



Ferndown Middle Newsletter

February 2017

Telephone: 01202 876556

E-mail: office @fernmid.dorset.sch.uk

Key Dates



Term Dates are available on the school website

Monday 27th February – Years 7/8 Maths Testing Week

Wednesday 1st March – Maths Workshop Evening (Year 5) – 6.30pm

Thursday 16th March – Year 8 play 'Chelsea's Choice'

Thursday 23rd March – Year 8 Arson Day

Friday 7th April – end of term 2pm finish

PSHCE Events



In May the pupils in Years 7 and Year 8 will be receiving anti-bullying education and e-safety education from the Safe Schools and Community Team.

On the 2nd May Year 7 will learn more about cyberbullying and Year 8 will look at bullying in relation to diversity and hate crimes.

On 5th May Year 7 will discuss racism, homophobia, xenophobia, sexting and grooming. The dangers of posting too much information online will also be covered. Year 8 will explore issues relating to personal information, privacy settings, social networks, online friends, cyberbullying and sexting.

If you feel the school needs to be aware of any personal issues which may affect your child during these presentations please inform Mrs Baynham or Mrs Giddens so the school can provide support.

E-Safety



E-Safety Sessions for Parents, Grandparents and Carers at SafeWise Bournemouth (formerly LV= Streetwise Safety Centre).

I know that many of you have concerns about the content which children and young people can be exposed to whilst online, as well as issues such as cyber-bullying and the use by young people of social media. Due to the popularity of the previous sessions, SafeWise Bournemouth will again be running '**Keep Your Child Safe Online**' sessions for parents, grandparents and carers – see details below:

Sessions will run at 9.45am and 12.30pm on **Monday 27th March**.

Each session will last for 2 hours and will be delivered by Dorset Police's Safe Schools and Communities Team.

Each session will be the same so you can choose the time which is most convenient for you.

If you would like to go then you should book directly with SafeWise on 01202 591330. The cost is £5 per person.

Year 8 Alcohol and Drugs Awareness Day



Before half term 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

School Nurse Visit



The School Nurse is coming in to school on Monday 6th March to hold a drop in session over the lunch time. If you and/or your child would like to see the school nurse please call the office on 01202 876556.

Design Technology



It has been a busy half term in Design and Technology. We had over 50 entries for the Paper Aeroplane Challenge. After several 'fly offs' we are now almost ready to announce the short list of pupils who will be invited to go to the Arts University Bournemouth to challenge and hopefully beat their students!

We also had two product designers from Bournemouth University in to work with some of our Year 8 pupils. They set them the challenge of creating a game using marbles. There were some very creative and imaginative designs and all had to complete them within two hours. Team work and collaboration were the key skills for success and it was really good to see the pupils working so well together.

Year 7 were set the challenge from Kendall Kingscott Architects based in Ringwood and the Royal Institute of British Architects to design the Ferndown of the future. Two architects from the firm came in to launch the project with two Year 7 groups. They set the brief and showed some examples of different designs and gave an insight into the very varied job of an architect. The pupils are now working in groups on their ideas supported by regular visits from the architects. There are some really imaginative and very futuristic ideas, I am not sure that all of the designs will get planning permission! All of Year 7 will be involved in this project over the remaining academic year.

Coming up this half term will be the results of the Paper Aeroplane Competition and the return of the Dyson Challenge from Bournemouth University for Year 8.

Sports News



Seated Volleyball

Winter Sports Day

We hosted our annual Winter Sports Day and all year groups put in fantastic performances. It started off with each class selecting their squads in seated volleyball, cross-country, cycling, dance, gymnastics and swimming.

It was pleasing to see the dedication of the gymnasts and dancers putting in extra practice in their own lunchtimes. This really paid off as the judges were impressed with all performances and had difficulty in selecting the winners.

The cyclists and cross-country runners all put in maximum effort in cold conditions on the field and showed pure grit and determination to finish their races. The seated volleyball players were superb and showed great empathy in this inclusive sport. The swimmers put in some superb performances in the gala just before lunchtime to cap such an action packed day.

A special mention must go to our Sports Leaders who officiated with such professionalism, focus and dedication. The day would not happen without their help and we are grateful for their commitment.

We value competition in sport and this event gave all pupils the element of competing with others in their year group. We also value inclusivity and this sports day is such an inclusive event where we encourage all pupils to take part and the sense of community is prevalent where all get involved and the statement: 'It's the taking part that counts' rings true and we hope all pupils took something from the day.

Winter Sports Days in schools are extremely rare and we are lucky that we are pioneers in celebrating participation in this unique way.

Finally we would like to congratulate all involved for their efforts and we look forward to the Summer Sports Day!

Year 7 Girls South West of England Indoor Football Championship

On Wednesday 25th January our Year 7 Girls represented Poole and East Dorset as the champions in the South West Finals at Torbay Leisure Centre. We departed early for the near three hour mini bus ride down the winding roads to Devon. The girls' spirits were certainly high in the bus and there was a lovely atmosphere going into the competition.

In our first match we came back from a goal down to beat the Bristol and South Gloucestershire Champions, Brimsham Green 2-1 with Hannah on target twice, she was supported by strong running from Tegan and Katie. In the second match against the West Cornwall Champions, Penryn we started well and Hannah put us into the lead. We couldn't get the second goal and great goalkeeping from Leah kept us in the game. Unfortunately we conceded a late equaliser to finish 1-1. The third match was much tougher and we lost this 5-0 to the North Somerset Champions, Gordano. Here the girls started slowly but they

were actually extremely unlucky as they matched the physicality of their opponents.

Our last match was against the Yeovil and District Champions, Holyrood Academy and in this match we needed a four goal victory to progress. We took our time getting into this match and we found ourselves a goal down and that meant we needed five goals in just over six minutes. The determination was clear to see and once Hannah scored the equaliser the confidence was up. Sydney and Tegan were charging down the wings creating space for Hannah to score a second and quickly a third, the excitement was building. Isobel was now playing as a midfielder taking the game to the opposition and before we knew it Hannah scored a fourth and the belief was there for a remarkable comeback. We had less than sixty seconds to go. We made another attack and Tegan struck a fierce shot that hit the outside of the post that looked like it was surely going to go in. Holyrood counter attacked us with all of our team in their half and scored a second that signalled the end of our brave attempt to make the final.

The girls could not have given more and the fact they had the grit and determination to keep battling all the way to the very end is a testament to the qualities of them both individually and collectively. They eventually finished in 3rd Place at The South West of England Championships. It sounds just fantastic when you say out loud that we are the third best team in the South West of England. What pleased me the most was the sporting attitude of our girls where they all shook hands, encouraged each other and played with big smiles on their faces. They certainly are role models for everyone in our school. It was an absolute honour to be part of their special day.

I would like to thank the driver and the parents that came to support us on this five hour round journey; it made the day feel like a community event and the girls really appreciated their positive encouragement. Finally congratulations again girls on your super efforts, I am very proud of you all and it was definitely worth the late finish.

Dorset Schools' Cross-Country Championships at Kings Park

In the freezing conditions we took our cross-country team to Kings Park for the Dorset Schools Championships. This event is fantastic because the course is longer and is open to the very best athletes from the whole of the county. I am delighted to say all pupils finished their respective races with Hannah and Todd finishing in the top 50. Special mention must go to Ryan in Year 8 who successfully defended his title and became Dorset Schools Cross-Country Champion for the third year in a row. What makes this achievement so special is that Ryan was racing against boys in Year 9 and won convincingly against older pupils. Ryan has been a fantastic ambassador for our school and his modesty is second to none, where he always supports and congratulates others. We certainly hope he is able to continue his winning streak at his new school next year. Well done Ryan, we are extremely proud of you!

East Dorset Schools' Swimming Gala at Canford School

We took an extremely enthusiastic bunch of Years 5 and 6 swimmers to Canford School for the East Dorset Schools Swimming Gala. Overall we finished in 6th position and the pupils all worked tirelessly all afternoon. Milly finished second in the Year 6 Girls 50m Breaststroke; James in Year 5 Boys 50m Freestyle and our Year 5 boys in the 50m relay. Special praise must be saved for James who won the Year 5 Boys 50m Backstroke. Excellent work swimmers and keep up the training. If any pupils want to know about local swimming clubs out of school please do not hesitate to contact the PE Department.

Dorset Table Cricket Festival at The Grange School

I am delighted to announce that our pupils finished 3rd in this competition at The Grange. This was a fantastic achievement and the pupils were ecstatic with their achievements and seeing their happy faces makes all the organising worthwhile. Congratulations to Heather, Jon, Sam, Josh, Alex and Brandon on picking up the third place certificate. Special thanks to Rob Newton from Dorset Cricket who came into school to hold taster sessions for the pupils on Mondays this half term.

Poole and East Dorset Netball League

Our Year 7 netball team played their first ever game in the netball



Table Cricket Festival



Year 8 Netball Team

league against Lytchett. Despite neither team scoring for the majority of the first half, Lytchett took the lead just before half time. Despite the girl's best efforts, Lytchett went on to beat them 2-0. Our team can be proud of the team spirit they showed in this narrow defeat and will no doubt improve as the season progresses. Well done girls!

Our Year 8 netball team suffered their first defeat of the season, narrowly losing 8-5 to Parkstone Grammar School. Despite taking an early lead, and drawing 5-5 with just a few minutes to go, the girls were unable to hang on as their opponents took advantage of opportunities to counter attack. Despite their disappointment, the girls are looking forward to getting out on the court again next week. Good luck girls.

Football

Years 6 & 7 Girls National Cup v Oasis Academy, Southampton

Our girls travelled to Southampton on a Friday evening to finish the week with an excellent football match. Our girls worked tirelessly and could only manage one goal in a 1-1 draw. The match went to a penalty shootout and we had sudden death opportunities to win but in the end we lost 2-1. The experience was fantastic to travel to play in a different region and the girls were extremely unlucky not to win the match in full time. As ever it was a pleasure to take these girls who represented Ferndown Middle School with pride.

Year 7 Boys Football

The boys travelled to Poole High in the PEDSSA Cup and managed to come away with a hard fought 2-1 victory. This is a superb result and shows us the fighting spirits the boys have to succeed. Kristian put in a man of the match performance in defence and all the boys had to work hard for the victory in extreme wet conditions.

The Year 7 Boys travelled to Swanage in the National Cup and had a magnificent 20-1 victory. The boys started brilliantly and scored within the first minute and managed to keep on going throughout. The focus was tremendous and the boys thoroughly deserved their victory. Goals were scored by Alfie, Josh, Jude, Harry, Will, Harrison, Wesley and Jamie. Well played lads!

In another long journey our boys travelled to Bridport to play their quarter final in cold conditions. Unfortunately our journey in the competition ended here with a comfortable victory for our opponents. It was only our first defeat of the season and our boys need to have the drive, passion and focus in our remaining matches to enable future success.

Years 7 & 8 Girls Dorset Cup Quarter Final Football v St Peters

In the third time of asking our girls played St Peters in the Under 13 Quarter Final. We produced some excellent attacking football and Hannah got us off the mark early on with a sweet strike. We kept pressing and a second would surely arrive and what a strike! We had a corner on the left that got cleared by their defence and Hannah smashed in a fantastic right footed strike the nestled into the top corner with power and precision. In the second half Tegan scored a fantastic goal striking first time from a neat through ball. She didn't stop there and quickly added her second and the friendly race was on between Tegan and Hannah to score their hat trick. Hannah managed this in the dying seconds and we finished up 5-0 winners. All girls played superbly and Lilli, Holly, Kim and Isabel were certainly a hard defensive unit to break down. We have a Semi-Final to look forward to and hopefully the girls can keep their momentum going.

Under 13 Girls Dorset Indoor Cricket

Ferndown Upper School kindly hosted the Dorset Indoor Cricket Competition between two Ferndown Middle School teams; one from Bournemouth School For Girls and one from Highcliffe. It was a great day's cricket and our girls competed well and put in some fine performances. Overall BSG were the winners but both of our girls' teams finished 2nd and 3rd respectively. Excellent work girls and we look forward to the outdoor season.