

Ferndown Middle School

Parent Weekly Newsletter w/c 1 June 2026



Headteacher's comment

It has been a real pleasure to welcome everyone back to Ferndown Middle School this week following the recent circuit break. Thank you to all of our children for returning with such positivity and enthusiasm, and to parents and carers for your continued support—it has made for a calm and purposeful week.

Throughout the week, I have been delighted by the excellent learning and behaviour seen across the school. Classrooms have been busy with focused, high-quality work, and it has been wonderful to see children engaging so well with their studies and taking pride in their efforts. The sense of community and commitment to doing well has been very evident.

A highlight has been our points non-uniform day, which was thoroughly enjoyed by pupils. It was fantastic to see so many children proudly using their points reward and celebrating their achievements together—well done to everyone who took part. Those who have saved their points or have bought their rewards will have theirs after half term towards the end of the year there will be another chance to buy another non-uniform day.

I would also like to take a moment to recognise the tremendous effort of our **Year 6 children and staff**, who have worked incredibly hard in recent weeks. They completed their SATs yesterday, and both the pupils and teachers deserve great credit for their resilience, determination and focus throughout this important period. We are all very proud of them. A reminder to Year 6 parents who have already booked places for the upcoming lunch visits—thank you for signing up; we look forward to welcoming you into school. For our Year 5 families, we will be extending invitations after the half-term break, so please keep an eye out for further information.

As we approach the half-term holiday, I would like to wish all of our families a restful and enjoyable break. With a positive weather forecast ahead, I hope you can spend some time outdoors and enjoy it safely as families.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on **Monday 1st June**.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Warm regards

Grant Hopkins

Interim Headteacher

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john thornton
young achievers foundation



We are delighted to share that the trustees of the JTYAF have allocated funding to Ferndown Middle School for student awards in 2026. These funds are available to support bursaries and scholarships for individuals or groups of students, in line with the charity's governance. The JTYAF has been supporting our school in this way since 2011.

Students can apply for a wide range of opportunities, including educational courses, sporting activities and competitions, equipment, music lessons, musical instruments, and more. The aim is to support young people who may otherwise be unable to pursue their ambitions, helping them to develop their skills and reach their full potential.

In previous years, funding has supported a variety of needs, including an adapted bike, travel costs for national competitions, sporting equipment, and a cookery course.

Please find attached the application form, which asks for details of the requested funding, its purpose, and how it will support the student's personal development. Applicants will also need to demonstrate their suitability, particularly in relation to the charity's core values of courage, determination, unselfishness, and cheerfulness in the face of adversity.

If you feel your child would benefit from this opportunity, please complete and return the application form as soon as possible.

Applications should be sent to the school for the attention of Mr Hopkins, as the Headteacher must endorse each application before it is forwarded to the JTYAF.

Applications will then be considered by the JTYAF, and funding will be awarded to successful applicants. Please note that recipients will be required to provide evidence of spending (receipts) within 12 weeks of receiving their award.

For further information, please visit the <https://www.jtyaf.org/>



Certificate of Appreciation

Presented to

Ferndown Middle School

for their amazing support with a

Beat the Teacher Challenge

which raised a fantastic

£142.93 (inc Gift Aid)

to support the work of the John Thornton Young Achievers Foundation

Thank you from the Thornton family and everyone at JTYAF for helping us make a difference to the lives of local young people

Climb as high as you can dream



INVESTING IN YOUNG PEOPLE SINCE 2008

Registered Charity No: 1125277 Patron Simon Weston OBE

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School News

Year 6 – Lunch with Your Child – Change of Date

Parents and carers are warmly invited to join their child for lunch on **Wednesday 3rd June**, between **12.05pm and 12.30pm**.

If you have already purchased a lunch and are able to attend on the new date, there is no need to contact us. However, if you are now unable to attend, please email finance@fernmid.dorset.sch.uk.

You will see the option to purchase a lunch on Arbor. This will close Thursday 21 May to allow our chef to prepare for the additional meals. The cost of a lunch is £3.50.

If your child usually has a packed lunch, this is a lovely opportunity for them to try a school meal. However, children are very welcome to bring their usual lunch if they prefer – all parents and carers of year 6 pupils are still welcome to attend.

Aspirations Week - Can you help?

We are looking for volunteers to support students and our school. 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.

Weds 17th June 2026

We have a day led by Young Enterprise called Innovation Studio. The interactive, structured challenge asks young people in year 8 what challenges they perceive in pursuing careers locally and what employers could do to support them. The day is fully led and resourced by Young Enterprise. The volunteer role on the day is to:

1. Support the students in the activities throughout the day.
2. Deliver a short 5-10min max presentation about their career pathway and current role
3. Hear their ideas and challenges and respond with any suggestions


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FMS Fun Run is Back!

Following the incredible success of last year's event—raising an amazing £10,000—we're delighted to announce the return of the **FMS Fun Run** on:

 **Thursday 11th June 2026**

All pupils are invited to take part in this fun, inclusive event, choosing to run **1.5km, 3km or 5km**. There will be music, a fantastic atmosphere, and plenty of opportunities to show determination, teamwork and school spirit.

Wear Your House Colours!

Pupils are encouraged to **express themselves by wearing their house colours** (e.g. t-shirts, ribbons or accessories), while still following normal PE kit expectations.

Raising Money

We are proud to be fundraising for our house charities, including:

- The John Thornton Young Achievers Foundation
- Julia's House
- Young Carers Dorset
- Abby's Heroes

Funds will also support provide valuable resources and equipment to enhance our provision.

Key reminders

- Wear suitable footwear and comfortable clothing
- Bring plenty of water
- Return sponsorship forms to tutors on the day
- Transfer sponsorship money by **11th June 2026** via your **Arbor Account** – “Sponsorship Money – FUN RUN”

Full details can be found in the email sent out with the newsletter.

We look forward to a **fun, colourful and community-focused day**—good luck to all our runners!



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Sports Day



Sports Day will be taking place on Wednesday, 1st July 2026. This is an exciting opportunity for your child to participate in a fun and inclusive event alongside other members of their house. We see this as a wonderful chance to encourage everyone in our school community to participate, and we would very much welcome and appreciate your support as a spectator.

During their sports day, students will participate in track and field athletics events, as well as rounders and cricket. Results from the athletics will be collected and put towards each house colour's total.

In order to help the day run smoothly, please ensure that your child comes into school in their full PE kit. They are welcome to wear a plain t-shirt to represent their house colour, but this must be a solid colour (no football kits).

They will need a reusable plastic water bottle (water will be made available to students for refills), as well as sun cream and a named hat. Lunch and break times will run as normal.

The table below indicates the timings for the day. We really hope that you can come and enjoy watching your child taking part. On arrival, please make your way to the spectator area via **King George V Fields** (not via the school). You are welcome to bring chairs and picnic blankets for sitting on. To fulfil our safeguarding obligations, the children will be seated in a separate area that will be inaccessible.

Time	Year 5 and 6	Year 7 and 8
9:00-10:50	Athletics – Track and Field	Cricket and Rounders
13:25-15:20	Cricket and Rounders	Athletics – Track and Field

We are happy for parents and guardians to take photos and videos of events for personal use, but we request that these images not be distributed or put online. This is to protect all members of the community. We would also request that you ensure that if you are taking a photograph, it does not interfere with other people's view and that it is not off-putting for the pupils.

We trust that this will be a wonderful event and hope that you are able to encourage your child to participate and enjoy the day. We would like to thank you in advance for your support.

Yours sincerely, PE Team

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Celebrating student successes

🏆 Football Success for Sophie & Isla 🏆 🏆

A huge congratulations to **Sophie and Isla**, who have achieved an incredible double win with **Wimborne Town!**

The girls were crowned **Division 1 U13 Dorset League Champions** and also lifted the **Football League Cup**—a fantastic achievement and a testament to their hard work, teamwork, and dedication.

Well done, Sophie and Isla—we're very proud of you both! 🙌 🙌



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Lily and Annabel from year 5 please. I have permission from Lily Sullivans mum for this and to use the photos.

Lily and Annabel from year 5 have performed in 2 aerial dance showcases in May. One was a celebration of the film Up, performed in Plymouth. In the other they shone bright like a diamond in a double's routine choreographed by themselves, winning best entertainers.



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Year 6 pupil (6MHK), **Juno**, has recently been recognised for her outstanding screen acting achievements. Juno is a member of *Lights Camera Action*, an award-winning screen acting school which hosts weekly classes in Ferndown and Southampton.

Each year, the acting school holds its prestigious 'Red Carpet' event at Harbour Lights Cinema in Ocean Village, Southampton. The event showcases films created throughout the year, attended by more than 200 guests, followed by an Oscars-style awards ceremony.

We are incredibly proud to share that Juno received the award for 'Best Dramatic Performances', recognising her work across multiple short films and in-house commercials.

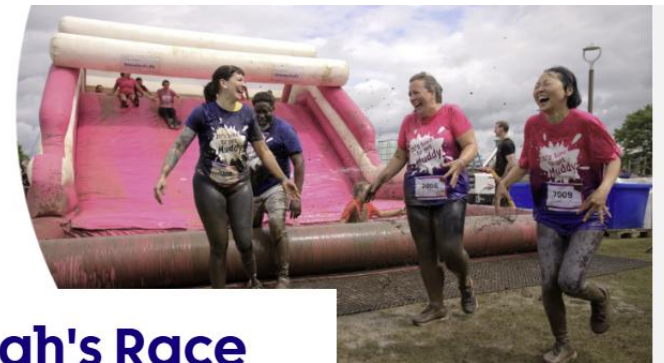
Oscar in Year 5 is taking part in the **Race for Life Kids Mud Run** on **Saturday 30th May** to raise money for Cancer Research UK.

This fun, muddy obstacle course is designed for children to climb, crawl and slide their way around while raising vital funds to help beat cancer.

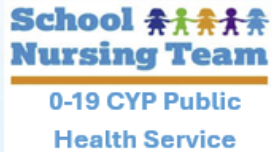
If you would like to support Oscar in this fantastic challenge, please consider making a donation using the link below. Every contribution, no matter how small, will help make a difference in funding life-saving research.

<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/oscar-faircloughs-race-for-life>

Thank you for your support!



Oscar Fairclough's Race for Life



Parent drop-in



Your next drop-in will be on:

Friday 3rd July

8.45am until midday

Our school nursing team can provide non-judgemental 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

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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SUNNYHILL Sunnyhill Church, Ferndown
Presents...

Community Kids Club 2026

Mon 17th - Weds 19th Aug

Who: Reception - Year 6.
Where: Ferndown Village Hall.
Times: 8.45am - 3pm, Daily
+ Family celebration (Hog Roast) Weds evening.
Cost: £35 per child for all 3 days.

SAFE AFFORDABLE FUN

Book in Here

sunnyhill.church/kidsclubferndown

We are pleased to let you know that, as part of the Community Kids Club this summer, some sessions will be held at our school.

Bookings for new families open on Monday 1st June, and places tend to fill quickly, so we encourage families to book early to avoid disappointment.

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Key dates

25 – 29 May	Half term
1 June	HPV catch up for Year 8
2 June and 4 June	Year 6 Dorset Heath Partnership, Fire Awareness
5 June	Year 7 Trip to Lulworth and Corfe Castle
10 June	Year 7 FUS Sports Morning
10 June	Musical Event
11 June	Charity Fun Run
15 – 19 June	Aspirations week and Careers Fair
17 June	Year 4 transition evening
22 – 24 June	Year 8 Residential at PGL
26 June	Transfer Day
29 June	Training Day – School Closed
1 July	Sports Day
3 July	School Nurse Drop



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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

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	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
	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

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