

Ferndown Middle School

Parent Weekly Newsletter w/c 12 May 2025



Message from Acting Headteacher

VE Day Celebration

Yesterday, we marked VE Day with a wonderful celebration in the school hall at lunchtime, complete with vibrant bunting to set the scene. During tutor time, pupils took the opportunity to learn more about the history and significance of VE Day, engaging in discussions and activities that brought this important event to life.

Teaching and Learning Updates

Our teachers have been working hard behind the scenes to enhance teaching and learning across the school. KS3 teachers have attended pyramid meetings with colleagues from other local middle and secondary schools, focusing on curriculum development and sharing best practice. Additionally, staff have been meeting in their coaching groups, always striving to ensure the highest standards of teaching and learning for our pupils.

School Visitors

We have welcomed several visitors to Ferndown Middle School this week. We are delighted to share that they all commented on what a wonderful school community we have. Our pupils were particularly praised for their politeness and enthusiasm for school life – something we are incredibly proud of.

Celebrating New Arrivals

We're thrilled to share some joyful news from our staff team: congratulations to Mr Chase on the arrival of their baby girl! She was born yesterday at 1:24am, weighing 7lb 4oz. We send our best wishes to Mr Chase and their family at this special time.

Thank you for your ongoing support and for helping to make Ferndown Middle School such a vibrant, welcoming place for everyone.

Best wishes,
Mrs A Dolan
Acting Headteacher



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Football News

Bournemouth Sports U12 Colts Team

Congratulations to Ollie and Sam who play for Bournemouth Sports U12 Colts team in the Sunday Bournemouth football league and they have achieved the treble, winning the league, the league cup and the Hampshire county cup.

The county cup final took place over bank holiday weekend against a tough side from Portsmouth, where they won 2-0, with Sam scoring the second goal and Ollie being awarded man of the match.

Ollie and Sam will also both be playing in the school county cup football final on Friday 9 May 2025.



Queens Park Ladies - Düsseldorf 2025 DE

An absolutely brilliant weekend for one of our pupils who plays for Queens Park Ladies U11s as they attended their invitational tournament in Germany to kick off the first QPL European tour of the year playing against German academy teams such as Wolfsburg, FC Köln and Bayer Leverkusen. Some exciting and close games from the girls in narrow defeats against Feyenoord 3:1 and FC Kaiserslautern 2:1. Lots learnt technically and tactically. A great experience for the girls with lifelong memories made.



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Maths Across the Years – Building Skills and Confidence

Mathematics is thriving across all year groups at our school, with pupils from Year 5 through to Year 8 engaging in a variety of activities designed to deepen understanding, develop problem-solving skills, and prepare for the next stages of their learning. This term has been particularly busy, and the dedication shown by both staff and students has been outstanding.

In **Year 5**, the focus has been firmly on **problem solving**. Pupils have been taking part in **weekly problem-solving lessons**, which provide valuable opportunities to explore mathematical challenges in a structured but creative way. They are learning to develop **systematic approaches**, organise their thinking clearly, and apply strategies such as **trial and improvement**. These lessons encourage resilience and perseverance—essential skills not only in maths but across the curriculum. The progress our Year 5 pupils are making in confidently tackling open-ended problems has been a real highlight of the term.

Moving up to **Year 6**, preparations for the upcoming **SATs tests** have taken centre stage. The children have shown a mature and determined attitude, especially during **after-school booster sessions**, which have been well attended and highly productive. Pupils have been honing their **arithmetic** skills and practising **reasoning questions**, working on explaining their methods clearly and checking their answers. With the SATs just around the corner, everyone is working hard to ensure they are as prepared as possible—and we are incredibly proud of the effort and dedication on display.

In **Year 7**, the emphasis has remained on developing strong **problem-solving skills**, alongside encouraging **talk for learning**. Through structured discussions and group work, students are learning to explain their reasoning, consider different approaches, and support one another's understanding. Currently, Year 7 are working on **ratios**, using **bar models** to visualise and solve problems. This visual method is helping students to grasp tricky concepts with greater clarity and is building a solid foundation for more advanced maths in the future.

For **Year 8**, there has been an exciting development with a visit from teachers at **Ferndown Upper School (FUS)**. The FUS team came in to deliver **maths assessments**, which will help inform setting decisions for next year. It was wonderful to see our students approach the assessments with such a positive attitude. The visiting teachers were highly impressed by the **excellent effort**, polite behaviour, and **mature outlook** demonstrated by all of our Year 8 pupils. This successful collaboration highlights the strong links we have with our local upper schools and ensures a smooth transition for our learners.

Across all year groups, our maths curriculum is designed to not only build fluency but also to instil a love of learning and a willingness to tackle challenges head-on. Whether preparing for important assessments or exploring new ways to approach a problem, our pupils are showing that they are ready to rise to the challenge.

We look forward to seeing how their confidence and skills continue to grow as the year progresses.

Mrs Williams
Maths Lead



Livestreaming is now a major part of children's entertainment, evolving from gamers sharing screens into a booming industry with diverse personalities. While watching streamers can be entertaining, it comes with no small number of risks for children, such as misinformation, negative influences, and inappropriate content. With over 2.5 million viewers on Twitch – the current most popular streaming platform – at any one time, this guide highlights the potential dangers associated with watching livestreams and the importance of staying informed.

We've created this free guide – also available in podcast format – to provide parents and educators everything they need to know about streamers and how to keep children protected.



LET'S TALK ABOUT OUR KIDS AND THEIR TECH

DR HELEN THOMAS, PAPAYA SPEAKER

PAPAYA Event - LET'S TALK ABOUT OUR KIDS AND THEIR TECH

Dr. Helen Thomas is a GP and the author of the Digital Health training module for the NHS. She is a digital wellbeing expert and provides training to clinicians and safeguarding teams.

The event will take place on the following dates and locations:

20th May - Ferndown Middle school 6pm

Parents from schools across the Castleman Academy Trust are welcome to attend either event. This includes Broadstone First School, Broadstone Middle school, Ferndown First School, Ferndown Middle school and Parley First School.

PLEASE NOTE: Spaces at each site are limited in number due to health and safety. Tickets will be strictly on a first come, first served basis and will be sent home with your child.

Please note the talk is suitable for parents only. Children are not able to attend the event.

To sign up for the event, please use the link below: <https://www.castlemanacademytrust.co.uk/papayaevent>

We are extending the smartphone survey deadline until after the Easter holidays to give everyone a chance to give their views. Please use the link below to take part in the survey. <https://www.castlemanacademytrust.co.uk/smartphonesurvey>

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Community Governor Vacancy

We are seeking new people to join the Schools Standards Board as a Community Governor who can contribute their time, enthusiasm and skills.

Our governors come from a range of different backgrounds, skills and experience but all share a common interest of wanting the best possible education for the children in our school. Our governors support the Headteacher with strategic planning and are the champions of the school experience for pupils, their families and the staff, working with the Headteacher to do all they can to ensure that our school is a great place to be.

We would welcome applications from anyone within our local communities, or further afield, who is interested in supporting local education.

Training will be available to support them in the role. In looking to fill these vacancies we are particularly interested in applications from people with education experience and also people who can occasionally visit the school during the day. However, what is more important is enthusiasm, interest and the willingness to learn.

We would be delighted to arrange a school tour with any interested candidates to give them a greater insight into the role.

To arrange a tour or for further details, please contact the Governance Officer (Clerk to SSB) via email clerk@fernmid.dorset.sch.uk or call the school office on 01202 876556.



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Key Dates

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

Mon 12 to Thurs 15 May	Year 6 SATS
19 May to 23 May	Year 6 Hook Court, Trip 1 and Trip 2
9 – 13 June	Year 7 Butchers Coppices day trips
16 – 18 June	Year 8 residential to Little Canada
Wed 25 June	Sports Day
Fri 27 June	Transfer Day
Mon 30 June	INSET Day
Mon 7 July	Year 8 at FUS for careers morning
Fri 18 July	Last day of school, 1.30 pm finish for pupils



Term dates for 2025/26

An updated copy of the term dates for 2025/26 can be found at the end of the newsletter.

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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!

Dorset Council

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

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](#)

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Extra-curricular clubs – Summer Term 1

Day	Club	Duration	Times	Room/area	Leader
Monday Lunchtime	Rounders - All years	30 mins	12.15–12.45	Field	JB/SG
	Athletics – Years 7 & 8	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	12.15–12.45	Music Room	SW
	KS3 Maths Homework Club			PA03	SL
	School Council	30 mins	12.15-12.45	LA6	MH
Monday After School	Rippa Rugby – All years (External club paid) 28 April to 14 July https://www.ripparugby.co.uk/schoolbooking	1 hour	3.20–4.20	Field	External
	Orchestra – Invite only	1 hour	3.20–4.20	Music Room	SW
	Tennis – All years (External club paid) Collection outside the school reception office https://www.live4tennis.co.uk starts 28 April	1 hour	3.20–4.20	Ferndown Tennis Courts	External
	Homework Club – All years	1 hour	3.20–4.20	Library	GB
Tuesday Lunchtime	Cricket- All years	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	12.15–12.45	Music Room	SW
	Chess Club	50 mins	12.20 – 13.10	LA07	JS/MT
	Lego Club – Invitation only	30 mins	12.45-1.15	PA07	CH
	German – All years	30 mins	12.45-1.10	LA11	FS
Tuesday After School	Dodgeball – All years 22 April – 15 July https://bookwhen.com/teamthemesportscoaching	1 hour	3.20–4.20	Gym/Hall	External
	Homework Club – All years	1 hour	3.20–4.20	Library	GB
Wednesday Lunchtime	Sports Leaders – Year 8	30 mins	12.15–12.45	Gym	KB
	Athletics – Year 5 and 6	30 mins	12.15 – 12.45	Field	SH
	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	12:50–1:10	Music Room	SW
	Parents reading session (parents to sign in via the office)	30 mins	3.20 - 4.15	Library	GB
Thursday Lunchtime	Lego Mindstorm Club – Years 5 and 6	30 mins	12.15 – 12.45	PA3	MM

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	Run by Year 7 Computing Ambassadors, Max 15 children				
	Ukulele– All years	30 mins	12.15–12.45	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
	Tumbling, Acrobat and Dance Club – All years	30 mins	12.15 – 12.45	Gym	DC
	Lego Club – Invitation only	30 mins	12.45-1.15	PA07	CH
	DT Club – All years First 15 pupils	35 mins	12.15 – 12.50	DT room	AM
Thursday After school	Netball – Year 7 and 8	1 hour	3.20–4.20	Gym/Playground	SG/KB
	Lego – All years To book a place email Mr Emes at Demes@live.co.uk	1 hour	3.20-4.20	PA7	External
	Wargaming – Year 7 and 8 See Mr Chase for places	1 hour	3.30 – 4.20	LA17	AC
Friday Lunchtime	Football – Year 5	30 mins	12.45 - 13.15	Field	MW
	Dance – Year 5 and 6	30 mins	12.15–12.45	Gym	KZ
	Scratch/Minecraft Education Club Run by Year 8 Computing Ambassadors, Max 15 children	30 mins	12.15 – 12.45	PA3	MM
	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.

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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

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Term Dates 2025-2026

Castleman Academy Trust

Autumn Term 2025

SEPTEMBER 2025						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

OCTOBER 2025						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

NOVEMBER 2025						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

DECEMBER 2025						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Spring Term 2026

JANUARY 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

FEBRUARY 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

MARCH 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

APRIL 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Summer Term 2026

MAY 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

JUNE 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

JULY 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

AUGUST 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Bank and Public Holidays 2025-2026

25 December 2025	Christmas Day
26 December 2025	Boxing Day

1 January 2026	New Year's Day
3 April 2026	Good Friday

6 April 2026	Easter Monday
4 May 2026	May Day Holiday

25 May 2026	Spring Bank Holiday
31 August 2026	August Bank Holiday

Key

School Holidays

Bank Holidays

Staff Training Days

Last Day of Term