

# Ferndown Middle School

## Parent Weekly Newsletter w/c 2 March 2026



### Headteacher's comment

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all well. As we approach the end of another productive and purposeful week at Ferndown Middle School, I am pleased to share some key updates, celebrations and reminders throughout the Newsletter.

Firstly, though can I please remind all car users to be considerate to our neighbours, especially the users of the gravel car park leading to the playing fields. Please do not block this or the entrance to the playing fields. I have had several complaints recently about this area, I can empathise with car users and with that in mind I continue to liaise with the Council and neighbouring Schools to provide a better solution for the use of cars to collect children from school and drop off in the mornings.

Learning across the school has been consistently good this week. It is great to walk into lessons, and nobody know I am there because they are all engrossed in whatever they are doing; this has happened on a few occasions this week and the quality of learning in those rooms was particularly high. I'm convinced one KS3 Science lesson still don't know I've been there.

Thank you for the comments with regards the future leadership of the school, I confirm that I will be leaving in July and relocating back home in the Northeast, this was always the plan. In the time I'm here please feel free to communicate your thoughts or if you have any questions around the Leadership Situation then please ask. If I don't know the answer, I can certainly get one for you.

Finally from me, we have one celebration of what our children do outside school on the newsletter, a dance festival in Disneyland!! I know someone else also went to this too, so please and the other 599 children if you do something great outside school please share it with us in a photo form with a short explanation and we will share it with our community.

This letter is written in the font closest to the way we expect the children to write. You will see more of this font in the correspondence sent from school.

Thank you for your continued support of the school. I wish you all a restful weekend.

Warm regards,

Grant Hopkins

Interim Headteacher

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### School News

#### Job vacancies

**We are looking for caring, committed and quietly brilliant Teaching Assistants to join our friendly team.** If you believe in children, understand the power of encouragement and want your work to have real, human impact, you'll feel right at home here.

Full details can be found on the following link along with vacancies across the Trust. [Work for Us – Southern Education Trust](#)

#### School Equipment

It is essential that every child comes prepared with the **necessary equipment each day**. This helps us to ensure that lessons run smoothly and that each pupil can participate fully in their learning. Unfortunately, the school budget is increasingly being impacted as we are having to provide these items on a daily basis.

Please ensure that your child brings the following items to school each day:

- **Pens and Pencils:** A blue handwriting pen (no biros please) and a pencil.
- **Eraser and Sharpener:** A good quality eraser and a sharpener with a container for shavings.
- **Ruler:** A 30cm ruler, preferably clear.
- **General Work Book and Reading Log Diaries:** Provided by the school but must be brought daily.
- **Coloured Pencils:** For highlighting and diagram work.
- **Glue Stick:** For sticking worksheets or other materials in exercise books.

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### Student Achievements

#### Amelia's Disneyland Paris Performance

During the February half term, Amelia was fortunate enough to be invited to perform at Disneyland Paris with her dance school, Studio One. She had a fantastic time taking part in the pre-parade with Studio One on Tuesday 17th February as they made their way through the Disney Park.

On Thursday 19th February, Amelia also performed on the Videopolis main stage for a 20-minute showcase, where she took part in three dances. It was a wonderful opportunity and an experience that created magical memories to last a lifetime.





*On behalf of the new PTA we would like to invite you to a*

# *Cafe Afternoon*

**On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2026 from 2.30 pm in the School Hall**

Our Year 8 pupils will be baking delicious cakes and serving customers.

As Mother's Day falls on the following Sunday, children are welcome to sit together with their families and may even like to treat their mum to a cake and drink.

To help us ensure we have enough cakes for everyone, and that children are able to come down to the hall to meet you, please book your space [here](#).

All funds will go towards the school.

*NB: Cash only please*

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### World Book Day

We're excited to announce that we will be celebrating World Book Day on **Thursday, 5th March 2026**. The day will be dedicated to reading and book related activities.

We are passionate about the power of reading and encourage our pupils to read daily. World Book Day is a wonderful way to excite children about all the different kinds of books available, from fantasy to factual, classics to comics, there really is something for everyone!

### Dressing up

Children and staff are invited to dress up as a book character on World Book Day. This could involve a full costume or just a prop relating to a favourite book or character. We are always impressed by the amazing and inventive ways the children dress on the day characters. If they do not want to dress up, they could bring in their favourite book or an object that is associated with their favourite book.

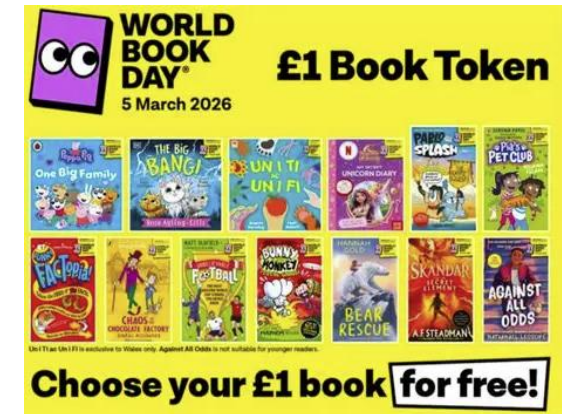
Don't worry about purchasing new costumes. Get creative with items you already have at home. This day is all about celebrating our love for books and having fun. If your child doesn't have a favourite book, use a hobby as inspiration. A favourite fact or illustration from a graphic novel attached to a t-shirt is just as good as a full costume. *Please note that dress up is optional and we ask that football kits are not worn unless they relate directly to your child's chosen book character.*

You can find loads of ideas for World Book Day and resources you may want to look at on this website: [Bring Joy to Reading at Home with World Book Day](#)

### World Book Day Tokens

All children will receive a £1 book token as part of the World Book Day event. This can then be used as part payment for a more expensive book, or they can be exchanged for the specially published £1 books. You can view the books available to buy on the website and also find a list of booksellers who stock the books. <https://www.worldbookday.com/books/>

Digital World Book Day Tokens can also be downloaded [HERE](#).



### Book Swap

In addition, we will be holding a whole school **Book Swap**. Children are invited to bring in any unwanted books from home that are still in good condition. They will then have the opportunity to browse the collection and **swap their book for another**. This is a lovely way to encourage reading, share stories, and give books a new lease of life.

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### Competition Time – Year 5 World Book Day Potato Design!

Your challenge is to turn an ordinary potato into a book character of your choice!

You can use pens, paint, fabric, paper, card, recycled items or any craft materials you may have at home to add features and costumes to your potato.

### Competition Time – Year 6 World Book Day Wooden Spoon Design!

Your challenge, in Year 6, is to turn an ordinary wooden spoon into a book character of your choice!

You can use pens, paint, fabric, paper, card, recycled items or any craft materials you may have at home to add features and costumes to your spoon.

### Competition Time – Year 7 and Year 8 World Book Day 'Book in a Box'!

Your challenge, in Year 7 & 8, is to create a 'book in a box' recreating your favourite book into a scene.

You will need a box, which can be a cereal box, shoe box or equivalent. Choose your favourite book and decorate your box (inside and out) to represent the different parts of the book.

### What to do ...

- Bring your potato, spoon or box into school on World Book Day.
- Please label with your name and class.
- Bonus if you have the book of the chosen character to bring in with it!
- All entries will be displayed for all to see!

Three winners in each year will receive a prize.

We look forward to seeing all of your designs and most of all have fun!





### Short Story Competition – a golden opportunity for young writers!

The Royal Mint Museum is currently running an exciting writing competition which is open to our Year 5 and 6 pupils. Pupils are invited to submit a story of no more than 500 words based on 'Gold' - perhaps involving buried treasure or secret vaults filled with gold bars and coin hoards!

The winner will receive a gold coin, £5,000 for their school or local library, and their story illustrated by an artist. The deadline for entries is Friday 17th April 2026. Entries can be submitted from home using this link: <https://www.royalmintmuseum.org.uk/learning/short-story-competition/>

If you have any questions or for help in submitting your entry, please see Mrs Barnes. Mrs Southwick has offered her classroom on Tuesday lunchtimes for anyone who would like to share ideas or get on with some writing. The website above also contains inspiration for stories and some FAQs.

Look out for posters appearing in classrooms and we look forward to reading some gold standard stories!



## Photography Competition



The theme is

### Spring New Beginnings

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 class charts or email
- You can photograph anything that reminds you of Spring- 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 23<sup>rd</sup>  
March**



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### Ferndown Middle School astounds with display of Taiko drums – Bournemouth Echo Advert

Ferndown Middle School students recently took part in a hands-on experience in Japanese Taiko drumming, thanks to Taiko drums on loan from Dorset Music Service.

The school is a lead school for music within the Octagon Music Hub, serving Dorset and Somerset, and currently holds the Music Mark of recognition.

Tony Sivyer from local group Dragon of the South loaned Chinese lion dance and drum equipment to the school to support the lessons.

Scott Welcomme, head of music at Ferndown Middle School, said: "Having the costumes and drums allowed our pupils to combine culture with an awesome display of focus and discipline.

"What's fantastic is that all pupils have been able to access the lessons, whether playing the drums, cymbals, or wearing the lion outfit.

"We get the children involved in learning about music and rhythm from around the world – traditional and modern – and this gives them a broader understanding of music.

"We are also extremely grateful to Tony Sivyer from local group Dragon of the South for lending us the equipment."

As a Music Mark school, Ferndown Middle advocates for the importance of music education in the curriculum and creative life of the school, welcoming opportunities to broaden horizons by working with providers in the community and beyond.





### Wellbeing



Adult animated content is increasingly visible on platforms such as YouTube, TikTok and streaming services. While the bright visuals and cartoon style may seem harmless at first glance, many of these shows and clips are created specifically for mature audiences, featuring strong language, sexual references, graphic violence and unsettling themes.

This week's guide helps parents understand the risks, from misleading visuals and algorithm-driven recommendations to desensitisation and edgy humour. It also offers practical advice on platform settings, open conversations and building children's critical thinking, so young people can navigate online animation safely and confidently.

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### Key dates

5 March	World Book Day
17 and 18 March	Book Looks
20 March	Mexicolore visiting Year 5
27 March	Last day of term, 2.00 pm finish
26 April	Tutor group and year 8 photographs (Fraser Portraits)
11 –14 May	KS2 SATS – Year 6
15 May	Year 6 Moors Valley celebration
18 – 22 May	Aspiration' Week
18 May and 21 May	Y8 Bournemouth University Trips
5 June	Year 7 Trip to Lulworth Castle
10 June	Year 7 – FUS Sports Morning
11 June	Charity Fun Run
22 – 24 June	Year 8 Residential at PGL
1 July	Sports Day



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### Term Dates 2026-2027



#### Autumn Term 2026

SEPTEMBER 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				

OCTOBER 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	

NOVEMBER 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						

DECEMBER 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			

#### Spring Term 2027

JANUARY 2027						
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 2027						
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 2027						
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 2027						
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 2027

MAY 2027						
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 2027						
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 2027						
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 2027						
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 2026-2027

25 December 2026	Christmas Day
28 December 2026	Boxing Day

1 January 2027	New Year's Day
26 March 2027	Good Friday

29 March 2027	Easter Monday
3 May 2027	May Day Holiday

31 May 2027	Spring Bank Holiday
30 August 2027	August Bank Holiday

#### Key

School Holidays
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Bank Holidays
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Staff Training Days
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Last Day of Term
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### Extra-curricular clubs – Spring Term 2

Day	Club	Duration	Times	Room/Area	Leader
Monday Lunchtime	<b>Football – Year 6 Boys</b>	30 mins	12.10 - 12.40	Field	MW
	<b>Library – KS2</b> Max 30 children, quiet reading, choosing, renewing and returning books	50 mins	12.05 - 12.55	Library	GB
	<b>Homework Club – KS3</b>	25 mins	13.00 – 13.25	LA14	MT
	<b>Sing Group – KS3</b>	25 mins	1.00 – 1.25	Music Room	SW
Monday After School	<b>Rippa Rugby – All years</b> (External paid club) <a href="#">Welcome to Rippa Rugby   Rugby Coaching and Consultancy in Dorset</a>	1 hour	3.20 - 4.20	Field	External
	<b>Orchestra – Invite only</b>	1 hour	3.20 - 4.20	Music Room	SW
	<b>Tennis – All years</b> (External paid club) Collection outside the school reception office. <a href="https://www.live4tennis.co.uk">https://www.live4tennis.co.uk</a>	1 hour	3.20 - 4.20	Ferndown Tennis Courts	External
	<b>Homework Club – All years – Booking via Arbor</b>	1 hour	3.20 - 4.20	Library	GB
	<b>Warhammer – All Years</b>	1 hour	3.20 - 4.20	LA8/LA9	AM
Tuesday Lunchtime	<b>Board Games - KS3</b>	30 mins	1.00 - 1.50	LA17	AC
	<b>Library - All Years</b> Max 30 children, quiet reading, choosing, renewing and returning books	50 mins 20 mins	KS2 12.05 - 12.55 KS3 1.30 - 1.50	Library	GB
	<b>Football – KS3 boys</b>	25 mins	13.00 – 13.25	Field	JB/SG
	<b>Homework Club – KS3</b>	25 mins	13.00 – 13.25	LA14	MT
	<b>Computers – Year 7 and 8</b> Drop-in Session - Completing classwork, Homework, Printing, Creating projects (Strictly NO GAMES)	30 mins	1.00 – 1.30	PA3	MM
	<b>Fun Science – Year 7 – Not on this half term</b>	30 mins	1.15 – 1.45	PA2	LB/KD
Tuesday After School	<b>Dodgeball – All years</b> (External paid club) <a href="https://bookwhen.com/teamthemesportscoaching">https://bookwhen.com/teamthemesportscoaching</a>	1 hour	3.20–4.20	Gym/Hall	External
	<b>Paragon Football – All yeas</b>	1 hour	3.20–4.20	Field	External
	<b>Homework Club – All years – Booking via Arbor</b>	1 hour	3.20–4.20	Library	GB
Wednesday Lunchtime	<b>Football – Year 5 Boys</b>	30 mins	12.10 – 12.40	Field	JS
	<b>Library – KS2</b> Max 30 children, quiet reading, choosing, renewing and returning books	50 mins	12.05 - 12.55	Library	GB
	<b>Basketball – KS3</b>	25 mins	13.00 – 13.25	Gym	SG
	<b>Football – KS3 Girls</b>	25 mins	13.00 – 13.25	Field	JB
	<b>Homework Club – KS3</b>	25 mins	13.00 – 13.25	LA14	MT

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Thursday Lunchtime	<b>Sports Leaders – Year 8</b>	30 mins	12.15–12.45	Gym	KB
	<b>Board Games - KS2</b>	30 mins	12.05 – 12.55	LA17	AC
	<b>Library - All Years</b> Max 30 children, quiet reading, choosing, renewing and returning books	50 mins 20 mins	KS2 12.05 - 12.55 KS3 1.30 – 1.50	Library	GB
	<b>Tag Rugby – KS2</b>	25 mins	12.25 – 12.50	Field	MH
	<b>Homework Club – KS3</b>	25 mins	13.00 – 13.25	LA14	MT
	<b>The Ark – KS2</b> 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
	<b>Football – KS2 Girls</b>	30 mins	12.10 – 12.40	Field/Gym	MW
Thursday After school	<b>Netball – KS3</b>	1 hour	3.20 – 4.20	Gym/Playground	KB/JB
	<b>Mr Higgins Fun Fitness Club All years</b> (External paid club) Call/ Message: 07980 301728	1 hours	3.20 – 4.20	Playground	External
	<b>Wargaming – KS3</b>	1 hour	3.30 – 4.20	LA17	AC
Friday Lunchtime	<b>Computers – Year 5 and 6</b> Drop-in Session - Completing classwork, Homework, Printing, Creating projects (Strictly NO GAMES)	20 mins	12.05 – 12.35	PA3	MM
	<b>Library - All Years</b> Max 30 children, quiet reading, choosing, renewing and returning books	50 mins 20 mins	KS2 12.05 - 12.55 KS3 1.20 – 1.50	Library	GB
	<b>Touch (T1) Rugby - KS3</b>	30 mins	1.00 – 1.30	Field	AC
	<b>Spanish – KS2</b>	20 mins	12.05 – 12.25	LA11	FS
	<b>Singing – KS2</b>	25 mins	12.05 – 12.30	Music Room	MB
	<b>Music Theatre – All years</b>	25 mins	1.00 – 1.225	Music Room	SW
	<b>Homework Club – KS3</b>	25 mins	13.00 – 13.25	LA14	MT
	<b>AFC Bournemouth Football Club – Year 5</b> (Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> February to Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March) Max 30 children – sign up via Arbor	25 mins	12.05 – 12.30	Field	External
	<b>AFC Bournemouth Football Club – Year 6</b> (Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> February to Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March) Max 30 children – sign up via Arbor	25 mins	12.30 – 12.55	Field	External
<b>Friday After School</b> <b>AFC Bournemouth Football Club – Years 7 and 8</b> (Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> February to Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March) Max 30 children – sign up via Arbor	1 Hour	15.20 – 16.20	Field	External	

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### **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.