



# Ferndown Middle Newsletter

## November 2017

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### Key Dates



### Term Dates are available on the school website

5<sup>th</sup> December: Year 5 Christmas Concert at St Mary's Church – 1.45pm  
11<sup>th</sup> December: Community Christmas Party – 1.45pm  
13<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Concert – 7pm  
14<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day  
15<sup>th</sup> December: Last Day of Term – **school finishes at 2pm**  
Tuesday 2nd January: First day of Spring Term

### Staff Update



On Friday we say goodbye and thank you to Mrs Williams one of our Teaching Assistants. Mrs Williams will be working at a first school in Dorset. She has been appointed as a Higher Level Teaching Assistant and thoroughly deserves this promotion.  
At the end of this term Mr Higgins will be leaving Ferndown Middle School to take up post as Head of Physical Education in a special school. This is a great opportunity for Mr Higgins to diversify his career and I am sure that he will be very successful. We thank Mr Higgins for his hard work, dedication and high quality teaching that he has delivered at our school. He will be greatly missed by staff, pupils and parents.  
I am delighted that Miss White Young will be leading the department and I am sure that physical education will continue to go from strength to strength.

### Attendance and Lateness



Thank you to all the parents who ensure that their child is in school and on time every day. It doesn't go unnoticed! Good attendance is very important for your child's progress and attainment in learning. We have recently sent out an update regarding the consequence of poor attendance and unauthorised absence. There is also an additional appendix regarding information sharing between schools for you to read on our website.

### I'm a Scientist Get Me Out of Here



Ferndown Middle School was lucky enough to gain a place for 'I'm a Scientist Get Me Out of Here'. This is an online event where pupils get to meet and interact with real scientists in the form of an X factor-style competition between the scientists. Pupils from Years 5, 6 and 7 chatted to the scientists during the live chat session, where they asked questions about the scientist's life and their work or about any aspect of science. The students then voted for the best scientist. The pupils fully engaged with this experience and asked some interesting questions. They were particularly thrilled when a scientist congratulated them on asking great questions.

### School Council

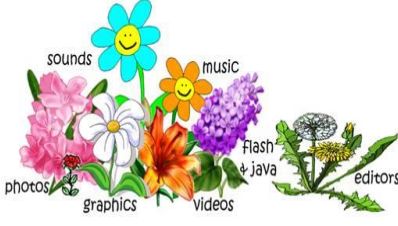





The School council have had a really busy couple of weeks. In meetings we have been discussing new ideas for rewarding good work and behaviour, and have also been discussing ways of improving the food in our canteen. We were also visited on Tuesday 21st Nov by the clerk to the town council, who was interested in hearing our ideas on improving the playground on King George V playing fields.  
Last week was No Put Down week. As communications officer for school council it was great to see and hear so many compliments and positive comments flying around! We had lots of compliment slips to deliver; apparently the most so far; school council members also joined council members from Ferndown First School, Parley First School and Emmanuel Middle School at Ferndown Upper School where we talked about how the week was going, and everybody shared what they had been getting up to.  
Jasper Dalby - Communications Officer for FMS School Council.


### University Visit



On Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November, a group of our Year 8 students attended a workshop at Bournemouth University aimed at challenging and inspiring them within Physical Education. The visit began with a tour of the University, followed by a practical workshop. The workshop was planned and delivered by students from the University, giving our children an opportunity to work alongside a number of fantastic role models. Our children were set a variety of team building challenges, had a chance to play bench ball and were introduced to crazy catch. The visit was a huge success with all of our students commenting on what a fascinating yet enjoyable morning it had

	<p>been. A huge thank you to the staff and students at Bournemouth University for providing us with such a wonderful experience.</p>
<p><b>FMS Gardening Club</b></p> 	<p><i>'A garden is a grand teacher. It teaches patience and careful watchfulness; it teaches industry and thrift; above all it teaches entire trust.'</i> Gertrude Jekyll</p> <p>The gardening club has got off to a great start! Since September, enthusiastic pupils from several year groups have been busy weeding, clearing flower beds, planting lavender hedges and burying crocus, daffodil, glory-of-the-snow and grape-hyacinth bulbs in readiness for a riot of spring colour. We have had several donations of hebes, seeds and bulbs from FMS families, for which we are very grateful. Our club has also been lucky enough to have a beautiful potting bench donated to us by Mrs Robertson, which has already been pressed into use. A huge thank you from us all. Mrs Monro</p>
<p><b>PSHCE Update</b></p> 	<p><b>Telling A Tale – Year 6</b></p> <p>On Wednesday every Year 6 child attended a play about bullying and the impact this can have on a person's life. It followed the story of a boy who was a victim of bullying but who then became the bully. Following the play the pupils attended a workshop to discuss ways to deal with bullying behaviours.</p> <p><b>Year 8 Bullying and Diversity</b></p> <p>The Year 8 pupils were visited by the SSCO and were taught about bullying and diversity, with respect to the law. The pupils were taught that some types of bullying are illegal and should be reported to the Police. These include bullying that involves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• violence or assault</li> <li>• theft</li> <li>• harassment and intimidation over a period of time including calling someone names or threatening them, making abusive phone calls, and sending abusive emails or text messages (one incident is not normally enough to get a conviction)</li> <li>• anything involving <u>hate crimes</u></li> </ul> <p>The pupils were also given advice about dealing with online bullying.</p>
<p><b>JTYAF</b></p> 	<p>We are delighted to announce that The John Thornton Young Achievers Foundation have kindly sponsored two new sets of football shirts for our pupils to enjoy. We have decided to purchase a home kit that is royal blue and an away kit of pink. Our school has a fantastic footballing reputation for both girls and boys and this partnership with The John Thornton Young Achievers Foundation will allow us to stand out from the crowd in future football matches.</p> <p>The John Thornton Young Achievers Foundation provides opportunities for young people to help them to develop as individuals and fulfil their ambitions in life and it goes without saying that the shirts will be worn with pride. The power of sport allows pupils to grow as individuals and gain in confidence whilst testing themselves to the limit and we are eternally grateful to this foundation for their kind support.</p>
<p><b>Year 4 Art Evenings</b></p> 	<p>We recently hosted two successful transition evenings for the art and design department. It was lovely to see so many Year 4 pupils from the surrounding feeder schools coming together; some meeting for the very first time. These evenings give pupils the ability to familiarise themselves with their surroundings and enjoy the fantastic facilities that will be open to them at Ferndown Middle School. Over the two evenings pupils had the opportunity to design their own keyring, make soda bread and use the jig saw to cut their own road.</p> <p>As a department we look forward to this time of the year as we are able to introduce different techniques and skills that will set them up for later life. We are happy to say that all pupils seemed to have a big smile on their face as they left and we look forward to the possibilities of welcoming them to Ferndown Middle School in the future.</p>
<p><b>Parent Governor News</b></p>	<p>My name is Mojo Billington and I am a new Parent Governor for FMS. I have a son in Year 8 and another son in first school. I am passionate about education and work as a tutor for students who lack mathematical confidence at GCSE level. I am really pleased with the experience my son has had at FMS and impressed with the staff and the school's approach. Being a Parent Governor seemed like a great opportunity to contribute to the school and to find out more about what goes on behind the scenes. Even in the short time I have been part of the governing body I have been able to see, first hand, the care, creativity and effort that goes into making FMS a safe, happy place,</p>



	<p>providing our children with a well-balanced education. All governors are volunteers. As a group we oversee the policies that inform how the school is run and hold the Leadership team to account for enacting these policies. Governors come from all walks of life and bring their skills and experiences to the group. One thing that struck me is how many of them started off as parents in the school but have continued to act as governors long after their children have left because they have enjoyed making a difference to the school community. If you would like to find out more about what school governors do or how you could contribute to our school please contact our chair, Paul Tuttiett via the school office.</p>
<p><b>Ferndown Youth Centre</b></p> 	<p>Ferndown Youth centre has reopened and is now run by Ferndown Town Council. The youth centre aims to provide a designated place for young people to have fun with friends, try new activities and build new relationships. While young people are with us we aim to engage them in informal learning and encourage them to take responsibility for the centre.</p> <p>The centre is run by qualified, trained and DBS checked youth workers with support from DBS checked volunteers. Ferndown Youth Centre is fully insured and risk assessments are in place.</p> <p>We open on a Thursday and Friday afternoon for a drop in which is free of charge and open for young people in Years 7 and above from 15:00-18:00. Wednesday evening is our Years 7 and 8 youth club running from 18:30-21:00 at a cost of £1 a session.</p> <p>Friday evening we have our Year 6 youth club running from 18:30-21:00 at a cost of £1 a session.</p> <p>For more information please contact the centre on 01202 874448 or <a href="mailto:aaron.fellows@ferndown.gov.uk">aaron.fellows@ferndown.gov.uk</a>. Alternatively please contact the Town Council on 01202 892249.</p>
<p><b>Ferndown First School</b></p>	<p>Please be aware that middle school parents should only be using the first school car park if they are also collecting children from the first school; also the first school car park shouldn't be used as a drop off facility in the morning, as this causes congestion during this busy time of the day.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>

## Sports News

### Year 7 Boys Football County Cup v Bishop of Winchester

The team played their first round match at home against Bishop of Winchester; they started well and produced some good football and scored some excellent goals in a 7-0 win. Goals from Morgan, George, Todd, Jack and Ethan ensured that we progress through to the next round.

### Year 7 Boys County Cup v St Michaels

Unfortunately we lost against our visitors. We gave two early goals away; Jack scored a fine goal and we tried our very best to score an equaliser and unfortunately could not do so and went out losing 2-1.



### Year 6 Boys East Dorset 7 Aside Competition

Lockyers, St Ives, Allenbourn, Lytchett, Emmanuel, St Michaels and West Moors all joined us in the East Dorset Football Competition hosted and here at Ferndown Middle. We produced some great performances and won all three of our group matches convincingly without conceding a goal. We drew our semi-final 0-0 and unfortunately lost in a penalty shoot-out against St Michaels. In the third and fourth play-off we beat Lytchett and finished the competition in third place. Playing five matches and conceding no goals and losing our only match in a shoot-out demonstrates a superb performance and on another day this would have been enough to win overall. Well played lads, you should be extremely proud. Finally I would like to thank the Year 8 boys who officiated all afternoon.



### **Year 7 & 8 Girls v St Michaels**

In our first match of the season St Michaels hosted us in an exciting football match that had everything but a goal! Both teams defended superbly and when Leah got injured Sydney stepped up to go in goal and gave a superb performance making many saves. Isobel worked tirelessly all match and Tegan showed some skilful touches and was unlucky not to score. I have every confidence this team will grow in confidence this season after this promising 0-0 draw. Well played girls!

### **Year 6 Girls' Football**

On Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November we travelled to St Michaels Middle School to participate in the Year 6 girls East Dorset football tournament. The team demonstrated a fantastic team spirit and determination, working together to score several fantastic goals! It was a really close competition, with us fighting for one of the top positions. After a nail-biting wait to hear the final results we were awarded second place and are now through the Dorset County Finals! A massive well done to all of the girls who participated.



### **Year 6 & 7 Girls v St Michaels**

We hosted a Friday evening fixture against St Michaels and I am delighted to say we won 6-2. Megan scored a hat trick, Nathi scored two and Aimee scored the other goal. What was pleasing was that we had such a big squad and there were many girls playing their first football match for the school and there was an abundance of excitement! Well played girls, you should be extremely proud of your first game of the season.

### **Year 6 & 7 Girl's County Cup v Cranborne**

We travelled to Cranborne for this County Cup fixture. Some fantastic goals were scored throughout the afternoon from Aimee, Lily, Megan and Nathi to win 8-2. Katie produced some brilliant saves and our defenders all had to make last ditch tackles. It is pleasing that there are so many girls that want to play football and represent Ferndown Middle.

### **Year 6 & 7 Girl's County Cup v St Peters**

In our second group match we hosted St Peters here at Ferndown. Our girls played superbly well; goals from Lily (2), Megan and Nathi gave us a 4-0 victory. This win ensured we have qualified for the Quarter Finals as we have won both of our group matches. All girls contributed, especially Chloe in midfield who kept linking play between defence and attack. Fantastic play girls and keep up the good work through the season.

### **Year 6 Boys v Emmanuel**

In our final league match we played Emmanuel. It was great to see the commitment from all involved and there were many of our lads playing their first match for the school this season. The goals were scored by Josh (2) and Holsten. Henry made some super saves to enable us to win 3-1 and subsequently win our mini league. Well played lads!



### **National Badminton Competition at Ferndown Upper School**

Our badminton team that consisted of pupils from years 5-8 played in a Key Stage 3 competition at Ferndown Upper. I am delighted that we took all members from our badminton club and had five teams competing. We played against schools from Lytchett Minster, QE, Ferndown Upper, West Moors and Poole Grammar. In some cases our pupils were playing against teams from Year 9. Overall all pupils had a great afternoon and one of our teams finished top of their group (including Year 9 pupils from QE) to go through to a semi-final against Ferndown Upper. All pupils acquitted themselves brilliantly and enjoyed their taste of competitive matches. I must thank Mark Lever, our Badminton Coach for preparing the pupils in such a professional way.

### **Poole and East Dorset Cross Country at Canford School**

In the third fixture of the season our pupils travelled to Canford School for this cross-country meeting. All pupils finished their races and worked tremendously hard to do so. Todd finished in 9<sup>th</sup> place and we also had strong finishes from Xavier, Connor and Finn; it was very pleasing to see all pupils taking part.