

# Ferndown Middle School

## Parent Weekly Newsletter w/c 16 March 2026



### Headteacher's comment

Dear Parents and Carers

A Quick Apology ... Before we begin, a small confession: last week I enthusiastically celebrated International Women's Day... on the wrong day. My previously trusted 'source' of information—who shall remain nameless—has now been officially struck off my 'Approved List of Reliable Facts.' Thank you for your good humour and for joining me in celebrating it properly last Sunday!

Our Year 6 pupils continue to impress us with their determination and sheer hard work as they power forward in preparation for their SATs. The focus, effort, and growing confidence they are showing each day is something the whole school should be proud of. Keep it up Year 6—you're doing brilliantly, and we're behind you every step of the way.

A huge well done to our **Year 7 netball team**, who secured fantastic results this week. Their teamwork, sportsmanship and energy were outstanding, and they represented our school beautifully. Congratulations to the whole squad, we can't wait to see what you do next. Although Girls, Mrs. Burton tells me your song choice for coming home was very poor, can we have a better song next time? Later in the newsletter, you'll spot a familiar face who represented us at Crufts this year! What an incredible achievement—do look out for the feature celebrating this unique and wonderful accomplishment.

Thank You to the **PTA** and our amazing volunteers a heartfelt thank you to the PTA representatives, plus Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Pemberton, and all our dedicated Year 8 pupils who baked, served, organised, and tidied everything at our recent PTA Coffee and Cake Afternoon. Your hard work made the event warm, welcoming, and hugely successful.

If you're not yet involved with the PTA, we'd love you to consider joining or supporting their work. Being part of the PTA is a fantastic way to strengthen our school community and directly benefit the children. Their first major fundraising aims this year is to purchase a 3D printer for the school—a brilliant addition that will bring exciting new opportunities across the curriculum.

Finally, after half term I intend to run a **film club** after school with Mrs Busby in the library. We have a huge range of films that will be shown. I'm trying to find an appropriate night for the club to go ahead as there are so many things happening in school after 3:20pm. More information next week.

Have a great weekend, I finally go into the weekend with a little bit of optimism for Wales to Win a game in the 6 Nations. I do of Course wish England well in their trip to Paris.

Warm regards  
Grant Hopkins  
Interim Headteacher

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### 🌸 Easter Raffle! 🌸

Hop into spring with our exciting Easter Raffle for the chance to win one of two gorgeous Easter hamper prizes!

Each hamper is filled with seasonal treats, perfect for sharing with family or enjoying all to yourself.

Tickets are just £1 each and are available to purchase in the school shop on Arbor. Every penny of profit goes straight into supporting our school rewards system, helping us celebrate and motivate our amazing students.

The winners will be drawn on Thursday 26th March, good luck! 🐣 🥚 ✨



### Kestrel House Charity Event for Julias House

**It will now take place next Friday, anyone who has brought their money in today will have their names noted down and will be able to take part next week.**

Kestrel House, led by Mr Davey, is delighted to launch one of its first charity events of the year in support of Julias House. Next Friday, pupils will take part in a fun and lively challenge during afternoon tutor time. They will be invited to match childhood photos of staff with their adult photos. It is always an entertaining activity and a great way to raise money for an important cause.

To receive an answer sheet and fully take part, pupils will need to bring a minimum cash donation of one pound. Every contribution will help support the wonderful work that Julias House carries out for children and families.

*The pupil or team with the highest number of correct matches will win a prize. There will be an easter egg prize for the highest score in each tutor group and a big chocolate hamper for the winning score across the school.*

Thank you in advance for your generosity and support. We look forward to a joyful and successful charity event.

### Bookings for both our Breakfast Club and After School Club for the Summer 1 term are now live on Arbor

Please note that spaces are limited, so we encourage you to book early to avoid disappointment. To book your child into one of these clubs, simply select the relevant club under the **Activities** tab on Arbor. If your child has not attended one of these clubs before but you would like them to join, please contact the school office and we will be happy to add them to the group.

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### Student achievements

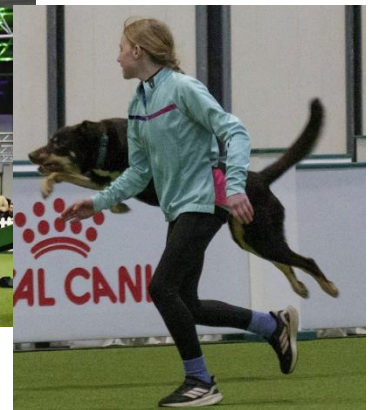
#### Brooke competing at Crufts



We are incredibly proud of Brooke and her dog for taking part at Crufts this year. This is a prestigious national event is an outstanding achievement, and they handled the pressure with confidence and maturity.

Brooke impressively secured **3rd place** in the *Agility Dog of the Year* competition—finishing just one position shy of reaching the main arena, where only the top two competitors progress. This is a fantastic accomplishment and a truly memorable experience for them both.

Well done, Brooke!

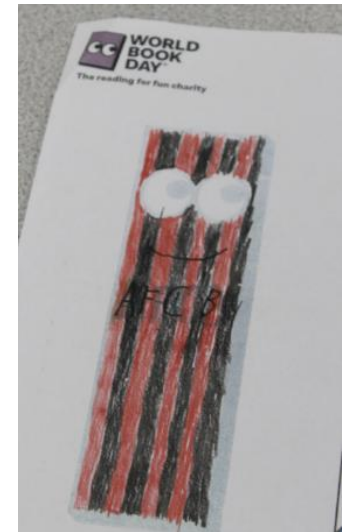


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Celebrating World Book Day



Year 5 winners

# Ferndown Middle School

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Paddington –  
Eva Rose 5MW

The Snail and the Whale -  
Jacob 5MW

Little Miss Giggles –  
Ivy-Rose 5KZ

Winnie the Pooh –  
Michalina 5SD

Hedwig –  
Tilly 5KZ

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### Year 6 Winners



1st place: Evie-Mae 6DB

2nd place: Cleo 6AM

3rd place: Violet 6JS

### Year 7 and 8

Evie in 8AC won the Book in a Box competition.





## 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**





Streaming services have become the go-to entertainment choice for many families, with children often favouring on-demand platforms over traditional television. This week's guide explores the realities behind these services, from rising subscription costs and advert-supported tiers to the impact of autoplay and endless content libraries on young viewers' screen time and wellbeing.

It also highlights key safeguarding concerns, including age-inappropriate material, binge watching, algorithm-driven recommendations and phishing scams. With clear, practical advice for setting profiles, PINs and time limits – alongside tips for discussing algorithms and stereotypes – this guide supports parents and educators in promoting safer, healthier streaming habits.

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### Parent Talk

Parent Talk provides free and confidential online chat support for parents and carers in the UK. We offer a welcoming and inclusive space for all, whatever your family arrangement. Our experienced parenting coaches will listen to your worries and work with you to find solutions. If appropriate, they may suggest ideas for where to get extra support.



# Parent Talk

Action for Children are holding a **free session on Wednesday 15 April for parents living in Dorset** to better understand child behaviours that can be challenging. The session is delivered by a child clinical psychologist for parents whose children are between the ages of 5 – 11. [Click here](#) for more information or to book to attend.

### Early parenting

Parenting 0 to 5 year olds, feeding, sleep and development



### Neurodiversity

Supporting neurodiverse children, help with ADHD and autism



### School life

School work and homework, behaviour and wellbeing, and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)



### Home and family life

Family relationships and mental health, work and money, healthy living, technology and fun at home



### Feelings and behaviour

Understanding behaviour and emotions, talking about feelings, safety and wellbeing, rules and rewards, wellbeing activities





**School Nursing Team**



0-19 CYP Public  
Health Service

# Parent drop-in

**NHS**

Dorset HealthCare  
University  
NHS Foundation Trust

Your next drop-in will be on:

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May

8.45am until midday

Your school nursing team can provide non-judgemental and confidential support and advice about:

Healthy lifestyle advice

Emotional health and well-being support

Bedwetting and toileting

Nutrition and growth

Sleep advice

Signposting to various services

Parenting advice

Behaviour support

You can contact us via

- School nursing admin hub on 01929 557 558

- Parentline advice 5-19 texting service on 07312263131

- Website at [www.dorsethealthcare.nhs.uk/school-nursing](http://www.dorsethealthcare.nhs.uk/school-nursing)

Follow us on social media:



DorsetHealthCare School Nursing



dorsethealthcare\_schoolnursing



We provide a confidential service. This means that you can discuss personal information in confidence. We will not discuss your personal information with anyone else without your permission. This includes parents and teachers. We would only pass on your information in order to protect you or someone else from serious harm. Whenever possible we would discuss this with you first.

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### Key dates

17 and 18 March	Parents Evening/ Book Looks
20 March	Mexicolore visiting Year 5
27 March	Last day of term, 2.00 pm finish
24 April	Tutor group and year 8 photographs (Fraser Portraits)
1 May	School Nursing drop 8.45 – 12.00
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.