

FERNDOWN FIRST SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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For up-to-date information visit our website: www.fernfirst.dorset.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mrs J Di-Pede BA (Hons) NPQH

Newsletter No 7

6th December 2019

Dear Parents

The final Newsletter before the Christmas holidays will be published on **Friday 20th December**.

PTA BEDTIME STORY EVENT



School was magically transformed into a mini winter wonderland last night by members of the PTA and staff.

Christmas lights and decorations appeared in the corridors, Treasure Club and Library, making for cosy spaces for the children to enjoy their Christmas Bedtime Stories in a magical setting.

Thank you to the PTA and Mrs Errington for organising this event which was supported by several staff and parent volunteers. It was a great success.



Our special thanks also go to **Marks & Spencer** in Ferndown for kindly supporting this event. We are very grateful.

YEAR 4 'ROBIN HOOD' PERFORMANCE



Congratulations to the cast, chorus and crew from Year 4 for their performance of Robin Hood at the Barrington Theatre last Friday.

The acting was first class, the singing was sensational, the costumes were stunning and the performance was a big hit with family and friends. Well done to everyone who took part in the production and thank you to everyone who helped the children achieve such a high standard of performance. It was great fun to be part of and great fun to watch!

We are pleased to advise that a total retiring collection of **£131.49** was very gratefully received and which will now go towards school funds.

If any parents took some photos whilst at the theatre, we'd love to see them. Please email them to the office. Thank you.



Please read the following information carefully, as we have a lot of events taking place in school over the next couple of weeks.

PTA HAMPER RAFFLE DRAW THURSDAY 19TH DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE TICKETS – HAVE YOU GOT YOURS?



Do you have relatives, work colleagues or friends that may like to purchase some raffle tickets for our Christmas Hamper Draw? These hampers, wrapped in biodegradable cellophane, are really well stocked and are always a really popular feature on our Christmas calendar!

If you require any more books then these can be collected from the school office or sent home with your child if you contact the school. Tickets can be purchased right up until the morning of the Draw on 19th December. They are £1 each (£5 per book).

Once the Draw has taken place, winners will be notified as soon as possible. Please note:

Any prizes not collected by 1.30pm on Friday 20th December will be donated to local charities.

Thank you for your support and good luck!

RECEPTION NATIVITY PERFORMANCES

Parents should have received their tickets by the end of the day on Monday 9th December. These will be sent home in your child's book bags. Extra tickets will also be available from the school office from Tuesday 10th December. Reception's Nativity performances will take place at the following times next week:

- **RC (Mrs Cloud) - Wednesday 11th December at 9.30am**
- **RPS (Mrs Penfold/Mrs Smith) – Thursday 12th December at 9.30am**
- **RD (Mrs Dudley) – Friday 13th December at 9.30am**

All performances start at 9.30am in the hall. Parents are asked to wait at the staff entrance where tickets will be collected from you on entry. Thank you.

CHOIR ON TOUR

Children from the school choir will be going on tour to sing at some care local homes in the area on **Tuesday 17th December**. A letter will be coming home today with details. Please ensure the slip is returned to school **no later than 13th December**. Thank you.



CHURCH SERVICE

Our church service will be held at St Mary's Church at **9am on Wednesday 18th December**, which will also be the day we have Christmas lunch. We would appreciate some support to walk with the children to and from church. We will set off as soon as the registers have been taken.

Please note: Unfortunately, there will be very limited seating in church for parents, family and friends. We have 340 children who will need to be seated first. Please do not take a seat until staff have ensured the children are settled. Thank you for your understanding and co-operation.



CHRISTMAS CARDS

Some children like to send Christmas Cards to staff and their friends at this time of year. We will have Christmas Post Service starting **from Monday 16th December**. Please do not send your children in with Christmas Cards to distribute before this date. Each base will have a post box to drop off their cards. Children in Year 4 will then sort and deliver to each class, every day.



In an attempt to save paper and reduce waste, please can we encourage children to send just one card to their class, rather than to individuals.



CHRISTMAS GIFTS

As we near the end of term and the festive season is upon us, we want to take this opportunity to explain that staff really do not expect presents. At a time of great financial pressure for all families, we would prefer to give to those in greater need than ourselves.

There are many other ways to say thank you. Kind words mean a huge amount.

For families who really would like to give a gift, parents are invited to donate to a charity of their choice or the Ferndown First School fund.



CHRISTMAS SING-A-LONGS

We are pleased to confirm that the times for The Christmas Sing-a-Longs this year are:

Monday 16th December: Year 3 and Year 4 Start Time - 2.30pm

Thursday 19th December: Year 1 and Year 2 Start Time - 2.30pm

Parents are welcome to come along and hear their children sing a short selection of traditional and modern seasonal songs in the hall.

Due to capacity and health and safety restrictions in the school hall, both of these events will be strictly ticketed events and numbers will be limited to **2 FREE tickets per**. A letter giving more information is being sent home via ParentMail shortly.

The singalongs are short, informal events and the audience will be STANDING. If family members with mobility difficulties need a chair, please advise the office in advance.

We are sorry that there will be no room in the hall for pushchairs or buggies.

CHRISTMAS JUMPER NON-UNIFORM DAY – FRIDAY 20TH DECEMBER



Friday 20th December will be a Christmas Jumper non-uniform day! In exchange for a £1 donation, children may come to school in their own clothes and/or a Christmas jumper. Donations collected will go towards the School Fund. Thank you for your support.

EYFS NEWS

Fun with Phonics/Fun with Maths

Sessions for Fun with Phonics/Fun with Maths continue, with the final two sessions for this term taking place on Thursday 12th December and Thursday 19th December. We look forward to seeing you!



YEAR 4 NEWS



OSMINGTON BAY 2020

The final price for Osmington Bay 2020 is **£260**. A letter giving further details on how to pay the balance for this trip has been sent home to parents via ParentMail.

YEAR 4 SAMBA PERFORMANCE



Thank you to the parents who attended the Year 4 special assembly yesterday. The children really did play their samba music very well and treated us to some great, toe-tapping music encompassing what they have learnt in their lessons with Pete Whitmarsh from Dorset Music Service this term.

Dorset Music Service are very keen to hear your feedback on the programme so they can continue to provide musical experiences and improve the programme! Please complete the survey, via the link below.

<https://www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=157356068923>

Other news....

USING THE SCHOOL CAR PARK

Social media has reported that Tesco, Ferndown now have 3 hour parking restrictions in place. Rather worryingly, it appears some local people are suggesting our school car park, as an alternative for all day parking. Ferndown First School car park is on private Dorset Council land and is not available for public use. We will be carefully monitoring the use of our car park in the coming months.

RBL POPPY APPEAL 2019

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2019. We have been asked to say 'well done' by the RBL, who has advised that a total of **£105.97** was collected by our school!

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Di-Pede
Headteacher

See below for upcoming dates and advance notice.



UPCOMING DATES AND ADVANCE NOTICE

2019

Wednesday 11th December
Thursday 12th December
Friday 13th December
Monday 16th December
Tuesday 17th December
Wednesday 18th December
Thursday 19th December

EYFS Nativity at 9.30am – RC (Mrs Cload)
EYFS Nativity at 9.30am – RPS (Mrs Penfold/Mrs Smith)
EYFS Nativity at 9.30am – RD (Mrs Dudley)
Yrs 3 &4 Christmas Singing at 2.30pm – Parents welcome to attend
Choir Tour
Christmas Service and Christmas lunch
Yrs 1 & 2 Christmas Singing at 2.30pm – Parents welcome to attend
PTA Hamper Raffle Draw
Christmas Jumper non-uniform day
Term ends – school ends at 1.30pm

Friday 20th December

2020

Monday 6th January
Monday 17th – Friday 21st February
Friday 3rd April

Spring Term starts
Half Term Holidays
Term ends – school ends at 1.30pm

Monday 20th April
Wednesday 29th April – Friday 1st May
Friday 8th May
Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May
Friday 17th July
Monday 20th July

Summer Term Starts
Yr 4 Osmington Bay visit
May Day Holiday
Half Term Holidays
Term ends – school ends at 1.30pm
Staff Training Day

Please note that more information will be sent home via ParentMail and the Newsletter.



The poster features the 'care' logo with a heart icon and 'Ferndown Manor' text at the top. It is decorated with a string of colorful Christmas lights. The main title 'Christmas Fair at Ferndown Manor' is in large purple letters. Below it is a central illustration of a snowy winter scene with a house, a Christmas tree, and Santa Claus. Underneath the illustration is the text 'Ho Ho Ho!' and 'SEE YOU AT THE CHRISTMAS FAIR!'. The date 'Saturday 7th of December 2019' is written in large red letters. Below the date, it says '10.00AM – 1.00PM WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU THERE!'. At the bottom, the address '110 GOLF LINKS ROAD, FERNDOWN. BH22 8DA' is provided. The poster also includes illustrations of a mince pie, a firecracker, and a sleigh with reindeer.





SPANISH CLUB AT FERNDOWN FIRST SCHOOL

Hola! I am a native Spanish speaker, running Spanish classes using La Jolie Ronde method (learning through play and music). Would you like your child to join this lovely group?

Your child is invited to a FREE taster session on the 09th of January 2020 to find out more about our classes for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 students.

Classes start: Thursday 09th January to February 13th

Total weeks: 5

Cost class: £5 per class, pay in advance for the block

Materials: £19 (one-off payment)

The fees are discounted in a special agreement made with the school so don't miss this great opportunity for your child to learn another language!

If you think this is something your child will enjoy please send me an email to: blmlanguagelearning@hotmail.com **before** December 13th 2019.

Gracias y adiós!

Ximena Bleaney

Teaching under La Jolie Ronde license No. 23488

