

# 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 5

6<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Parents

## CASTLEMAN ACADEMY TRUST

Parents are advised that following a meeting of Governors on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2020, a decision has been made that we, along with Parley First School and Ferndown Middle School join the Castleman Academy Trust from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021, subject to due legal process. A more detailed letter has been sent home to parents via ParentMail.

We are excited by the opportunities this venture will bring and we know that children, staff and our community will benefit.

## UPDATES

### USE OF TAPESTRY – REMINDER TO PARENTS



We use Tapestry at our school to provide remote education to children who are required to self-isolate, or in areas where local lockdowns are implemented.

We are delighted that parents are engaging with Tapestry and remote learning. It's been so successful. We politely remind parents that Tapestry is a resource to promote learning. Teachers must observe boundaries in their professional work and we ask parents to keep this in mind when posting on Tapestry.

Teachers will acknowledge and briefly respond to learning related questions and comments. All other queries and concerns should be directed via email to the school office please. Thank you for your cooperation.



### BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS!

As advised in a recent ParentMail we have been celebrating September birthdays today. The children all enjoyed a small piece of cake and fun games and activities planned by their teacher.

All October birthdays will be celebrated on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November, with November birthday celebrations on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November.

Thank you to all the parents who have offered feedback about this idea. We are so pleased you are supportive of this.



## PTA - ZOOM AGM MONDAY 9<sup>th</sup> November - We need your help please!



Do you have some fundraising ideas or suggestions which could benefit the school? Do you have some spare time that you can give the school to help at PTA fundraising events?

At a time when fundraising opportunities are very limited for the PTA, we are very grateful for the time that our small but wonderful PTA members are able to give to our school.

We always welcome new parents and hope that as many of you as possible can join us for the postponed virtual AGM and first planning meeting of the year.

This will be a Zoom meeting on **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm**. The link to join the Zoom meeting is provided in the ParentMail. We look forward to seeing you!

### EASTER BONNET PARADE 2020 - REFUNDS

The Easter Bonnet competition earlier this year didn't take place due to lockdown but some parents had paid a £2 entry fee in advance of this competition.

Parents can claim their £2 entry fee back by contacting the office next week.

If you have not asked for a refund by Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November, then any monies remaining will be donated to Children in Need.



### ROYAL BRITISH LEGION REMEMBRANCE 2020

We would normally go with representatives of the School Council to the British Legion on Church Road for a short service of Remembrance, however, this year we are not able to take part in the usual way.

Instead, some representatives will walk with staff to lay a wreath at the British Legion Memorial at an alternative date and time.

On Wednesday 11th November, the school will have an early playtime and then a brief class discussion about Remembrance Day before observing a short period of silence in their class.

**If you would prefer your child is not involved in observing the silence, please ensure you have advised your child's teacher no later than Tuesday by email the school office.**



### CHILDREN IN NEED 2020- FRIDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

The School Council is supporting Children in Need again this year. On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November children should come to school in their school uniform (Year 4 PE Kit) but can wear one item of spotted clothing, eg spotted tights or socks or a spotted hair band. *As we are unable to take cash donations this year, we ask that parents make their own donation to support this very worthwhile cause. Thank you.*



Monday 16th - Friday 20th November

ANTI-BULLYING  
WEEK 2020

## NATIONAL ANTI-BULLYING WEEK 2020

This year, children will be recognising National Anti-Bullying Week through assemblies and discussions in classrooms. Our PSHE focus this half term is celebrating difference and diversity. Children will consider treating each other with kindness and respect and think about ways to deal with bullying.

## REMINDERS

### YEAR 2 PHONICS ASSESSMENTS

Year 2 children should have completed the national Phonics Screening in the summer term. This was postponed due to partial school closure and has been rescheduled for this term. A separate PowerPoint has been prepared for parents with more information about the screening check and how you can help.

### FLU IMMUNISATIONS

The School Nursing Service will be here on **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November** to carry out the school-wide immunisation programme, as previously advised to parents.

### ONLINE SAFETY



Do you know what games your child is playing online and with who? Parents are reminded to supervise access to online games. Your child may be playing games with unknown people in this country and beyond.



### EYFS - SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS MONDAY!

EYFS parents are reminded that the new school photographer will be returning on **MONDAY 9<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER** to take EYFS photographs.

### CHRISTMAS DANCE AND INSTRUMENTAL ACTIVITIES

The children are beginning to practise some dance and instrumental activities in preparation for a virtual Christmas performance - more details to follow.

If you do not wish your child to take part in Christmas preparations, please advise the school office via email at [office@fernfirst.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@fernfirst.dorset.sch.uk), for the attention of Mrs Charters.



### DOGS ON PREMISES



Parents are reminded that dogs are not permitted on the school premises or car park at any time (this includes being carried). Thank you for your cooperation




## REMINDER - COVID-19 SYMPTOMS



### **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/>



**If your child has:**  
a high temperature  
a new, continuous cough, or  
a loss of, or change in, sense of  
smell or taste

This could be a sign of  
coronavirus

**Book a test**

**If your child has:**  
a runny nose, is sneezing or  
feeling unwell  
**But they don't have:**  
a high temperature  
a new, continuous cough, or  
a loss of, or change in,  
sense of smell or taste

These are  
**not normally symptoms of  
coronavirus**

Seek advice from a pharmacy, dial  
111 or see your GP

Yours sincerely

*Mrs J Di-Pede*  
Headteacher

### **UPCOMING DATES AND ADVANCE NOTICE**

2020

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December

Term ends – school ends at 1.30pm

2021

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January

Spring Term starts

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

Half Term Holidays

Thursday 1 April

Term ends – school ends at 1.30pm

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April

Summer Term Starts

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May

May Day Holiday

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

Half Term Holidays

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July

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.**



PROUD TO BE A  
MUSIC MARK  
SCHOOL

