

# Ferndown Middle School

## Parent Weekly Newsletter w/c 15 January 2024



John Thornton Young Achievers (JTYAF)



We are delighted to advise you that the trustees of the JTYAF have kindly allocated £1,000 to Ferndown Middle School for awards in 2024. This funding is to be used for the granting of bursaries and scholarships for individual students or groups of students in accordance with the charity's governance paper. In previous years, this has paid towards an adapted bike, help with travel costs for a pupil to take part in national competitions and a cookery course.

Attached is a copy of their current application form which the applicant will need to provide information about the value of the award required, what the award will be used for and how the award will benefit their personal development. They will also need to provide some evidence of their suitability based on their core values of courage, determination, unselfishness and cheerfulness in the face of adversity.

If your child would like to be considered for a bursary or scholarship to give them access to opportunities to promote personal development and achievement, please complete the application form attached.

Applications will need to be sent to the school for the attention of the Mrs G Allen, as the Headteacher is required to endorse the application before being passed to the JTYAF.

The applications will then be further considered by JTYAF, and payment will be made if successful.

Successful applicants will be expected to provide evidence of their spending in the form of receipts which should be sent to the JTYAF within 12 weeks of their award.

For full details please visit <https://www.jtyaf.org/>

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### English

Last term was a very busy one for the English department! We introduced a new spelling scheme for use in school (ReadWriteInc) and a new app for pupils to use at home (Spelling Shed). We hope that pupils have enjoyed the spelling games on Spelling Shed and we can already see progress in terms of spelling ability in lessons. Please do encourage your child to continue with Spelling Shed at home – perhaps have a go at one of the games yourself!

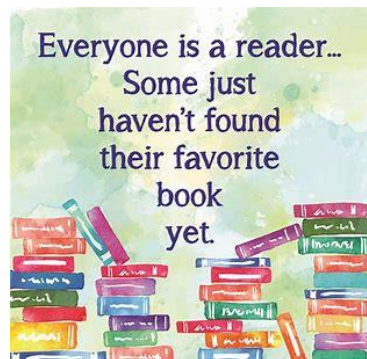
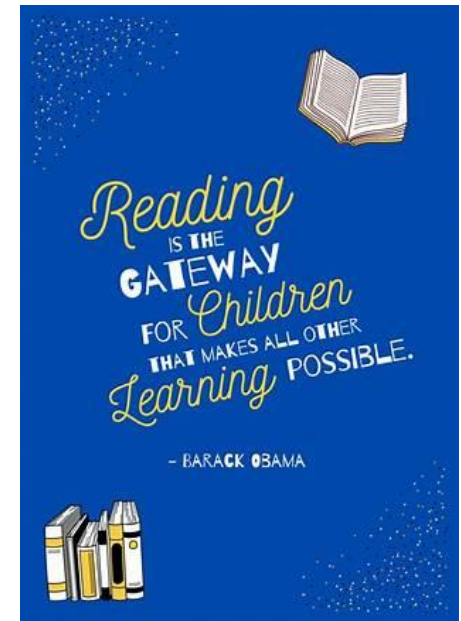
In Year 5, pupils have been reaching for the stars with a new text 'Cosmic' by Frank Cottrell Boyce. They will use this to write an audio diary and a persuasive piece in character.

In Year 6, pupils have been gripped by the Literacy Shed video 'Alma' and are working on writing their own setting description before a suspense narrative followed by a newspaper report.

In Year 7, pupils have got themselves in a twist with Roald Dahl's tale 'Lamb to the Slaughter'. They will use this, and the short story 'The Landlady,' to write their own twist-inspired story. Be sure to check upcoming homework tasks as they will have to think about their plot at home.

In Year 8, pupils are thrilled by Gothic literature and are exploring a variety of themes, settings, and characters through extracts from famous Gothic novels. They will use this inspiration to write their own gothic story.

If you would like to see your child's work, please message their English teacher on Class Charts.



Reading is always a focus for the English department, but it should not be restricted to just English lessons. Reading is an essential life-long skill, but more than that, alongside language, it is what sets humans apart from all other species. It offers us an escape into other worlds, a chance to discover new ideas and environments that we may never get to experience otherwise and an ability to communicate our thoughts and feelings. We are passionate about encouraging pupils to build a life-long love of reading so that they can access the world around them, be it reading a blog, website, ebook or book.

We will continue to encourage pupils to read, and we are very lucky to have a well-stocked library. Mrs Bolton – our librarian - is always interested to hear of new books that pupils would like to add to our stock, so please send any requests to us via Class Charts so that we can ensure that our library is always up-to-date, growing and exciting for the children at FMS.

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### School News

#### Subject Teachers Consultation Evenings

I am pleased to let you know that a copy of your child's Autumn term report has been printed and your child will be bringing a copy home this afternoon. I would like to invite you to attend our Subject Teacher Consultation Evenings, which are particularly important as they provide an opportunity for you and your child to meet teachers to discuss their progress.

The school uses an online booking system that allows you to choose your appointment times and you will receive an email confirming these. Your child is welcome to attend the appointments with you on the following days, between 16.00 and 20.00:

Tuesday 23 January 2024	All year groups	In person, in school
Monday 5 February 2024	Years 7 & 8 only	Via remote video link
Thursday 8 February 2024	All year groups	In person, in school

Appointments will be live from 19.00 on Friday 12th January 2024. Please visit <https://ferndownmiddle.schoolcloud.co.uk/> to book your appointments.

Mrs G Allen  
Headteacher

#### Easyfundraising: Earn funds for the school for free!

Thank you to everyone for raising donations for Ferndown Middle School with #easyfundraising! If you haven't signed up yet, it's easy and completely FREE. 7,200 shops and sites will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to do your everyday online shopping - at no extra cost to you! Every donation you raise makes a difference to us so please sign up & share today. <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk>

Please use #easyfundraising when you book your holidays and raise big donations for Ferndown Middle School for free! Plus, book with TUI in January for a chance to win back the value of your holiday! Sign up to support us on easyfundraising today:

<https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/ferndownmiddleschool/ngxmub/c2s/zYSXMPZI/CE790/facebook/>

Raise BIG donations with holiday bookings



You can WIN back the value of your TUI holiday with easyfundraising

Sign up today



### KS3 New Year Disco

We are holding a 'New Year' Disco for Years 7 & 8 on Wednesday 17th January 2024 between 5.00 -6.30pm.

Tickets are priced at £3.50 each and are available to purchase via ParentMail until Tuesday 16th January.

Price includes entry, drink, biscuit & glow sticks and all the money raised will go towards our pupil reward scheme.

Once you have purchased a ticket, your child's name will be put on the entry sign-in sheet.

Pupils will enter through the reception doors where they will be checked off and given 2 glow sticks.

Your child will then be allowed to leave by themselves at the end of the disco at 6.30pm.

However, if you would prefer us to keep hold of your child for you to collect them in person from inside the school at 6.30pm then please email the school office by Tuesday 16th January at the latest.

We are looking forward to a fun Disco.

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When to keep your child at home

### The Big Ambition – Have your say!

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The Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza, has launched **The Big Ambition**, a national survey of children and young people across England.

**The Big Ambition** aims to hear from children across England on what they think is important! In the lead up to the next General Election, the Children's Commissioner wants to take children's thoughts, opinions and ideas to decision-makers, to make sure that the Government hears young people's voices on what they think needs to be done to make children's lives better in England.

**The Big Ambition** survey will be open until Friday 19th January.

**The Big Ambition is open to children and young people in England aged 0-18 years old.** The survey has gone to schools across England so we can start to hear from children and young people aged from 6 to 18. Parents are also being encouraged to complete the survey for those who may need additional support or on behalf of younger children (under 6) to make sure the needs of early years children are represented too.



[https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/the\\_big\\_ambition/](https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/the_big_ambition/)



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### Key Dates Key Dates

Below are some of the key dates for the next half term.

Wed 17 January	KS3 New Year School Disco 5.00 pm – 6.30 pm
Tues 23 January	Parent's Evening in person, in school, all years
Mon 29 January	<a href="#">Coffee Morning workshop</a>
Mon 5 February	Parent's Evening via video link for KS3 only
Thurs 8 February	Parent's Evening in person, in school, all years
Fri 9 February	Inset Day

### Residential and Visits

Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	Year 8 Trip to Bournemouth University
Wed 13th March 2024	Year 7 Trip to Lulworth Cove & Corfe Castle
20th - 24th May 2024	Year 6 Residential to Hooke Court
20th - 23rd May 2024	Year 7 Residential to Butchers Coppice
17th - 21st June 2024	Year 8 Residential to Woodmill Outdoor Activity Centre



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### County lines: What you need to know

County lines is the name given to drug dealing where organised criminal groups (OCGs) use phone lines to move and supply drugs, usually from cities into smaller towns and rural areas. They exploit vulnerable people, including children and those with mental health or addiction issues, by recruiting them to distribute the drugs. This is often referred to as 'drug running.' Criminals may also use a vulnerable person's home as their base of operations. This is known as 'cuckooing.'

Signs to look out for

## SPOT THE SIGNS OF COUNTY LINES

Children and vulnerable adults are at risk of exploitation from gangs. This could include...

-  Persistently going missing from school or home, or being found out-of-area
-  Unexplained acquisition of money, clothes or mobile phones
-  Excessive receipt of texts or phone calls
-  Relationships with controlling, older individuals or gang association
-  Leaving home or care without explanation
-  Suspicion of self-harm, physical assault or unexplained injuries
-  Parental concerns
-  Significant decline in school performance
-  Significant change in emotional wellbeing

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### Social media

Criminal networks use social media to groom and recruit children for county lines. They may send them direct messages or share messages to wider groups advertising drugs through photos, emojis and price lists. Dealers share 'stories' to followers and use social platforms to expand their network with 'suggested' friends and tricking people with 'fast cash' scams, which is often referred to as 'squares.' Victims may end up working for no little or no money, which is known as 'debt bondage'.

### Should I be worried?

Hopefully not. However, any child is vulnerable to exploitation. Criminal gangs are known to target:

- Children with vulnerabilities, such as poverty, family breakdown, exclusion from school – because they're susceptible to manipulation and coercion.
- Children from stable or affluent families – because they're less likely to be known to the police and may blend in better in the town the gang sends them to.
- Girls and young children as well as boys and teenagers – children as young as 7 are being groomed by gangs, and girls are often groomed into relationships with gang members or used to transport drugs as they're less likely to be stopped by the police.

Answering yes to any of these questions does not mean your child is being exploited through county lines. However, you should talk to them about any one of these signs.

### What should I do if I suspect my child is being exploited?

Try to stay calm and seek help straight away - there are organisations that can help you. You could do any of the following depending on your circumstances, but you must tell someone:

- Contact your local police station or call 101. If your child is missing, remember you don't have to wait 24 hours before making a report.
- Contact our school. Ask to speak to the designated safeguarding lead and explain your concerns to them. They will be able to advise you where to go next.
- Contact Crimestoppers 0800 555 111.
- Call NSPCC on 0808 800 5000 or visit [www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/)
- Call Family Lives 0808 800 2222 or visit <https://www.familylives.org.uk/>
- The [National Crime Agency County Lines website](https://www.nca.gov.uk/county-lines) explains more about county lines and indicators of exploitation in your area.



If you believe your child is in immediate danger, or a threat is made against you or another family member, call 999 immediately.

If you're concerned about drug-related crime in your area or think someone may be a victim of drug exploitation, please call us on [101](tel:101).



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Do you know about...



**free school meals**

?

If your child qualifies for free school meals, they will have a **healthy meal every school day**, and can get:

- access to **free holiday clubs**
- **extra money for their school** towards more teachers and activities

You could save over **£450** a year!

It's easy to find out if you qualify - complete our confidential checker at [dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/free-school-meals](https://dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/free-school-meals) or phone **01305 221090**

**Pupil Premium**

If your child is in reception to year 2 and you receive qualifying benefits, **you could get extra £££'s for your school!**

Apply for the Pupil Premium at [dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/pupil-premium](https://dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/pupil-premium)

### [The Dorset Parent Guide to support your child's special education needs](#)

A copy of the Dorset Parent Guide to support your child's special education needs can be found on our [website](#).

**The Dorset Parent Guide to support your child's Special Educational Needs**  
0 to 25 years



### [Dorset Education Advice Line \(DEAL\)](#)

Dorset Education Advice Line is a phone line for parents, carers and professionals who support children who may have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

This advice line is part of Dorset Councils Local Offer to children, young people and families and will work alongside existing services such as SENDIASS and the Education Psychology helpline.

Further details and a contact form can be found on the following link:

[Dorset Education Advice Line \(DEAL\) - Dorset Council](#)

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Extra-Curricular Clubs Spring Term 1, from 2 January to 8 February 2024

Day	Club	Duration	Times	Room/area	Leader
Monday Lunchtime	Boys Football – Years 6, 7 & 8	30 mins	12.15–12.45	Field	SH
	Library - All Years Max 30 children, quiet reading, choosing, renewing and returning books	25 mins	12.45–1.10	Library	GB
	Music Theatre Group - All years (Full)	30 mins	12:40–1:10	Music Room	SW
Monday After School	Netball – Year 5 & 6	50 mins	15.30–16.20	Playground/Gym	SG & AC
	Rippa Rugby - Years 5, 6 and 7 (External club paid) 8 Jan to 5 Feb <a href="#">Welcome to Rippa Rugby</a>	1 hour	15.20–16.20	Field	External
	Orchestra – Invite only	1 hour	15.20–16.20	Music Room	SW
	Tennis (External club paid) <a href="#">Live4tennisbookingform</a> 8 Jan to 5 Feb Collection outside the school reception office	1 hour	15.30–16.30	Ferndown Tennis Courts	External
Tuesday Lunchtime	Girls Football – All years	30 mins	12.15–12.45	Field	SG
	Gymnastics – All years	30 mins	12.15–12.45	Gym	SH
	Library - All Years Max 30 children, quiet reading, choosing, renewing and returning books	25 mins	12.45–1.10	Library	GB
	Young Voices practice (Full)	30 mins	12.40–1.10	Music Room	SW
	Youth Club (Year 7 invite only)	30 mins	12.15–12.30	Youth Club	LB
	French for Holiday – All years	30 mins	12.15–12.45	LA15	FS
	STEM Club – Years 7 & 8 Starts 19 Sept First 10 to sign up with Miss Dale	30 mins	12.35–13.05	PA02	KD/NBA
Tuesday After School	Dodgeball (External club paid) 9 Jan to 26 Mar <a href="#">TeamTheme Booking Form</a>	1 hour	15.25–16.25	Gym	External
	Homework Club – All years	1 hour	15.20–16.20	Library	GB
Wednesday Lunchtime	Basketball – Year 5 & 6	30 mins	12.15–12.45	Field	SG
	Running Club – All years	30 mins	12.15–12.45	Field	SH
	Library - All Years Max 30 children, quiet reading, choosing, renewing and returning books	25 mins	12.45–1.10	Library	GB

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	<b>Samba - All years</b>	25 mins	12:45–1:10	Music Room	SW
	<b>Choir – All years</b>	30 mins	12.15–12.45	Music Room	NP
	<b>Spanish – All years</b>	20 mins	12.50–1.10	LA6	EBS
	<b>Computers – Years 6, 7 &amp; 8</b> Max 15 places, sign-up sheet in ICT room	30 mins	12.30–1.00	PA03	MM
	<b>Craft Club – All years</b> First 15 children on the day, no need to sign up	25 mins	12.40–1.15	LA9	EW
	<b>Art Club – All years</b> 20 pupils, sign-up sheet on Art door	30 mins	12.15–12.45	PA10	NC
<b>Thursday Lunchtime</b>	<b>Sports Leaders – Year 8</b>	30 mins	12.15–12.45	Gym	SG
	<b>Library - All Years</b> Max 30 children, quiet reading, choosing, renewing and returning books	25 mins	12.45–1.10	Library	GB
	<b>The Ark – All years</b> With Miriam Biggs local youth worker. A club where they explore the Christian faith through games, crafts, and fun	30 mins	12.40–1.10	LA13	MB, VG
	<b>Science – Year 5 (Sign up with Mrs Johns)</b>	35 mins	12.35–1.10	PA2	CJ
	<b>School Council – Every other Thursday</b>	1 hour	12.15–1.15	PA4	BR
	<b>Ukulele – All Years</b> First 18 every week	25 mins	12.45–13.05	Music Room	GB
<b>Thursday After School</b>	<b>Netball – Year 7 &amp; 8</b>	1 hour	15.20–16.20	Playground	SG
	<b>Homework Club – All years</b>	1 hour	15.20–16.20	Library	GB
	<b>Roleplaying Club – Alternate KS2/3</b>	1 hour	15.20–16.20	LA3	AM
	<b>Arts and Crafts – All years 10 places – Sign up with AM/LP</b>	1 hour	15.20-16.20	PA12	AM/LP
<b>Friday Lunchtime</b>	<b>Football – Year 5</b>	30 mins	12.15–12.45	Field	MW
	<b>Young Voices practice (Full)</b>	30 mins	12.40–1.10	Music Room	SW
	<b>DT Club – All years - opportunity to complete unfinished practical work</b> First 12 pupils each week	30 mins	12.15-12.45	PA11	AM
	<b>Library - All Years</b> Max 30 children, quiet reading, choosing, renewing and returning books	25 mins	12.45–1.10	Library	GB

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	<b>Eco Club – All years</b>	30 mins	12.15 –12.45	LA11	ML
	<b>Dance – Year 5 &amp; 6</b>	30 mins	12.15–12.45	Hall	KZ

### Please note the following:

- Please read through the choices with your child and ensure they are clear on where the club is held and the joining instructions.
- Please be aware that it is the parent's responsibility to ensure the child knows that they are attending an after-school club.
- Parental permission is required for your child to attend an after-school club, please use this [link](#) to confirm your consent.
- Please make arrangements to collect children following an after-school club and make sure that the child is aware of these arrangements.
- We will endeavour not to cancel after-school clubs at short notice - if however, this is necessary; either ParentMail, telephone call, or SMS will notify parents.
- External club arrangements are with the club and not the school.

### Breakfast Club



The breakfast club runs each morning for pupils across all year groups. Cost: £3.25 per breakfast.

Start time 7.30 am (Pupils need to arrive no later than 7.40 am and must sign in at reception). Finish time 8.30 am.

It is a fun and sociable environment where pupils enjoy a varied breakfast in the company of other pupils.

A selection of cereals, toast and drinks are provided.

Booking forms can be found on the school website: [Breakfast Club | \(fernmid.dorset.sch.uk\)](https://www.fernmid.dorset.sch.uk)

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### Term Dates 2023 - 2024

#### Winter Term Dates 2023

Inset Day	Friday 1 September 2023	<b>Bank holidays in the autumn term</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monday 25 December 2023</li> <li>Tuesday 26 December 2023</li> </ul>
Autumn term starts	Monday 4 September 2023	
Half-term	Monday 23 to Friday 27 October 2023	
Autumn term ends	Friday 15 December 2023	
Christmas holidays	Monday 18 December to Monday 1 January 2024	

#### Spring Term Dates 2024

Spring term starts	Tuesday 2 January 2024	<b>Bank holidays in the spring term</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New Year's Day: Monday 1 January 2024</li> <li>Good Friday: Friday 29 March 2024</li> <li>Easter Monday: Monday 1 April 2024</li> </ul>
Inset Day	Friday 9 February 2024	
Half-term	Monday 12 to Friday 16 February 2024	
Spring term ends	Thursday 28 March 2024	
Easter holiday	Friday 29 March to Friday 12 April 2024	

#### Summer Term Dates 2024

Summer term starts	Monday 15 April 2024	<b>Bank holidays in the summer term</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Early May bank holiday: Monday 6 May 2024</li> <li>Spring bank holiday: Monday 27 May 2024</li> <li>Summer bank holiday: Monday 26 August 2024</li> </ul>
Half-term	Monday 27 to 31 May 2024	
Inset Day	Monday 3 June 2024	
Summer term ends	Friday 19 July 2024	
Inset Day	Monday 22 July 2024	
Inset Day	Tuesday 23 July 2024	