

Ferndown Middle School

Parent Weekly Newsletter w/c 20 April 2026



Headteacher's comment

Dear Parents and Carers and Members of the Ferndown Middle School Community

I hope everyone had a great Easter break and you were able to share some quality family time. I hope the chocolate eggs are lasting a little longer than they did in our house!

This week we've quickly got back up to speed and back to work as usual right across the school. It has been great seeing so many of our children working hard at their schoolwork, and it has also been delightful having time to chat to them about all sorts of things during breaks and lunchtime. With lunch in mind can I say that the new menu seems to be going down (no pun intended) really well. I often stand and look at what does into the bins and this week I've seen less waste from the plates. I'm looking into the possibility of a bring your parent for lunch days during the summer term to allow parents to have a taste of the food the children get served to have a more informed choice whether they have a school lunch or not.

This week it has been great to warmly welcome some of the senior leaders from Ferndown Upper School into our school, to begin the process of them getting to know our school, staff and most importantly pupils. I'm pleased this has started and having visits and meetings before the September formal start for Mr Jones will be nothing but beneficial and over and above the transition most Headteachers get when joining a new school.

Staff news: We are pleased to welcome Mrs Lane back to Ferndown Middle School, having previously been with us last summer. Mrs Lane will be covering Mr Chase's classes for the summer term, and we would like to take this opportunity to wish Mr Chase all the very best for the future.

On Monday, we also welcome two new Teaching Assistants, Mrs Field and Miss Seddon-Tarpey, with Mrs Watkiss joining us on 27 April.

Some of you may have noticed that our school receptionist is currently not in school. We are very proud to share that **Charlotte** is in Florida competing in the World Cheerleading Championships. We look forward to hearing all about her experience when she returns at the beginning of May.

Photographs: Tutor group and whole Year 8 photographs will be taken by Fraser Portraits on Friday 24 April. Ordering information will be shared via a link. Please ensure consents are up to date on your child's Arbor account.

Year 8 residential We will be holding an information evening for parents about this year's year 8 trip to Little Canada on the Isle of Wight. The meeting will take place on Thursday 23rd April at 5.00 pm. We look forward to seeing you there, pupils are welcome to attend.

Warm regards
Grant Hopkins
Interim Headteacher



Ferndown Middle School

Parent Weekly Newsletter w/c 20 April 2026



School News

Non-uniform day for children in Kestrel only

We are delighted to announce that **Kestrel** has once again won the non-uniform day for the most house points earned last term. This is a fantastic achievement, and we are incredibly proud of the hard work and dedication shown by the students in Kestrel. The results were very close, showcasing the determination and teamwork of all our students.

The non-uniform day is on **Thursday 23 April**, and no payment is needed.

Please ensure that pupils wear sensible clothing and footwear. For safety and appropriateness, we kindly ask that:

- No crop tops
- No short shorts
- No inappropriate slogans or imagery
- No dyed hair
- No fancy dress

If your child has PE, please ensure they bring in their PE kit to change into. Children who have PE before break can come into school in their PE kit and change into their non-uniform afterwards.

Children's houses can be found under their profile on class charts.

Aspirations Week Careers Fair – Call for Local Participants



As part of our Aspirations Week beginning on 15 June, we are excited to host a Careers Fair on the Friday afternoon. We are currently looking for local businesses and professionals who would be willing to come in and speak with students in the school hall.

If you or your organisation can offer insight into your industry, career pathways, or day-to-day work, we would love to hear from you. Your involvement would help inspire our students as they explore their future ambitions. Please get in touch with Mrs Morris if you can help.

Ferndown Middle School

Parent Weekly Newsletter w/c 20 April 2026



Pupil successes

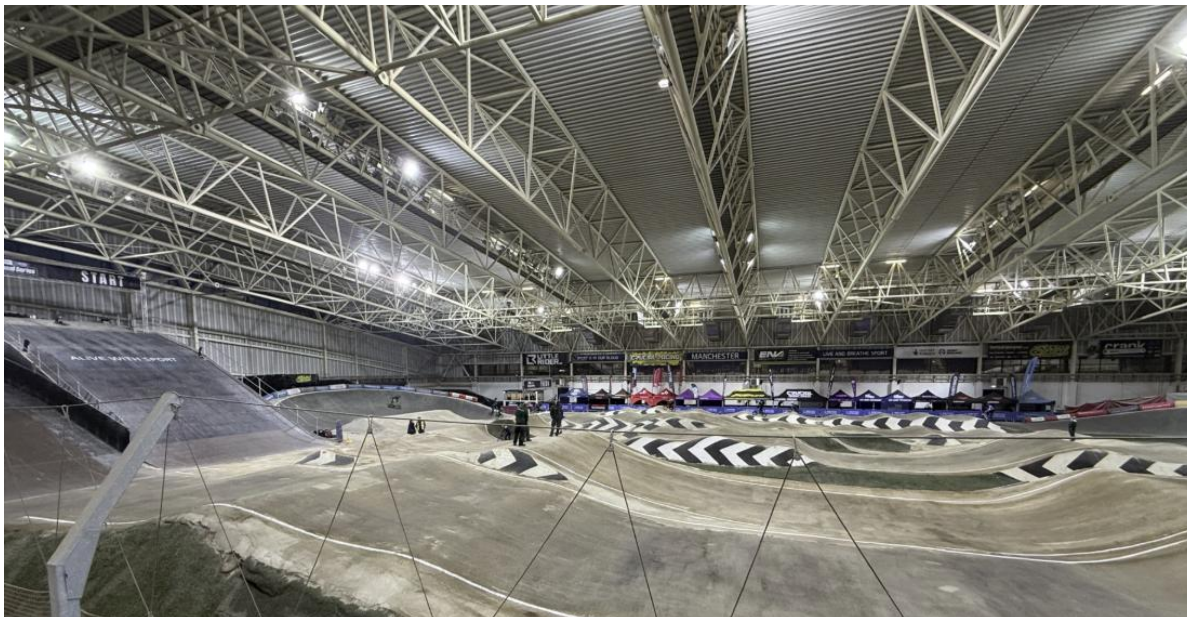
We are delighted to celebrate the achievements of **Lewis in Year 8**, who recently represented **Bournemouth BMX Club** at the **BMX Racing Nationals** in Manchester.

Lewis competed in the **Open 13 category**, racing against some of the top riders from across the country in an official **British Cycling national event**. These competitions are live-streamed on YouTube and contribute towards riders' national rankings. Lewis is currently ranked **48th nationally** in his age group, which is a fantastic achievement and a real milestone in his BMX journey.

Lewis is planning to compete in almost all of the national rounds this year, including events in **Glasgow** over the Early May Bank Holiday weekend, **Derby**, **Manchester Outdoor**, **Cardiff**, and later in the summer at the **British Championships**.

BMX is something Lewis is incredibly passionate about, and it is wonderful to see the confidence, commitment and enjoyment he gains from competing.

We are extremely proud of his efforts and wish him every success for the upcoming season.



Ferndown Middle School

Parent Weekly Newsletter w/c 20 April 2026



'Beat the Teacher' 🎮

As part of our school **charity** initiative, Lark House is excited to announce our upcoming event: **'Beat the Teacher'** 🎮

This event will be raising money for the **John Thornton Young Achievers Foundation**, with 100% of the proceeds going to this amazing, close to home, charity.

Pupils will have the opportunity to take on:

- Mrs Morris/Mrs Lloyd on Mario Kart (Nintendo) - PA3
- Mr Wyeth on FC25 (5-minute matches) - LA4

Each game will cost (minimum) £1 per entry, and every attempt will earn pupils*:

- House-points
- Pupils who 'Beat the Teacher' will be entered into a raffle to win prizes such as GAME or Amazon vouchers.

*Pupils may be subject to limited entries, based on the popularity of the event. We will wait and see...

Sign-up sheets will be sent out during the first week back of Summer 1 term, with the event running across:

- Week beginning 20th April.
- Week beginning 27th April.

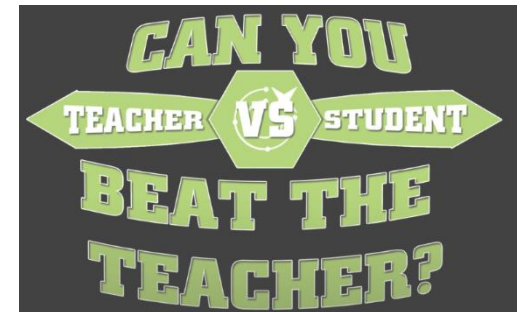
Posters and announcements will go out next week, on Class Charts, Arbor and presentation posters to be put around school/ shown in tutor time.

We are looking forward to a fun, competitive event that supports a fantastic cause while giving pupils something exciting to get involved in.

Thank you for your support.

Mr Wyeth and Mrs Morris

Lark House





With millions of apps available and children accessing them from an increasingly young age, app stores can present a range of risks. From malware and copycat apps to inappropriate content and persuasive in-app purchases, this week's guide highlights how easily young users can encounter issues – even when using official platforms.

It also offers clear, practical advice to help parents and educators manage these risks. From setting up parental controls and checking app credibility to having open conversations about safe usage, the guide supports adults in building children's awareness, encouraging safer choices and promoting more balanced, responsible app use.



Dorset
Mental
Health
Support
Team in
Schools

NHS
Dorset HealthCare
University
NHS Foundation Trust

PARENT/CARER WEBINAR

UNDERSTANDING AUTISM

NO DIAGNOSIS NEEDED - EVERYONE'S WELCOME

Are you supporting a child or young person who is autistic or may be autistic? Join our friendly webinar to better understand their needs and explore practical ways to support them at home.

In this 1 hour live session we will:

- Explore sensory needs and overwhelm
- Explore communication differences
- Support emotional regulation
- Consider anxiety and wellbeing
- Share practical strategies for home

📅 Thursday 23 April

🕒 4pm-5pm

💻 Online event



🔗 For more information and to sign up: <https://bit.ly/4rKSObv>

Ferndown Middle School

Parent Weekly Newsletter w/c 20 April 2026



Parenting together in a digital world

Join us for an online information event designed to help parents and carers feel confident supporting their child in today's digital world.

This online event offers practical insights and open, non-judgemental conversations about how smartphones and digital technology can influence children's wellbeing. Professionals will share insights on supporting safe and balanced tech use, and there will be the chance to ask your own questions.

Our speakers include:
Dr Helen Thomas, Hampshire GP
James Law, Primary Headteacher
Leanne Symmonds, Secondary Headteacher
David Sidwick, Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner

Event details:
Tuesday 14 April
7.00pm to 8.30pm



Sign up by scanning the QR code or by visiting:
www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/parent-together-event

This event is delivered in partnership with:



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!

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

Ferndown Middle School

Parent Weekly Newsletter w/c 20 April 2026



Key dates

23 April	Year 8 residential info evening 5.00 – 5.30 pm
24 April	Tutor group and year 8 photographs (Fraser Portraits)
1 May	School Nursing drop 8.45 – 12.00
7 May	Matilda Mayflower Trip
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
19 May	Y5 Explore the Orchestra – The Lighthouse 9.00 am – 1.00 pm
1 June	Year 5 Dorset Health Partnership
5 June	Year 7 Trip to Lulworth Castle
10 June	Year 7 FUS Sports Morning
11 June	Charity Fun Run
15 – 19 June	Aspirations week and Careers Fair
22 – 24 June	Year 8 Residential at PGL
26 June	Transfer Day
29 June	Training Day – School Closed
1 July	Sports Day



Ferndown Middle School

Parent Weekly Newsletter w/c 20 April 2026



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

Bank Holidays

Staff Training Days

Last Day of Term

Ferndown Middle School

Parent Weekly Newsletter w/c 20 April 2026



Extra-curricular clubs – Summer Term

Day	Club	Duration	Times	Room/Area	Leader
Monday Lunchtime	Library – KS2 Max 30 children, quiet reading, choosing, renewing and returning books	50 mins	12.05 - 12.55	Library	GB
	Homework Club – KS3	25 mins	13.00 – 13.25	LA14	MT
Monday After School	Rippa Rugby – All years (External paid club) Welcome to Rippa Rugby Rugby Coaching and Consultancy in Dorset	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
	Library Homework Club – All years – Booking via Arbor	1 hour	3.20 - 4.20	Library	GB
	Warhammer – All Years	1 hour	3.20 - 4.20	LA8/LA9	CH
Tuesday Lunchtime	Board Games - KS3 up to 27 April	30 mins	1.00 - 1.50	LA17	AC
	Library - All Years 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
	Cricket – KS3	25 mins	13.00 – 13.25	Field	JB/JS
	Homework Club – KS3	25 mins	13.00 – 13.25	LA14	MT
	Computers – Year 7 and 8 Drop-in Session - Completing classwork, Homework, Printing, Creating projects (Strictly NO GAMES)	30 mins	1.00 – 1.30	PA3	MM
Tuesday After School	Dodgeball – All years (External paid club) https://bookwhen.com/teamthemesportscoaching	1 hour	3.20–4.20	Gym/Hall	External
	Paragon Football – All yeas	1 hour	3.20–4.20	Field	External
	Library Homework Club – All years – Booking via Arbor	1 hour	3.20–4.20	Library	GB
Wednesday Lunchtime	Library – KS2 Max 30 children, quiet reading, choosing, renewing and returning books	50 mins	12.05 - 12.55	Library	GB
	Volleyball – KS3	25 mins	13.00 – 13.25	Gym	SG
	Homework Club – KS3	25 mins	13.00 – 13.25	LA14	MT
	KS3 Singing Group	25 mins	1.00-1.25	PA1	SW
Thursday Lunchtime	Sports Leaders – Year 8	30 mins	12.15–12.45	Gym	KB
	Board Games - KS2 up to 30th April	30 mins	12.05 – 12.55	LA17	AC
	Library - All Years 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

Ferndown Middle School

Parent Weekly Newsletter w/c 20 April 2026



	Homework Club – KS3	25 mins	13.00 – 13.25	LA14	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
Thursday After school	Athletics – All years	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 up to 30 April	1 hour	3.30 – 4.20	LA17	AC
Friday Lunchtime	Computers – Year 5 and 6 Drop-in Session - Completing classwork, Homework, Printing, Creating projects (Strictly NO GAMES)	20 mins	12.05 – 12.35	PA3	MM
	Library - All Years 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
	Touch (T1) Rugby - KS3 up to 24 April	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 – 1.25	Music Room	SW
	Homework Club – KS3	25 mins	13.00 – 13.25	LA14	MT

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.