

# Ferndown Middle School

## Parent Weekly Newsletter w/c 19 February 2024



### School News

Dear Parent/ Carer,

Wishing you all a restful and happy half term. We return to school on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February. It has been a busy half term with great opportunities for your children. The calendar below sets out what is available for your child to participate in next half term. I hope that your child /children will be inspired to try a new challenge.

For our staffing update we say goodbye and thank you to Miss Bointon as she embarks on a new role at Broadstone First School. Mrs Hanger will be replacing Miss Bointon starting after half term. Mrs Hanger is currently working in our school, so she is familiar with the curriculum and how we work. I am confident that this will be a smooth transition.

Thank you for your support. As always, if you have any questions, please contact us via the school office.

Happy half term.

Mrs G Allen, Headteacher

### Escapeline

On 19/02/24 Escapeline, a charity that is committed to preventing the criminal and sexual exploitation of young people by gangs, will be coming into school to delivery assemblies to Year 7 and Year 8. On 22/02/24, these assemblies will be followed up by workshops for Yr7 and Yr8 and workshops will also be held for Yr5 and Yr6 pupils.



Escapeline have delivered assemblies at FMS a number of times and are well regarded across the South West of England for raising awareness amongst young people of County Lines and the grooming process. In the past Escapeline have worked with our older pupils but now, sadly, younger children are being targeted and as a consequence our younger pupils will be taking part in a workshop. The workshops and assemblies are carefully tailored to the age of the children and school staff will be present while the assemblies and workshops are delivered.

It is important that we raise the awareness of our young people to the risks that may present while they are out in the community or online. We would encourage you to talk to your children following the input from Escapeline to understand what they have learnt and to discuss ways of keeping themselves safe. Should you have any questions regarding these sessions please contact Mrs Giddens.

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## Parent Weekly Newsletter w/c 19 February 2024



### Sports roundup

#### Thursday 1st February 2024 – Under 12 Girls County Schools Cup v Grange at Home

We hosted Grange in an eagerly awaited fixture in the Dorset Schools County Football Cup. Our girls started fast and created some early chances but could not score. Grange managed to score from their chances and progress to the next round of the cup. What was pleasing was that we had 18 girls representing our school with desire and energy. They all wanted to be part of the fixture and worked ever so hard for each other. Our pupils displayed superb positivity through cheering on each other and this was a lovely atmosphere to be a part of. It was not to be our day and many positives to take from this fixture. We thank Grange for visiting us and wish them luck in the next round.

#### Friday 2nd February 2024 – Under 13 Girls County Schools Cup v Twynham at Home

We hosted Twynham in a close encounter that could have gone either way. We raced into a one goal lead and created many chances and just could not grab that all important second goal. Twynham grew into the match and scored two goals either side of half time to lead 2-1. We really pushed hard for the equaliser and hit the post and their goalkeeper made endless saves. Sadly, we could not get that elusive goal to take the match to extra time. All of our girls really rolled their sleeves up and gave their all for our school team and should be ever so proud of their determination and effort. It was pleasing to witness them take the leadership and responsibility to really push hard for the win on through their own initiative. For that I am ever so proud. This was a high-quality match, and we thank Twynham for visiting us and wish them luck in the next round of the cup.



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KS3 pupils have been able to access our careers software called Xello. It is accessible for you to look at via mobiles, tablets, iPads etc. The software learns about your child's personality traits, learning style, interests etc. and suggests possible career matches. The software then tells the reader about salary, demand for the job, what skills and attributes potential employers are looking for. It may prove to be an interesting area to discuss at home.

Our careers programme is enhanced by the generosity of parents willing to share their career experience with the pupils. We are looking for willing volunteers to talk to the pupils in our school assembly. Attached is a leaflet explaining what is needed. Please make contact if you are willing to help.

After studying "Dreams and Goals" all year groups have been studying the "Healthy Me" topic. Here is an overview of the key content. If you have any concerns or wish to know more detail, please contact your child's PSHCE teacher.

Year Group	Overview
Year 5	Know the health risks of smoking, know the risks of alcohol misuse, know how to give basic first aid, understand how certain body types are promoted and how this can contribute to issues with food, understand the role of food in our lives, know the importance of oral hygiene, know what a healthy lifestyle involves.
Year 6	To take responsibility for health and well-being, know about different types of drugs and their uses, understand how some people may be exploited, know why people join gangs and the potential risks, understand emotional wellness, to be able to recognise stress and know ways to manage it.
Year 7	Understand the impact of healthy choices on the body and mind, understand the positive impact of good sleep on my body and mind, to recognise triggers for stress and ways to self-help.
Year 8 (Under review)	This unit of work is being updated. Information will be sent out after half term.

Mrs Baynham  
Careers Leader



### Wellbeing

Online video calling with random strangers. It is hardly a new internet phenomenon – but the recent demise of Omegle has prompted the creation of several similar platforms bidding to fill the vacuum. One such contender is Monkey – a service that randomly connects its users for video calls, using their mobile numbers and Snapchat account details.

Monkey has surged in popularity since Omegle's shutdown in November 2023: visits to the site more than doubled within a month and have been climbing steadily ever since. Regrettably, it also seems that Monkey suffers from many of the same pitfalls as its notorious predecessor the attached guide highlights these possible risks to young people in more detail.



Many adults and young people are struggling with mental health. Below are links which you may find useful.

For more tips and information about looking after your child's mental health go to [www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/supporting-others/childrens-mental-health/](https://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/supporting-others/childrens-mental-health/)

As a parent or carer, looking after your own wellbeing is also important and Every Mind Matters enables you to get tailored wellbeing support. Use the Mind Plan to see what works for you: <https://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/mental-wellbeing-tips/your-mind-plan-quiz>

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### Key Dates

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

Mon 19 February 2024	Escapeline assemblies Years 7 & 8
Thurs 22 February 2024	Escapeline workshops for all year groups
Mon 26 February 2024	Year 6, National Child Measurement Programme
Mon 26 February 2024	Anxiety Workshop
Wed 6 March 2024	Apprenticeships presentation Year 8
Wed 6 March 2024	KS2 SATS parent presentation 6.00 pm online
Thurs 21 March 2024	Mexicolore visit Year 5
Wed 27 March 2024	Arson Awareness Day Year 8
Thurs 28 March	Last day of term, pupils finishing at 1.30 pm
Fri 29 March 2024	First day of Easter break
Fri 26 April 2024	Tutor group and year 8 photos
Mon 13 May – Thurs 16 May 2024	KS2 SATs

### Residential and Visits

Fri 1 March 2024	Year 8 Trip to Bournemouth University
Wed 13 March 2024	Year 7 Trip to Lulworth Cove & Corfe Castle
20 - 24 May 2024	Year 6 Residential to Hooke Court
20 - 23 May 2024	Year 7 Residential to Butchers Coppice
17 - 21 June 2024	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](https://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](https://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](#)

# Ferndown Middle School

## Parent Weekly Newsletter w/c 19 February 2024



Extra-Curricular Clubs Spring Term 2, from 19 February to 28 March 2024

Day	Club	Duration	Times	Room/area	Leader
Monday Lunchtime	<b>Boys Football – Years 6, 7 &amp; 8</b>	30 mins	12.15–12.45	Field	SH
	<b>Library - All Years</b> Max 30 children, quiet reading, choosing, renewing and returning books	25 mins	12.45–1.10	Library	GB
	<b>Music Theatre Group - All years (Full)</b>	30 mins	12:40–1:10	Music Room	SW
Monday After School	<b>Netball – Year 5 &amp; 6</b>	50 mins	15.30–16.20	Playground/Gym	SG & AC
	<b>Rippa Rugby - Years 5, 6 and 7 (External club paid) 19 Feb to 25 Mar</b> <a href="#">Welcome to Rippa Rugby</a>	1 hour	15.20–16.20	Field	External
	<b>Orchestra – Invite only</b>	1 hour	15.20–16.20	Music Room	SW
	<b>Tennis (External club paid) <a href="#">Live4tennisbookingform</a> 19 Feb to 25 Mar</b> Collection outside the school reception office	1 hour	15.30–16.30	Ferndown Tennis Courts	External
Tuesday Lunchtime	<b>Girls Football – All years</b>	30 mins	12.15–12.45	Field	SG
	<b>Gymnastics – All years</b>	30 mins	12.15–12.45	Gym	SH
	<b>Library - All Years</b> Max 30 children, quiet reading, choosing, renewing and returning books	25 mins	12.45–1.10	Library	GB
	<b>Young Voices practice (Full)</b>	30 mins	12.40–1.10	Music Room	SW
	<b>Youth Club (Year 7 invite only)</b>	30 mins	12.15–12.30	Youth Club	LB
	<b>French for Holiday – All years</b>	30 mins	12.15–12.45	LA15	FS
	<b>STEM Club – Years 7 &amp; 8</b> First 10 to sign up with Miss Dale	30 mins	12.35–13.05	PA02	KD/NBA
Tuesday After School	<b>Dodgeball (External club paid) 9 Jan to 26 Mar</b> <a href="#">TeamTheme Booking Form</a>	1 hour	15.25–16.25	Gym	External
	<b>Homework Club – All years</b>	1 hour	15.20–16.20	Library	GB
Wednesday Lunchtime	<b>Basketball – Year 5 &amp; 6</b>	30 mins	12.15–12.45	Field	SG
	<b>Running Club – All years</b>	30 mins	12.15–12.45	Field	SH
	<b>Library - All Years</b> Max 30 children, quiet reading, choosing, renewing and returning books	25 mins	12.45–1.10	Library	GB



# Ferndown Middle School

## Parent Weekly Newsletter w/c 19 February 2024



	<b>Samba - All years</b>	25 mins	12:45–1:10	Music Room	SW
	<b>Choir – All years</b>	30 mins	12.15–12.45	Music Room	NP
	<b>Spanish – All years</b>	20 mins	12.50–1.10	LA6	EBS
	<b>Computers – Years 6, 7 &amp; 8</b> Max 15 places, sign-up sheet in ICT room	30 mins	12.30–1.00	PA03	MM
	<b>Craft Club – All years</b> First 15 children on the day, no need to sign up	25 mins	12.40–1.15	LA9	EW
	<b>Art Club – All years</b> 20 pupils, sign-up sheet on Art door	30 mins	12.15–12.45	PA10	NC
<b>Thursday Lunchtime</b>	<b>Sports Leaders – Year 8</b>	30 mins	12.15–12.45	Gym	SG
	<b>Library - All Years</b> Max 30 children, quiet reading, choosing, renewing and returning books	25 mins	12.45–1.10	Library	GB
	<b>The Ark – All years</b> 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
	<b>Science – Year 5 (Sign up with Mrs Johns)</b>	35 mins	12.35–1.10	PA2	CJ
	<b>School Council – Every other Thursday</b>	1 hour	12.15–1.15	PA4	BR
	<b>Ukulele – All Years</b> First 18 every week	25 mins	12.45–13.05	Music Room	GB
<b>Thursday After School</b>	<b>Netball – Year 7 &amp; 8</b>	1 hour	15.20–16.20	Playground	SG
	<b>Homework Club – All years</b>	1 hour	15.20–16.20	Library	GB
	<b>Roleplaying Club – Alternate KS2/3</b>	1 hour	15.20–16.20	LA3	AM
	<b>Arts and Crafts – All years 10 places – Sign up with AM/LP</b>	1 hour	15.20-16.20	PA12	AM/LP
<b>Friday Lunchtime</b>	<b>Football – Year 5</b>	30 mins	12.15–12.45	Field	MW
	<b>Young Voices practice (Full)</b>	30 mins	12.40–1.10	Music Room	SW
	<b>DT Club – All years - opportunity to complete unfinished practical work</b> First 12 pupils each week	30 mins	12.15-12.45	PA11	AM
	<b>Library - All Years</b> Max 30 children, quiet reading, choosing, renewing and returning books	25 mins	12.45–1.10	Library	GB

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## Parent Weekly Newsletter w/c 19 February 2024



	<b>Eco Club – All years</b>	30 mins	12.15 –12.45	LA11	ML
	<b>Dance – Year 5 &amp; 6</b>	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 | \(fernmid.dorset.sch.uk\)](http://fernmid.dorset.sch.uk)

# Ferndown Middle School

## Parent Weekly Newsletter w/c 19 February 2024



### Term Dates 2023 - 2024

#### Winter Term Dates 2023

Inset Day	Friday 1 September 2023	<b>Bank holidays in the autumn term</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monday 25 December 2023</li> <li>Tuesday 26 December 2023</li> </ul>
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	<b>Bank holidays in the spring term</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New Year's Day: Monday 1 January 2024</li> <li>Good Friday: Friday 29 March 2024</li> <li>Easter Monday: Monday 1 April 2024</li> </ul>
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	<b>Bank holidays in the summer term</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Early May bank holiday: Monday 6 May 2024</li> <li>Spring bank holiday: Monday 27 May 2024</li> <li>Summer bank holiday: Monday 26 August 2024</li> </ul>
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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## Parent Weekly Newsletter w/c 19 February 2024



### Term Dates 2024 - 2025

Autumn Term 2024	<b>Autumn Term Monday 2 September 2024 to Friday 20 December 2024</b>	
	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	<b>Spring Term Monday 6 January 2025 to Friday 4 April 2025</b>	
	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	<b>Summer Term Tuesday 22 April 2025 to Tuesday 22 July 2025</b>	
	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