

Ferndown Middle School

Parent Weekly Newsletter w/c 30 September 2024



School News

Message from the Headteacher

It has been a busy week in the life of a Headteacher this week liaising with different people and organisations in order to support our Ferndown Middle School Students. On Wednesday I met with the other Headteachers across the Castleman Academy Trust to continue our Schools Partnership Programme which involves sharing good practice, peer support and improvement workshops. I attended the Dorset Headteacher Briefing on Thursday and found out about exciting projects happening across Dorset to support our young people. Mr Welcomme was also personally mentioned at the briefing for his work on music and how that can be used to support attendance in schools.

I attended the Ferndown Upper School Open Evening in order to support our students with the transition to year 9 and have enjoyed speaking to them today about what they really liked about the school. Today, I had the pleasure of attending our new Cocoa Club with a group of our KS2 students and then meeting with Linda and Peter Thornton to continue our strong relationship with the John Thornton foundation.

I hope everyone has a great weekend. Fingers crossed for a dry and sunny day tomorrow!

Mrs A Barter, Headteacher

Year 6 visit to the Ancient Technology Centre

This week, Year 6 had an exciting visit to the Ancient Technology Centre, where they immersed themselves in the world of the Anglo-Saxons. Students engaged in hands-on activities like blacksmithing and bread making, and they explored various weapons from the era. The experience fostered curiosity and deeper understanding of Anglo-Saxon life, with everyone enjoying the opportunity to ask questions and connect with history in a meaningful way.



Ferndown Middle School

Parent Weekly Newsletter w/c 30 September 2024



STEM Event

Make UK (An organisation in the engineering sector) run a national manufacturing day every year where businesses are encouraged to open their doors to the wider community and engage with schools. With funding from the small piece group, we were able to invite them in on Thursday 26th September to run a STEM Marine technology challenge. Sixty Year 8 students were chosen to be part of the day.

In the morning, the students created a prototype for a flotation device in teams. They then spent the afternoon creating their final product using a range of sustainable materials. All of the teams then pitched their ideas, and a winning creation was chosen.

Special thanks to Actisense for help facilitating the day and demonstrating their robot.



After School Provision for children in years 5 and 6

We are thrilled to announce the launch of our new after-school provision at Ferndown Middle School for children in years 5 and 6 from Monday 30th September 2024. Thank you for your patience whilst we set this up. This new KS2 After School initiative aims to provide a safe, engaging environment for our year 5 and 6 students after regular school hours. We are busy buying equipment and are recruiting for a third person and as a result until the additional person is in post we will be limiting the numbers to 15 per day on a first come first served basis. It will be open to those who regularly use it and also those who just need a day here and there of childcare cover. We will be able to expand on this once the third member of staff joins us.

A varied programme will be offered including arts, sports and other recreational activities. There is a quiet area set aside where children can read or rest. A snack is offered, and drinks are available throughout the session. Children will be supervised by staff at all times, until they are collected by their parent/carer. All our staff are DBS checked and have received training in Child Protection, Level 2 Food Hygiene and there will be a trained first aider on site.

Bookings

Parents will need to book and pay in advance using the After School Club form which has been sent out via ParentMail to all year 5 and 6 parents. It will be uploaded to the website early next week.

For more information or any questions, please feel free to contact us via the school office.

We look forward to welcoming your children to our new after-school provision.

Ferndown Middle School

Parent Weekly Newsletter w/c 30 September 2024



Is Maths really that important at home

All evidence states that developing number confidence and a positive attitude to maths at home, has a crucial impact on a child's schooling, and their ability to use numbers in everyday life as they grow, so yes maths at home is incredibly important.

As a parent our biggest hurdle maybe where to start? Or lack of confidence? So, I have found some great resources to make your lives easier.

The National Numeracy website is dedicated to helping you help your children to develop a positive attitude to maths and it has some great resources to help you. <https://www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk/helping-children-maths>

It states there are three main steps to help your children.....

How parents can help with maths at home

1

Be positive about maths. Try not to say things like "I can't do maths" or "I hated maths at school" – your child may start to think like that themselves.

2

Point out the maths in everyday life. Include your child in activities involving numbers and measuring, such as shopping, cooking and travelling.

3

Praise your child for effort rather than for being "clever". This shows them that by working hard, they can always improve.

Family Maths Toolkit

All of our 230+ Family Maths Toolkit resources are now available for free!

To help us understand who is using them and how many children we're helping all you have to do is provide a few details, then you can access all the activities at your leisure.

Get resources



Ferndown Middle School

Parent Weekly Newsletter w/c 30 September 2024



Excellent talks on You Tube -Ben Perkins National Numeracy- How to help children have positive attitudes towards number.

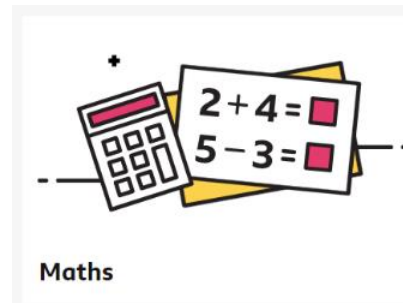
<https://youtu.be/1bO11rOD3OA>



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/>

The website contains fabulous support resources for all subjects for KS2 (Primary) KS3 (Years 7,8,9) as well as for GCSEs.

Topics are explained, examples given, followed by opportunities to practise what you have learnt.



Famous mathematician Alan Turing (1912-1954)

Alan Turing was a British mathematician. He made major contributions to the fields of mathematics, computer science, and artificial intelligence. He worked for the British government during World War II, working at the Government Code and Cypher School at Bletchley Park.

Turing and others designed a code-breaking machine known as the Bombe, and they succeeded in breaking the secret code Germans used to communicate military intelligence.

By early 1942 the code breakers at Bletchley Park were decoding about 39,000 messages a month.

Alan Turing is featured on the new polymer £50 note.



Ferndown Middle School

Parent Weekly Newsletter w/c 30 September 2024



Sports Update

Thursday 19th September 2024 – Year 7 Boys Football v West Moors

We hosted West Moors in the first fixture of the year. Our Year 7 boys produced a determined performance against a determined West Moors team. It was an end to end match where both teams gave their all for their respective schools. We raced into a 1-0 lead through Oscar and then West Moors scored to quick goals to lead 2-1. We kept our focus and goals from Frankie, Bailey and Oakley secured our victory. This was an absolute pleasure to give up my evening for two teams that demonstrated brilliant sportsmanship. We wish West Moors all the best for their season and thank them for visiting us at Ferndown Middle School.

Thursday 26th September 2024 – PEDSSA Cross Country at Canford School

It was an absolute pleasure to visit Canford School in the first Cross-Country of the PEDSSA season. It was true Cross-Country conditions where there was five minutes of sunshine, ten minutes of extreme rain and this process was repeated for the 90 minutes we were at Canford. This did not deter our runners and they all pushed themselves to the limit. I mentioned that it is important to set yourself the personal goal of competing against yourself and it was a good test to go up against those club runners that train out of school at the various athletics clubs in the district.

All pupils should be MASSIVELY proud of participating, and we give special praise to Nancy who finished in 5th place in the Year 7/8 Girls Race. Also, Will (19th), Sam (20th) and Delilah (35th) all produced brilliant finishes considering they were racing pupils a year older in their races.

We thank all of the organisers from PEDSSA that take time to arrange the Cross-Country League and to the staff at Canford for allowing us all to participate at their school.

Yours in sport

Mr Higgins
PE Co-ordinator

Ferndown Middle School

Parent Weekly Newsletter w/c 30 September 2024



Key Dates

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

Wed 2 October	Year 4 Prospective Parents Open Evening
Mon 28 October to Fri 1 November	Half term break
Mon 18 November	Flu vaccinations all year in school



Year 7 Lulworth and Corfe Castle Trip

Tuesday 1st October 2024

Parent volunteers required

To ensure the trips are enjoyable and safe for all students we are seeking parent volunteers to accompany us. If you are interested please complete the following form: [Volunteering for school trips at FMS](#) Whilst volunteers would never be expected to work unsupervised with children, we do ask them to complete a DBS clearance to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all students before working with us. Thank you for your support. Your participation will make a significant difference in the success of our trip and the enjoyment of our students.



As of 2024, social media giant Instagram has over two billion active users, with 8% of those (approximately 1.6 million) being under-18. That is a lot of children and young people making use of this platform, exploring its features ... and being exposed to its risks – from influencer marketing to contact with strangers and plenty more.

As parents and educators, it's important to understand how to keep children protected as they discover new regions of the digital landscape – and this is no different for Instagram. The attached guide tells you all you need to know about potential safety concerns around Instagram and offers advice on how to safeguard children and young people as they use this platform.

Ferndown Middle School

Parent Weekly Newsletter w/c 30 September 2024



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!

Dorset Council logo

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

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

Images of children and adults interacting.

Dorset Council logo and Dorset Parent-Carer Council logo.

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 30 September 2024



Extra-curricular clubs - Autumn term 1

Day	Club	Duration	Times	Room/area	Leader
Monday Lunchtime	Girls Football – Year 5 & 6	30 mins	12.15–12.45	Field	JB
	Boys Football – Year 6 and 7	30 mins	12.15–12.45	Field	SH
	Library - All Years Max 30 children, quiet reading, choosing, renewing and returning books	30 mins	12.15-12.45	Library	GB
	Music Theatre Group - All years	30 mins	12:40–1:10	Music Room	SW
Monday After School	Rippa Rugby – All years (External club paid) 9 Sept to 21 Oct Welcome to Rippa Rugby	1 hour	3.20–4.20	Field	External
	Orchestra – Invite only	1 hour	3.20–4.20	Music Room	SW
	Tennis (External club paid) 9 Sep to 21 Oct Live4tennis.co.uk Collection outside the school reception office	1 hour	3.20–4.20	Ferndown Tennis Courts	External
	Homework Club – All years	1 hour	3.20–4.20	Library	GB
Tuesday Lunchtime	Boys Football – Year 8	30 mins	12.15-12.45	Field	JB
	Library - All Years Max 30 children, quiet reading, choosing, renewing and returning books	30 mins	12.15 – 12.45	Library	GB
	Singing – All Years	30 mins	12.40-1.10	Music Room	SW
	Well-being Club – All years (calm space for colouring, puzzles and crafts to do quietly if pupils need a break from the playground). Max 15 at a time.	1 hour	12.15-1.15	LA09	EW
	Computer Club – Years 6 and 7 Max 15 places, sign-up sheet in ICT room	30 mins	12.30–1.00	PA03	MM
Tuesday After School	Dodgeball starting on 17 Sept Teamtheme Clubs Booking	1 hour	3.20–4.20	Gym/Hall	External
	Homework Club – All years	1 hour	3.20–4.20	Library	GB
	Netball – Years 5 and 6	1 hour	3.20–4.20	Gym/Playground	SG
Wednesday Lunchtime	Sports Leaders – Year 8	30 mins	12.15–12.45	Gym	SG
	Cross Country Club – All years	30 mins	12.15–12.45	Field	SH
	Spanish – All years	30 mins	12.45-1.10	LA11	FS
	Library - All Years Max 30 children, quiet reading, choosing, renewing and returning books	30 mins	12.15 – 12.45	Library	GB

Ferndown Middle School

Parent Weekly Newsletter w/c 30 September 2024



	Singing – All years	30 mins	12.25–12.50	Music Room	MB
	Art Club – All Years Max 20 children, sign-up sheet on the Art room door	30 mins	12.15-12.45	Art Room	LM
	Samba - All years	25 mins	12:40–1:10	Music Room	SW
Thursday Lunchtime	Boys Football – Years 6 and 7	30 mins	12.15-15.45	Field	SH
	Ukulele– All years beginners	30 mins	12.20-12.40	Music Room	SW
	Ukulele– All years advanced	20 mins	12.40-1.10	Music Room	SW
	Library - All Years Max 30 children, quiet reading, choosing, renewing and returning books	30 mins	12.15 – 12.45	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
	Science Club – Year 5 (Sign-up sheet outside PA1 science room)	35 mins	12.35–1.10	PA2	CJ
	Tumbling, Acrobat and Dance Club – All years	30 mins	12.15 – 12.45	Gym	DC
Thursday After school	Netball – Year 7 & 8	1 hour	3.20–4.20	Gym/Playground	SG
Friday Lunchtime	Football – Year 5	30 mins	12.40-13.15	Field	MW
	Dance – Year 5 & 6	30 mins	12.15–12.45	Gym	KZ
	Library - All Years Max 30 children, quiet reading, choosing, renewing and returning books	30 mins	12.15 – 12.45	Library	GB
Friday After School	Warhammer Club – All Years	1 hour	3.20 – 4.20	LA3	AM

Please note the following:

- Please read through the options 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.

Ferndown Middle School

Parent Weekly Newsletter w/c 30 September 2024



Term Dates 2024 - 2025

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