

Ferndown Middle School

Parent Weekly Newsletter w/c 18 September 2023



School News

Understanding Anxiety Workshop

The school has been fortunate to be allocated an Educational Mental Health Practitioner who works directly with the NHS. To begin with they will organise a group workshop for families offering advice, information and signposting to support. The first workshop will take place in school on Friday 22nd September at 9.00 am to 10.00 am. The focus of this session will be:

- What is Anxiety.
- Types of Anxiety in children.
- Maintenance Factors.
- What can we do to help.

It would be great if we as many families as possible could be involved in this session as the topic of 'Anxiety' and the term is widely used in our current post COVID climate. If you would like to attend, please can you complete the form on the following link by 21 September 2023. [Understanding Anxiety Workshop 22 09 2023](#)



Ferndown Middle School has signed up to the United Against Bullying programme, which supports schools to reduce bullying and improve the wellbeing of all children. The first stage of this programme is to ask pupils about their experiences at school through an anonymous online questionnaire to complete at home. This will provide us with information about the current level of bullying and wellbeing within the school.

We would like as many children as possible to complete the questionnaire, regardless of their experiences. If you would like your child to participate, please could you complete this [consent form](#) by Monday 25th September. Please note that the questionnaire will close on Friday 29th September.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

At the end of this newsletter is an updated list of the extra-curricular clubs for Autumn term 1. Please remember that parental permission is required for your child to attend an after-school club, please use this [link](#) to confirm your consent.

Library Books

We are happy to receive donations of any 'good condition middle school appropriate' fiction books that are no longer required at home. Please drop them into the school office.

Summer Reading Challenge

There is still time to visit Ferndown library and complete the challenge. It will officially end on Saturday 23rd September.

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School Photographs

If you would like to purchase copies of your child's school photograph, please follow the instructions contained on the proof and order online no later than 10.00 am on Friday 22nd September 2023. Please do not send the order form or money into the school.



Dates for your dairies

We will be holding a Year 5 Parents' Welcome Session on **Thursday 21st September** and would be delighted if you could join us. The session will begin at 9.00 am in the school hall, where you will be welcomed by the Head. There will be a short tour of the school led by year 8 pupils for you to see where your child works on a daily basis, before you are able to spend time in your child's classroom. You will be able to sit alongside them, have a look at their books and talk to them about their first few weeks at middle school. The session will finish at approximately 10.30 am.

Thurs 21 September	Year 5 parents welcome morning, 9.00 – 10.30 am
Fri 22 September	Understanding Anxiety Workshop, 9.00 – 10.00 am
Mon 16 October	Meet the tutor evening, 16.00 – 18.00
Wed 18 October	Meet the tutor evening, 16.00 – 18.00
Fri 20 October	Last day of term

Sports News

Our Extra - Curricular Clubs have started this week and pupils have shown great determination and commitment in attending already. Please remember to ask the PE Staff if you have any questions about clubs.

On Wednesday Mini Handball came in and delivered some great tasters to our Key Stage 2 pupils. It was lovely seeing them all be enthused at lunch time. Our Handball Club starts after school on Wednesday. Handball is a great inclusive sport that incorporates football, basketball and netball. Please follow the link to book onto this exciting club.

We have had our first fixture of the academic year where our Year 8 Boys played Allenbourn. It was a sunny Thursday evening in the summer that keeps on giving. Our boys all demonstrated the sportsmanship and commitment that is expected in representing Ferndown Middle School. I'm delighted to say that we won with goals coming from Jenson, Liam and Harley. It was great having the 14 pupils all sticking together and supporting each other.

Yours in sport, Mr Higgins

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School Reminders

Reporting an absence

To maximise the safety of the children, all parents/carers must follow the procedures for reporting a child's absence from the school. Please contact the school before 08:45 to report the reason for a child's absence. Keep following this pattern on each subsequent day of absence until the pupil returns to school unless otherwise agreed with the school.

Ways to contact the school to report an illness/absence.

- Call the school's absence line 01202 876556, please leave a message to include your child's name, tutor group, and reason for absence.
- Email office@fernmid.dorset.sch.uk with the above details.

It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school when they're unwell. Please click on the link below for advice. [Is my child too ill for school?](#)

Procedure for reporting Medical/Dental Appointments

Parents/carers are advised where possible to make medical and dental appointments outside of the school day. Where this is not possible, children should attend school for part of the day. A few days before the appointment, please email office@fernmid.dorset.sch.uk with the date/time and the approximate duration of the appointment and attach a copy of the appointment card or letter before the date of the appointment and then we will authorise the absence. Please also include the time you will need to collect your child.

If your child will be late into school because of a medical or dental appointment, please let us know prior to the appointment or phone the school on the morning of the appointment and leave a message on the absence line before 8.45 am. If arriving late, please ensure that your child is accompanied and signed in by an adult at the school office for safeguarding reasons.

If no letter, appointment card or text message reminder can be provided we will not authorise the absence. Medical and dental appointments will normally only be authorised for a morning or afternoon session and not the whole day unless the reasons for this are explained.

Request for time off school

Should you need to request time out of school for your child, you will need to complete a request form for the time off school. Please send it to the school at least 2 weeks before the time off is required. Please note that completing the request does not constitute approval – this can only be authorised by Mrs Allen, Headteacher.

Please include an explanation of why you are applying for an authorised absence and the circumstances which make your application exceptional; and therefore, the leave cannot be taken within the normal 13 weeks holiday your child has from school. If you are requesting authorisation to attend a specific event, please confirm the date of the event and explain your travel arrangements. If you require additional space, please continue on the other side of the form. Please attach copies of documentation that supports your application.

A copy of the form is available from the school office or can be downloaded from the school's website. [Managing Medicines | \(fernmid.dorset.sch.uk\)](#)

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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

Week of Action preventing radicalisation



The Pan-Dorset Prevent Partnership Board aims to safeguard people of all ages from the risk of radicalisation, becoming involved in terrorism, or supporting extremist ideologies.

Play your part and support our Week of Action by signing up to a **free** session available to you.

Monday 2 October	1 to 1.30pm	Online what is prevent? + introduction to the week's events. Suitable for educators, professionals and parents	communitysafetybcp@bpcouncil.gov.uk
Monday 2 October	2 to 3pm	Online making a prevent referral Suitable for educators and professionals	communitysafetybcp@bpcouncil.gov.uk
Tuesday 3 October	-	Lived experience - Hear from a survivor of the Westminster Bridge terror attack. Suitable for students of Weymouth College	Weymouth College
Tuesday 3 October	-	Lived experience - Hear from a survivor of the Westminster Bridge terror attack. Suitable for students of Bournemouth & Poole College	Bournemouth & Poole College
Wednesday 4 October	10am to 12pm	Online extremism and gaming Suitable for educators and professionals	communitysafetybcp@bpcouncil.gov.uk
Wednesday 4 October	3 to 4pm	Online counter-terrorism signs and symbols Suitable for educators and professionals	communitysafetybcp@bpcouncil.gov.uk
Thursday 5 October	9.30 to 10.30am	Online making a prevent referral Suitable for educators and professionals	communitysafetybcp@bpcouncil.gov.uk
Thursday 5 October	12.30 to 1.30pm	Online safety for professionals Suitable for educators and professionals	communitysafetybcp@bpcouncil.gov.uk
Thursday 5 October	3.30 to 4.30pm	Online safety for professionals Suitable for educators and professionals	communitysafetybcp@bpcouncil.gov.uk
Friday 6 October	12.30 to 1.30pm	Online safety for parents Suitable for parents	communitysafetybcp@bpcouncil.gov.uk
Friday 6 October	6 to 7pm	Online safety for parents Suitable for parents	communitysafetybcp@bpcouncil.gov.uk





At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

An infographic with a purple and blue background, featuring colorful, swirling lines. The main title is 'What Parents & Carers Need to Know about THREADS'. Below the title, there is a paragraph of text. To the left, there is a yellow sign that says 'WHAT ARE THE RISKS?'. To the right, there is a circular graphic with '12+' and 'AGE RESTRICTION' around it, and a red box below it that says 'However, Threads' reliance on an Instagram login effectively makes it 13+'.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about **THREADS**

Threads is currently the number one trending social media app. Developed by Meta, the company behind Instagram and Facebook, Threads is a clear rival of Twitter (now known as X) in that it's a text-based conversation platform which allows posts of up to 500 characters, with the option to include links, photos and short videos. Threads is connected to a user's existing Instagram account, which lets people get started on this new app straight away: their followers and favourite creators will be imported from Instagram to their freshly created Threads account.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

12+
AGE RESTRICTION

However, Threads' reliance on an Instagram login effectively makes it 13+

The free online safety guide attached profiles 'Threads' – a major new social media platform – and highlights what parents and carers need to be aware of.

While Threads is currently relatively basic in terms of features, some concerns have already been raised over the sheer volume of users' data the platform collects, the possibility of algorithms recommending unsuitable content and, as always, other people's spiteful behaviour.

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Extra-Curricular Clubs - Autumn Term 1, from 11 September to 20 October 2023

Day	Club	Duration	Times	Room/area	Leader
Monday Lunchtime	Boys Football – Year 7 & 8	30 mins	12.15–12.45	Field	SH
	Basketball – Year 5 & 6	30 mins	12.15–12.45	Field	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	Netball – Year 5 & 6	1 hour	15.30–16.30	Playground	SG & AC
	Rippa Rugby - Years 5, 6 and 7 (External club paid) 11 Sept to 16 Oct 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) 11 Sept to 16 Oct Live4Tennis booking Collection outside school reception office	1 hour	15.30–16.30	Ferndown Tennis Courts	External
	Arts and Crafts – All years (Starts 25 Sept) 10 places – Sign up with AM/LP	1 hour	15.20–16.20	PA12	AM/LP
Tuesday Lunchtime	Girls Football – Year 7 & 8	30 mins	12.15–12.45	Field	SG
	Football – Year 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 Group - All years	30 mins	12.40–1.10	Music Room	SW
	Youth Club (Year 7 invite only)	30 mins	12.15–12.30	Youth Club	LB
	French for Holiday – All years	30 mins	12.15–12.45	LA15	FS
	Gardening and Growing – All years First 20 every week	30 mins	12.15–12.45	PA07	TW/LC
STEM Club – Years 7 & 8 Starts 19 Sept First 10 to sign up with Miss Dale	30 mins	12.35–13.05	PA02	KD/NBA	
Tuesday After School	Dodgeball (External club paid) 19 Sept to 5 Dec Team Theme booking form	1 hour	15.25–16.25	Gym	External

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	Homework Club – All years	1 hour	15.20–16.20	Library	GB
Wednesday Lunchtime	Sports Leaders – Year 8	30 mins	12.15–12.45	Gym	KB
	Football – Year 5 & 6 Girls	30 mins	12.15–12.45	Field	SG
	Running Club	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
	Samba - All years	25 mins	12:45–1:10	Music Room	SW
	Choir – All years	30 mins	12.15–12.45	Music Room	NP
	Spanish – All years	20 mins	12.50–1.10	LA6	EBS
	Computers – Years 6 & 7 Max 12 place, sign-up sheet in ICT room	30 mins	12.30–1.00	PA03	MM
	Craft Club – All years First 15 children on the day, no need to sign up	25 mins	12.40–1.15	LA9	EW
	Art Club – All years 20 pupils, sign-up sheet on Art door	30 mins	12.15–12.45	PA10	NC
Wednesday After School	Mini Hand Ball – Years 5 & 6 (Dates 20 Sept to 18 Oct) https://bookwhen.com/minihandball	1 hour	15.20–16.20	Gym	External
	Roleplaying Club – Alternate KS2/3	1 hour	15.20–16.20	LA3	AM
Thursday Lunchtime	Cricket – All years	30 mins	12.15–12.45	Field	SH
	Basketball – Year 7 & 8	30 mins	12.15–12.45	Gym	SG
	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
	Ukelele – Year 5 & 6	30 mins	12:15–12:45	Music Room	GB
	Science – Year 5 (Sign up with Mrs Johns)	35 mins	12.35–1.10	PA2	CJ
	School Council	1 hour	12.15–1.15	PA4	BR
	Ukulele – KS2	25 mins	12.30–12.55	Music Room	GB

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	First 18 every week				
Thursday After School	Netball – Year 7 & 8	1 hour	15.20–16.20	Playground	SG & KB
	Homework Club – All years	1 hour	15.20–16.20	Library	GB
Friday Lunchtime	Football – Y5	30 mins	12.15–12.45	Field	MW
	Library - All Years Max 30 children, quiet reading, choosing, renewing and returning books	25 mins	12.45–1.10	Library	GB
	Dance – Year 5 & 6	30 mins	12.15–12.45	Hall	KZ

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 | \(fernmiddorset.sch.uk\)](https://www.fernmiddorset.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	