

# FERNDOWN FIRST SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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

Newsletter No 1

11th September 2020

Dear Parents

## WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

There is a really positive and cheerful feeling in school and staff are well prepared for the term ahead.

You will have already received a separate letter explaining our curriculum plans for this half term, designed to support the children to settle back to school after an extended period of school closure.



I would like to offer a special welcome to our new parents who have children joining us in year groups across the school. We look forward to working with you and your children during the coming year. It's been wonderful to say hello to our new children in EYFS today, who have spent some time in school for Stay and Play.

I'd like to thank you for your co-operation, understanding and support in adjusting to new procedures and some restrictions to our usual way of working this week. In particular, we appreciate you working with us in the morning and afternoons, to allow for a calm and safe entry and exit to and from school.

Our aim was to create a steady, socially distant flow of parents/children onto and off the playground, keeping Year groups separate as much as possible. It's working well, especially now our older children in Y3 and Y4 are brought into school by teachers. We have had very fine weather this week and we know there are going to be days to come when the weather won't be on our side. As and when this happens, we will do all we can to get children into school as quickly as possible. Please ensure your child is well prepared for bad weather and has a good waterproof coat.

## **WE CAN HELP YOU**

There may be times when you may have questions about your child's education and the work we do in school. Class teachers are very well equipped to answer most of your queries and they should always be your first point of contact. If you need further help, please speak with your child's Year Leader or Phase Leader.

Year Leaders are responsible for day to day co-ordination in their year team. Phase Leaders are members of the Senior Management Team, who contribute to school leadership decisions and have strategic Teaching and Learning responsibilities.

	EYFS	Year1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
<b>Phase Leader</b>	Mrs Cloud		Mrs Errington	Mr West	
<b>Year Leader</b>	Mrs Cloud	Mr Watts	Mrs Lord	Mrs Bremner	Mr West



## YOU CAN HELP US – APPROPRIATE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Social Media, when used appropriately, can bring communities together in a very positive and celebratory way. Unfortunately, it can often be abused and used in ways which are wholly unhelpful and even unfairly damaging to a school's reputation.

Communicating with the school directly, referring to our letters and online communication, are the only fully reliable sources of support and information for parents.

We are aware of an increasing number of informal and unofficial groups too. Whilst these groups have their place, we have to encourage parents to consider how reliable they are as we have seen examples which are inaccurate and misleading, which leads to confusion and unnecessary worry.

*Please talk to us if you need help. We are always willing to listen and explain the work we do.*

## YOU CAN HELP US – PLEASE KEEP UP TO DATE



This week's newsletter contains some important reminders for parents, which we ask you to read carefully, please.

Newsletters are prepared fortnightly. The next edition of the Newsletter will be **Friday 25th September**. Please also check your ParentMail account and the school website for any updates and reminders, in between editions.

## STAFF NEWS

Welcome to the following new staff starting at Ferndown First School this term:

**Teachers:** Mrs Charters, Miss James and Mr Hunt

## LUNCHTIME STAFF VACANCIES

We have at least one vacancy for a Lunchtime Supervisor to start with immediate effect. If you are interested in applying for a position, please contact a member of the office staff for further information or see our advert on the 'Staff Vacancies' page of the website or via the DorsetforYou website. Thank you.

## GOVERNOR RECRUITMENT



We have a vacancy for a parent governor from September 2020. For an informal discussion about the role of a Governor, please contact Mrs Di-Pede.

## CONTACT DETAILS

Do we have the right contact details for you? Please advise the school office of any changes **as soon as possible**, as it is imperative that we have the correct information for your child should we need to contact you.



## MUSICAL INSTRUMENT LESSONS

Mrs Charters has now taken over responsibility for leading Music in school. If you have any questions regarding instrumental lessons or class music provision, please contact her in school on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Friday mornings.



### Piano Lessons – from Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September

Mrs Le Rossignol is fully booked for piano lessons this term. Please speak with Mrs Charters or the school office if you would like to be added to the waiting list.

### Other Instrumental Lessons

We will provide information about other lessons as soon as possible.

## SCHOOL INFORMATION - IMPORTANT REMINDERS



### PUPIL PREMIUM FUNDING

Families with a low income are entitled to claim Pupil Premium Funding and for every child eligible the school will receive £1,320. The additional funding is then given to school to support your child's learning and give them the best possible start in education.

### How does my child get their pupil premium grant?

The money is paid to the school and we decide how to spend the money to ensure the greatest impact for your child.

Even if your child is in Reception or Key Stage 1 and already gets a hot school meal it is still important that you apply because of the extra benefits. The school will get the pupil premium grant for your child so we can support their learning and give them the best possible start in education. **It is your child's entitlement, so please don't waste it!**

### How do I apply?

Apply online at <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/education-and-training/schools-and-learning/at-school/pupil-premium.aspx> or phone **01305 221000** in complete confidence.

The registration process is quick and easy. You need your national insurance number to hand. You will find out straight away if you are eligible. For more information on whether you could be eligible to apply please use the following link: <https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/education-and-training/schools-and-learning/at-school/free-school-meals.aspx>

## SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION

Our first priority is your child's welfare and therefore there may be occasions when our concern about your child means that we have to consult other agencies before we contact you.

The Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Area Child Protection Committee has determined the procedures we follow. If you want to know more about these procedures then please speak to the Headteacher, Mrs Di-Pede, who is the Designated Senior Lead for all matters relating to Child Protection and Safeguarding.

In Mrs Di-Pede's absence, Mr Watts is the Deputy Designated Senior Lead. Other staff who are also DSL trained are Mrs Doswell, Assistant Headteacher and Mrs Bramley, School Support Worker.



ParentMail letters come home regularly and are the main way in which we communicate to parents.

Parents of new Reception children and other new children who have joined will have received a link to enable them to join ParentMail.

We are pleased to advise that most parents are now registered on the ParentMail service, however, if you have not yet registered then please do this as soon as possible. If you need assistance then please do not hesitate to contact the school office who will be more than happy to help.

### **HEALTHY SNACKS**



Our school is part of The Government Fruit and Vegetable Scheme. This means that the children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are provided with a free piece of fruit or vegetable every day for their mid-morning snack. Further information, advice and guidance can be found at: [www.schoolfoodtrust.org.uk](http://www.schoolfoodtrust.org.uk).

Please note that mid-morning and afternoon snacks are restricted to the food listed below. No other alternatives will be permitted.

- Fresh fruit or a portion of vegetables – if your child needs their snack cut up, please do this at home and send in a small pot
- A portion of seeds/raisins/dried fruit (no nuts please or nut based foods due to some children having severe nut allergies)
- A plain biscuit (eg Rich Tea)

All healthy snacks should be placed in a named plastic container please. Please do not send in wrapped snacks. We need to reduce the amount of packaging waste and litter in the school grounds.

Water bottles can be brought into school for children to keep in their classroom, should they need a drink. Please note: Only **water** should be sent into school with your child – squash or fizzy drinks are not permitted. Children will have the opportunity to have the option of water or squash at lunchtime.



Milk is provided free of charge for all children under 5 by Cool Milk. Please contact the school office to request a registration form or you can register online at

[www.coolmilk.com](http://www.coolmilk.com)

### **IF YOUR CHILD IS UNWELL**



Parents are asked to follow advice provided by the NHS which is being kept up to date and includes specific guidance about Coronavirus.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

### **UNIFORM**

If the weather is warm and sunny, children can continue to wear their summer uniform for this month. If the weather does deteriorate and become colder, please ensure your child has a named coat in school.

## HAIRSTYLES

In line with our school uniform policy, parents are reminded that fashion hairstyles, including tramlines and razored cuts, are not acceptable. Parents are also asked to ensure that any hair above collar length is tied up with a dark coloured band/hair fastener.

## JEWELLERY

Small stud earrings are acceptable. No other jewellery should be worn to school. If your child cannot remove their earrings, parents will need to provide micro pore tape to cover the earrings during PE lessons and out of hours activities. If this is not done, the child will not be permitted to take part.

## **PE KITS AND LESSON DAYS**

From week commencing **14<sup>th</sup> September**, on the day your child has **outdoor** games, they should wear PE kit. All other days, children should wear full school uniform, please.

Children will be allowed to wear a plain navy, black or grey tracksuit on cold days and they may wear trainers to school. Please do not send your child to school in any affiliated team kit or branded clothing which is not suitable for school. Children who forget their PE kit will have to take part in their school uniform.

From 14<sup>th</sup> September:

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>
Year 1 2L	EYFS	2J and 2EH Year 3	Year 4

## **BREAKFAST CLUB**



If you are interested in booking your child into the Breakfast Club, parents are asked to speak with a member of the school office to find out if there is availability. Breakfast club is £3.00 per session. We are in the process of updating Registration Forms and Terms and Conditions

## **SCHOOL CLUBS**

Lunchtime and after school clubs are currently postponed until further notice. We will keep parents advised as and when we are able to offer these again to the children.

## **PTA NEWS – AGM - POSTPONED**

The PTA AGM scheduled for Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September has been postponed. As we are unable to meet in person, we will set up an online AGM before half term. Further information will be shared in due course.

## **ADVANCE NOTICE – STAFF TRAINING DAY**

Parents are advised that **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November** will be a Staff Training Day and school will therefore be closed to children.

Yours sincerely

*Mrs J Di-Pede*

Headteacher



## UPCOMING DATES AND ADVANCE NOTICE

### 2020

Monday 26 October – Friday 30 October

*Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November*

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December

Half Term Holiday

*Staff Training Day – School closed*

Term ends – school ends at 1.30pm

### 2021

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February

Thursday 1 April

Spring Term starts

Half Term Holidays

Term ends – school ends at 1.30pm

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May (BH) – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July

Summer Term Starts

May Day Holiday

Half Term Holidays

Term ends – school ends at 1.30pm

**2 further Staff Training Days are yet to be taken and you will be notified of these dates in due course.**

