

Ferndown Middle School

Parent Weekly Newsletter w/c 6 July 2026



Headteacher's Comment

Dear Parents and Carers

What a fantastic week it has been at Ferndown Middle School, with two wonderful community events bringing pupils, staff and families together.

On Wednesday, we enjoyed a hugely successful **Sports Day**. It was wonderful to see our pupils demonstrating determination, resilience, teamwork and sporting spirit throughout the day. Whether competing on the track, taking part in field events, or cheering on their friends, pupils represented the school superbly.



A huge thank you must go to Miss Grant, Mrs Burton and Mr Beck for their hard work in organising and running the event. I would also like to thank all the staff and volunteers who supported throughout the day and helped to make it such a memorable occasion. We were also delighted to see our **PTA** in action, providing refreshments and helping to create a great atmosphere for everyone attending.

No sports day would be complete without the excellent commentary that kept everyone entertained and informed throughout the event. Thank you to Mr Bebbington for providing expert race commentary and helping to build excitement.

The celebrations continued with our **Fun Run**, brilliantly organised by Miss Curtis. This event has become a highlight of the school calendar and once again proved to be a tremendous success. Particular congratulations must go to all the pupils who took part. Their effort and enthusiasm were outstanding, especially considering the Fun Run took place the day after Sports Day and during very warm weather conditions. The determination shown by so many participants was truly impressive.

We must also thank Mr Batchelor, whose carefully selected tunes provided the perfect soundtrack and helped create a fantastic atmosphere for competitors and spectators alike.

Reminder: Please ensure all completed sponsorship forms are returned, and any donations are added to your Arbor account by **Thursday 9th July**, ready for the award celebrations. Thank you for your support! 🌟

Events such as these are only possible because of the dedication and commitment of our staff, PTA volunteers and wider school community. Most importantly, they provide our pupils with opportunities to challenge themselves, support one another and create lasting memories.

Thank you for your continued support and well done to everyone involved.

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Online Safety Reminder

I was disappointed this week to see some of the language and sentiments being used by a number of our children on the app ****Just Talk Kids****. While this app is marketed towards younger users and those under the age of 13, it is important to remember that all online platforms require careful supervision and regular conversations about appropriate behaviour.

We would ask all parents and carers to monitor their child's use of social media, messaging and communication apps closely, including apps that may appear to be designed specifically for children. Please take time to remind children that the expectations we have around kindness, respect and appropriate language in school should also apply online. Children should also be aware that anything posted, shared or said online can have consequences and may be seen by a much wider audience than intended.

Online safety remains a shared responsibility between school and home, and your support in reinforcing these messages is greatly appreciated. On the next page is an infographic from Childnet with some top tips to help keep children safe online.

Yours sincerely
Grant Hopkins
Interim Headteacher

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Follow Childnet's top tips to help keep you and your friends safe online.



- S** is for safe

Keep your own and others' personal information safe and don't share it with people you only know online. This includes your full name, passwords, address, school and contact details. Remember personal information can be found in pictures and videos you share. Make sure not to show your face or anybody else's face.
- M** is for meet

Be careful with people you only know online. Tell a trusted adult straight away if they ever ask:

 - To meet up,
 - For personal information about you,
 - For photos or videos of you,
 - For you to livestream or video chat with them.
- A** is for accept

Think carefully before you click on links, pop-ups, or adverts, as you don't know where they may lead. It's safest not to accept friend, follower, message or trade requests from people you don't know.
- R** is for reliable

Not everything you see online can be trusted. Things can be out of date, edited or fake! If something online seems too good to be true, it probably isn't true. Check your facts in several different places and talk to someone about what you have found if you're not sure.
- T** is for tell

If anything or anyone online makes you feel upset, worried or confused, tell a trusted adult. There are lots of people who will be able to help, like family members, carers, school staff or club leaders. Think: who are your trusted adults?

Remember to always be SMART with a heart by being kind, respectful and thinking about other people online.

Why not show how SMART you are by quizzing each other using these questions?

Hint: the answers are upside down

Which piece of information is okay to share online?

- Where you live
- Your favourite game
- Your password

Answer: b

If somebody online asks you to meet up, for personal information or photos and videos of yourself, what should you do?

- Reply with the information
- Ignore the messages
- Tell a trusted adult or Childline, then make a report together

Answer: c

Which of these steps should you NOT take if you are being bullied online?

- Retaliate
- Tell someone
- Report the user

Answer: a

How can you tell if something online might not be reliable?

- The information is out of date
- AI has been used
- It seems too good to be true

Answer: all of these might be signs that something online is unreliable

What's the name of the helpline you can contact if you need to talk or are feeling worried about something online or offline?

Childline
childline.org.uk
0800 11 11



FERNDOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL
LABEL DESIGN
COMPETITION

HONEY

GET CREATIVE!

DESIGN A LABEL FOR
FERNDOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL HONEY

USE YOUR IMAGINATION!

FREE JAR OF HONEY
AND LABEL USED
ON JARS FOR
THE WINNER!

OPEN TO ALL
YEAR GROUPS

⇨ CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY 10TH JULY ⇨

Honey Label Competition 🍯

We are inviting pupils to take part in our Honey Label Competition!

Design a creative label for our school honey and let your imagination shine. Entries can be created in any format – either hand-drawn or designed on a computer. Think about what makes our school honey special and include colourful artwork, nature-inspired themes, or anything else that captures the spirit of our bees.

We can't wait to see your fantastic designs and choose a winning label for our honey jars!

Closing date: Friday 10th July

Good luck and happy designing! 🐝 🍯 ✨



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School News

School Meals



Following a recent review, we have taken the decision to increase the cost of a school meal from the start of the next academic year **from £2.95 to £2.99**.

We have worked hard to keep prices as low as possible; however, rising costs mean this small increase is necessary.

Before the end of term, we will share the **new menu** which will take effect from September 2026.

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 of support:

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

Important: All families must apply (or reapply), even if your child already receives FSM.

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](#)

Thank you for your continued support, if you have any queries regarding school meals then please do not hesitate to contact the school.

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Lost property

There is currently a large amount of unclaimed lost property in the school hall, particularly footwear. Please encourage your child to check the lost property area for any missing belongings.

Any items that remain unclaimed at the end of term will be disposed of or donated appropriately.

Fundraising

Curlew House will be holding a cake sale on **Friday 10th July** at breacktime 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!



Extra-curricular clubs update

As we approach the end of term, the majority of our internal and external extra-curricular clubs will continue to run as normal during the final week of term.

Please note, however, that there will be **no Athletics Club**, and **all music clubs have now finished for the academic year**.

Thank you to all pupils, staff and external providers for their support of our excellent club programme throughout the year.

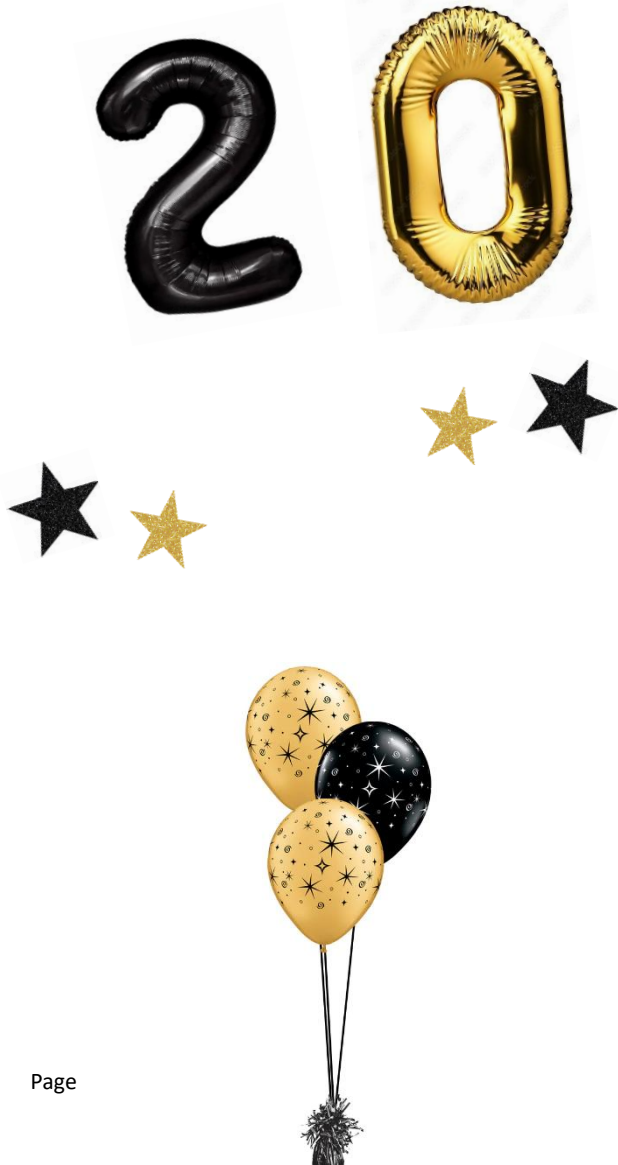


Freedom of expression is enshrined in international law. Some individuals, however, misunderstand the right to share their opinions as a license to target others with the most horrendous prejudice. So how do we balance people's prerogative to have their voice heard against everyone's right to live in a respectful, inclusive society?

This conflict frequently unfolds in the digital world. Online posters can be falsely accused of hate speech, while actual hate is often defended as merely being 'free speech'. To help children and young people learn to identify the boundaries and recognise genuine hate speech when they see it, this week's guide provides some helpful definitions and guidelines.



Upcoming Event



YEAR 8 PROM PARTY!

THURSDAY 16TH 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 at a console, and various party items like balloons and streamers. The text is in a mix of bold, sans-serif and script fonts.

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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 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) 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 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.