

Ferndown Middle School

Parent Weekly Newsletter w/c 20 October 2025



Headteacher's comment:

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

Thank You for Supporting Young Minds Fundraising

I wanted to take a moment to say a heartfelt thank you for your incredible support with our recent 'wear yellow' day. Your Generosity Made a Difference. Thanks to your participation and generosity, we raised an amazing £235 for Young Minds. The sea of yellow in our school was a wonderful sight and a true reflection of our vibrant, supportive community. Every pound raised will help Young Minds to continue their vital work supporting children and young people's mental health.

Celebrating Our Community Spirit

The enthusiasm shown by both pupils and parents was inspiring. Events like this highlight the importance of coming together, not just to raise funds, but to raise awareness about mental health. By taking part, you've helped to show our young people that they are not alone and that our school community cares deeply about their wellbeing. If you'd like to learn more about Young Minds or access their resources, you can visit www.youngminds.org.uk We plan to continue supporting mental health initiatives throughout the year – look out for future events and opportunities to get involved. If you or your child ever need support, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at school, or visit the Young Minds website for advice and guidance.

Once again, thank you for your generosity and for helping us create such a positive, caring environment at Ferndown Middle School. With that in mind next Friday 24th October is the Annual Wear Pink and Green for the MacMillian Cancer Charity. More details will be out during the week ahead.

Finally, this week we have had children going out and about representing themselves and the school at various different sporting and team building events. I am so pleased to celebrate that feedback from all children and adults has been positive with Miss Grant telling me "The Children were amazing!". When I spoke to Thursday's group, they were enthused by the activities with many telling me that they loved the caving bus.

Our attendance across the school is 95.3%, I'm hoping to see this improve to at least 96% in the future. If there is anything school can do to support your child's absence from school, please get in touch with your child's Head of Year or our Attendance Officer after half term.

Have a great weekend.

Best wishes,

Grant Hopkins

Headteacher

Ferndown Middle School

Parent Weekly Newsletter w/c 20 October 2025



You're amazing!

YOUNGMINDS
Hello Yellow
FRIDAY 10 OCT

This is to certify that

Ferndown Middle School

has helped show young people they're
not alone with their mental health by raising:

£ 223

Date:

Nas Morley, Director of Income Generation

YoungMinds, registered charity in
England (1016068) and Scotland (SC039700).

M&S | **YOUNGMINDS**

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Musical celebrations!

We are delighted to announce that we are now officially a Lead school for music for the Octagon Music Hub 🎉 We're the only Middle school across the whole of Dorset and Somerset to have been selected. Fantastic and honoured to be working with colleagues across both counties to improve the access and provision for music education for over 180,000 young people!

Lead schools are trailblazers in music education - not just participants. They are facilitators of the Octagon Music Hub's vision and will help shape the future of music in schools by working alongside the Hub to inspire and innovate.



Lead schools will:

- Champion music in their communities, sharing best practice and celebrating musical achievements.
- Host and lead meetings and training sessions. Support other schools in developing their School Music Development Plans.
- Meet termly with the Octagon Hub team to offer feedback and help shape future opportunities.
- Promote musical activities and events across their local authority Lead schools were chosen through an open invitation sent to all schools and SEND settings across Dorset and Somerset.



The other fantastic news is that we've also been recognised with the music mark of recognition for ambition and quality. In order to receive the mark, the school has to be recommended. We're thrilled that Pete Whitmarsh the music area leader for East Dorset put us forward for this. Thanks Pete!

Read more about what the Music Mark of recognition stands for [here](#)

You'll also be delighted to know that music clubs have started back up again as well as our fantastic initiative for pupils to learn the skills of DJing and turntablism. We look forward to hearing the pupils hard work and effort at the end of term in our annual Christmas concert. Details to follow soon....

Scott Welcomme

Music Co-ordinator



Governor Vacancies

We currently have Community & Parent Governor vacancies at

FERNDOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Our volunteer governors support the Headteacher with strategic planning and are champions of the school experience for pupils, their families and staff.

We welcome applications from anyone who is interested in supporting local education.

**Our governors come from varied backgrounds.
A knowledge of education is not essential.**

For more information please contact Christine Thresher
CThresher@fernmid.dorset.sch.uk



When children and young people experience traumatic or difficult life events, their emotional world can be shaken, and the impact may show up in their behaviour, mood, or relationships. Whether it's bereavement, a family breakdown or witnessing something distressing, the support of trusted adults can be key in helping them feel safe again. This week's guide looks at how to create a nurturing environment to help young people process difficult feelings.

It also shares clear, actionable strategies to promote recovery – from building emotional literacy and creating a predictable routine to recognising signs that further help may be needed. Sensitive language, patience, and presence all play a part in empowering children to move forward at their own pace. With the right support, they can rebuild a sense of security and resilience.

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Photography Competition



The theme is

Autumn Colours



**OPEN TO
ALL YEAR
GROUPS**

KEY INFORMATION

- Your entry needs to be in jpeg digital format or a high-quality print out (no larger than A3)
- Entries can be given to or sent to Mrs Drew via classcharts or email
- You can photograph anything that reminds you of Autumn- please do not photograph any other students or children.
- Your photograph must be your own that you have taken- not AI generated.
- Basic editing allowed: Cropping, colour adjustments, brightness
- You can enter up to 3 photographs each-appropriate images only

**Closing Date:
Monday 20th
October**

Ferndown Middle School

Parent Weekly Newsletter w/c 20 October 2025



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

Fri 24 October	Non-uniform day for Macmillan and Cancer research (wear pink/green or both)
Mon 27 October to 31 October	Half-term
Mon 17 November – 19 November	Year 6 Residential at Hooke Court
Tues 11 November	Parents Evening/Book Looks
Wed 12 November	Parents Evening/Book Looks
Thurs 18 December	School Festive Lunch
Fri 19 December	Last day of term, 1.30pm finish



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Parent Weekly Newsletter w/c 20 October 2025



Extra-curricular clubs – Autumn Term 1

Day	Club	Duration	Times	Room/Area	Leader
Monday Lunchtime	Football – Year 6 Boys	30 mins	12.10 - 12.40	Field	MW
	Library - All Years Max 30 children, quiet reading, choosing, renewing and returning books	30 mins	KS2 12.05 - 12.45 KS3 1.15 - 1.50	Library	GB
	Homework Club – KS3	25 mins	13.00 – 13.25	PA9	MT
	Sing Group – KS3	25 mins	1.00 – 1.25	Music Room	SW
Monday After School	Rippa Rugby – All years (External paid club) 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 paid club) Collection outside the school reception office. https://www.live4tennis.co.uk	1 hour	3.20 - 4.20	Ferndown Tennis Courts	External
	Homework Club – All years	1 hour	3.20 - 4.20	Library	GB
	Warhammer – All Years	1 hour	3.20 - 4.20	LA8/LA9	AM
Tuesday Lunchtime	Board Games - KS3	30 mins	1.00 - 1.50	LA17	AC
	Library - All Years Max 30 children, quiet reading, choosing, renewing and returning books	30 mins	KS2 12.05 - 12.45 KS3 1.15 - 1.50	Library	GB
	Football – KS3 boys	25 mins	13.00 – 13.25	Field	JB/SG
	Homework Club – KS3	25 mins	13.00 – 13.25	PA9	MT
	Computers – Year 8 Drop-in Session - Completing classwork, Homework, Printing, Creating projects (Strictly NO GAMES)	20 mins	1.05 – 1.25	PA3	MM
	Computers – Year 7 Drop-in Session - Completing classwork, Homework, Printing, Creating projects (Strictly NO GAMES)	20 mins	1.25 – 1.45	PA3	MM
	Fun Science – Year 7	30 mins	1.15 – 1.45	PA2	LB/KD
Tuesday After School	Dodgeball – All years (External paid club) 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	Football – Year 5 Boys	30 mins	12.10 – 12.40	Field	JS
	Library - All Years Max 30 children, quiet reading, choosing, renewing and returning books	30 mins	KS2 12.05 - 12.45 KS3 1.15 – 1.50	Library	GB

Ferndown Middle School

Parent Weekly Newsletter w/c 20 October 2025



	Basketball – KS3	25 mins	13.00 – 13.25	Gym	SG
	Football – KS3 Girls	25 mins	13.00 – 13.25	Field	JB
	Homework Club – KS3	25 mins	13.00 – 13.25	PA9	MT
Wednesday After School	Mr Higgins Multi Sports Club All years (External paid club) Call/ Message: 07980 301728	1 hour	3.20 – 4.20	Playground	External
Thursday Lunchtime	Sports Leaders – Year 8	30 mins	12.15–12.45	Gym	KB
	Board Games - KS2	30 mins	12.05 – 12.55	LA17	AC
	Library - All Years Max 30 children, quiet reading, choosing, renewing and returning books	30 mins	KS2 12.05 - 12.45 KS3 1.15 – 1.50	Library	GB
	Tag Rugby – KS2	25 mins	12.25 – 12.50	Field	MH
	Homework Club – KS3	25 mins	13.00 – 13.25	PA9	MT
	The Ark – KS2 With Miriam Biggs local youth worker. A club where they explore the Christian faith through games, crafts, and fun	25 mins	12.05 – 12.30	LA9	MB/VG
	Football – KS2 Girls	30 mins	12.10 – 12.40	Field	MW
Thursday After school	Netball – KS3	1 hour	3.20–4.20	Gym/Playground	KB/JB
	Mr Higgins Fun Fitness Club All years (External paid club) Call/ Message: 07980 301728	1 hours	3.20 – 4.20	Playground	External
	Wargaming – KS3	1 hour	3.30 – 4.20	LA17	AC
Friday Lunchtime	Computers – Year 6 Drop in Session - Completing classwork, Homework, Printing, Creating projects (Strictly NO GAMES)	20 mins	12.10 – 12.30	PA3	MM
	Computers – Year 5 Drop in Session - Completing classwork, Homework, Printing, Creating projects (Strictly NO GAMES)	20 mins	12.30 – 12.50	PA3	MM
	Library - All Years Max 30 children, quiet reading, choosing, renewing and returning books	30 mins	KS2 12.05 - 12.45 KS3 1.15 – 1.50	Library	GB
	Touch (T1) Rugby - KS3	30 mins	1.00 – 1.30	Field	AC
	Spanish – KS2	20 mins	12.05 – 12.25	LA11	FS
	Singing – KS2	25 mins	12.05 – 12.30	Music Room	MB
	Music Theatre – All years	25 mins	1.00 – 1.225	Music Room	SW
	Homework Club – KS3	25 mins	13.00 – 13.25	PA9	MT

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Parent Weekly Newsletter w/c 20 October 2025



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.
- If a pupil is absent from the club and we have not received prior notification, the school office will first check to see if the child has been absent from school, and if not, a text message will be sent home to inform parents/carers promptly.
- 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.