



STEPHEN FREEMAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

"Everybody; Every Moment; Every Idea Counts"

Term 3 Newsletter

Thursday 13th February 2025

Dates for your Diary

- Friday 14th February – Non School Uniform Day – Chocolate Donations & End of Term - 3:15pm Finish
 - Monday 24th February – Term 4 Starts
- Tuesday 25th February – 8:45am – 9:15am – Second Hand Uniform Shop
 - Wednesday 26th February – Roving Bookshop
 - Thursday 27th February – Year 5 Tudor Workshop
- Wednesday 5th March – 2:40pm – Year 3 Recorder Concert
 - Thursday 6th March – World Book Day
- Tuesday 11th March – Year 2 Those History People Workshop
 - Thursday 13th March – Year 3 River & Rowing Museum
 - Friday 14th March – Year 5 Ashmolean Museum
- Monday 17th March – Monday 24th March – Year 5 Bikeability
 - Friday 4th April – 1:30pm Finish – Term 4 Ends
 - Tuesday 22nd April – Term 5 Starts
 - Friday 25th April – Class and Year 6 Leavers Photographs
 - Friday 23rd May – Term 5 Ends

For the full academic year term dates, please click here:

[Term Dates 2024-2025](#)



Sickness & Absence – Please notify the school office every day of your child's absence. Please call to leave a message on 01235 814718 (option 2) by 9:00am. Clearly state your child's full name, class and the specific reason for absence.

School Dinners – Please ensure if your child/ren would like to have a school dinner, their account needs to be topped up on ParentMail before the meal is taken.

Nuts - Please can you ensure your child/ren do not bring nuts into school under any circumstances. This includes inside their packed lunches and any other foods brought into school.

Medical Appointments – Please try and arrange medical and dentistry appointments out of school hours. If your child does need to be absent during the school day for an appointment, please inform the school office.



Should I keep my child off school?



Yes

Until...

Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek



SCAN ME

Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfec>.

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Every school day counts.



The top 3 classes for attendance in term 3 are:

- 1) China 97.3%
- 2) Chile 96.8%
- 3) Egypt 96.7%

The top 3 classes for attendance this academic year are:

- 1) India 96.8%
- 2) Egypt 96.6%
- 3) China 96.2%

[Attendance Graph](#)

Our PTA are on the look out for some new recruits. Anybody can volunteer to join the team. We would love to see some fresh faces and hear some new ideas to help raise some extra funds for the school. Please visit their Facebook page to get involved:

JOIN THE PTA!



[Stephen Freeman School PTA | Facebook](#)

School Dinners

Please click the link below to view the school dinner menu:

[School Dinner Menu](#)

This is also available on the school website and ParentMail. Paper copies are available in the school office. Term 4 will start with week 2's menu

Roxana Payne
Manager
01235 211011
admin@myschoolwear.co.uk



My Schoolwear Ltd

Please follow the link below to order branded and non branded school uniform from Trutex:

[Stephen Freeman | Trutex Schoolwear
Didcot](#)

Orders can be collected from Trutex, 14 Cockcroft Road, Didcot, OX11 8LL

Please use the code UNIFORM10% for a 10% discount on orders placed before 31st March 2025.

Second-Hand Uniform Sale

Tuesday 25th February

8:45am – 9:15am

School Hall

Thank you so much for donations of second hand uniform and books during this academic year. We now have plenty of both so will not be taking any more donations for the time being. Thank you again for your kindness and generosity



We have an additional Inset Day on Monday 2nd June 2025. Therefore the school will be closed to all children and term 6 will commence on Tuesday 3rd June 2025.

Additional INSET Day

Please accept our sincere apologies for the late notice. This day was added by The Ridgeway Trust and we were not aware of this date when our term dates were originally issued.

Rainbow Explorers

This term in Rainbows Explorers our topic has been Nursery Rhymes and Traditional Tales. We had big focuses on the rhyme 'Five Little Ducks Went Swimming One Day,' and the stories 'The Elves and the Shoemaker' and 'Little Red Riding Hood.' We have sung different nursery rhymes and read lots of other traditional tales in our focused groups at the end of each session. The children were amazing at finding the lost ducks to reunite them with their mum in the nursery rhyme tuff tray, and reciting 'Five Little Monkeys Swinging in a Tree'. They have created different shoes in the Shoe Makers Shop, and of course had fun trying on different shoes! In our Traditional Tales tuff tray the children have been retelling the different stories with props and using the language they have heard from the books. If all this wasn't enough already, we squeezed in some learning about the Chinese New Year and compared it to our New Year and the celebration of Diwali which we learnt about in the Autumn term. In our main exploring time the children have continued working on their social skills, played games, danced, laughed, ran, rode, coloured, drawn, talked, listened and had lots of fun together because that is what Nursery is all about. I think everyone now deserve a well-earned week off to recoup our energy ready for another term filled with fun once we return. Happy Half Term Everyone –
From 'The Rainbows Team'.



Reception

This term has been all about stories. We have shared lots of different traditional tales including those from other countries.

We had a big focus on different ways to join things when creating with junk modelling and had a go at making houses of different fairy tale characters. Please continue to send in boxes that we can use for junk modelling. This term we also started Drawing Club which the children love. Reception also celebrated Chinese New Year by eating noodles. We also enjoyed porridge from "The Magic Porridge Pot" which fortunately Goldilocks did not steal.

It was great to share the Story and Snuggle session with parents towards the end of this term. Thank you all so much for coming.



Year 1

What a fabulous term we've had in Year 1!

The children have loved our writing activities based on the book *Supertato*. They have learned about past tense, noun phrases, and expanded noun phrases, applying these skills beautifully in their writing. We are so proud of their resilience and progress in English!

This has been complemented by our Jigsaw topic, *Dreams and Goals*, where we explored our feelings when facing challenges and learned strategies to overcome them.

Maths has been just as exciting! We have been exploring shapes, addition, and subtraction, including working with addend equations.

Science has been full of hands-on experiments as we investigated the properties and uses of different materials.

DT has been a highlight this term—the children designed and made fantastic capes for their teddies and even completed a running stitch! A big thank you to our parent helpers for their support.

In Computing, the children are becoming more confident and creative. They have been using *Paintz.app* to create self-portraits and enjoyed designing their own Mondrian-inspired artwork. Thank you for your continued support—we're so proud of everything the children have achieved this term!



Year 2

This term Year 2's topic was 'Amazing Africa'. We started our term by 'taking a flight' to Kenya and learning lots about the country, their wildlife, national parks and culture. Later in the term, we had a fun immersive African activities day, where we learnt African drumming and dance, we heard traditional tales and did Adrinkra symbols paintings. In art the children learnt about Edward Tinga Tinga and his traditional paintings of animals and then created their own versions in his style. As part of our English lessons, we had an exciting visit from some lost meerkats who needed our help to find their way home. We became meerkat experts and created our own fact files. We also explored the story 'Lila and the Secret of the Rain', we thought about what it feels to be too hot and spent lots of time exploring descriptive vocabulary to help our own stories come to life. In science we've been learning about the human body, the importance of exercise and healthy diet and how germs spread. The children have worked so hard and we are so proud of them for all of the amazing work they've completed!



Year 3

Year 3 have absolutely loved diving into the delicious world of chocolate this term! Charlie and the Chocolate Factory has taken us on an inspired journey in English and in DT and even crept into our Geography discussions. In English this term we have written persuasively to Mr Willy Wonka and have designed our own room in his factory for some amazing descriptive writing pieces more recently. In DT we tasted different forms of chocolate and sweet toppings before designing our own chocolate bars along with its packaging. We thought about the name and the nutrients and added a bar code and slogan. The children were so proud to take their chocolate bars, in their own packaging to enjoy at home. We were also visited by the fabulous Ministry of Chocolate who taught us all about how chocolate is made and we got to taste the cocoa beans and the chocolate they get made in to.

This term has been delightfully scrumptious!



Year 4

This term we have time travelled back to Anglo-Saxon Britain, learning about what life was like before the Vikings invaded. We have learnt about the seven kingdoms of England and the origin of local towns and cities around us, learning that many have Anglo-Saxon origins. We have been so impressed with how well the children have remembered different pieces of information from the topic, here are a few of their favourite facts:

Did you know?

The Angles, the Jutes and the Saxons knew that the Romans had left Britain and decided to make it their home. (Brooks)

The name Oxford comes from Anglo-Saxon times, it means a ford (this is a river crossing) where the oxen would cross. (George)

Mercia and Wessex fought to be the most powerful kingdom during Anglo-Saxon times. (Sonny)

Vikings sailed on row boats to England, they were long journeys! The Anglo-Saxons wrote with different letters called runes. (Imogen)

When the Vikings first came to Britain, they began raiding and destroying monasteries. One was Lindisfarne where they stole golden treasures like jewel-encrusted goblets and bibles. (Amelie)

The Vikings came from Norway, Denmark and Sweden. This was during the Medieval Times. (Cassius)

The Vikings invaded and took control of parts of England, mostly in the 9th Century. (Kory)

In 927 CE, King became the first king of England, he helped unite the seven kingdoms into one. (Elsa)

Next term, we will be learning about the latter part of the Medieval era learning about the Battle of Hastings in 1066.



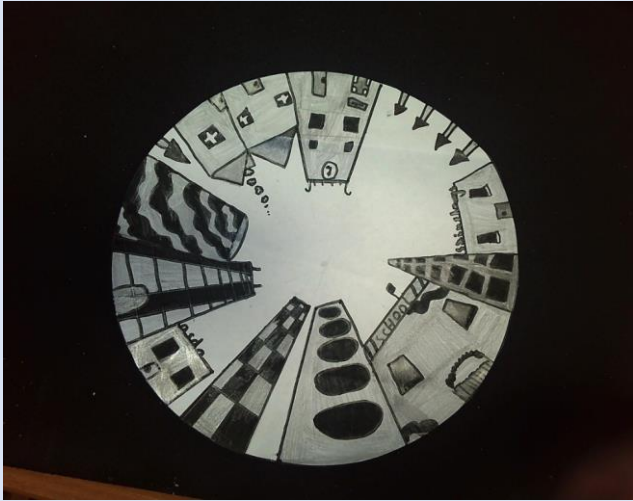
Year 5

Year 5 have been on a global mission since returning to school after the Christmas holiday. In Geography we have been learning about the tectonic plates of the Earth, their movements and how they create geographical features such as volcanoes, mountains and earthquakes. In our final lesson students will be designing structures and testing their strength and durability.

In science we have explored renewable energy sources.

We have looked at a writing for a wide range of different purposes including; formal persuasive letters, fact files and reports. It has been exciting to see the children so engaged and linking their learning between subjects. Especially on the wolves of Yellowstone Park and their importance to the eco-system.

In our computing lessons we have been learning to code micro:BITS, these are small computers that have a range of inputs and sensors, we have created images and moving text on them.



Year 6

This term in Year 6, our topic has been 'Journeys' focusing on the Heart and Circulatory System. It has been great to see the children so engaged in their learning and taking part in some ethical discussions around the controversial topic of xenotransplantation (when non-human cells, tissues, or organs are used to treat medical conditions in humans). This was greatly inspired by the events in our fantastic Guided Reading book 'Pig Heart Boy' by Malorie Blackman. They have also: produced drawings of the human body focusing on proportion and adding tone in the style of Leonardo Da Vinci; and used everyday food items to create a blood composition model.

To give the children a real-life experience of science at work, we were invited to the UTC Biology department to witness the dissection of a lamb's heart. It was great to see how curious and interested the children were in learning more about and exploring the different parts of the heart. It was certainly a memorable trip for all of us!

We are looking forward to getting stuck into next term's learning.



Some of our year 5 and 6 instrumentalists had the exciting opportunity to take part in an orchestral workshop and rehearsal at Didcot Girl's School this month. They joined other schools in the area to take part in activities and learn a piece of music to perform with the Ridgeway Education Trust's orchestra in the afternoon. It was a wonderful day for all involved and a superb concert.



Miss Bennett and 18 members of the school choir had the pleasure of visiting Oxford's Shedonian Theatre in January. They watched the Oxford County Youth Orchestra and then took part in a body percussion and beat boxing workshop. It was such a memorable day and the children's behaviour was spectacular throughout.



Back in January Mrs James and Mr Leader took a group of talented year 5 and 6 pupils to an F1 in schools STEM competition. The children had been tasked with designing and making a model F1 car to race! One of their cars, Burning Rubber, had the fastest car on the track but just missed out on a trophy due to being millimetres out in the measurements of the car. These children came away with a Future Vision award. The other car, Rapid Racers also came back with an award for best Pit Display. Well done to everyone involved!



Stephen Freeman would like to wish all our families a wonderful and well deserved Spring half term break. We are already halfway through this academic year! We hope you all enjoy the week off and come back ready for term 4 on Monday 24th February.

