

# Ferndown Middle School

## Parent Weekly Newsletter w/c 11 May 2026



### Headteacher's comment

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

As we move further into the summer term, I would like to take a moment to thank you for your continued support of Ferndown Middle School. It has been wonderful to see our pupils engaging so positively with their learning and wider school life, and this success is very much strengthening the close partnership we share with our families and community.

I need to praise the small group of Year 7 and 8's who I picked up from **Moors Valley** on Thursday. They had the opportunity to try mountain biking through the many trails and tracks. They behaved impeccably and showed so much gratitude towards those who supported them today. They also had a great time with Mrs Burton.

A group of 40 pupils had the wonderful opportunity to visit the Mayflower Theatre in Southampton on Thursday to see **Matilda the Musical**. A huge thank you to Mr Welcomme and Mrs McGowan for organising such a wonderful trip. It was an amazing experience for all the students involved. We would also like to praise all the pupils who attended for their impeccable behaviour and excellent manners – they truly impressed everyone. A big thank you goes to all the staff who generously gave up their time to accompany the trip, especially with a late 7.00pm finish.

One particularly important part of that community is our **Parent Teacher Association (PTA)**. The PTA plays an invaluable role in supporting the school – not only through fundraising, but also by helping to build a strong sense of community and collaboration. Thanks to their efforts, we are able to provide extra resources, enrich pupils' experiences, and support activities and events that directly benefit all of our children.

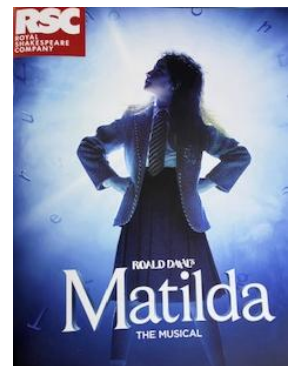
I would like to encourage as many parents and carers as possible to get involved or simply come along to find out more. The next PTA meeting will take place on 18th May at 8:45am, followed by the PTA Annual General Meeting on Monday 1st June at 1:30pm. Both meetings will be held in the school meeting room, and all are very welcome to attend.

Your involvement, whether big or small, truly makes a difference. Supporting the PTA is a fantastic way to contribute ideas, share skills, meet other parents and help us continue to provide the very best for our pupils.

Nest week is **SATs** week for our year 6 pupils, During SATs week, school often makes small but important changes to routines. The school day may be quieter and more structured, with calm classrooms, adjusted timetables, and extra pastoral support to help pupils feel confident and supported. These adjustments will affect all year groups but remember it is only until Thursday; we want all our year 6's the best opportunity to show what they can do and have been working so hard for. All the very best, remember SATs breakfast on Monday for Year 6!

Warm regards

Grant Hopkins, Interim Headteacher



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### School News

#### Year 6 SATS

On Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> May, SATs week will begin. To help all pupils have a positive start to the day, we would like to offer every child in Year 6 an opportunity to have a small breakfast at school before they head to their classrooms to prepare for the tests ahead. Breakfast will be available Monday through to Thursday only at 8.15am in our school hall, giving the children about 20 minutes or so before they go to registration. The breakfast will consist of some juice, a biscuit and a pastry - all free of charge.

There is no need to let us know if your child can attend, as we will welcome anyone who decides they'd like to attend on the day. However, if your child has any dietary requirements, please complete this form before the 11<sup>th</sup> May so that we can make sure alternatives are available: [SATs Breakfast Dietary Requirements – Fill out form](#).

Mrs Draper, Head of Year 6

#### Breakfast Club and After School Club

Bookings are now open for the Summer 2 Term.

NB: We regret to inform you that there will be **no** after school club on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June and Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June.

#### Tutor Group Photographs and Year 8

Class photographs and the whole of year 8 photographs have recently been taken at school by Fraser Portraits, and you are now able to view and order your child's photograph online. To view and place an order, please visit [www.orderphotos.co.uk](http://www.orderphotos.co.uk) and enter the relevant proof card ID provided in the Arbor email.

***The deadline for orders is Sunday 17th May. Orders will be delivered roughly two weeks after this date.***

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### Jenson's Bake Sale – Supporting 'Sophie's Legacy'

Jenson in year 7 is organising a **bake sale** on **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May from 3.00 pm** to raise money for a very special charity, *Sophie's Legacy*. This charity supports families and children in hospital by providing essentials such as clothing and food on the wards, as well as organising comforting treats like pizza nights to help families make special memories together, even in the most difficult times.

This cause is particularly close to Jenson and his family's hearts. His sister was born prematurely at 33 weeks and spent over eight weeks in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). During that challenging time, Sophie's Legacy supported the family with food, clothing, games, and even gifts for special occasions, including Jenson's birthday.

Jenson is raising funds in honour of his sister's second birthday and to give something back to a charity that means so much to his family.

[Weather dependant cakes will be on sale outside the main school entrance \(or inside if raining\).](#)

We would love your support in helping Jenson make this bake sale a big success.



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Nuthatch House is pleased to announce its fundraising event for this summer term.

Year 8 students will have the exciting opportunity to design and make their leavers shirts.

It is open to all students in Year 8 from any house. They will need one of their school shirts that they will no longer be wearing to use.

Sign up is open now - students have until May half term to register their interest in this as we will need to know specific numbers for this event.

This will be taking place later on in the summer term at the end of June and the beginning of July. Further details will follow about payment and on which specific dates this will be taking place.

It is a wonderful memory for students to create and keepsake of their time here at FMS.

They can come along with friends and create together, ready to use for their leaver's day.

All money raised is going to Young Carers Dorset.

**Year 8 Leavers**  
**Design your own Leavers Shirt**  
**£5 per shirt**  
**Add your name, gems, fabric pens, vinyl cut designs**  
**Bring your friends & personalise together**  
**Please come and sign up at PA7 classroom if you would like to take part in this fundraising event**  
**See Miss Cope or Mrs Drew for further info**

The poster features a light blue background with various school-related icons: a white shirt with a red and white striped tie, an open book, a graduation cap, a hand pointing at a book, a pink pencil, a large pink letter 'P', a red letter 'y', and a purple letter 'S'. A large orange star in the center contains the text 'NUTHATCH HOUSE'. The text is arranged in a central column, with the title 'Year 8 Leavers' in the largest font.

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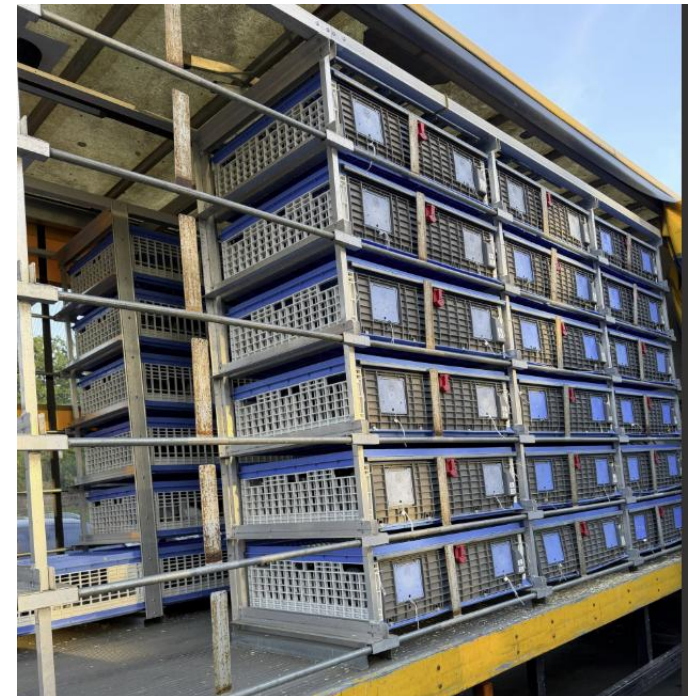
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### Student successes

Mirac has already shown impressive commitment to the sport of racing pigeons. He previously cared for over 120 pigeons, although his team now stands at 88 after several sadly went missing during a recent race.

His pigeons have raced all the way from France back home to Ferndown and most recently competed in a challenging 100-mile race, achieving an excellent 4th-place finish. His birds perform especially well over longer distances, demonstrating strong stamina and great potential for future races.



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We are delighted to celebrate Charlie in Year 5, who recently achieved a fantastic success with his U10s team, the *Wimborne Magpies*. The team competed in a football tournament at Wimborne Stadium last weekend, where they played brilliantly throughout and went on to win the final on penalties – what an exciting finish!

A huge well done to Charlie and all the team for their outstanding performance.





# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about **INFLUENCERS**

**In today's digital age, social media influencers play an increasingly significant role in shaping the opinions, interests and behaviours of our children. While many of these individuals can have a positive effect, influencer culture can also present certain risks – such as encouraging consumerism, affecting self-esteem and blurring trustworthiness. To help ensure a safe online environment for young people, it's vital to maintain open communication, set sensible boundaries, promote a healthy self-image and teach digital media literacy. Our guide delves deeper into all of these.**

The concept of influencers is hardly a new one. Through newspaper columns and TV spots, we've long been accustomed to hearing informed opinion from, say, Martin Lewis on money, Nigella Lawson on food or Mark Kermode on cinema. How the digital revolution has changed the game, however, is by providing a plethora of platforms from which literally anyone can have their say.

Online, you'll find hordes of people holding forth on any number of topics: gaming, beauty, travel, fashion, fitness ... virtually anything you can think of. What qualifies them as 'experts,' however? Is it safe for young people to consume the oceans of content that they generate? This week's guide brings you the essential info on the influencer phenomenon.

[Parents and Carers - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)



Dorset  
Mental  
Health  
Support  
Team in  
Schools



Dorset HealthCare  
University  
NHS Foundation Trust

## 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 14<sup>th</sup> 2026 at 1pm

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



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

@DORSETMHST

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### Key dates

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
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



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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 – Summer Term

Day	Club	Duration	Times	Room/Area	Leader
Monday Lunchtime	<b>Library – KS2</b> Max 30 children, quiet reading, choosing, renewing and returning books	50 mins	12.05 - 12.55	Library	GB
	<b>Golf – KS2</b> Max 20 children, on rotation	30 mins	12.10 – 12.40	Field	MW
	<b>Homework Club – KS3</b>	25 mins	13.00 – 13.25	LA14	MT
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>Library 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	CH
Tuesday Lunchtime	<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>Cricket – KS3</b>	25 mins	13.00 – 13.25	Field	JB/JS
	<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
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>Library Homework Club – All years – Booking via Arbor</b>	1 hour	3.20–4.20	Library	GB
Wednesday Lunchtime	<b>Library – KS2</b> Max 30 children, quiet reading, choosing, renewing and returning books	50 mins	12.05 - 12.55	Library	GB
	<b>Volleyball – KS3</b>	25 mins	13.00 – 13.25	Gym	SG
	<b>Homework Club – KS3</b>	25 mins	13.00 – 13.25	LA14	MT
	<b>KS3 Singing Group</b>	25 mins	1.00-1.25	PA1	SW
Thursday Lunchtime	<b>Sports Leaders – Year 8</b>	30 mins	12.15–12.45	Gym	KB
	<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

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	<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>Thursday After school</b>	<b>Athletics – All years</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>Friday Lunchtime</b>	<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>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 – 1.25	Music Room	SW
	<b>Golf – KS2</b> Max 20 children, on rotation	30 mins	12.10 – 12.40	Field	MW
	<b>Homework Club – KS3</b>	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.