

Ferndown Middle School

Parent Weekly Newsletter w/c 27 April 2026



Headteacher's comment

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

It has been a week of variety for me this week, doing lots of things I wouldn't normally do. Including on Wednesday going out and spending time with our lovely Crossing Patrol Sarah. It was really insightful spending time with Sarah and seeing how busy it is at the crossing near Albert Road. As you will know Dorset Council has served Sarah notice and she is due to leave her role at the end of term. Their policy is such that if a zebra crossing is in place, then a crossing patrol is not needed. Having stood for admittedly a short time at her station I would state the opposite is true. There is a petition set up which can be accessed via the QR code below. Thank you for those who've already signed it.

The second thing I want to bring to your attention is the arrival of our bees. We now have two hives at the front of school near the left-hand side of the carpark. I've started saying good morning and good evening to them and looking at their habits at different times of the day. I have noticed at between 7:30-7:45am when I arrive in school there is little movement in either hive but as the day warms up the little guys come out go to work and get back to the hive by the end of the day as it cools about 6:00pm and they settle for the evening. In time we will be able to have children suitably suited up to go to the hive and support the maintenance of them. Look out for the jars of honey hopefully available in the summer.

I want to big up our sporting teams and some individuals this week. Great effort by our Year 5 and 6 tag rugby players this week and thanks to our staff and Stuart and team from Rippa rugby for getting them ready to represent the school so well. They won their initial league before coming up against some equally well drilled sides but certainly not disgracing themselves. Mr Beck reported a great attitude at the event I'm just disappointed I couldn't go! I have also been chatting to students who are achieving highly individually, just like Seb in the article later on, or Lewis last week. Please remember that The John Thornton Foundation is available for the children to write to them for financial support for the huge expenses you have when taking children around the country for high level competition.

Finally, we all wish Mrs Jones from the office all the best when the World Championship starts tomorrow in Florida. Let's hope her final competition is as rewarding as the others she has been involved in. Go Well!

Warm regards

Grant Hopkins

Interim Headteacher



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School News

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. Participants will host a table and chat informally with students and parents about their industry, pathways into the profession, and what day-to-day work looks like.

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.

Year 6 – Lunch with Your Child

Parents and carers are warmly invited to join their child for lunch on **Wednesday 20th May, between 12.05pm and 12.30pm**. You will see on Arbor the option to buy a lunch which will close one week prior to the event to allow the chef to buy in the ingredients for the extra lunches. The price for the meal is £2.95 plus vat. If your son or daughter is normally a packed lunch then it will be a great opportunity for them to try a school lunch, but it matters not what the children eat you are all still welcome.

KS2 Golf Club

We are pleased to announce that a KS2 Golf Club will be starting next week. The club will take place every Monday and Friday lunchtime, from 12:10 to 12:40, and will offer pupils a great opportunity to develop their coordination, focus, and confidence while learning the fundamentals of golf in a fun and supportive environment.

There are 20 spaces available. If there is a high level of interest, places will be rotated each week to ensure that as many pupils as possible have the opportunity to take part. If your child would like to join, they simply need to let their tutor know as soon as possible, and I will add them to the list.

No prior experience is needed, and all equipment will be provided.

Mr Michael Wyeth

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Pupil successes

Congratulations to Seb (Year 5)

Seb has been offered football contracts by Portsmouth, Brighton, Bournemouth and Southampton. After training and playing with Southampton for several months, he decided this was where he felt he fitted best and therefore chose to sign for them.

This week, Seb had his official signing day, which included a tour of the Saints Pavilion where all the Southampton players train, followed by a formal signing ceremony. To round off the day, he was invited to watch Southampton play Bristol City, with the match ending in a 2–2 draw.

This was an extremely exciting experience for Seb. We are very proud of his achievement and wish him every success in his footballing journey.



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Wellbeing



We are pleased to share details of a new series of **free online webinars for parents and carers**, delivered by the **Dorset Mental Health Support Team (MHST)**.

These sessions are designed to support parents and carers in understanding and responding to common mental health and emotional wellbeing difficulties in children and young people. Each webinar lasts approximately **45–60 minutes** and offers practical advice and strategies that can be used at home.

The **posters below** include a **QR code and a bit.ly link** to sign up for the live events. Recordings of each webinar will be made available afterwards, and a further poster containing these recording links will be shared once all three webinars have taken place.

Upcoming webinars:

- Supporting Your Child with Signs of Anxiety (Year 7+)
Tuesday 30 April at 1:00pm
- Supporting Your Child with Signs of Anxiety (Year 6 and under)
Thursday 7 May at 2:00pm
- Supporting Your Child When Their Behaviour Is Challenging (Year 6 and under)
Thursday 14 May at 1:00pm

If you have any questions or would like further information, please don't hesitate to get in touch at dhc.mhsteam.northandeastdorset@nhs.net

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Dorset
Mental
Health
Support
Team in
Schools

NHS
Dorset HealthCare
University
NHS Foundation Trust

MHST: SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD WITH SIGNS OF ANXIETY Y6 AND UNDER

Join the Dorset Mental Health Support Team for Schools for a webinar designed for parents of young people in year 6 and below who are struggling with anxiety.

This session is available for parents/carers who are looking to understand and support their child with anxiety or worries.

The session covers theory around anxiety in young people, potential triggers and maintenance factors, and key strategies to support their child with managing worries. It also explores parental wellbeing and the importance of this when supporting their child.

Join us on
Thursday 7th May at 2pm:

<http://bit.ly/4tJuBDn>



enquires to: dhc.mhsteam.northandeastdorset@nhs.net
To leave feedback: <https://gthr.co.uk/d34c>

@DORSETMHST



Dorset
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MHST: SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD WITH SIGNS OF ANXIETY Y7+

Join the Dorset Mental Health Support Team for Schools for a webinar designed for parents of young people in year 7 and above who are struggling with anxiety.

This session is available for parents/carers who are looking to understand and support their child with these anxieties or worries.

The session covers theory around anxiety in young people, potential triggers and maintenance factors, and key strategies to support their child with managing worries. It also explores parental wellbeing and the importance of this when supporting their child.

Join us on April 30th at 1pm:

<http://bit.ly/3OeCGRi>



enquires to: dhc.mhsteam.northandeastdorset@nhs.net
To leave feedback: <https://gthr.co.uk/d34c>

@DORSETMHST

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Dorset
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MHST: SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD WHEN THEIR BEHAVIOUR IS CHALLENGING

Join the Dorset Mental Health Support Team for Schools online for a webinar exploring how you as parents/carers can support your child when you are finding their behaviour challenging.

This session provides information on how to respond to children when their behaviour becomes challenging. The sessions covers the theory of behaviour as communication, the importance of play, and the power of positive praise to encourage behaviours parents would like to see more of. It includes practical tools that parents can use to support children when they are dysregulated.

Join us on May 14th 2026 at 1pm

<https://bit.ly/4cjQwd7>



enquires to: dhc.mhsteam.northandeastdorset@nhs.net
To leave feedback: <https://gthr.co.uk/24f9>

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Key dates

1 May	School Nursing drop 8.45 – 12.00 (Bookings are now full)
7 May	Matilda Mayflower Trip
11 –14 May	KS2 SATS – Year 6
15 May	Year 6 Moors Valley celebration
18 May and 21 May	Y8 Bournemouth University Trips
19 May	Y5 Explore the Orchestra – The Lighthouse 9.00 am – 1.00 pm
2 June and 4 June	Year 6 Dorset Heath Partnership, Fire Awareness
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



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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
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

MARCH 2027						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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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
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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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
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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
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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

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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
	Golf – KS2 Max 20 children, on rotation	30 mins	12.10 – 12.40	Field	MW
	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

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	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
	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
	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
	Golf – KS2 Max 20 children, on rotation	30 mins	12.10 – 12.40	Field	MW
	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.

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- External club arrangements are with the club and not the school.