

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 6

20th November 2020

Dear Parents,

SCHOOL VALUES – CARE – Community, Aspiration, Respect, Excellence

We are so grateful to our parent community for the care, kindness and gratitude so many of you have expressed to staff in recent weeks. You really have no idea how much staff appreciate this.



Our school CARE values of Community, Aspiration, Respect and Excellence are important to us and our aim is that these are evident in our work with children and parents, modelled by the whole school community and used to steer the decisions we make and the conversations we have, even when they are difficult.

Thank you for your overwhelming support this week and continued co-operation as we navigate the unknown together.

TALKING TO TEACHERS



At the beginning and the end of the day we need to ensure drop off and collection is done as quickly as possible.

I've reminded staff that if they need to speak with you at the end of the day, this should be done via a telephone call, rather than face to face at the moment.

If you need to speak with us, please call the school office. Teachers will call you back as soon as they can.

PTA FUNDRAISING



A small number of parents participated in the Zoom AGM on Monday 9th November. Thank you for your time.

We are really hoping more parents will take part and we are still eager for your help. What can we do to make it easier for you to join in?

A PTA Newsletter will be sent home to all parents in the coming weeks, outlining some of the plans for the year. Please join in and help us raise much needed funds.



NEW CLASSROOM FURNITURE

As our school expands to accommodate another class in each year group, we are funded by the local authority to set up one new classroom in each year group. These new classrooms have benefited from brand new furniture which is more comfortable and modern, making the classroom environments so much brighter and more appealing.

Our existing furniture is old and tired. Much of it is at least twenty years old. It's served its purpose but needs replacing. In the coming weeks we are making an order to replace this old furniture and bring all of our classrooms up to the same standard as our new classrooms.

The cost of replacing furniture is hugely expensive. We have some school funds to use and the PTA are also making a substantial contribution to this project, which will benefit every child. Once we have our new furniture, we will be selling our old chairs and tables to raise funds for our school. These may be perfect for use by other community groups or at home, in the garage, shed, greenhouse or garden. We will let you know what we have available and will give parents first refusal on our unwanted furniture stock.



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS!

For the past two Friday afternoons we have celebrated September and October birthdays with the children. On Friday 27th November we will be celebrating all November birthdays.

It is difficult to know what the future holds in terms of lockdown restrictions, so we have decided that we will continue the monthly birthday celebrations for the remainder of this academic year, so that all children will have the same opportunity.

December birthdays will be celebrated on Thursday 17th December. When we get closer to the summer, we will celebrate July and August together. We will confirm dates for future months in due course.

CHRISTMAS DANCE AND INSTRUMENTAL ACTIVITIES

The children are beginning to practise some dance and instrumental activities in preparation for a virtual Christmas performance. This will be recorded during the week of 7th December and shared on our website for all families to enjoy.

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, for the attention of Mrs Charters.



CHRISTMAS CARDS

We know that many children like to write Christmas cards for their friends. We are also aware that Christmas cards generate a huge amount of waste with a staggering number ending up in bins.



Please can we encourage the children to write just one card for their class this year, rather than one for every child.

If your child would like to write a card for their class, they can post this in the year group Christmas Postbox between Monday 7th December and Friday 11th December.

These boxes will be quarantined for a few days before distributing to classrooms.



PROSPECTIVE PARENTS 2021

As we are unable to show prospective parents around our school at the moment, we are offering two Zoom meetings to welcome them to our school and answer any questions. If you know any prospective parents looking for school places for 2021, please remind them to book a place for either Monday 23rd November or Thursday 6th December at 6pm.

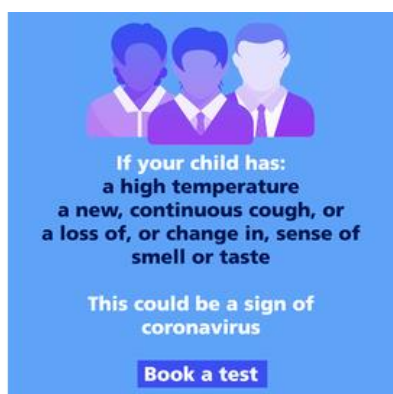
REMINDER - COVID-19 SYMPTOMS



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/>



Yours sincerely

Mrs J Di-Pede
Headteacher

UPCOMING DATES AND ADVANCE NOTICE

2020

Friday 18th December

Term ends – school ends at 1.30pm

2021

Monday 4th January

Spring Term starts

Monday 15th – Friday 19th February

Half Term Holidays

Thursday 1 April

Term ends – school ends at 1.30pm

Monday 19th April

Summer Term Starts

Monday 3rd May

May Day Holiday

Monday 31st May (BH) – Friday 4th June

Half Term Holidays

Friday 23rd 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

