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No. 10

School Newsletter

June 2026

Message from Miss Spark

This week has brought with it some exceptionally high temperatures, and I would like to begin by thanking all of our parents and carers for your understanding and support during this period. We never like to reduce the amount of time that children spend in school; every moment of learning is precious. However, the extreme heat has presented exceptional circumstances, and the wellbeing of our children has, of course, remained our highest priority. I am incredibly grateful for your cooperation as we adapted our routines. I would also like to extend a sincere thank you to our dedicated staff team, who have worked tirelessly to ensure that children continued to enjoy their time in school, with engaging activities and thoughtful measures to keep everyone as cool and comfortable as possible.

June has certainly been an eventful and vibrant month at Freegrounds Junior School. We began with a Sports Day that very nearly fell victim to unpredictable weather conditions, only to end the month in the midst of a heatwave—showing just how varied the British summer can be!

One thing is certain: football fever has well and truly gripped Freegrounds! Our very own Freegrounds World Cup has been in full swing, complete with well-timed hydration breaks. The atmosphere around the school has been fantastic—filled with flag waving, enthusiastic chants, drums, and some rather creative fancy wigs... and that's just been the staff! It has been a joy to see the children participating in mixed-age teams, supporting one another and demonstrating excellent sportsmanship. The competition has provided a fun and memorable way of celebrating the wider world cup excitement, while strengthening our school community spirit.

Despite the focus on football and the challenges of the heat, learning has very much continued across the school. Year 3 have thoroughly enjoyed stepping back in time to learn about the Romans, exploring everything from their fascinating foods to deciding whether their own tastes would match those of Roman families! Their recent visit to Fort Nelson brought their learning to life, and the children had a wonderful day exploring and discovering even more about the past.

In Year 4, the children have been immersed in all things bug-related, showing great curiosity and enthusiasm. I was fortunate enough to observe some of their fascinating investigations into digestion—a real highlight that showcased their scientific thinking and teamwork.

Year 5 have delved deeply into the world of the Ancient Greeks, becoming true experts as they explored how this remarkable civilisation continues to influence our lives today. Alongside this, they have also produced some wonderful clay work, demonstrating both creativity and skill.

In Year 6, I have been absolutely wowed by the imagination and innovation on display in their DT fairground projects. From spinning burgers to floating boats and a variety of other ingenious creations, the children have truly impressed me with their design thinking and craftsmanship. In addition, the school has been filled with the uplifting sound of their singing as they rehearse—bringing a real sense of energy and excitement to the end of the year.

I would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all members of our PTA and the wider community who supported our Summer Fair on Saturday. Freegrounds Fest was a tremendous success, and it was wonderful to see so many families coming together to celebrate. Events like this are such an important part of our school community, and your ongoing support makes them possible.

This week has also marked an important milestone with our transition day. We were delighted to welcome our new Year 2 pupils into the school, and to support all of our children as they begin to prepare for their move into new classes and new adventures. It is always a special moment in the school calendar, and it has been lovely to see the excitement and positivity shown by everyone involved.

As we move ever closer to the end of the school year, it is inspiring to see that the enthusiasm for learning continues to shine so brightly across Freegrounds. Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support—it makes such a difference to our school community.

Staffing Update

As we approach the end of another successful academic year, we are preparing to say farewell to two highly valued members of our teaching team.

Firstly, Miss Cockram, who has been a member of staff at Freegrounds for the past five years, will be leaving us to take up an exciting new role at Luminous Oaks, the new SEMH school opening in Boorley Park. Miss Cockram began her teaching career at Freegrounds and has flourished into a compassionate, dedicated, and highly skilled teacher. As a successful Year 3 and Year 4 class teacher, Miss Cockram has made a lasting impact on many pupils. She has also shared her passion for children's mental health and wellbeing, playing a pivotal role in developing our PSHE curriculum, our Empowerment Approach Brain Fit lessons, and leading our Wellbeing Champions pupil group. We are incredibly grateful for her contribution to our school community and wish her every success in her new role. Luminous Oaks is very fortunate to have her.

We also say a fond farewell to Mrs Husselbee, who has served as a Year Leader at Freegrounds for the past three years. As Science Lead, Mrs Husselbee has transformed the subject across the school, creating exciting opportunities for pupils to engage in hands-on, practical learning. Through her dedication to celebrating British Science Week and organising regular STEM visitors, she has inspired curiosity and enthusiasm for science throughout the school. The energy, creativity, and fun that Mrs Husselbee has brought to Freegrounds have been invaluable—not to mention her iconic lab coat, which will be remembered fondly by pupils and staff alike! We are also extremely grateful for her commitment to developing colleagues, including mentoring teacher training students and Early Career Teachers. As she takes a step back from teaching, we wish her every happiness and success in the future.

Looking ahead, we are delighted to welcome Miss Thomas to the Freegrounds team. Miss Thomas joins us from a local school and will take on the role of Year 3 Lead from September. She has already begun her transition into the role and is enjoying getting to know both pupils and staff. We are excited to have her join our school community.

We are also pleased to welcome Mrs Durack back from maternity leave in September. Mrs Durack has already begun making regular visits to school as part of her preparation for the new academic year, and we look forward to having her back with us.

Please see the staffing for each year group below:

Year 3

Elm– Miss Thomas (Year Lead)

Ash– Miss Brightwell

Oak– Miss Barrett

LSA team– Mrs Bhakta, Mrs Cranston and Miss Whettingsteel,

Year 4

Pine– Mrs Durack (Year Lead)

Beech– Miss Wood

LSA team– Miss Cooper, Mrs Godden and Mrs Rust

Year 5

Larch– Miss Scott (Year Lead)

Willow– Mrs Rident/Mrs Parsons

Cedar– Miss Clarke

LSA team– Mrs Bellows, Miss Chun and Mrs Smith

Year 6

Juniper– Mrs Coe (Year Lead)

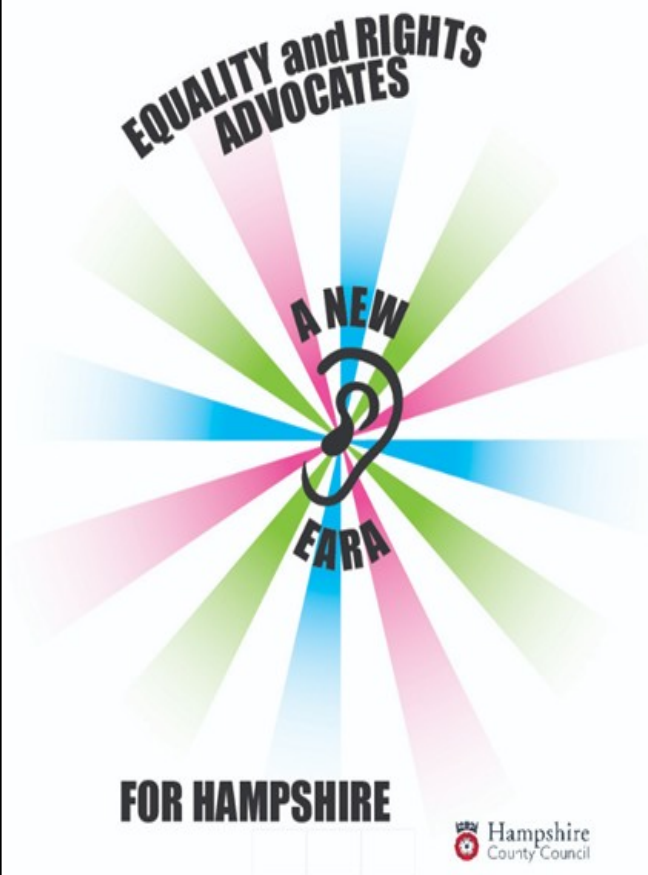
Sycamore– Miss Hedges

LSA team– Mrs Humphry, Mrs Kitcher and Mrs Wheeler-Bailey

Mrs Stewart will be working across all year groups as our new HLTA.

Miss Timms continues her maternity leave into next academic year.

EARA group



In the Spring term, our school became part of the **Inclusion and Diversity Partnership (IDP)**. The IDP focuses on equality and diversity, aiming to help schools become places where everyone genuinely feels they belong. Through this work, children develop a strong, positive sense of self and learn to appreciate both their own and others' uniqueness and identity.

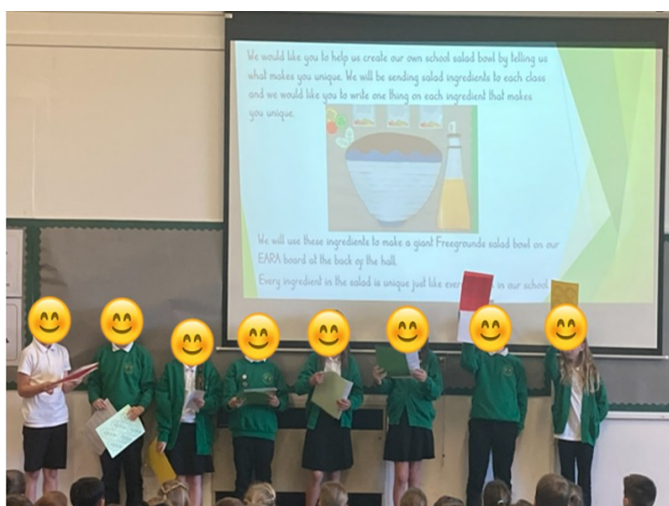
As part of this, we set up our own **EARA group**. EARA stands for **Equality and Rights Advocates**. The aim of the group is to make sure everyone feels an equal and valued part of our school community. Our EARA members are committed to helping our school be fair, inclusive and respectful of everyone's rights. They also promote both **equity** and **equality**, acting as advocates for all pupils across the school.

Children in Year 5 were invited to apply for the role of Equality and Rights Advocate, and we were delighted by the number of thoughtful applications we received. From these, eight pupils were selected to become the founding members of our EARA group.

Since the Spring term, they have been extremely busy. They have attended two meetings with EARA groups from schools across the Winchester and Eastleigh area, sharing ideas and learning from one another. They have also led several whole-school assemblies, including one on the theme of **what makes us unique**, which inspired a wonderful "school salad bowl" display celebrating the diversity within our school community.

Behind the scenes, the group has carried out learning walks and pupil interviews, giving them the chance to evaluate the culture and ethos of our school using feedback from their peers. We will use their findings to help shape our actions and priorities for the next academic year.

Looking ahead, we hope to expand the EARA group to include pupils from other year groups, ensuring even more children have the opportunity to take part.



Year 3

It has been another busy and exciting month in Year 3, with lots of fantastic learning taking place across the curriculum. The children have continued to impress us with their enthusiasm, curiosity and positive attitudes towards learning, and we are incredibly proud of all they have achieved so far this year.

Our highlight this month was our wonderful trip to Fort Nelson as part of our History learning on the Romans. During the workshop, the children had the opportunity to explore a range of Roman artefacts and learn more about why the Romans invaded Britain. They became historians for the day, discussing and debating what they believed to be the most significant contribution the Romans brought to Britain and supporting their opinions with evidence. The children also had the chance to examine Roman armour and equipment, learn about the role of Roman soldiers and practise a variety of Roman marching formations. One of the most memorable parts of the day was attending a Celtic feast, which helped us compare life in Britain before and after the Roman invasion. We would also like to say a huge thank you to our parent volunteers for helping to make the day such a success.

Back in the classroom, we have continued our Roman topic and the children have thoroughly enjoyed developing their historical knowledge. They have explored Roman life, achievements and legacy, while developing important historical skills such as questioning, reasoning and evaluating evidence. In English, we have been linking our learning closely to our History topic. The children had the exciting opportunity to sample a selection of Roman foods and use their experiences to inspire their final piece of writing: a one star review of a Roman tavern. They have worked hard to include ambitious vocabulary and detailed descriptions to bring their reviews to life.

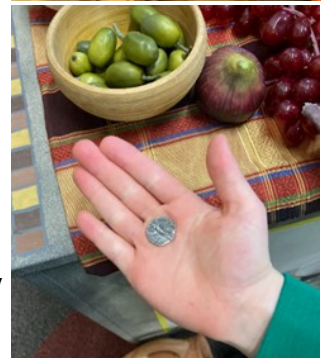
In Science, we have been investigating the topic of Light through a range of practical and engaging activities. One of the children's favourite lessons involved creating dens to explore how light travels and how shadows are formed. We have also investigated reflective and transparent materials, discussed how we see objects and explored how different surfaces interact with light. The children have shown great enthusiasm during investigations and have developed their scientific enquiry skills by making predictions, observations and conclusions.



In Maths, we have been focusing on telling the time. Using a variety of practical resources, including clocks and hands on activities, the children have been developing their understanding of analogue and digital time. They have worked hard to read times accurately, solve time related problems and apply their learning to real life situations.

In PE, we have been enjoying our golf and athletics units. The children have loved making use of the field and running track while developing a range of physical skills. In golf, they have been practising control, accuracy and coordination, while in athletics they have been developing their running, jumping and throwing techniques. It has been wonderful to see the children encouraging one another, showing resilience and striving to improve their personal bests.

As we move into our final few weeks together, it is hard to believe that Year 3 is coming to an end. The children have worked incredibly hard throughout the year and should be very proud of all they have achieved. We are looking forward to an exciting final few weeks of the half term!



Year 4



In Year 4 this month we have been continuing our work with our 'All Creatures Great and Small' topic. For this we have been studying the life cycle of a butterfly with our own class caterpillars. We have enjoyed watching them grow from tiny caterpillars and metamorphosing into their chrysalides. We are all extremely excited for them to hatch into butterflies.

We have been busy in English, researching the life cycle of our caterpillars and writing a Google classroom entry so that we can share with our parents and carers their progress. We have ensured to use good conjunctions and adverbials, along with high level vocabulary and the correct use of the possessive apostrophe to write about how our caterpillars are doing. Watch out on Google classroom for our exciting updates in the coming weeks.

We have just finished our science learning on digestion which culminated in a very hands-on, sticky challenge of making a model of the human digestive system using biscuits, juices and an old pair of tights! Children learnt how the human body digests food, breaks it down, takes out all the nutrients and gets rid of the waste. It was a fun way to end the unit and bring all our learning together.



We have been having a very relaxing time in PE this term as we learn how to do yoga. We have learnt several poses already and we are beginning to flow between them. Some children have found this incredibly hard and we can really see the progress from lesson to lesson as they gain more control and flexibility in their bodies. So far, we have practiced forward fold, cat, cow, child's pose, down dog and cobra. Maybe ask your child to teach you some!



Year 5

Year 5 have been enjoying their Ancient Greeks topic this half term. In history, we have been learning about the legacy of the Ancient Greeks and the things that they are famous for. In small groups we have been putting presentations together around politics, language, architecture, Olympics, theatre, ideas and beliefs and knowledge. We are hoping this information will help us write our scripts for our upcoming computing unit where we will create videos around an element of Ancient Greek life.

Continuing with our understanding of Greek legacy, we have been designing our own Greek pots, we have experimented with small bits of clay to make small pots in different styles before committing to a final design we will make next week. We have studied the different design features of pots and tried to replicate them in our own work. Which do you prefer, gold on black or black on orange?



In addition to our topic, year 5 have been busy learning the songs they will perform at Fareham live next week. We are proud of the effort they have put in and the way they have improved each time they have practiced. The children have also been attending their weekly swimming sessions, where they have been learning a variety of strokes, techniques and water safety. Again, every child has shown resilience and a desire to improve and shown adaptability to work with different adults, to learn from experts and ensure the lessons run smoothly.

Little Princess Trust Charity Fundraiser

The Little Princess Trust provides wigs to children to help restore their confidence and identity. All costs, including the making, fitting, and styling of the wig, are met by the charity, and this free service is available to any young person up to the age of 24 with hair loss. As part of its Hair and Hope mission, The Little Princess Trust also funds childhood cancer research aiming to find kinder and more effective treatments. Let's raise £1,400 for two superheros to have a beautiful new wig.



River, one of our Year 4 pupils, would like to donate 12 inches of her hair to help fundraise for children living with cancer. If you would like to support her in this selfless act to bring a smile to a young persons face, please donate using the QR code or the following link: [River's fundraising page is fundraising for Little Princess Trust](#)

Well done River, we are very proud of you!



Year 6

This half term has already been a busy and exciting one for Year 6!

In DT, the children have been designing and building their own rotating fairground rides using horizontal or vertical axles, each inspired by a themed area of a theme park. They have shown great creativity in their designs and excellent teamwork throughout the process. From constructing wooden frames to carefully decorating their rides, they have worked hard to bring their imaginative ideas to life.



In Science, the children took part in an engaging “murder investigation” using chromatography. They explored how different inks can be separated to reveal clues about which pen was used to write a note. The pupils approached this activity with real curiosity and enthusiasm, asking thoughtful questions and developing their investigative skills while thoroughly enjoying the challenge of solving the mystery.

Meanwhile, rehearsals for our production of *We Will Rock You* are well underway. The children have been working incredibly hard to learn their lines, songs, and stage directions. It has been wonderful to see their confidence grow with each rehearsal, as well as the energy and commitment they are bringing to the performance. We are sure it is going to be a fantastic show and look forward to sharing it with you soon!

Tickets are now on sale and can be purchased via Ticket Source using the following link or QR code:

<https://www.ticketsource.com/friends-of-freegrounds-junior-school>



Please note, we are only allowing a total of 4 tickets per Year 6 pupil to begin with, this is to ensure that we have enough tickets for each family.

FoFJS Summer Fair

We are pleased to announce that thanks to our wonderful PTA and community volunteers, this year's Summer Fair raised £2390. This figure will make a fantastic difference to our pupils. Thank you to everybody who came and showed their support.

We would like to extend our thanks to the infant school PTA too. It was a super day filled with fabulous community spirit.



MUSICAL MONDAYS



ICE CREAMS
FOR ONLY

£1



AT THE SCHOOL GATE
AT THE END OF THE DAY
ON MONDAYS!



PLEASE BRING CASH

RAISING FUNDS FOR OUR
PRODUCTION OF

WE WILL
ROCK
& YOU

young@part®

Diary Dates

Monday 29th June– **INSET DAY**

Tuesday 30th June– Hawthorn Fab finish 2:30pm

Wednesday 1st July– Sycamore Fab finish 2:30pm

Thursday 2nd July– Juniper Fab finish 2:30pm

Thursday 2nd July– FSW Year 2 parent coffee morning 9am

Monday 13th July– Year 6 Production 6:30pm

Tuesday 14th July– Year 6 Production 6:30pm

Wednesday 15th July– Year 6 Production 6:30pm

Wednesday 15th July (pm)– Rock to the Beat concerts (Bands 1, 2 and 3 at 2:00pm)
(Bands 4, 5 and 6 at 2:30pm)

Tuesday 21st July– Year 6 Leavers Party (5:00pm-6:30pm)

Wednesday 22nd July– Year 6 Leavers assembly for parents– (2:30pm)

Wednesday 22nd July– **LAST DAY OF TERM**

Thursday 23rd July—Monday 31st August– **SUMMER HOLIDAYS**

Tuesday 1st September 2026– **INSET DAY**

Wednesday 2nd September 2026– **RETURN TO SCHOOL**

Parking reminder

We would like to remind all parents, carers, and members of the local community that **vehicles are not permitted to drive down School Lane between 8:30am–8:50am and 3:10pm–3:30pm.**

These times are particularly busy with children and families travelling to and from the infant and junior schools, and we have a duty to ensure everyone's safety.

We would also like to politely request that parents and carers are considerate of local residents when dropping off and picking up from school. We have had several reported incidents of inconsiderate and often dangerous parking, as well as accidental damage to local residents vehicles. We appreciate that parking can be difficult and would like to thank you in advance for your cooperation with this matter.

PRICE
£3.50*

**GIVE IT
A GO THIS
SUMMER**

EASTLEIGH
ACTIVE

AGES
5-16
YEARS

**Monday 27 July –
Friday 21 August**

Activities include:

**Badminton, Big Sister Sessions, CrossFit, Fishing, Football,
Weightlifting, Pickelball, Reformer Pilates, Rugby,
Sailing, Basketball, Tennis, Swimming, AquaRun
Skatejams and much more...**

BOOK NOW: **EASTLEIGH.GOV.UK/
EASTLEIGHACTIVE**



EASTLEIGH
BOROUGH COUNCIL

 **SportWorks**

*£1 concessions available to residents
receiving qualifying benefits
Activities may be subject to change

PRICE
£3.50*

BE
INSPIRED
THIS SUMMER

EASTLEIGH
ACTIVE

BUILD STRENGTH, SKILLS AND
FRIENDSHIPS THIS SUMMER

AGES
5-16
YEARS

Monday 27 July –
Friday 21 August

**GIRLS ONLY
SESSIONS**

BOOK NOW:
EASTLEIGH.GOV.UK/
EASTLEIGHACTIVE



*£1 concessions available to residents
receiving qualifying benefits
Activities may be subject to change



Hampshire SENDIASS Online Workshops

- Free impartial advice relating to SEND for 0-25 years.
- Confidential sessions not recorded.
- Peer support, talking to others experiencing a similar journey.
- A dedicated session with an experienced support worker

**8
JULY**
13:00

Appeals to SEND Tribunal

A step-by-step guide
through the appeals
process

**9
JULY**
13:30

Responding to a draft
EHCP

If you are in that critical
time frame having
received your draft

**10
JULY**
11:00

Considering an EHC Plan?

Independent and
impartial information to
guide you through the
process

**14
JULY**
13:00

Ordinarily Available
Provision and SEN Support

Looking at support
available for those who do
not have an EHCP

**15
JULY**
10:00

Alternative Provision

What constitutes as a
suitable education in
relation to section 19 of
the education act

**22
JULY**
12:00

Responding to a draft
EHCP

If you are in that critical
time frame having
received your draft

www.hampshiresendiass.co.uk/workshops