

Ferndown Middle School

Parent Weekly Newsletter w/c 18 May 2026



Headteacher's comment

Thank you for your continued support during this period of school closure. These have certainly been unprecedented times, but it has been fantastic to see our school community come together with such positivity and strength. Unfortunately, due to the recent virus and in an effort to contain and prevent further spread, we are having to postpone the **Year 6 'Lunch with Your Child'** event next week. We apologise for any disappointment this may cause and have shared further details in the newsletter below. In addition, the planned **Year 6 Moors Valley** visit will also be postponed, **Year 8 trip to Bournemouth University** has been cancelled, and **the Year 5 BSO visit has been adapted**. Instead of attending in person, Year 5 will take part via a live link to the Lighthouse on Tuesday, we are certain this will still be a memorable experience for them.

We have been absolutely blown away by the resilience and determination shown by our Year 6 pupils this week. They have approached their **SATs** with maturity and focus, and have made us all incredibly proud with the effort they have put in. We will be completing the remaining SATs tests next week, and we know they will continue to do their very best. Across the rest of the school, it has also been wonderful to see our value of *kindness* in action. Pupils have shown real thoughtfulness in the way they have supported our Year 6s—whether through offering words of encouragement, demonstrating excellent behaviour around the school to create a calm environment, or simply being mindful of the importance of this week. This collective effort has helped ensure that Year 6 could focus and perform at their best, and we are very proud of how our wider school community has come together to support them.



In other news, the beekeepers visited on Thursday to check on our bees – we are delighted to report that they were very happy and thriving!

We were also thrilled to hear some wonderful news about Jasmine and Henri, who recently competed at the Dorset County Championships.

We hope that you all remain safe and well over the weekend, and we look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday following the deep clean of the school.

Warm regards,

Alysia Dolan
Deputy Headteacher

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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.

Beat the Teacher

House Lark would like to say a **huge thank you** to all the pupils who took part in our recent *Beat the Teacher* competition. Thanks to everyone's enthusiasm and support, **we raised over £90 for the John Thornton Youth Foundation**. We would also like to thank the teachers who kindly devoted their time to play against the children and allowed us to use their consoles to help make the event such a success. All money raised will go directly to the charity, and the children who managed to beat the teacher will be entered into a raffle to win a £20 Amazon voucher.

Mr Wyeth



john thornton
young achievers foundation

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 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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School entrance notice board

We would like to make you aware that we display posters in our reception area to promote appropriate opportunities for our families and pupils.

These are opportunities that we are unable to include in the weekly newsletter, as they are classed as third-party marketing. Examples include half-term activities, local events, and support services for parents and families.

We encourage you to take a moment to look at the noticeboard when visiting the school, as there may be useful information that could be of interest to you and your child.



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

School Nurse Drop In - 3rd July 2026

As you will be aware we held a School Nurse Drop In session at the start of this month. A number of you contacted school requesting an appointment and the nurses were unable to see everyone. As a result the nursing team have kindly offered to run another morning here in school which will be on 3rd July. If you would like to arrange an appointment please be in touch with Veronique Giddens and she will do her best to accommodate. The nurses will be able to help with issues such as emotional wellbeing, sleep, eating issues and behavioural issues. We are grateful to them for their support.

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Celebrating Outstanding Sporting Success

We are delighted to share some fantastic sporting achievements from our pupils at the Dorset County Championships.

- **Jasmine (Year 6)** enjoyed exceptional success, achieving both a **gold and a silver medal**. She secured **1st place in the long jump** and an impressive **2nd place in the 150m** – a truly wonderful achievement.
- **Henri (Year 6)** also competed at the Dorset County Championships in Ashdown last weekend alongside his sister, Ava (a former pupil). We are proud to report that they both brought home medals. Henri achieved **bronze in both the 75m sprint and the 150m sprint**, placing him among the fastest competitors in the county.

Congratulations to both pupils on their outstanding performances—we are incredibly proud of their achievements!



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Charity Football Tournament



We would love to share the success of a wonderful community event held on Saturday 9th May at Ferndown Fields.

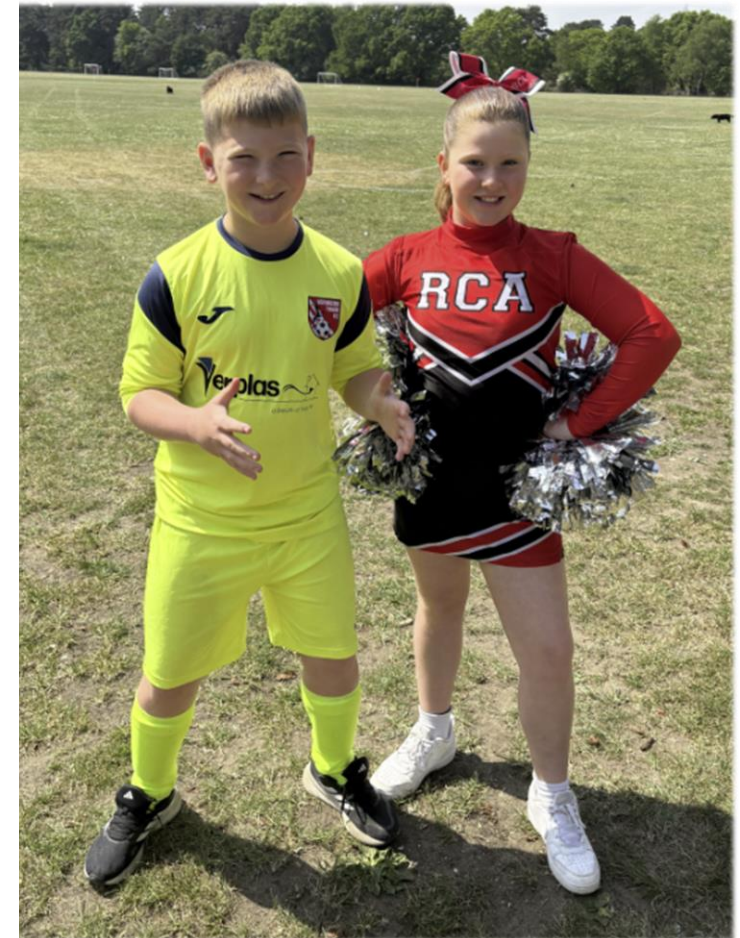
Families from Ferndown Middle and First Schools generously donated raffle prizes and supported a charity football tournament in memory of Betsy Badminton, sister of Evie-Mae.

The event began with a fantastic performance from Revolution Cheerleading Academy. Girls including Mia, Evie and Hattie impressed the crowd with their energy and cheerleading talents.

The football tournament then got underway, featuring seven under-10 teams from across Dorset. Finley, playing in goal for the Comets, was among those taking part, and all players showed great determination and teamwork in the sunshine.

The day was filled with true community spirit, and we are delighted to share that over £4,000 was raised for Julia's House.

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed and supported the event – it was a brilliant effort by all involved. We look forward to seeing it grow again next year!



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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.



Wellbeing

Online Grooming is when someone befriends and builds an emotional relationship with a child and communicates with them through the internet with the intent to commit a sexual offence. This type of victimisation can take place across any platform; from social media and messaging apps to online gaming and live streaming. Often it involves young people being tricked, forced or pressured into doing something they wouldn't normally do (coercion) and often the groomer's goal is to meet the victim in a controlled setting to sexually or physically abuse them. In some cases children may be abducted or have long-lasting psychological damage.

What parents need to know about

ONLINE GROOMING

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In this week's guide, you'll find tips on a number of potential risks such as strangers online, closed messaging and emotional attachments.

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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
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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.