



### Mrs Allen's Retirement

*Thank you!*  
AND FAREWELL

*After 17 years at Ferndown Middle School and 37 years dedicated to the teaching profession, it's time to turn the page to a new chapter. The privilege of shaping young minds and being a pivotal part of a thriving school community has been an honour that is both profound and deeply felt. The support received over the years has been the cornerstone of many successes, and for this, heartfelt gratitude is extended. The memories of the children's achievements, the camaraderie among the staff, and the collective spirit of the community will be cherished treasures.*

*Now, as the journey transitions into retirement, there is an air of excitement about embracing the fullness of life with family and friends. This new time of life brings with it the freedom to pursue passions that have been waiting in the wings and a time to embark on new adventures.*

*I bid you all farewell with a sense of anticipation for what the future holds together with sadness at saying goodbye to a wonderful school.*

*To everyone who has been a part of the journey, thank you, and may you all find success and happiness in your endeavours.*

*Mrs G Allen  
Headteacher*

# Ferndown Middle School

## Parent Weekly Newsletter w/c 15 April 2024



### RE Curriculum

As we reach the end of another term, it's time to reflect on the engaging and enlightening journey our students have undertaken in Religious Education. Across different year groups, we've explored profound themes, delving into the rich tapestry of religious and philosophical thought. Here's a glimpse into the fascinating activities that have unfolded:



#### **Year 5: Exploring the Easter Story**

Our Year 5 students immersed themselves in the Easter narrative, reflecting on its significance within Christianity and its broader implications for humanity. They contemplated the profound notion of God's plan and its manifestation in the Easter story through discussions, readings, and creative activities.

#### **Year 6: Investigating the Concept of Eternity**

In Year 6, students embarked on a philosophical journey, pondering the timeless question: is anything truly eternal? They delved into parables from the Bible, contemplated the essence of agape and unconditional love, and explored the promise of eternal life in heaven. These discussions fostered deep reflection on the nature of existence and divine love.

#### **Year 7: Examining Justice and Mercy**

Year 7 students engaged in thought-provoking conversations about justice, morality, and mercy. Through comparative analysis, they explored how different religious and non-religious traditions conceive of these concepts and their implications for society. These discussions encouraged empathy, critical thinking, and a deeper understanding of diverse perspectives.

#### **Year 8: Delving into the Concept of Suffering**

Our Year 8 students explored suffering comprehensively, examining it through the lens of Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, and Sikhism. They grappled with the complexities of natural and moral evil, reflecting on the necessity of suffering in life and its role in spiritual growth and understanding.



As we approach the Easter break, let's take a moment to reflect on the themes of renewal and new life. Just as Spring heralds the rejuvenation of nature, this season offers us an opportunity for personal and spiritual growth.



In the spirit of inclusivity, let's also extend our wishes to our Hindu friends who recently celebrated Holi. This vibrant festival, known as the festival of colours, symbolises the triumph of good over evil and the arrival of spring. It's a reminder of the beauty of diversity and the universal aspirations for joy and renewal.

As we bid farewell to this term, let's carry the lessons learned, the insights gained, and the bonds of understanding and empathy forged. Here at FMS, we wish all our students and their families a joyous Easter break filled with love, laughter, and the promise of new beginnings.

Mr Wyeth, Coordinator of RPE

# Ferndown Middle School

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### School News

Our school caterers have recently changed their name to Hampshire County Council Education Catering (formerly known as HC3S), they will continue to provide meals for our pupils but simply under a new name.

Please be advised that from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024 there will be a price increase to the cost of the main school meal. The current price is £2.70 for a main meal and a dessert, this will increase to £2.90.



Hampshire  
County Council

Education Catering

Due to the continued pressure on the cost of wholesale food, energy, and transport, we cannot avoid this price increase. We understand that any increase in costs can be challenging, and we want to assure you that this decision was made after careful consideration of alternatives.

It should be noted that a school meal still provides excellent value for money. They continue to offer a varied range of meals and drinks which are both healthy and nutritious. For our pupils in receipt of Free School Meals, the increase will be applied to the daily allowance. This will ensure they continue to have access to the main meal and dessert menu.

I ask for your understanding with these price increases and continued support. Attached is a copy of the new menu from the start of the summer term.

### Workshops

In partnership with the Mental Health Support Teams (MHST), we will be hosting two workshops in the summer term with a focus on challenging behaviour at home.

Each session will have a specific focus and will be held in the school hall between 9.00am and 10.00am. Refreshments will be provided.

- [Understanding the teenage brain KS3 workshop](#), on Monday 22 April 2024 between 9.00 - 10.00am.
- ['Challenging behaviour at home KS2 workshop'](#), on Thursday 13th June 2024 between 9.00 - 10.00am.

If you would like to attend the workshops, please complete the form: [FMS Workshops \(April, June 2024\)](#)



### Eco News

We were so excited to welcome back Sustrans for our Dr. Bike days last week. An incredible 50 bikes were checked and repaired over the two days and we were thrilled to see so many staff and students making the most of this great opportunity.

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### Sports News

It has been another busy term of sporting success at Ferndown Middle School. Our pupils have definitely rose to the challenges set in and out of the curriculum.

Although the weather has played havoc, we have really tried hard to get all fixtures played, many weeks have had four or five fixtures.

I would like to express my thanks to Mr Widger, Mrs Clay, Mrs Zschaeck, Mr Wyeth and Miss Grant for supporting with clubs and encouraging our pupils. This goes to the coaches that support our school in the various sports.

Finally, I would like to extend my personal thanks to Mrs Allen. Mrs Allen has supported our school sport beyond reproach and has allowed our pupils to thousands of sporting opportunities. Mrs Allen has always supported the numerous requests and always shows a keen interest in the sporting endeavours of Ferndown Middle School pupils in the sports field.

Happy retirement Mrs Allen and thank you for all of your support to our PE Department.

### Friday 22 March 2024 – PEDSAA Tumbling Gymnastics Championships at Ferndown Upper School – Year 5 & 6

We were delighted to take part in this brilliant event at Ferndown Upper School. Our pupils were an absolute delight to work with and loved the experience. Our pupils performed exceptionally well and reached the final. We finished in 4th place and the quality from all pupils was exceptional. I must say I was ever so impressed with our pupils' dedication and commitment in practicing the routine. There was lots of high skill on offer.

I would like to extend my thanks to Gemma Coles who volunteered to help coach our team – this was massively appreciated. Also, we would like to thank Ferndown Upper for hosting the event. Finally, thanks to our dependable Year 8 Sports Leaders who have helped coach, manage and write certificates for our tumbling team.



### Monday 25th March 2024 – Year 7 Girls Football Festival v Broadstone Middle and Cranborne Middle

We hosted Cranborne and Broadstone in a football festival that celebrated the dedication of girls' football amongst our school. We had 18 girls representing our school and they all had character and determination in a bag full and really gave their all. The standard was great and the enthusiasm was infectious. There was a massive cheer when we scored and the support and team work for each other is simply amazing.

Thanks to our young referees to officiate and we thank both schools for visiting us. Finally, I would like to say how extremely proud I am of the performance of our girls. Well played!

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### Monday 25th March – Year 7 & 8 Tag to Tackle Rugby Festival at Ferndown Middle School



We hosted a tag to tackle festival with West Moors School at Ferndown Middle School. It was a great opportunity for pupils to be exposed to contact rugby through the expertise of Stu Gallacher and his Rippa Rugby Coaches. All pupils displayed an enthusiasm for contact rugby, but the importance was the safety and it was impressive in how the progressions were broken down to ensure a fully inclusive event.

Massive thanks to all involved and especially Mr Widger for looking after the team and passing on his extensive rugby knowledge. Well played to all pupils and you should all be extremely proud of your efforts.

### Tuesday 26th March – Year 5 Champions League Friendly Football Festival

We hosted a Year 5 Champions League to finish of the football season and I am delighted to say that we had 25 pupils participating plus 3 Year 7 referees. All pupils gave their all in the wet conditions and should be proud of their commitment to football this season. With many of our matches before Christmas (usually it is the other way round and matches after Christmas), matches being called off to the weather and being unable to secure another fixture with other schools we would like to say well done to Year 5 for all of their efforts this season. Also, I would like to extend my thanks to Mr Wyeth for dedicating every Friday lunch to this club. Well played everyone.

### Year 8 Netball team

The Year 8 netball team have had a very successful netball season, finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in their league! Due to the poor weather the league was condensed into two afternoons of matches, seeing our girls playing against 8 different teams from across Dorset.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> March we won all four games, with some amazing match play with a total of 27 goals scored and only 6 conceded. Going into the second afternoon we knew that we had a good chance of making the top 3 and we battled hard, winning 3 out of our 4 games, two of which were won 10-0!

We missed the top spot by just two points but were very proud to be awarded second place and a set of medals!

Coming second overall was a massive achievement and a sign of the hard work, passion and dedication shown by all of our netballers this year! They should be extremely proud of all they have achieved - well done girls!

Yours in sport

Mr Higgins and Miss Grant

### Extra-curricular Clubs

Please note there has been some changes to the extra-curricular clubs for the summer term, please take the time to read through them at the end of the newsletter with your child.



### Wellbeing



Around one in five headlines online are clickbait. That's an estimate from experts at Stanford University, who conducted a study into this phenomenon which has gradually extended its reach to almost every corner of the internet – powered by a strategy of snagging users' attention by any means necessary rather than a legitimate desire to inform or enlighten.

As that statistic indicates, this manipulative marketing strategy is difficult to avoid online. There's still plenty that can be done though to limit its influence – especially in relation to young people, who are often more susceptible to sensationalist headlines. This week's guide details the potential hazards around clickbait and has expert tips for avoiding them.

# Ferndown Middle School

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### Key Dates

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

Wed 24 April 2024	Year 8 HPV Immunisations
Fri 29 March 2024	First day of Easter break
Fri 26 April 2024	Tutor group and year 8 photos
Mon 13 May – Thurs 16 May 2024	KS2 SATs Week
Wed 12 June 2024	Year 8 Alcohol Awareness
Fri 28 June 2024	Transfer Day
Wed 3 July 2024	Sports Day

### Residential and Visits

20 - 24 May 2024	Year 6 Residential to Hooke Court
20 - 23 May 2024	Year 7 Residential to Butchers Coppice
17 - 21 June 2024	Year 8 Residential to Woodmill Outdoor Activity Centre



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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 Summer Term 1, from 15 April to 24 May 2024

Day	Club	Duration	Times	Room/area	Leader
Monday Lunchtime	<b>Cricket – All Years</b>	30 mins	12.15–12.45	Field	SH/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>Music Theatre Group - All years</b>	30 mins	12:40–1:10	Music Room	SW
Monday After School	<b>Rippa Rugby - Years 5, 6 and 7 (External club paid) 15 Apr to 20 May</b> <a href="#">Welcome to Rippa Rugby</a>	1 hour	15.20–16.20	Field	External
	<b>Orchestra – Invite only</b>	1 hour	15.20–16.20	Music Room	SW
	<b>Tennis (External club paid) 15 Apr to 20 May</b> <a href="#">Live4tennisbookingform</a> Collection outside the school reception office	1 hour	15.30–16.30	Ferndown Tennis Courts	External
Tuesday Lunchtime	<b>Spanish – All years</b>	30 mins	12.15–12.45	LA15	FS
	<b>Athletics, Year 5 &amp; 6</b>	30 mins	12.15–12.45	Field	SH
	<b>Library - All Years</b> Max 30 children, quiet reading, choosing, renewing and returning books	25 mins	12.45–1.10	Library	GB
	<b>Singing – All Years</b>	30 mins	12.40–1.10	Music Room	SW
	<b>Youth Club (Year 7 invite only)</b>	45 mins	12.15–1.00	Youth Club	LB
	<b>STEM Club – Years 7 &amp; 8</b> First 10 to sign up with Miss Dale	30 mins	12.35–13.05	PA02	KD/NBA
Tuesday After School	<b>Dodgeball (External club paid) 16 Apr to 16 Jul</b> <a href="#">TeamThemebooking</a>	1 hour	15.25–16.25	Gym	External
	<b>Homework Club – All years</b>	1 hour	15.20–16.20	Library	GB
Wednesday Lunchtime	<b>Rounders – All Years</b>	30 mins	12.15–12.45	Field	SH/SG
	<b>Gardening Club – All years</b> Max 12 pupils, sign up with Mrs Cooper	30 mins	12.30 – 1.00	Tranquillity	LC/TW
	<b>Library - All Years</b> Max 30 children, quiet reading, choosing, renewing and returning books	25 mins	12.45–1.10	Library	GB
	<b>Singing – All years</b>	30 mins	12.15–12.45	Music Room	MB

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	<b>Samba - All years</b>	25 mins	12:45–1:10	Music Room	SW
	<b>Computers – Years 6 &amp; 7</b> Max 15 places, sign-up sheet in ICT room	30 mins	12.30–1.00	PA03	MM
	<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>Ukulele– All years</b>	30 mins	12.40-1.10	Music Room	SW
	<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	
<b>Thursday After school</b>	<b>Homework Club – All years</b>	1 hour	15.20–16.20	Library	GB
	<b>Athletics – Years 7 &amp; 8</b>	1 hour	15.20–16.20	Field	SH/SG
	<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	12.40-13.10	Field	MW
	<b>Dance – Year 5 &amp; 6</b>	30 mins	12.15–12.45	Hall	KZ
	<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>Eco Club – All years</b>	30 mins	12.15 –12.45	LA11	ML
	<b>Library - All Years</b> Max 30 children, quiet reading, choosing, renewing and returning books	25 mins	12.45–1.10	Library	GB

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.

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- 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 | \(fernmid.dorset.sch.uk\)](http://fernmid.dorset.sch.uk)

# Ferndown Middle School

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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	

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### Term Dates 2024 - 2025

Autumn Term 2024	<b>Autumn Term Monday 2 September 2024 to Friday 20 December 2024</b>	
	Staff Training Day	Monday 2 September 2024
	Staff Training Day	Tuesday 3 September 2024
	Welcome Back to School	Wednesday 4 September 2024
	Half Term	Monday 28 October 2024 to Friday 1 November 2024
	Last Day of Term	Friday 20 December 2024
	Christmas Holidays	Monday 23 December 2024 to Friday 3 January 2025

Spring Term 2025	<b>Spring Term Monday 6 January 2025 to Friday 4 April 2025</b>	
	Welcome Back to School	Monday 6 January 2025
	Half Term	Monday 17 February 2025 to Friday 21 February 2025
	Last Day of Term	Friday 04 April 2025
	Easter Holiday	Monday 7 April 2025 to Monday 21 April 2025

Summer Term 2025	<b>Summer Term Tuesday 22 April 2025 to Tuesday 22 July 2025</b>	
	Welcome Back to School	Tuesday 22 April 2025
	Bank Holiday	Monday 5 May 2025
	Half Term	Monday 26 May 2025 to Friday 30 May 2025
	Staff Training Day	Monday 30 June 2025
	Last Day of Term	Friday 18 July 2025
	Staff Training Day	Monday 21 July 2025
	Staff Training Day	Tuesday 22 July 2025