



# Ferndown Middle Newsletter

## January 2018

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### Key Dates



### Term Dates are available on the school website

#### Key Dates:

**Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January/Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February** – Voting for Youth Parliament (Years 7 & 8)

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February** – Year 8 Alcohol Awareness Day

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February** – Author Visit (Maz Evans)

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February** – Year 8 Careers Day/Year 7 Rocket Car Race Day / Year 6 Writing Day / Year 5 Maths Day

**Half Term Holiday – Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February**

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February** – Travelling Book Fair all week



Thank you again for your support during Ofsted. We now have to wait for the letter confirming the outcome which will be sent in due course.

### Year 6 welcome “Mexicolore”



On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January, Year 6 enjoyed a fantastic performance from “Mexicolore”, a drama group from London, who introduced our new history topic ‘The Maya’.

Their performance included music, chanting, drumming, processions, costume, video and a slideshow. All the pupils were involved, with many being able to dress in costume or play drums and other Maya instruments.

Two brave volunteers played Pok-a-Tok, an early form of basketball. But they weren’t allowed to use their hands or feet, only their hips to knock the ball!

This was an amazing event, full of colour and music, thoroughly enjoyed by all. Many thanks to Ian and Joanna from Mexicolore for putting on such a great, interactive show.

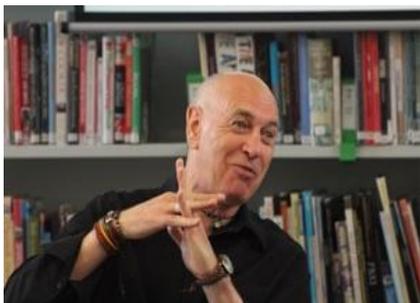
### Art Competition



The art department would like to say a massive thank you to all those who spent their time and effort in creating their Christmas card designs for the art competition. They highlight how creative and imaginative Ferndown Middle School pupils are. After much deliberation we would like to congratulate Wesley Hayward and Gracie Lever for their winning entries and Holly Pidgley and Cerys Cowley for coming runners up.

Again, thank you to everyone who entered and if you weren’t successful this year, please ensure you give it a go next year!

### Author Visit – KS3



On Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January we are lucky to have the author Joffre White visiting to work with our Year 7 and 8 groups. He will be presenting an hour long assembly in the morning and then working with some smaller groups of students during the day with a focus on creative writing.

There will be an opportunity to buy his book and to get it signed by the author himself. Books will cost £8 and if your child wishes to purchase one, please send them to school with the correct money.

Please feel free to have a look at Joffre’s website to find out more about him and his books:

[http://joffrewhite.com/joffrewhite.com/Home\\_Page.html](http://joffrewhite.com/joffrewhite.com/Home_Page.html)

## Years 7 & 8 Get Creative!



Firstly may I wish you all “Bonne Année!” from the French Department! Before the Christmas break, Year 7 and 8 pupils researched how to say “Merry Christmas and / or Happy New Year” in a different language; they also researched an interesting fact about how people celebrate Christmas or the holidays in their chosen country. We then had fun sharing this in class and practiced how to say this phrase in the many languages chosen! Pupils made Christmas cards which included their phrase and interesting fact for somebody else in their year group or a member of staff, chosen randomly by staff! A big thank you to everyone who participated so enthusiastically!

## After School Sports Clubs



If your child wishes to attend an after school sports club they need to collect a letter for after school clubs from the PE department and return asap. Thank you.

Miss White Young – Head of PE

## Attendance Reminders



Ferndown Middle School is committed to maximising attendance for all pupils to enable them to benefit fully from their education. We believe that regular attendance is vital for effective learning.

We would like to thank all the parents who ensure their children are in school, and on time, every day. We understand children can become unwell and therefore cannot always be at school; we appreciate you calling to inform us when this happens. The government expects a child’s attendance to be above 95%. If a child’s attendance falls below 90% then they will be considered as a persistent absentee.

If your child’s attendance falls below 95% then you may receive a letter bringing this to your attention. If your child’s attendance falls below 90% you could be asked to attend a meeting with our Pastoral Officer, Miss Hurst, where she will discuss any concerns we have regarding your child’s attendance. Mrs Whittaker, from the Dorset Attendance Service, works alongside us and she may also be asked to attend the meeting if your child’s attendance is causing us concern.

### Reminders for your information:

Holidays during term time will be unauthorised. If you decide to take your child out during term time you may receive a penalty notice.

Attendance to school is a legal requirement for all children. Parents run the risk of prosecution if they fail to ensure their child’s attendance at school.

**“If a child of compulsory school age fails to attend regularly at a school at which they are registered, or at a place where alternative provision is provided for them, the parents may be guilty of an offence and can be prosecuted by the local authority.” DfE 2015**

### Start of the school day:

Pupils are expected to arrive on time for the start of the school day at 8.35am and registers will be called promptly at 8.45am. If you are arriving with your child after 8.45am, children must enter through the school office and sign in. Registers will officially close at 9.10 a.m.

“If a pupil is frequently arriving after the attendance register has closed, the parent/carer is committing an offence by failing to ensure that the child is receiving full-time education and the parent/carer may therefore be issued with a Penalty Notice or prosecuted under the Education Act 1996, Section 444.”

**Please find our full attendance policy on our website.**

## Parking



You may be aware that the council is putting bollards outside the school to prevent parking on the pavement, making it safer for pedestrians and our pupils. There have been a number of incidents recently where children have encountered 'near misses' due to irresponsible and dangerous parking outside the school gates. Section 243 of the Highway Code states "Do not stop or park near a school entrance or within 10 metres of a junction"; anyone doing so may be subject to a Penalty Charge Notice.

There is **NO PARKING OR WAITING** in the school grounds at any time, except for parents of disabled children or disabled visitors by prior arrangement with the office. The drop-off zone is purely for dropping pupils off at the start of school and must not be used at any other time of day.

Cones are used in the school car park to indicate that there is no stopping or parking in these areas. The cones ensure clear movement of traffic and must not be moved.

There are numerous car parks in Ferndown just a short walk from the school. Please use these for parking and either walk to the school gates to collect your child, or arrange for your child to walk to you. There is a school crossing patrol on Church Road to ensure the safety of children and public at both ends of the school day.