

# Ferndown Middle School

## Parent Weekly Newsletter w/c 29 June 2026



### Headteacher's Comment

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been another busy and positive week here at Ferndown Middle School, rounded off by a truly memorable Transition Day.

Today we were delighted to welcome our **new Year 5 pupils** into school. It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces arrive punctually and ready for the start of what we hope will be an exciting and enriching journey with us. The enthusiasm, confidence and curiosity shown by these young people has been fantastic, and they have already made an excellent first impression. We very much look forward to working with them full time from September and supporting them as they settle into their new school community.

At the same time, our **current Year 8 pupils** spent their day at their new schools. Transition is a key milestone, and I am sure they gained a great deal from the experience. It is always a proud moment for us to see our pupils take this next step, and I know they represented Ferndown Middle School exceptionally well.

Back in school, **our new Year 6 and Year 7 pupils** have also been embracing their next stages with maturity and positivity. It has been pleasing to see how well they are preparing for the year ahead, showing a real sense of belonging within the school. These transition points are so important, and the way our pupils support one another is a real strength of our community.

I would also like to take a moment to mention the **recent weather**, which has certainly been challenging. The extreme conditions led to the difficult decision to close the school yesterday. I would like to sincerely thank all parents and carers for their understanding and support during this time. We appreciate that such decisions can be disruptive, but they are always made with the safety and wellbeing of our pupils and staff in mind. In particular, I would like to apologise for the short notice given on Wednesday. We fully recognise that this can create challenges for families, and we are grateful for your patience and cooperation. As always, we remained open for those pupils who needed to be on site, ensuring that support was available where required.

Thank you once again for your continued support—it makes a significant difference to the smooth running of the school and the success of our pupils.

**Monday 29th June is an INSET day**—school closed to pupils. We'll see all children back on Tuesday.

As we look ahead to the final weeks of term, there is still much to look forward to ... **Sports Day** next Wednesday and the rescheduled **Fun Run** on next Thursday.

We will continue to ensure that our pupils are engaged, supported and encouraged to achieve their very best.

Yours sincerely

Grant Hopkins

Interim Headteacher

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### Sports Day – Wednesday 1 July 2026

We are very much looking forward to Sports Day on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July.

Here are a few reminders to aid with the smooth running of the day.

Please ensure that your child comes into school in their **full PE kit with a filled named water bottle, sun cream and a hat.**

Please see the timings below - parents and carers are of course welcome to come and support the **Athletics (Track and Field) and Cricket**. Please bring your own chairs/picnic blankets. Refreshments will be available to purchase on the day via the PTA.

**Year 5 parents** - if you are planning on coming in to join your child for lunch, please ensure you have purchased your lunch on Arbor before attending on the day. Please arrive and sign in via the front office. Lunch for year 5 will begin at 13:20.

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.



	Year 5	Year 6
8.45 - 9.00	AM Reg.	AM Reg.
9.00 - 10.50	Athletics - Track & Field	Athletics - Track & Field
10.50 - 11.10	BREAKTIME	BREAKTIME
11.10 - 12.05	Well-being walk	Well-being walk
12.05 - 12.55	Cricket	Classroom based activity
12.55 - 13.20	Lunch - playground	Lunch – eat in hall
13.20 - 13.55	Lunch – eat in hall	Lunch – playground
13.55 - 14.25	PM reg	PM reg
14.25 - 15.20	Classroom based activity	Cricket

	Year 7	Year 8
8.45 - 9.00	AM Reg.	AM Reg.
9.00 - 9.55	Cricket	Classroom based activity
9.55 - 10.50	Classroom based activity	Cricket
10.50 - 11.10	BREAKTIME	BREAKTIME
11.10 - 12.05	Well-being walk	Well-being walk
12.05 - 12.30	Lunch -playground	Lunch – eat in hall
12.30 -12.55	Lunch – eat in hall	Lunch - playground
12.55 -13.20	Registration	Registration
13.20 - 15-20	Track & Field	Track and Field

We really hope that is a fantastic day for all and would like to thank you in advance for your incredible support.

PE Team

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### School News

#### Fundraising



Curlew House will be holding a cake sale on **Friday 10th July** at breaktime to raise money for Abby's Heroes.

Children are invited to bring money in on this date if they would like to purchase one - pricing will range from 50p to £2. Gluten-free/vegan options will be available.

We look forward to raising as much as possible for this very worthy charity!

#### Free School Meals – Changes from September 2026

**Important: All families must apply (or reapply), even if your child already receives FSM and is moving schools.**

From September 2026, Free School Meals (FSM) eligibility is expanding. Children with parents/carers receiving any level of Universal Credit may now qualify. There will be two levels:

- **Targeted FSM** – earnings below £7,400
- **Expanded FSM** – earnings above £7,400

Families in the Targeted group may be able to access further related benefits, for example, [pupil premium](#) and [free holiday activities and food \(HAF\) programme](#).

Expanded free school meals are for families receiving Universal Credit with earnings over £7,400 per year. They cover free school meals only.

We encourage everyone to check eligibility, as more families may now qualify.

Apply via Dorset Council: [Apply for free school meals- Dorset Council](#)

Please contact the school office if you need support.

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### FMS Fun Run new date Thursday 2 July

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 2 July 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 2 July 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!





The remarkable growth of generative AI tools like ChatGPT has opened up exciting new opportunities for young learners. Used wisely, AI can be a powerful ally in boosting creativity, learning and problem-solving skills. However, without proper guidance, young people may stumble into challenges including inaccurate information, data security risks, and a growing reliance on AI over their own critical thinking.

From setting clear usage boundaries to teaching digital hygiene and promoting independent thought, this guide offers parents and educators practical advice on the safe, positive use of AI. With the right understanding and guidance, you can ensure that generative AI becomes a positive influence, rather than a potential pitfall in young people's digital lives.



### Upcoming Event



**YEAR 8 PROM PARTY!**

**THURSDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> JULY**

**6:00PM – 8:00PM**

**£5 PER TICKET**

AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE VIA **ARBOR**

Celebrate the end of an amazing year with **MUSIC, DJ, DANCING** and **FUN** with **FRIENDS!**

**DON'T MISS THIS CHANCE TO MAKE MEMORIES BEFORE YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE!**

The poster is black with gold and white text and graphics. It features silhouettes of people dancing, a DJ, and a disco ball. The text is in various fonts, including a large, bold, gold font for the title. There are also icons for a calendar, a clock, and a ticket.

# Ferndown Middle School

## Parent Weekly Newsletter w/c 22 June 2026



### Term Dates 2026-2027



#### Autumn Term 2026

SEPTEMBER 2026							OCTOBER 2026							NOVEMBER 2026							DECEMBER 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
	1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4							1		1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31			
														30													

#### Spring Term 2027

JANUARY 2027							FEBRUARY 2027							MARCH 2027							APRIL 2027						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
				1	2	3																		1	2	3	4
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	26	27	28	29	30		
														29	30	31											

#### Summer Term 2027

MAY 2027							JUNE 2027							JULY 2027							AUGUST 2027						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
					1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4							1
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
31														30	31					30	31						

#### Bank and Public Holidays 2026-2027

25 December 2026	Christmas Day	1 January 2027	New Year's Day	29 March 2027	Easter Monday	31 May 2027	Spring Bank Holiday
28 December 2026	Boxing Day	26 March 2027	Good Friday	3 May 2027	May Day 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 2

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
Monday After School	Rippa Rugby – All years (External paid club) <a href="#">Welcome to Rippa Rugby   Rugby Coaching and Consultancy in Dorset</a>	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. <a href="https://www.live4tennis.co.uk">https://www.live4tennis.co.uk</a>	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 – KS2	45 mins	12.05 – 12.50	Library	GB
	Homework Club – KS3	50 mins	13.00 – 13.50	Library	GB
	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) <a href="https://bookwhen.com/teamthemesportscoaching">https://bookwhen.com/teamthemesportscoaching</a>	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
	KS3 Singing Group	25 mins	1.00-1.25	PA1	SW

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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
	Homework Club – KS2	45 mins	12.05 – 12.50	Library	GB
	Homework Club – KS3	50 mins	13.00 – 13.50	Library	GB
	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

### 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.

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- 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 Arbor, telephone call, or SMS will notify parents.
- External club arrangements are with the club and not the school.