

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

4th December 2020

Dear Parents,

The final Newsletter before the Christmas holidays will be published on Friday 18th December.

ENTRY TO SCHOOL from 8.25am

Please join the correct queue to enter school in the morning, in the following order. All children in the same family may arrive together with the earliest year group.

- Year 1
- Year 2
- Year 3
- Year 4
- EYFS

EYFS Parents

Families with children in EYFS only should arrive no earlier than 8.40am. Please queue on the right hand side of the lane. All children in EYFS must be in school **before 8.50am**. The Youth Club Gate will close no later than 8.50am.

COLLECTION FROM SCHOOL from 2.50pm

Please join the correct queue to collect at the end of the day, in the following order. All children in the same family should be collected at the **latest** time.

- EYFS
- Year 1
- Year 2
- Year 3
- Year 4

BIKES AND SCOOTERS

- We are sorry that we are unable to offer any storage for children's bikes and scooters for the foreseeable future.
- We thank you for your understanding and putting up with this inconvenience.
- We are hopeful that the summer term may allow greater flexibility but for now, we have to ask for your continued co-operation and understanding please.



SCHOOL OFFICE CLOSED ON TUESDAY 8th DECEMBER

The school office will be closed on Tuesday 8th December, due to staff shortages. Voice mails and emails will be monitored throughout the day but we will only be able to deal with urgent matters.

DORSET POLICE ARE ISSUING PARKING TICKETS



Parents are advised that Dorset Police have told us they intend to closely monitor the parking in and around the school vicinity. They have issued tickets this week, where vehicles were illegally parked in Mountbatten Drive.

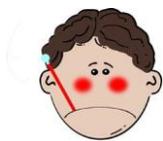
COVID-19 - CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY CONTACT TRACING

Schools are required by PHE and DFE to continue contact tracing up to December 24th. Parents are asked to make us aware of any relevant new positive Covid19 cases which are diagnosed once we break up for the Christmas holidays. Please email the school office and a member of staff on duty will contact you for further information, if necessary.

Please note: The school office will be closed and the telephones will not be monitored during this time.

COVID-19

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/>

TAPESTRY

Tapestry accounts do not replace our usual methods of communication between school and home and we ask parents to understand that it wasn't intended to be used as a platform for direct messaging between teachers and parents.

Teachers have very limited capacity to respond to direct messages on Tapestry and they have been advised to refer all general queries, updates or concerns to the school office.

The main purpose of Tapestry is to increase parental engagement in children's learning and, in particular, to promote home and remote learning.

CAN WE HELP YOU?

It is a very challenging time for many families and we'd like to help you if we can. We can signpost you to organisations and charities and we can offer food bank vouchers to help over Christmas. Please ask to speak with Mrs Bramley or Mrs Di-Pede for more information.



FREE SCHOOL MEALS – VOUCHERS FOR CHRISTMAS

Each family eligible for pupil premium will be issued with a supermarket voucher to replace free school meals over the holidays. More information about this scheme will be shared with you before the end of term.

ADVERSE WEATHER SCHOOL CLOSURE/ ACCESS TO SCHOOL SITE



As the weather can become unpredictable at this time of the year, arrangements need to be in place to cope with sudden snowfalls or severe weather that may prevent staff from reaching school.

Please keep an eye on the ParentMail text messaging service and updated notices on our website and Facebook. Parents can also access information on <http://mapping.dorsetforyou.com/closedservices>

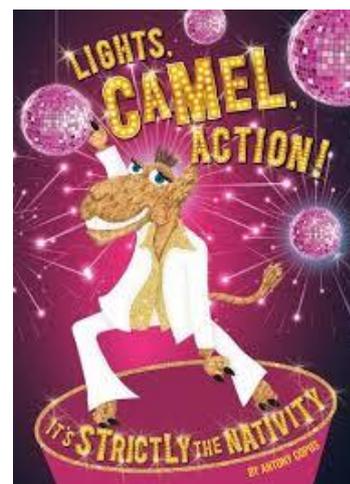
Parents are advised that, in the event of a heavy frost, there may be occasions when site staff have to lock all access gates until gritting of key areas has been completed. Parents will be notified of any changes to the entry and exit arrangements but this maybe short notice, so we ask for your patience, understanding and co-operation.

CHRISTMAS PRODUCTION – LIGHTS, CAMEL, ACTION

It hasn't been possible to co-ordinate our usual Christmas performances and services this year. We are also not able to sing in school at the moment, which is something we miss dreadfully.

It wouldn't be Christmas without a performance of some kind so this year we have worked in our class and year group bubbles to contribute to a short production of dances, poems and scenes which we hope will spread a little Christmas Joy.

It's all had to be rehearsed taking Covid into account but we've done our best. The production will be filmed in school on 10th December then made available online for families to enjoy as soon as possible after this date. We will let you know when we can publish it.



We don't yet know if our website will be able to store a large video file because we have never had to do a large-scale film before. It's most likely that the video file will have to be made available on You Tube. It is being filmed "as live" which means there is just one "take" for each class contribution as we have to film everything in a short space of time.

Please ensure you have read the letters sent home this week about costumes and clothing. Children will need wear this to school on Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th December.

EYFS Reception – Children will only need their Christmas jumper on Thursday 10th for filming. Usual uniform on Wednesday please.

Some parents have not given permission for their children to be included in photos and videos used on the website. We will respect your decision and the children will not take part in the recording.



PROUD TO BE A
MUSIC MARK
SCHOOL



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 available between Monday 7th December until Friday 11th December. Please do not send your children in with Christmas Cards after this date.



Each base will have a post box to drop off their cards. We will then sort and deliver to each class, after a period of quarantine. In an attempt to save paper and reduce waste, we encourage children to send just one card to their class, rather than to individuals.

CHRISTMAS JUMPER NON-UNIFORM FUNDRAISING DAY FRIDAY 18th DECEMBER



**Friday 18th December will be a
Christmas Jumper Non-Uniform day!**

Children may come to school in their own clothes and a Christmas jumper, in exchange for a donation to the school fund.

To make a donation:

- **Please follow the link in the ParentMail which we will send home soon.**
- **You will be able to make any donation amount you choose up to a maximum of £10**
- **If parents wanted to donate more this is possible and the office can help you.**
- **We have been unable to run many of our usual fundraising activities so any donations will be greatly appreciated. Thank you, in advance, for your support and generosity.**



PRE –ORDER CHRISTMAS LUNCH – 18th December



A ParentMail has been sent home this week explaining how to order a Christmas Lunch for your child.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR STAFF



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 the Ferndown First School fund. The office can help you with this.

YEAR 2 NEWS

Well done to the children in Year 2 who have recently completed their delayed Phonics check. We are proud of the children for doing their best. Parents will be advised of the check score in due course.

YEAR 4 NEWS



OSMINGTON BAY 2021

The final price for Osmington Bay 2020 is **£261**. A letter giving further details on how to pay the balance for this trip will be sent home to parents via ParentMail in due course.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS!

December birthdays will be celebrated in school on Thursday 17th December.



CHILDREN IN NEED



Having given parents the opportunity to reclaim their entry fee, we are pleased to confirm that we will now be making a donation of £170 to Children in Need. The money raised are the proceeds of our Easter Bonnet Competition, which didn't go ahead in March.



DORSET COUNCIL APPEAL FOR CHILDREN'S COATS

An appeal for children's new or nearly new winter coats and warm pyjamas has launched to keep children cosy this Christmas. Dorset Council are asking for those who can, to donate new, or nearly new, winter coats and warm pyjamas that are suitable for ages 3-12.

We are not a collection point but you can find out more information in this article.

<https://news.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/2020/12/01/help-keep-children-cosy-this-christmas/>

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Di-Pede
Headteacher

UPCOMING DATES AND ADVANCE NOTICE

2020

Friday 18th December

Christmas Lunch
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.



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