

Ferndown Middle School

Parent Weekly Newsletter w/c 8 June 2026



Headteacher's comment

I hope you and your families have had a restful and enjoyable half-term break.

It has been a real pleasure to welcome our students back this week. The school has quickly settled into a positive rhythm, with students showing a fantastic attitude to their learning and to one another. It has been wonderful to see such a strong and enthusiastic start to the second half of the term.

I would like to extend a special thank you to the adults who joined us for lunch on Wednesday. This was a great success and a lovely opportunity to share part of the school day together. The feedback has been extremely positive, and we very much look forward to welcoming our Year 5 parents and carers to a similar experience before the end of the academic year.

You may also be aware of our recent focus on improving punctuality. I am delighted to report that we have seen a very encouraging response, with significantly fewer children arriving late during the first few days of this initiative. Thank you for your continued support in helping students arrive on time and ready to learn—it really does make a difference.

Looking ahead, please note a change to the date of our **Fun Run**, which will now take place on **Wednesday 25th June**. We hope this will give families plenty of time to prepare, and we look forward to another enjoyable and active event.

Finally, it was fantastic to see our Year 7 students head off on their day trip today. They are visiting Corfe Castle and Lulworth Cove—two truly inspiring locations—and I am sure they will gain a great deal from the experience, both educationally and socially. Trips such as these create lasting memories and deepen learning beyond the classroom.

Warm regards

Grant Hopkins

Interim Headteacher



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School News

We want to inform you of important changes to Free School Meals (FSM) eligibility that will take effect from September 2026.

From this date, the eligibility criteria are expanding. This means that all children whose parent or carer receives any level of Universal Credit may now be entitled to free school meals.

What's changing?

There will now be two levels of eligibility:

- Targeted Free School Meals – for families receiving Universal Credit with household earnings below £7,400 per year (or certain other qualifying benefits).
- Expanded Free School Meals – for families receiving Universal Credit with earnings above £7,400 per year.

Important – all families must apply

Even if your child currently receives free school meals, you will need to apply (or reapply) to continue receiving meals from September 2026.

We strongly encourage all families to check their eligibility, as many more children may now qualify under the new criteria.

How to apply

You can apply directly via Dorset Council here: [👉 Apply for Free School Meals](#)

Applications are quick, and most receive an immediate response.

If you have any questions or need support with the application, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.



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Pupils arriving late to school

We have seen an increase in pupils arriving late to school. To ensure that all pupils are settled, ready to learn, and making the most of their school day, we will be implementing the following changes:

Any child who is late in the morning will receive the same-day consequence of missing social time.

The consequences will be incremental.

1 x late = missing break

2 x lates = missing break and lunch

3 x lates = missing break, lunch, and 10 minutes after school.

We will, of course, continue to take individual circumstances into account, and this consequence will not be applied in certain cases. For example, this may include medical or dental appointments or unavoidable delays caused by exceptional traffic conditions.

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring pupils arrive at school on time and ready to learn.

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



Have your say on childcare in Dorset

**Prize Draw of a £50 Amazon Vouchers
for 5 lucky winners**

[Link here: Childcare Survey](#)

or

SCAN ME



Dorset Council is inviting families to take part in a short Childcare Survey to help us understand local needs and improve services across the county. Your feedback will help shape future childcare provision and support for families.

Closes 17th of June 2026

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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

The poster is for the Community Kids Club 2026, presented by Sunnyhill Church, Ferndown. It features a green background with a purple and red circular graphic containing silhouettes of children dancing. The text provides details about the club's dates (Monday 17th to Wednesday 19th August), location (Ferndown Village Hall), times (8.45am to 3pm daily), and a family celebration with a hog roast on Wednesday evening. The cost is £35 per child for all three days. A yellow speech bubble contains the text 'SAFE AFFORDABLE FUN'. A red arrow points to a QR code with the text 'Book in Here'. The website address 'sunnyhill.church/kidsclubferndown' is at the bottom.

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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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 25th 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 **25th 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

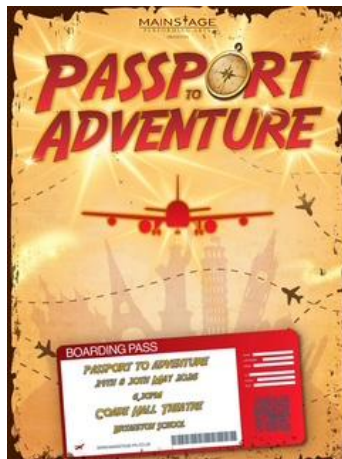
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Celebrating student successes

We are incredibly proud to celebrate Grace (5CB), who took part in a dance show over the weekend and was absolutely amazing. She and her fellow dancers (Killian, Keifer and Tilly) have been dedicatedly learning routines and songs since January, committing many weekends to rehearsals before performing in two outstanding evening shows. Grace demonstrated wonderful confidence and determination throughout the entire experience – a real testament to her hard work and passion. Very well done, Grace!



Congratulations to Oscar, who completed his Race for Life Mud Run on Saturday—an incredible achievement! He tackled an impressive 5km course (even longer than first thought!) and did a fantastic job throughout. Oscar has already raised £135, which is a wonderful contribution to such an important cause. We are very proud of his effort, determination and positive spirit—well done, Oscar!





What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ALLERGIES & ANAPHYLAXIS

An allergy is an overreaction of the immune system to a food or substance that's usually harmless. Symptoms can be mild, but for some people they can be very serious. This is known as anaphylaxis.

“ HOW TO SAY ANAPHYLAXIS: ANA-FIL-AX-IS ”

While many allergies result in only mild symptoms, some can be far more dangerous, causing life-threatening episodes of anaphylaxis that require swift intervention. This week's guide helps break down the warning signs and outlines the immediate steps to take when every second counts.

It also provides a useful overview of the most common food allergens – from milk and eggs to shellfish and sesame – as well as common non-food triggers like insect venom, pollen, and medication. With clear guidance on recognising the symptoms of a serious reaction and the role of devices like auto-injectors, this resource can help adults feel more prepared and informed when supporting children with allergies.

Please remember that any foods/snacks, which contain nuts, are not permitted in school.



School Nursing Team

0-19 CYP Public
Health Service

Parent drop-in

NHS
Dorset HealthCare
University
NHS Foundation Trust

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](https://www.instagram.com/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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Key dates

10 June	Year 7 FUS Sports Morning
10 June	Musical Event
15 – 19 June	Aspirations week and Careers Fair
17 June	Year 4 transition evening
22 – 24 June	Year 8 Residential at PGL
25 June	Charity Fun Run
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
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 – 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) https://bookwhen.com/teamthemesportscoaching	1 hour	3.20–4.20	Gym/Hall	External
	Paragon Football – All years	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
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

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	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.
- 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.