

Ferndown Middle School

Parent Weekly Newsletter w/c 6 May 2024



School News

Tesco Stronger Starts

We have some fantastic news to share with you, we have just heard from Tesco that we have been awarded a £1,500 community grant. This will be used for some gardening equipment and extra benches for our tranquillity garden to support our children's health and wellbeing. Thank you to Tesco and for all your support adding your blue tokens to our cause. We will share some images with you once the work has been completed.



#easyfundraising

Some more great news! We've raised £311.18 so far on #easyfundraising! Thanks to everyone who raises free funds for us every time they shop online. If you're not already, join today and raise free donations for us when you shop with over 8,000 brands! Plus, sign up today and we could win a £50 bonus: <https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/ferndownmiddleschool/ngxmub/c2s/JAWKzu1F/CE866/facebook/>

Parking

A quick reminder about parking, please can you refrain from parking opposite drives on a single carriage road as this stops people from being able to leave their properties. The Highway Code states that drivers should not park on the pavement and also that you MUST NOT leave your vehicle or trailer in a dangerous position or where it causes any unnecessary obstruction of the road. We pride ourselves on positive relationships and have been made aware of some arguments which we hope to avoid. We appreciate the need to drop children off safely and the gravel carpark opposite school, Ferndown Leisure Centre or Tesco carpark can be safe areas for this. Thank you for your support.

School Car Park

As you are aware, the school car park is closed to parents to keep staff and children safe. The exceptions are parents who have been issued with a school parking permit, who have a blue badge for their child, and arranged taxis. We kindly request that these parents do not block cars in, to park for a short time only and turn off your engine whilst waiting as per the new car idling guidance.

We would like to remind parents/carers that children should be not left unaccompanied whilst waiting to pick up your child(ren) in the school grounds. Children should always be supervised. For their own safety we kindly ask that they do not play on the green areas in front of the school or ride bikes or scooters.

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Meet the new Headteacher – Mrs A Barter

Thank you to everyone who attended the meet new headteacher workshops. There is one more chance for you to come along on Thursday 9th May at 7.00pm - 8.00pm. *We will be seeking feedback in school from the children, so the workshops are for parents and carers only.* Please sign up using the link to let us know which session you are able to attend so that we can cater for the correct numbers. [Meet the new Headteacher](#)

SATS week

Just a reminder that the SATs tests begin on Monday 13th May and finish on Thursday 16th May 2024.

With them just over two weeks away now, we are making plans to ensure they run smoothly and are a positive experience for your child. To this end, we are offering an opportunity for all Year 6 children to get together before the tests each morning.

We invite every Year 6 pupil into the hall at 8:30am on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday during SATs week. Croissants, a piece of fruit, biscuits and juice will be available, it will be a chance for your child to sit with friends and relax before the tests begin.

We look forward to hopefully seeing your child for breakfast on some or all of these days.

Kind regards

Mr P Darch, Assistant Headteacher and Mr Rich Bebbington, Head of Year 6



Tutor Group and Year 8 Photographs

Fraser Portraits has recently taken class photographs of each tutor group and the whole of year 8. To view and order these please go to their website www.orderphotos.co.uk and use the ID provided via ParentMail this week.



Wellbeing



Quality merchandise, Fair prices, What's not to love? The possibility of bagging a bargain and the ability to sell your own unwanted items have made online marketplaces like Vinted and Depop into an attractive option for anyone looking to save money or make a little extra cash for themselves in these challenging economic times. Unfortunately, however, these services (and numerous others like them) can still be misused by scammers, so it pays to remain vigilant for the risks associated with shopping apps. This week's guide has some helpful pointers to protect young people (and yourself) from potential exploitation while doing business with others online.

[Ofcom's Media Use and Attitudes Report for 2024](#)

Also attached is a copy of Ofcom's Media Use and Attitudes Report for 2024. The UK's regulator for communications publishes a comprehensive annual compendium of the results of several surveys they've conducted regarding the activities and experiences of children when interacting with entertainment: from TV to video games to social media platforms. Contained in the report are numerous statistics relevant to children's online safety, with data covering a wide array of topics - such as young people experiencing harassment, their habits in online games and parents' most common concerns. The guide gathers up some of the key statistics and lays them out in a quick, easy "cheat sheet" for you to consult at your leisure.

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Key Dates

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

Mon 6 May 2024

Mon 13 May – Thurs 16 May 2024

Mon 27 to Fri 31 May 2024

Mon 3 June 2024

Wed 12 June 2024

Fri 28 June 2024

Wed 3 July 2024

Bank Holiday

KS2 SATs Week

Half-term

Inset Day

Year 8 Alcohol Awareness

Transfer Day

Sports Day

Residential and Visits

20 - 24 May 2024

20 - 23 May 2024

17 - 21 June 2024

Year 6 Residential to Hooke Court

Year 7 Residential to Butchers Coppice

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 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

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 Council
Dorset Parent-Care Council

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	Cricket – All Years	30 mins	12.15–12.45	Field	SH/SG
	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	30 mins	12:40–1:10	Music Room	SW
Monday After School	Rippa Rugby - Years 5, 6 and 7 (External club paid) 15 Apr to 20 May Welcome to Rippa Rugby	1 hour	15.20–16.20	Field	External
	Orchestra – Invite only	1 hour	15.20–16.20	Music Room	SW
	Tennis (External club paid) 15 Apr to 20 May Live4tennisbookingform Collection outside the school reception office	1 hour	15.30–16.30	Ferndown Tennis Courts	External
Tuesday Lunchtime	Spanish – All years	30 mins	12.15–12.45	LA15	FS
	Athletics, Year 5 & 6	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
	Singing – All Years	30 mins	12.40–1.10	Music Room	SW
	Youth Club (Year 7 invite only)	45 mins	12.15–1.00	Youth Club	LB
	STEM Club – Years 7 & 8 First 10 to sign up with Miss Dale	30 mins	12.35–13.05	PA02	KD/NBA
Tuesday After School	Dodgeball (External club paid) 16 Apr to 16 Jul TeamThemebooking	1 hour	15.25–16.25	Gym	External
	Homework Club – All years	1 hour	15.20–16.20	Library	GB
Wednesday Lunchtime	Rounders – All Years	30 mins	12.15–12.45	Field	SH/SG
	Gardening Club – All years Max 12 pupils, sign up with Mrs Cooper	30 mins	12.30 – 1.00	Tranquillity	LC/TW
	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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	Singing – All years	30 mins	12.15–12.45	Music Room	MB
	Samba - All years	25 mins	12:45–1:10	Music Room	SW
	Computers – Years 6 & 7 Max 15 places, sign-up sheet in ICT room	30 mins	12.30–1.00	PA03	MM
	Art Club – All years 20 pupils, sign-up sheet on Art door	30 mins	12.15–12.45	PA10	NC
Thursday Lunchtime	Sports Leaders – Year 8	30 mins	12.15–12.45	Gym	SG
	Ukulele– All years	30 mins	12.40-1.10	Music Room	SW
	Library - All Years Max 30 children, quiet reading, choosing, renewing and returning books	25 mins	12.45–1.10	Library	GB
	The Ark – All years 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
	Science – Year 5 (Sign up with Mrs Johns)	35 mins	12.35–1.10	PA2	CJ
	School Council – Every other Thursday	1 hour	12.15–1.15	PA4	
Thursday After school	Homework Club – All years	1 hour	15.20–16.20	Library	GB
	Athletics – Years 7 & 8	1 hour	15.20–16.20	Field	SH/SG
	Arts and Crafts – All years 10 places – Sign up with AM/LP	1 hour	15.20-16.20	PA12	AM/LP
Friday Lunchtime	Football – Year 5	30 mins	12.40-13.10	Field	MW
	Dance – Year 5 & 6	30 mins	12.15–12.45	Hall	KZ
	DT Club – All years - opportunity to complete unfinished practical work First 12 pupils each week	30 mins	12.15-12.45	PA11	AM
	Eco Club – All years	30 mins	12.15 –12.45	LA11	ML
	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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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 | \(fernmid.dorset.sch.uk\)](http://fernmid.dorset.sch.uk)

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Term Dates 2023 - 2024

Winter Term Dates 2023

Inset Day	Friday 1 September 2023	Bank holidays in the autumn term <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday 25 December 2023 Tuesday 26 December 2023
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	Bank holidays in the spring term <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Year's Day: Monday 1 January 2024 Good Friday: Friday 29 March 2024 Easter Monday: Monday 1 April 2024
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	Bank holidays in the summer term <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early May bank holiday: Monday 6 May 2024 Spring bank holiday: Monday 27 May 2024 Summer bank holiday: Monday 26 August 2024
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	Autumn Term Monday 2 September 2024 to Friday 20 December 2024	
	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	Spring Term Monday 6 January 2025 to Friday 4 April 2025	
	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	Summer Term Tuesday 22 April 2025 to Tuesday 22 July 2025	
	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