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No. 11

School Newsletter

July 2026

Message from Miss Spark

As we reach the end of what has been an incredibly busy and successful term, I have been reflecting on just how much our children have achieved. It has been a real joy to see so many pupils flourish in different ways, whether through their learning, creativity, sporting achievements, performances, leadership opportunities or acts of kindness.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our wider school community for the warm welcome you have given me. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the children, staff and families over the past two terms. It has been a privilege to become part of such a supportive and caring school community, and I am grateful for the kindness and encouragement that has been shown to me since joining Freegrounds.

Children have continued to demonstrate their creativity and artistic talents across the school as we reach the end of term. Year 3 have produced some wonderfully imaginative purses inspired by their Roman topic. I would like to extend my thanks to all the adults who came into school to support the children with their sewing. Year 5 have added the finishing touches to their clay Greek pots, which look particularly impressive.

One of the highlights of my week came when I was invited into the hall by Year 4 children. They had written persuasive letters asking me to increase the number of flowers around our school grounds in order to encourage more pollinating insects. I was impressed by the quality of their writing and the strength of the arguments they presented. As a result of their efforts, you may have noticed some colourful new plant pots appearing around the school grounds.

Year 6 also wowed us all with their fantastic production of *We Will Rock You*. The performances were truly outstanding, and it was a pleasure to see so many children thriving on stage. The confidence, energy and talent on display made for a memorable show that staff, parents and pupils thoroughly enjoyed. We certainly have some stars of the future amongst us!

This time of year always brings mixed emotions as we celebrate achievements while saying goodbye to members of our school family. We would like to wish Mrs Husslebee and Miss Cockram every success as they move on to new opportunities. Both have made a significant and positive contribution to Freegrounds Junior School and will be greatly missed by staff and children alike. We also say farewell to our wonderful Year 6 children. They have been fantastic ambassadors for the school, and we have treasured the time they have spent with us. We are incredibly proud of all they have achieved and wish them every success as they begin their next adventure at secondary school. Alongside these farewells comes the excitement of welcoming new staff and children to Freegrounds in September. We look forward to the opportunities, achievements and experiences that another school year will bring.

Finally, I would like to wish all our children and families a relaxing, safe and fun-filled summer break. Thank you for your continued support throughout the year. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September for another exciting year at Freegrounds Junior School.

Freegrounds Junior School's World Cup tournament

Throughout the FIFA World Cup tournament, we have been holding our own whole school football tournament. Teachers and children were allocated teams at random at the start of the tournament and have worked their way through group matches and the knock out stages across the course of the past month or so. Our very own World Cup table has been on display in the school hall and scores have been updated after each match.

It has been amazing to see such team work, resilience and enthusiasm amongst the children in each team and across the school. Teams were made up from girls and boys from Years 3-6 who put their names forward to be involved. Staff have coached and ref'd the games during break and lunchtimes.

On Friday 17th July, at 9:00am, the whole school gathered on the field to watch the final—England v Scotland. Mrs Blake's and Miss Chun's teams were evenly matched and the game went to extra time and penalties. Scotland were victorious! A huge well done to everybody involved, this has been a fantastic event with superb community spirit on display.



Staffing Update

We would like to say a huge thank you to Miss Williams, who joined the team again this term to cover Juniper class when Miss Timm's started her maternity leave. As before, Miss Williams has been a fantastic addition to our team and we have felt very lucky to have her back. We wish her luck with her next venture and hope to see her again soon.



We are delighted to announce that Mr Cull, our sports coach, has returned to school following his long term injury. Mr Cull started with us early in December, but unfortunately broke his leg badly and has been unable to work until recently. Mr Cull will be continuing with us from September, and we are excited about the positive impact he will have across PE lessons and wider sports opportunities during the next academic year.

Mrs Blake, one of our Assistant Headteachers, has been asked to support at Freegrounds Infant school for two days per week in the Autumn term. As you may be aware, the infant school are currently recruiting for a new Headteacher to start in January, and Mrs Blake will be supporting Miss Holmes (the Infant school Acting Headteacher) each Monday and Tuesday until the new Headteacher starts. She remains committed to us at the Juniors, and will be in school fulfilling her usual roles Wednesday-Friday during this time.

Summer Reading Challenge 2026

The annual Reading Challenge returns to Hampshire Libraries this summer from 11th July.



Participating in the Summer Reading Challenge is a great incentive to keep on reading throughout the school holidays.

Read any six books and tell your local library volunteer about them

Receive a sustainably-produced medal and certificate from your local library for completing the challenge

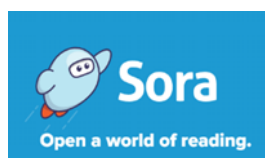
Bring your certificate to school (or email us) by Friday 26th September to enter our prize draw to win a token for our book vending machine (1 token per year group).

Visit your local library or <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/> to sign up.

FREE BOOKS!

As well as accessing free physical books at the library, you can download eBooks and audio books for free using SORA

Our online library, which is provided by Hampshire School Library Service, includes the Sora reading platform. This allows a range of eBooks and audio books to be borrowed free of charge. To access this site, type soraapp.com in your web browser, select Freegrounds Junior School, then log in with your child's Google Classroom details.



Exciting News!

Over the summer, we will be converting one of our spare classrooms into a brand new library. We hope to continue inspiring children to read and promoting a love of reading. It would be great if you could remind children of this exciting development as their return to school approaches. Check out our social media pages for photo updates before the start of term!



Freegrounds Junior School



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We are looking for donations to enhance our manipulative play areas and outdoor learning.



Our community can help make our school a better place with better opportunities for our children to play outside.

Outdoor learning is a key priority for us!



We are looking for:



Logs



Branches for den building



Tyres



Cable drums



Planks



Guttering



Tubing



Metal saucepans, frying pans and utensils for our mud kitchen



Hardwearing crates that can be stood on



Tarpauling



Plastic or metal storage such as Keter storage containers or sheds



A new mud kitchen
(if you are able to build one)



A welly boot stand
(if you are able to build one)



All items must be in a good state of repair.



Together we can create an even better outdoor space for our children!

Thank you for your support!



Year 3

It is hard to believe we have reached the end of another fantastic year! Our final month together has been incredibly busy (and warm!), and the children have continued to impress us with their enthusiasm, resilience and determination right until the very end.



We have completed our exciting Roman topic by reflecting on everything we have learnt throughout the term. The children carefully considered the different reasons why the Romans invaded Britain before creating persuasive posters explaining what they believed was the most significant reason for the invasion. They supported their opinions with historical evidence and also explored the lasting impact the Romans have had on Britain today, from roads and language to towns and laws. It was wonderful to see them using their historical knowledge so confidently and justifying their ideas.

One of the highlights of the month was making our own Roman coin purses. This practical activity really brought our learning to life, and the children were incredibly proud of their finished creations. A huge thank you to all of the parent helpers who gave up their time to support us with this activity. Your help made such a difference, and we are incredibly grateful for your generosity and enthusiasm.

In English, the children had great fun stepping back in time by imagining they had visited a Roman restaurant! They wrote entertaining food reviews, commenting on everything from the service to the unusual Roman menu choices. Their writing was full of humour, ambitious vocabulary and imaginative descriptions, and it was wonderful to see so many children confidently adapting their writing style for a specific audience.

Our science lessons have focused on light and shadows, where the children have carried out a series of investigations to deepen their understanding. They explored how shadows are formed when an opaque object blocks light, preventing it from travelling through. Using scientific equipment, they investigated how changing the position of the light source or the object affected the size, shape and position of the shadow. The children made careful observations, identified patterns in their results and used scientific vocabulary to explain that shadows become larger when an object moves closer to the light source and smaller when it moves further away. They showed excellent enquiry skills by making predictions before testing their ideas.



This month we have been learning all about 3D shapes. The children have identified and described a range of shapes using mathematical vocabulary such as faces, edges and vertices. They also became shape detectives during our 3D shape hunt, spotting examples of cubes, cuboids, cylinders, cones, spheres and pyramids in the real world. It was fantastic to see them making links between their classroom learning and the environment around them.

I would like to say how incredibly proud we are of every child in Year 3. Despite the extremely warm weather over the past few weeks, they have shown remarkable resilience, continued to work hard and maintained such positive attitudes to their learning. Their kindness, enthusiasm and willingness to challenge themselves have made this a truly memorable year. Thank you also to all of our parents and carers for your continued support throughout the year. Your encouragement at home and willingness to help with school events and activities has been greatly appreciated.

It has been an absolute privilege to teach your wonderful children. They have made me laugh every single day, amazed me with their curiosity and kindness, and I know they are more than ready for the exciting challenges of Year 4. We wish you all a happy, relaxing and well-deserved summer holiday!

Year 4

Welcome to our final Year 4 newsletter of the year. We can hardly believe how quickly this year has passed!

Thank you for your continued support throughout the year. Working together has helped us to support and nurture your child, and we very much appreciate everything you have done. It has been a pleasure to watch the children grow in confidence, knowledge and independence over the course of the year.

A highlight of this month has been the release of our class butterflies. They metamorphosised really quickly due to the intense heat that week – some in only two days! So, by the end of the week, we released them into our school grounds. Some were ready to fly and couldn't wait to escape – others needed some persuasion!



When we released our butterflies, we took a walk around the school grounds to see where they would be able to get food and were surprised to see that there are very few flowers for them. This inspired us to write persuasive letters to Miss Spark to ask if she could plant more flowers, leave grass uncut or maybe even create a butterfly garden. She read our letters and wrote a response informing us that she will be purchasing flowers for our school grounds and that we can help her to plant them! We are so excited that we have brought about this important change.

In Art, we have been using minibeasts as inspiration for some fantastic printing. We have experimented with mono-printing, subtractive transfer and block printing and then designed and created a final piece to showcase our skills.



A HUGE THANK YOU



Thank you to everyone for your continued support with all the events this year. What a wonderful amount we've raised for the children and school, thank you.

This academic year we have raised.....



AUTUMN TERM EVENTS: £2470



MARCH EVENTS: £2215



RAINBOW RAFFLE: £353



FATHERS DAY: £464



FREEGROUNDS FEST £2590



PROFITS ROUNDED TO
NEAREST TEN POUND

**THAT'S AN AMAZING TOTAL
OF £8092 THIS YEAR.**

WITH SOME OF THE MONEY RAISED, SCHOOL HAVE PURCHASED A VARIETY OF ITEMS TO ENHANCE PLAYTIMES AND LUNCHTIMES FOR THE CHILDREN, INCLUDING RIDE ON CARS, CHALK BOARDS AND OUTDOOR TABLES AND CHAIRS . THE CHILDREN ARE ALREADY ENJOYING THEM!

WE ARE ALSO DELIGHTED TO BE FUNDING THE END OF YEAR TREAT OF INFLATABLES FOR ALL THE CHILDREN TO ENJOY.



WE WOULD LOVE YOU TO JOIN US, PLEASE GET IN TOUCH BY EMAIL
FOFJS2025@HOTMAIL.COM



Your voice... Your community. Our kids' future.

As we approach the end of another successful year of running fun, memorable events for the children, and raising much needed funds for the school, we need new committee members to join us to continue the great work. Some of our members are stepping down and we won't be able to continue without new members joining us! Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Please email fofjs2025@hotmail.com

Year 5



Last week year 5 had a fantastic trip to Fareham Live. They got to experience a live singer, full orchestra and a jazz band. Throughout the performance they were a fantastic audience, joining in with clapping rhythms, conducting the band and showing appreciation for the musical talent on show. What a fantastic live music opportunity, well done year 5!



We have also been busy concluding our art clay pot unit, after perfecting the shape of their designs we left them to dry out and started to thinking about what patterns and shapes we could decorate them with. Traditionally, Greek pot were painted orange with black outlines or black with gold outlines for a more expensive look. The children followed this concept and produced some beautiful designs – can you spot the intricate patterns in the pictures below?

Using the knowledge gained from our history unit all about Ancient Greeks, the children have spent time writing their own scripts and filming their own 'BBC bitesize' style information clips. It was great to see the children get into different roles and test out their acting skills. Since filming they have also used editing software to add special effects and titles. We have also enjoyed watching each other's final products during our screening afternoon.

We wish Year 5 a fantastic summer and say a huge well done for everything they have achieved this academic year.

End of term treat– Thank you PTA

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our PTA and everybody who has supported them this academic year. They raise vital funds to improve our school and experiences for our children. What a treat the inflatables were at the end of term, a fun and memorable way to end the academic year!



Year 6

It has been another busy and exciting time for our Year 6 pupils as they prepare for the final part of their journey at Freegrounds Junior School. Rehearsals for our production of *We Will Rock You* were in full swing, with the children working hard to learn their lines, songs and choreography. Their performances were a fantastic opportunity to showcase all of their hard work and celebrate their achievements with the school community. They truly gave a performance that Freddie Mercury himself would have been proud of!

The children have also been reflecting on their time at Freegrounds, celebrating the progress they have made over the past four years and sharing some of their favourite memories. It was wonderful to see them create pieces of work that captured their aspirations for the future.

Year 6 have certainly had a memorable journey at Freegrounds Junior School, embracing many opportunities to learn, develop and grow. We wish them every success as they move on to the next exciting chapter!

Key Dates:

Tuesday 21st July @ 5:00—6:30pm- School Y6 Leavers' Party

Wednesday 22nd July @ 2:30pm– Y6 Leavers' Assembly for parents and carers



Message from Family Support Worker

As we reach the end of another wonderful school year, I would like to take a moment to wish our Year 6 children and their families all the very best as they begin the exciting next chapter of their journey. It has been a privilege to get to know so many of you over the years, and I hope you leave Freegrounds Junior School with happy memories, confidence, and the knowledge that you can achieve great things. Thank you for the trust, support, and encouragement you have shown throughout your time with us.

I would also like to say a huge thank you to all the parents and carers who have attended our coffee mornings this year. They have gone from strength to strength, and that is entirely because of your willingness to come along, share your experiences, ask questions, and support one another. Your engagement is making a real difference, and ultimately your children are the ones who benefit most.

Together, we have explored the Empowerment Approach, developing a shared understanding of how we can support children as they navigate life's challenges. By working in partnership and using a consistent approach at home and at school, we are building strong foundations for effective communication, emotional wellbeing, and positive relationships. I hope that as you continue to embrace these ideas, you will see your relation-

Competition



Children's Sustainability Awards 2026 My Favourite Bird

Dear Headteacher/Teacher,

The Sustainability Centre is delighted to support the **Southern Sustainability Partnership Children's Sustainability Awards 2026**, in partnership with Barratt Redrow Homes.

We are inviting primary school children to celebrate nature by creating a painting or drawing of their favourite bird. The competition is open to both individual children and school entries.

Twelve winning artworks will be featured in the Children's Sustainability Awards Calendar, with each winner receiving an award and a framed copy of their artwork. Proceeds from calendar sales will help support The Sustainability Centre's work, inspiring people of all ages to live more sustainably through environmental education and practical learning.

Competition details:

Theme: My Favourite Bird

Who can enter: Primary school-aged children

Entry deadline: 31 July 2026

Winners announced: 31 August 2026

Please send entries to info@southernsustainability.co.uk with the subject Children's Sustainability Awards Entry.

We would be very grateful if you could share this exciting opportunity with your pupils and encourage them to get involved. We look forward to seeing their wonderful artwork celebrating the wildlife around us.

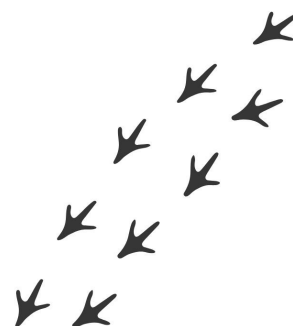
Thank you for your support.

Kind regards,

The Sustainability Centre



www.southernsustainability.co.uk



After School clubs

So many girls from across the school have displayed wonderful confidence and enthusiasm when trying football for the first time during our Freegrounds World Cup matches, we approached ICON and asked them to run a **brand new Girls only football club** after school. Please speak to your child about whether this is something they'd like to try, as there was so much talent and potential on display!



ICON
SPORTS COACHING

**AFTER-SCHOOL
SPORTS CLUBS!**

Autumn Term 2026-2027

Freegrounds Junior School
Aspire • Believe • Achieve



MONDAY – Girls Football After-School Club

YEARS
4–6



14 WEEKS

£84

COST PER TERM

Mon 7th September – Mon 14th December



WEDNESDAY – Multi-Sports After-School Club

YEARS
3–6



14 WEEKS

£84

COST PER TERM

Weds 9th September – Weds 16th December



THURSDAY – Football After-School Club

YEARS
5 & 6



14 WEEKS

£84

COST PER TERM

Thurs 10th September – Thurs 17th December



FRIDAY – Football After-School Club

YEARS
3 & 4



12 WEEKS

£72

COST PER TERM

Fri 11th September – Fri 18th December



ALL AFTER-SCHOOL CLUB SESSIONS RUN 3:20pm–4:20pm
OUTSIDE, or classroom based inside if bad weather.



TO BOOK YOUR CHILD'S PLACE:

**BOOK
NOW!**

1 EMAIL



sam@iconsportscoaching.co.uk

2 INCLUDE



- Child's Name
- Class / Year Group
- Any Medical Conditions
- Parent Name
- Contact Telephone Number

3 RECEIVE CONFIRMATION



You will receive
confirmation of your
booking via email.

★ SPACES ARE LIMITED – BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT! ★

After School clubs– Autumn term

Monday

School choir

Theatre Kidz

Girls Football– ICON

Tuesday

Funky Play Bricks (Lego)

Netball

Wednesday

Multi-sports– ICON

Crafty Crocs (Arts and Crafts)

Thursday

Years 5 and 6 football– ICON

Friday

Years 3 and 4 football– ICON

Tesco grant

We are delighted to announce that from Monday 3rd August until November 2026, you can vote for us in the following Tesco stores by collecting the blue tokens. You will need to make a purchase within store, of any value, and will receive one token per transaction to put in the in-store box.

2156 Burseldon Towers Extra SO31 8GN

5141 Hedge End Tanhouse Lane Express Express SO30 0UG

5618 Hedge End Express Express SO30 2US



The funding we receive will be used to develop forest school provision within our school grounds.

Parent Governor Vacancy

We have a vacancy for a new Parent Governor. Governors play an important role in shaping the direction and sustained improvement of our school. It is important that our governing body is made up of members with a diverse range of experiences and skill sets therefore experience of working in a primary school setting is not required.

If you are interested in the role and want to find out more, please contact our admin team via email at admin@freegrounds-jun.hants.sch.uk.

Diary Dates

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**

Friday 25th-Monday 28th September– Year 6 Little Canada Residential

Wednesday 30th September– Year 4 Southampton Art gallery trip

Thursday 8th October– Yellow photography individual photos

Friday 23rd October 2026– **INSET DAY**

Monday 26th October—Friday 30th October– **HALF TERM**

Monday 2nd November 2026– **RETURN TO SCHOOL**

Monday 2nd November-Wednesday 4th November– Year 6 Bikeability

Tuesday 3rd November– Year 3 Butser Ancient Farm trip

Thursday 5th November– 1 X Y5 class Beaulieu river trip

Friday 6th November– Pupil Voice Houses of Parliament trip (details TBC)

Monday 9th November– 1 x Y5 class to Beaulieu river trip

Thursday 12th November– Year 5 Wessex River Trust in school

Friday 13th November– 1 x Y5 class to Beaulieu river trip

Friday 13th November– FoFJS Disco (details TBC)

Thursday 26th November– 1 x Y4 class Saxon trip to Sustainability centre

Friday 27th November– **INSET DAY**

Wednesday 2nd December– 1 x Y4 class Saxon trip to Sustainability centre



Funded by
UK Government

Free holiday activities and meals for eligible children in Eastleigh this summer!

Children in Reception to Year 11 receiving benefits-related free school meals can enjoy a variety of fun activities and healthy meals for free during the summer break through the Hampshire Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme!

Scan the QR code on the left to browse HAF schemes in your local area via our new booking system, or scan the code on the right to find out more about the HAF programme through the connect4communities website.



Book Schemes



HAF FAQs

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/childrenandfamilies/connectforcommunities/holidayactivities>



Hampshire
County Council

WATER SAFETY

Stay safe. Have fun. Enjoy the water. ♥

DROWNING IS
ONE OF THE
LEADING CAUSES
OF ACCIDENTAL
DEATH IN CHILDREN
IN THE UK.

**MOST INCIDENTS
ARE PREVENTABLE.**



As the weather warms up, children and young people spend more time around water – at home, on days out or on holiday. Let's keep them safe.



Almost half of drownings occur during the summer months when temperatures are higher – especially when 25°C or above.

THE HSCP WATER SAFETY TOOLKIT FOR PARENTS & CARERS INCLUDES:



EVERYDAY RISKS AT HOME

Including bath time safety and garden hazards.



STAYING SAFE OUTDOORS

Such as the beach, around rivers and in open water.



PRACTICAL SAFETY ADVICE

Including the Water Safety Code and how to "Float to Live".



AGE-SPECIFIC GUIDANCE

For babies, young children, older children and teenagers.



WHAT TO DO IN AN EMERGENCY

Including simple first aid steps and where to find further support.

Small
actions,
big
difference ♥

- ✓ Keep children within arm's reach of water.
- ✓ Choose safe places to swim.
- ✓ Talk to your children about water safety.



Together, we can
help prevent tragedies
and keep our children
safe this summer.



For practical advice and resources,
download the Water Safety Toolkit:
[www.hampshirescp.org.uk/
parents-and-carers/water-safety/](http://www.hampshirescp.org.uk/parents-and-carers/water-safety/)



Enjoy the water
Stay safe
Look out for
each other



HSCP
Hampshire Safeguarding
Children Partnership

Safeguarding children together



**GIVE IT
A GO THIS
SUMMER**

**EASTLEIGH
ACTIVE**

**PRICE
£3.50***

**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](https://www.eastleigh.gov.uk/eastleighactive)**



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](https://www.eastleigh.gov.uk/eastleighactive)



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

ULTIMATE SUMMER HOLIDAY CAMP!

ICON
SPORTS COACHING

**YEARS
R-7**

AT WYVERN COLLEGE

Fair Oak, Eastleigh SO50 7AN

8:30/9am Drop Off - 4/5pm Collect

DATES

- Week 1** Thursday 23rd - Friday 24th July
- Week 2** Monday 27th - Friday 31st July
- Week 3** Monday 3rd - Friday 7th August
- Week 4** Monday 10th - Friday 14th August
- Week 5** Monday 17th - Friday 21st August
- Week 6** Monday 24th - Friday 28th August
+ Tuesday 1st September

PRICES

8:30am - 9am to 4pm **£30 PER DAY**

8:30am - 9am to 5pm **£34 PER DAY**

25%
SIBLING DISCOUNT
AVAILABLE!

WHAT TO EXPECT

Athletics • Archery • Basketball • Cricket
Football • Dodgeball • Gymnastics
Tennis • Table Tennis • Dance • Tag Games
Invasion Games • Competitions & MORE!

BOOK & PAY ONLINE!

www.iconsportscoaching.co.uk

Email info@iconsportscoaching.co.uk

or call Steve on **07415 888851**

10-DAY DEALS

Book any 10 days
across the summer
holidays and save!

8:30am - 9am to 4pm

£285

8:30am - 9am to 5pm

£323



© coachingicon