

<b>Committee(s)</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Board of Governors of the City of London Freeman's School	November 2021
<b>Subject:</b> Report of the Head of the Junior School of Freeman's	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Matt Robinson (Head of Junior School at Freeman's)	<b>For Information</b>

### Summary

This report details what has happened in the Junior School at Freeman's since the last Governors' report of October 2021. It lists staff news, pupil activity and achievement.

### Main Report

#### Staff News

1. Our new members of Junior School staff this academic year have settled in extremely well. The class teachers, who had taught previously in the school, have grasped the new processes and procedures quickly, not least the IT demands, and the Graduate Assistants have thrown themselves into school life, in class and outside the classroom. All four have offered a great deal to the Junior school (teaching a Form 1 class for a few days when a colleague was ill, leading Music session in assembly, offering pastoral support for an U3 boy, and running an IT club for JS children) and we are grateful for their dedication.

#### School Roll

2. We continue to receive regular enquiries as to whether there are places to join within the academic year. We have one new joiner after half term and more will start in January. Furthermore, the numbers for assessment exams in December and January remain extremely high.

#### Academic

3. It has been lovely to return to our usual approach of trips and visits now that the COVID restrictions have been lifted. Form 1 children have been on local walks to understand their local geography; the Lower 2 children had a Mayan day, led by an external education team called Mexicolore (you may have seen pictures on our social media); Upper 2 children have been to Bough Beech reservoir as part of their Water topic; Upper 3 were taken by the English Department to the theatre as a year group; both Upper 3 and Lower 4 were treated to a Biology talk entitled Animazing.

4. The U3s sit their Midyis data gathering testing in November and Governors will be informed of the data in future papers. There have been many conversations about data and assessment in the Junior School, in terms of what we generate and how the information assists us in ensuring the children are making appropriate progress. Led by our newly appointed Lead Practitioner, and in conjunction with the Heads of Year in KS2, we have amended and simplified. I took the opportunity to explain all this to a Governor who has shown much interest in this important aspect of school provision.
5. The children received a series of assemblies on the theme of tolerance, diversity, anti-bullying and Black Lives Matter, from me, the Chaplain and most interestingly from their peers, now that we have started the cycle of pupil -led assemblies. I am proud of the way the Junior community has embraced, and continues to embrace, inclusion. One notable and obvious evidence of this is seen in those assemblies led by the children, as they pass the microphone from one to another that is used to support an U3 student that has profound hearing loss. No-one bats an eyelid.

### **Charity**

6. Three assemblies were set aside for the recommendation and then voting for the Junior School human and animal charities. The Junior School chose: Great Ormond Street Hospital and Four Paws UK
7. We will be supporting the BBC Children in Need appeal on 13<sup>th</sup> November.
8. The FSA and the Junior School continue to work closely, not least in preparation for the Christmas Fair. Plans for the raffle prizes for children that sell tickets are in place; "Freemen's fireworks" returns this year.

### **Arts**

9. The foyer is awash with glorious two and three dimensional work created by the children over half term for the House Art competition, the theme of which is Recycling. I hope that Governors will have seen some of the photos on the Junior Twitter feed.
10. One of our Upper 3 boys is in the Prince of Egypt show at the Dominion Theatre, and on the 13<sup>th</sup> of November I took 30 children (picked from a hat as there was much interest) to see and support him. He got the biggest cheer of the night.
11. Governors with a love of all things artistic will be pleased to know that music and performance continue to flourish. 201 children are taking musical instrument lessons and 88 pupils are taking speech and drama lessons. The choirs and big bands are rehearsing regularly, and various productions are coming together.

## **Sport**

12. Since the start of term, Freeman's Junior children have represented the school at rugby, hockey, swimming, cross country running and netball. 97% of children have participated in at least one competitive fixture.
13. Twin sisters in L4 that have featured in these pages previously have both been selected to join the England Golf South Region Girls U16 squad.
14. Our U13 girls continue their run in the Surrey Hockey Cup and are now into the fourth round.
15. One Lower 4 girl has been selected for the Surrey U13 netball squad.
16. Three Junior pupils ran in the London Marathon (children's version).

## **Works**

17. Two major developments have occurred recently. Outside the front of Junior school, we have astroturfed an area about the size of half a football pitch so that the children have somewhere to wait before the start of School, or in breaktimes that isn't wet and muddy. The Junior STEM room has been completed, with double doors opening into the Foyer, allowing for a better use of the space and a more dynamic looking resource.

## **Conclusion**

18. We forge on, moving away from the COVID difficulties, but never losing sight of the importance of sensible decision making, clear messaging and high expectations of cleanliness. The School is offering the children that vital balance of classroom-based education and Extra and Co-curricular learning; indeed, there are over 150 different activities the children can attend.

### **Matt Robinson**

Head of the Junior School at Freeman's

T: 01372 822474

E: [matt.robinson@freemens.org](mailto:matt.robinson@freemens.org)

Twitter: [@JuniorFreemens](https://twitter.com/JuniorFreemens) (785 followers)