



Ferndown Middle Newsletter

February 2018

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Key Dates



Term Dates are available on the school website
Half Term – 12th February-16th February

Monday 19th February – Book Fair all week
Monday 12th March – Year 8 play 'Chelsea's Choice'
Friday 23rd March – Year 8 Arson Day

Note from the Chair of Governors

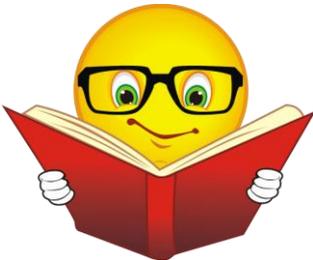
I would like to convey my congratulations to Mrs Allen, all staff and our pupils on achieving such a good result from our recent Ofsted inspection. The high energy and professionalism of all the staff is reflected in the high quality of education our pupils receive.
I would like to extend my personal thanks and that of the governing board to everyone involved, we know how much hard work and dedication has gone into obtaining this judgement. Finally a special thank you to the parents and carers for your continued support for the school and your children.
Mr Paul Tuttiett

Swimming Lessons



After 20 years of organising and running after school swimming clubs, Mrs Sherry has reluctantly decided to reduce her workload. Therefore after school lessons will continue up until the Easter holidays and no further bookings will be taken until further notice. I would like to say a big thank you to Mrs Sherry for her expertise, time and dedication to the teaching of swimming as well as managing and leading successful teams for galas.
Year 5 swimming lessons during school time will continue as planned.

Book Fair



Celebrate reading at our Book Fair!
The Book Fair will be arriving in school soon, with hundreds of new children's books to browse and buy. Come and join us!
WHEN: 19th February 2018 - 23rd February 2018
WHERE: FMS Library
There are over 200 titles for you and your child to choose from, and with prices starting from only £2.99, there's sure to be a book for everyone. If you can't make it to our Book Fair, try our discounted Gift Vouchers available at travellingbooks.co.uk/parents. They're a great way to ensure your child doesn't miss out. Don't forget that every book you buy can help to get FREE BOOKS for our school library!

Race for the Line Race Day 7th February 2018



Since the end of October the Year 7 students have been working on designing and creating their own racing cars. Each member of Year 7 has been working in a team of 4 to design, create and brand their cars. They have worked on the job roles; nominating their own leaders, designers, creators, testers etc. They have been given a block of foam to design and shape their car. They have sourced their own wheels and finalised their designs.
This is now the last stage; the children are adding wheels as I write and racing it on Wednesday 7th February of this half term. We have the RAF coming in from Yeovilton to add real rockets to the cars so that they can travel at more than 100mph.
We will be rewarding students for the best teamwork, designs and creations as well, of course, for the fastest race time. The winning team may even get the chance to compete at the regional finals.
And the winning cars... wait for the announcement to go on our website and watch the videos and up to date news!

Year 8 Alcohol and Drugs Awareness Day



This week the Year 8 pupils watched a drama called 'Time in a Bottle', performed by Paul Stevens. The pupils were shown how excessive drinking can have a negative impact on a person's life and the long term consequences of this behaviour. Pupils were taught how to read the information on bottles of alcohol so they could decide if the alcohol was strong. In fact any alcohol at 5% or above is considered strong alcohol. Year 8 will receive an information sheet to share with you.

During the day the pupils also looked at the effects of taking illegal drugs and were taught ways to deal with difficult situations with the aim being to build their resilience.

It was a very worthwhile day and was positively received by the pupils.
Mrs L Baynham

Science News



Y6 STEM visit to FUS

Ferndown Upper School organised an opportunity for some of our Year 6 students to experience the Medical Mavericks' 'Careers in Health' workshop. Medical Mavericks provide careers, STEM & sport enrichment experiences for schools and colleges.

This is an exciting, hands-on experience. For more information you can visit the Medical Mavericks website at: www.medicalmavericks.co.uk

Science Dome experience for Year 5 and Year 8

The Science Dome provides an additional science resource and presents a different learning experience to children.

It is a fully digital experience, in a blacked-out purpose built dome showing 360 degree pictures and films with special multimedia equipment and lens to provide a spectacular presenter-led interactive show for education.

Both shows were chosen to reinforce and enhance the learning from this term.

The shows were 'Earth and Beyond' for Year 5 and the show 'Down to Earth' for Year 8.

Half Term Design Challenge



Ferndown Middle School Design and Technology in association with the Arts University Bournemouth today 'launches' their Half Term challenge.

See the 'flyer' at the end of this newsletter for details.

Let your imagination 'take off' and 'reach for the sky'.

Use the Half Term break to create and test your entries.

There are three categories:

- The plane that flies the furthest.
- The plane that stays in the air the longest.
- The best decorated plane. (So no plain planes!)

The deadline for entries is **Friday 23rd February 2018**.

The grand finals will take place at Arts University Bournemouth where we will also challenge the University students to find the overall winners!

Don't delay – Get folding today!

Remember – time flies when you are having fun!

Youth Parliament Voting



This week Year 7 and Year 8 pupils were given the opportunity to vote in the Youth Parliament Elections. The pupils watched video clips made by the candidates. The videos told the voters the changes that the candidate would campaign for if they were successful in being elected. Ballot papers and a proper ballot box were provided, giving the election a realistic feel. This was a chance for our FMS pupils to see one of the British Values, democracy, in action. We eagerly await the election result!

Year 8 Careers Day



As part of careers education Year 8 pupils met students from Bournemouth University and the pupils engaged in 5 workshops throughout the day related to possible career choices. These workshops included: archeology, media, marketing, nursing and sport related careers. The pupils were given an insight in to the opportunities that these careers could offer for the future.

We are grateful to Bournemouth University for their expertise and look forward to their input for year 7 in February.