phonics and home learning. Thank you for your continued encouragement and involvement – it makes such a difference!

Please aim to hear your child read their Little Wandle reading book regularly. The children practise reading these books in small groups at school before bringing them home. Reading the same book at home to you the following week is incredibly valuable, as it helps to build fluency, confidence and expression. Repeated reading allows children to become more familiar with the words and apply their phonics knowledge with increasing independence.

Your child will also bring home a reading-for-pleasure book. These books are chosen to encourage a love of reading and can be enjoyed together by sharing the pictures, talking about the story and making predictions. These books are not always fully decodable, so please feel free to read them to your child and enjoy the experience together.

Letter formation will continue to be an ongoing focus throughout the term. Regular practice will help the children develop accuracy and confidence as they learn to form their letters correctly. Please use the letter-formation resources sent home to support this learning and encourage your child to take their time, focusing on the correct starting point and direction for each letter.



RECEPTION/Y1

GOLDFINCH

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We have had a wonderful time exploring lots of exciting topics this half term. We have been learning all about the Romans and their fascinating empire. The children have enjoyed creating their own mosaics, designing Roman shields and discovering more about Roman buildings and structures as they have explored life in Roman times.

As the seasons have changed, we have enjoyed going on Autumn discovery walks, looking carefully at the natural world around us and collecting interesting leaves and other autumn treasures. The children particularly loved using the leaves they collected to create their own Harvest crowns, celebrating the season through their creations.
We do love to use our outdoor areas, whatever the weather, so please do leave a pair of wellies under your child's peg especially as the wetter weather looms.

In Science and Understanding the World, we have been exploring different materials and investigating their properties. One of our favourite activities was our ice-melting experiments! The children loved observing what happened to the ice, sharing their ideas and discovering how materials can change.







Y1/Y2

BARN OWLS

A message from staff working in Barn Owl class

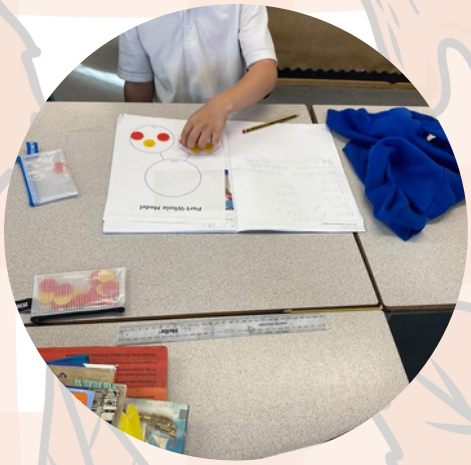
The children have settled in brilliantly and adapted so well to the more formal routines of our Year 1 and 2 classroom. It has been lovely to see them growing in confidence and embracing all the new challenges this term has brought.

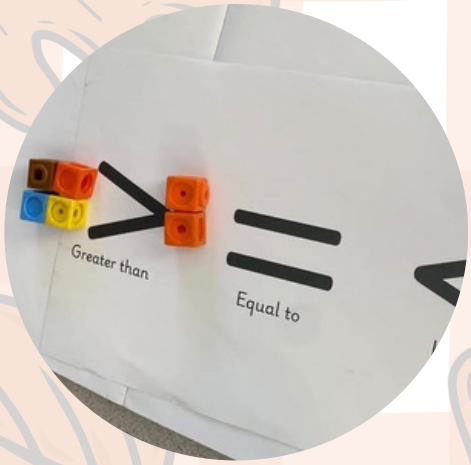
Phonics has been a real highlight. The Year 2 children have been working hard on their spellings, with many practising these at home too. Meanwhile, our Year 1 children are becoming experts at blending sounds and reading tricky words – which they are often very pleased to tell me are actually "really easy"!

In Maths, we began the term by exploring place value before moving on to comparing numbers and partitioning in preparation for addition and subtraction. The children are becoming increasingly confident using practical resources and manipulatives to support their learning and help them develop a secure understanding of new concepts. We also have short sessions where we have been practising subitising and breaking down numbers to find their parts. This supports children to develop a strong number sense and helps them to develop confidence and flexibility in number. We have also practised using our newest learning tool The Rekenrek.

In English, our focus has been on handwriting, letter formation and constructing simple sentences. We have been using our Fab Four to help us remember the key ingredients of a good sentence: capital letters, finger spaces, correct punctuation and careful letter formation. We have also explored nouns, adjectives and verbs to help us make our sentences more interesting.







Y1/Y2

BARN OWLS

... continued



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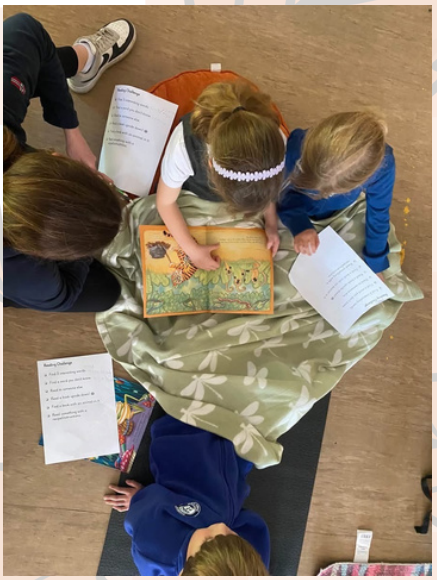


The children have loved taking home Chuckles the Reading Owl and sharing their adventures together! Alongside this, they enjoy guided reading sessions three times a week and bring home the book they have been reading. They also choose a reading-for-pleasure book, which is simply a book to enjoy and share with you at home – it doesn't need to be at their current reading level so don't worry if they aren't able to decode it fully.

Sharing books together is hugely beneficial, even if you are simply chatting about the pictures. In the children's homework books, you will find a reading tracker, and we would encourage you to aim to share a book with your child at least three times a week. Don't worry if you find yourselves reading the same book over and over again; repetition is wonderful for developing confidence and language. Nor does it matter what type of book you choose. Some children love a good story, others enjoy rhymes and poems, while some prefer discovering fascinating facts. The most important thing is to enjoy reading together!



Our Topic this term has been The Romans, and the children have thoroughly enjoyed bringing history to life. They have created colourful mosaics and Roman shields, as well as designing and building their own Roman settlements and roads. Their enthusiasm really came alive during our whole-school Roman Day! The children had the chance to march in formation, experience a dramatic attack by the Celts, take part in Roman camp life and even sample some Roman stew. It was a fantastic day, full of excitement and memorable learning experiences.

Y3

SWALLOWS



A message from adults working in Swallow class

Year 3 have had a fantastic half term full of exciting learning, with our topic taking us back in time to discover the fascinating world of the Romans!

We began by exploring why the Romans wanted to invade Britain, discovering that our island was rich in valuable natural resources such as iron, tin and lead. We then investigated what the Romans brought to Britain, including roads, towns, baths, aqueducts and new ways of organising life. We learnt about the lives of Roman soldiers and explored the different roles within the Roman army, including auxiliaries and centurions, as well as finding out about the gladiators who fought for entertainment.

One of the highlights of our half term was our whole-school Roman Day, when we were incredibly lucky to welcome our very own Roman soldier! He set up a Roman camp on our field and brought history to life. We learnt about military formations used in battle, including the famous tortoise, and practised marching like a Roman legion. We even sampled some of the soup and bread that Roman soldiers might have eaten. The children also enjoyed writing on wax tablets and trying out board games that were popular in Roman times.

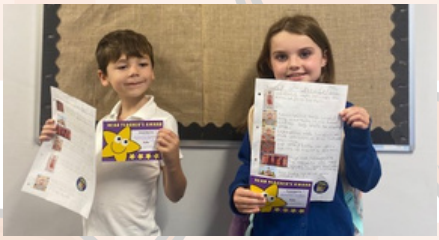
Our Roman learning continued in art, where we investigated the colours, patterns and symbols used on Roman shields. We then designed and created our own shields, which we were very proud to use on Roman Day!

In English, we put ourselves in the position of Roman explorers and wrote letters to Julius Caesar in Rome, explaining why Britain would be a wonderful island to invade! We have also been working hard to improve our joined handwriting and take greater care with the presentation of our work. National Poetry Day was another highlight, as we wrote our own colourful poems inspired by Red by Mary O'Neill. Our favourite poem to listen to was Michael Rosen's wonderfully entertaining Chocolate Cake! During our Family Café, we shared our love of poetry through The Dictionary Bird and made our own colourful dictionary birds, with a different word written on each feather.

In maths, we have been developing our understanding of place value and practising different methods for adding and subtracting three-digit numbers. We are now exploring multiplication, focusing on the relationship between the 2 and 4 times tables. Our weekly Thursday arithmetic assessments are helping us to build our speed, accuracy and confidence, and it is lovely to see the progress we are making each week.

Y3

SWALLOWS



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We have also enjoyed plenty of practical learning. On Mondays, we have been playing invasion games on the field, while Wednesdays have brought our cross-country running sessions in preparation for next week's cluster running event. Every Thursday, we look forward to visiting our forest area, where we have been building dens, collecting apples and planting bulbs. It has been wonderful to see the children working together, exploring the outdoors and making the most of our school grounds.

Across the wider curriculum, we have been developing our computing skills by learning to use word-processing software on laptops, ready to type and edit our own work. In PSHE, we have explored how to keep ourselves safe at home, on roads and railways, and in and around water. Science has taken us on a journey through forces and friction, as well as dental health. We even predicted what might happen to eggshells when left in different liquids, including water, milk and Pepsi, to investigate the effects of different drinks on our teeth!

Finally, our music lessons have been filled with wonderful autumn songs, which the children sang beautifully during our Harvest Festival assembly with Rev. Greenland.

We are incredibly proud of Year 3's enthusiasm, curiosity and growing confidence across all areas of the curriculum. We look forward to another exciting half term of learning and discovery!









Y4/Y5

BUZZARDS



A message from our adults in Buzzard class

What a fantastic start to the year we have had in Buzzard Class! We have been working incredibly hard across all our subjects, showing enthusiasm, curiosity and a brilliant attitude towards our learning.

We have been diving into the fascinating world of Ancient Rome through our English lessons. We have been developing our persuasive writing skills by writing letters to the Roman Emperor, arguing for or against the invasion of Britain from the point of view of a senator or councillor. We have also been writing information reports about Rome's impressive infrastructure, exploring how roads, towns and cities, settlements, ports and forts all worked together to help the Roman Empire grow and thrive. Throughout both units, we have worked hard to develop our spelling, punctuation and grammar, using a range of writing techniques, including cause-and-effect sentences, expanded noun phrases and rhetorical questions. We are becoming increasingly confident writers!

In Maths, we have been working with numbers up to 10,000. We have practised ordering numbers from greatest to smallest, strengthening our addition and subtraction skills, and rounding numbers to the nearest 10, 100 and 1,000. Times tables have also been a big focus! We have started by revisiting our 2 and 4 times tables, using games and activities to build our speed and confidence. We will continue working our way through all the times tables up to 12 throughout the year. A huge thank you to all the parents and carers who joined us for our wonderful Parent Café afternoon. It was lovely to see so many of you getting involved, and the parents versus children times tables game was a definite highlight!





In PE, we have been developing our skills through a variety of invasion games, focusing on teamwork, communication and working together to achieve a shared goal. We have also been building our cross-country skills, with lots of jogging and running to help improve our stamina, fitness and resilience. Our Year 5 children are also looking forward to an exciting swimming unit next half term, where they will have the opportunity to develop their swimming skills and confidence!

Y4/Y5

BUZZARDS



... continued

In Science, we have been exploring forces and friction, investigating how these affect the way objects move. We are looking forward to our next science unit, where we will be getting the magnets out and exploring the exciting world of magnetism!

In PSHE, we have had some important discussions about keeping ourselves safe, both in and out of school. Together, we agreed on our key class rule: "Treat others the way we would like to be treated." We have also identified our trusted adults and discussed who we can turn to when we need help. We have spent time thinking about our mental health and the different ways we can look after ourselves, including keeping active, getting plenty of rest, spending time with friends and family, talking to someone we trust and doing things we enjoy. We have reminded ourselves that it is okay not to be okay, and it is always okay to ask for help.

Our Ancient Rome topic has continued to capture our imaginations! We have created Roman shields, maps and drawings to bring our learning to life and help us understand more about this fascinating period in history. In Music, we have been exploring musical storytelling and discovering how different instruments, including string instruments, flutes and trumpets, can help bring characters and stories to life. We have also been busy practising a variety of songs in preparation for the Harvest Festival.

Finally, a huge thank you for all the wonderful donations for the Harvest Festival. Your generosity and support are very much appreciated! We are incredibly proud of the hard work and enthusiasm Buzzard Class have shown so far this school year. We look forward to another exciting half term full of learning, laughter and new discoveries!







Y5/Y6

KINGFISHER



A message from staff working in Kingfisher class

It has been a busy and exciting half term for Kingfisher Class, with lots of wonderful learning taking place across the curriculum. We would also like to take this opportunity to recognise the resilience our children have shown during a period of significant change. We understand that the start of this academic year has brought uncertainty and changes to routines, particularly for our Year 6 pupils as they begin their final year at Freethorpe. Thank you to our children and families for your patience and understanding while we have worked through the recruitment process and circumstances outside of our control. Miss Hothersall has been getting to know her new class well, and we look forward to Miss Goodson joining the team in January. In the meantime, Mr Smith will continue to teach Kingfisher Class on Thursdays and Fridays, with Miss Murphy supporting the children every day.

Our Ancient Rome topic has continued to capture our imaginations! We have created Roman shields, maps and drawings to bring our learning to life and help us understand more about this fascinating period in history. One of the highlights was our Roman Day, where we tried Roman-inspired foods, formed a testudo battle formation and explored Roman settlements. We also enjoyed sharing our topic learning during our Show and Share assembly. Thank you to all the families who were able to attend and celebrate the children's hard work with us.

In English, we have continued to explore the fascinating world of Ancient Rome while developing our writing skills. We wrote persuasive letters to the Roman Emperor, arguing for or against the invasion of Britain from the perspective of a Roman senator or councillor. We also produced information reports about Rome's impressive infrastructure, exploring how roads, towns, cities, settlements, ports and forts helped the Roman Empire grow and thrive. Across all of these units pupils have been taking onboard constructive feedback to further develop their handwriting and presentation.

Y5/Y6

KINGFISHER

A message from staff working in Kingfisher class

In Maths, we have been exploring place value, developing our understanding of the value of digits and working out missing digits and values. We have also been strengthening our addition and subtraction skills, choosing appropriate strategies to solve problems mentally and using written calculations when needed.

In Science, we have been investigating forces and friction and exploring how these affect the way objects move. We particularly enjoyed designing and making parachutes, testing and improving our designs to discover which would fall most slowly and safely. This gave us a fantastic opportunity to apply our scientific thinking, make predictions and learn from our investigations.



In PE, we have been developing our skills through a variety of invasion games, focusing on teamwork, communication and working together towards a shared goal. We have also been building our cross-country running skills, improving our stamina, fitness and resilience with plenty of jogging and running. Our Year 6 pupils have now completed their weekly swimming sessions, and we look forward to our Year 5 pupils taking part next half term.

Well done, Kingfishers, for your hard work, adaptability and enthusiasm throughout this half term. We are proud of the way you have continued to embrace your learning, support one another and show resilience through change. We look forward to another exciting half term together!





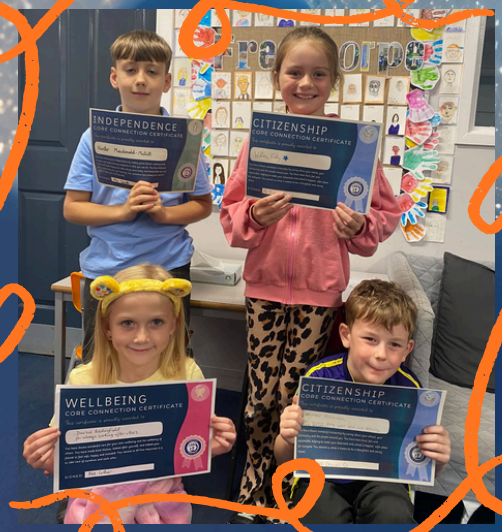
Well Done!

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 share their achievements with the whole school. Many pupils have received Head of School awards and stickers in recognition of their exemplary effort, positive attitudes and fantastic work.

Children can also earn house points and Freethorpe Francs, which they can spend in our school shop, by following our three school rules: Act Kindly, Include Everyone and Make Good Choices. Each week, we also have a specific behaviour focus to help reinforce our expectations and encourage positive choices. Recent focuses have included walking safely, keeping empty hands, putting hands up for silence and responding respectfully.

At the end of this term, six families will be invited to attend a special assembly to celebrate their child receiving a 'Sustained Effort and Improvement' award. These awards recognise children who have demonstrated consistent effort, perseverance and progress over time. If your child is selected to receive an award, we will contact you one week before the assembly to invite you to join us in celebrating their achievement.





Year 1, 2, 3 & 4 boys returned from Cross Country as winners!!

EVENTS IN AUTUMN TERM 2



NOVEMBER

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

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

Tues 10th & Thurs 12th: Parent's Evenings

Weds 11th: Remembrance Day

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

Mon 1st: Dress up for the first day of advent and donate a festive raffle prize! *These donations will create luxury hampers to be won later in the month.*

Mon 7th: Y5 swimming

Thurs 10th: Toy Swap donations to the school office.

Fri 11th: PTFA Christmas Event:

- 2.45pm - Toy Swap in the school hall
- 3.30pm: Carols, mince pies and festive punch around the Christmas tree and luxury festive hampers to be won!

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

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

Weds 16th: Christmas Dinner Day!

Thurs 17th (time TBC): KS2 Halvergate

Fri 18th: Christmas-themed non-uniform day. £1 donations to the PTA fundraiser.

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

