

FERNDOWN FIRST SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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Newsletter No 12

19th March 2021

Dear Parents

THANK YOU COMMENTS FROM PARENTS



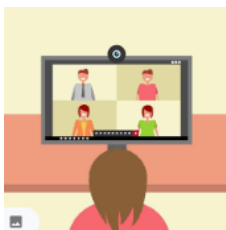
Staff are doing all they can to make the transition back to school as positive as possible. We greatly appreciate the kind comments and emails we've received since the children returned to school. Here are just a couple of examples of the thanks we have received below:

"We just wanted to say thank you for all you have done over this difficult time. After reading the letter about what our child would be doing, she was excited to get back to school life with teachers and friends. Thank you for making this transition so smooth and enjoyable."

"We just wanted to email and say a big thank you to you and all of your staff at Ferndown First School. The return to school has been fantastic. They have had big smiles on their faces going to school and coming out - thank you so much for looking after them and helping them through what could have been a difficult week....but absolutely wasn't!"

These kind words mean a lot, so thank you!

ONLINE GROUP MEETING FOR PARENTS



Letters have now been sent out to parents via ParentMail inviting parents to meet with their child's class teacher in an online Zoom group meeting. Please check your ParentMail and respond, IF you intend to take part in the meeting.

Please note: Personal parents' evening appointments will be made available later in the year.



COMIC RELIEF 2021

Thank you to everyone who has supported Comic Relief again this year by wearing red or an item of red clothing. School certainly looks very colourful today! Based on donations received this afternoon, parents have contributed a staggering £671 which will be shared between the school and Comic Relief. Thank you very much!



YEAR 4 OSMINGTON BAY TRIP 2021



Due to the continuing pandemic and lockdown in force, it is now increasingly unlikely that the Osmington residential trip will go ahead as planned for Year 4 children. We know this will be very disappointing news but we are working with PGL on an alternative option. Details will be available to parents as soon as possible.

LET'S COUNT – CENSUS 2021 – REMINDER!



The Let's Count census is a survey that happens every 10 years and gives us a picture of all the people and households in England and Wales. This helps to plan and fund public services in our area. The next census is taking place on **SUNDAY 21 MARCH 2021**.

Children will be bringing home a certificate and sticker today to celebrate taking part in this event.

YEAR 1 – 4: 'THE WONDERFUL WIZARD OF OZ' PANTOMIME

Last Friday the children in Years 1-4 enjoyed the pantomime production of 'The Wonderful Wizard of Oz' performed by M&M Theatrical Productions. The children enjoyed a cinematic experience with one actor from the production team interacting with the children.

The children all thoroughly enjoyed the performance and there was lots of laughter heard around the school during the day. It was a great way to end a fantastic week back at school.



CONCERNS RE PARKING IN MOUNTBATTEN DRIVE / BRABOURNE AVENUE

We have received an email from a concerned resident of Mountbatten Drive who has raised some important issues regarding parents parking in this road and roads surrounding the school. The concerns raised are:

'The parking of work vehicles for the new Care Home in Church Road has heightened the risk to all users of the road especially those attempting to walk and where parents / child minders with pushchairs have restricted pavement due to vehicles parking on them.

Maybe the parents could be reminded that when entering Mountbatten Drive, there is only one way out and that is only achieved by turning round and that is difficult when you have vehicles parked both sides of the road, ending with gridlock.

This morning being wet, many parents were trying to park, some parking on the pavement which restricts the parents trying to walk with pushchairs. It is leaving the residents of both roads very vulnerable as the situation is restricting access for emergency vehicles.'

We continue to ask parents to park safely and respectfully in the local area. Please 'Park and Stride' from local car parks at Ferndown Leisure Centre, St Mary's Church and Tesco. Thank you.



CONGESTION IN ALLEYWAY



There is a lot of congestion in the alleyway running between our school and Ferndown Middle School at the beginning and end of the day.

Parents are asked to ensure they stand back and allow pedestrians and cyclists to pass freely, please. We would encourage parents not to gather in groups with their children whilst waiting at the gate.

PLEASE USE EXIT AND ENTRY GATES

The small gate leading to the waiting areas is for coming into school **only**.

Parents are asked to exit using the exit gate next to the main school gates. Please leave swiftly and do not congregate on the school premises to allow for a steady flow of parents and children when they are leaving. Thank you.



PTA TEA-TOWEL FUNDRAISER

The PTA are organising a school tea towel project which allows the children to draw their own self portrait. The portraits of all participating children from each class are then scanned and printed onto a tea towel. Your child's full colour self-portrait will be at the centre of the towel design with children from their class included too.

More information about how to order will be sent home in due course. If you do not want your child to be included in this project, please ensure the school is made aware **no later** than Friday 26th March.

REMINDERS

LONG HAIR

Parents are reminded that their child's hair, if longer than shoulder length, should be tied up (with a dark coloured hair band) at all times, please. Thank you for your cooperation.

PUBLIC TOILET FACILITIES

As mentioned in our previous Newsletter, we are unable to offer any public toilet facilities. Children's facilities are available during **school time only** but are closed after school to allow for cleaning.



SCHOOL OFFICE – REMAINS CLOSED

The school office remains closed to parents and visitors, unless by prior appointment. Please either email the school at office@fernfirst.dorset.sch.uk or ring 01202 873747 if you have a query. Thank you.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Di-Pede
Headteacher





Join us for our exciting Easter Trail! Follow the map, work out the clues, and follow the Easter story through Ferndown, featuring pictures drawn by children at Ferndown First School. The trail finishes at St Mary's Church where you can pick up your very own "My Easter Story Bag". There will be 150 bags available, so please book to make sure that you get one (please book a ticket per child). You will receive your Easter Trail Map when you have booked your place. The trail will go live on Saturday 27th March.

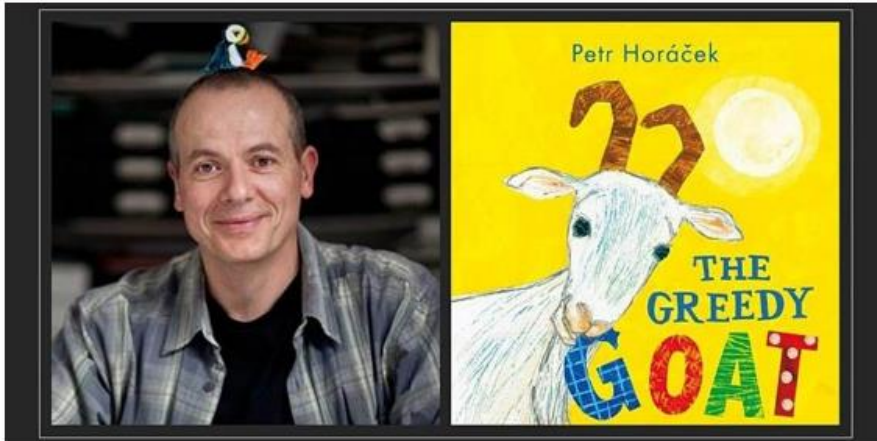
If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us via office@stmarys-ferndown.org.uk or call 01202 897087

Click here for more information and to book your places - <https://stmarysferndown.churchsuite.co.uk/events/goxudbbc>



MESSAGE FROM DORSET LIBRARY SERVICE – EASTER HOLIDAY EVENTS

Dorset Library Service have two exciting virtual author events for the Easter Holidays. Both events are free, only 1 ticket is needed per family, and booking takes place via Eventbrite (links and further information below). For more information, contact Dorset Library Service.



Meet the children's author Petr Horacek

Easter holiday fun - join us for this virtual session with author and illustrator Petr Horacek, whose picture books include The Mouse who ate the Moon, The Greedy Goat, and Silly Suzy Goose. There will be readings, drawing activities and lots more fun.

Especially suitable for age 5 to 10 years, but all ages are welcome.

This is a virtual event using Zoom [Book your FREE place](#) on Eventbrite.



Meet the children's author Gareth P Jones

Something new for the Easter Holidays - join us for this virtual event to meet Gareth, the author of the fabulous Dragon Detectives books. Gareth will be talking about where his ideas come from, the joy of stories and the FUN we can have with books - and there may be music as well!

Especially suitable for age 5 to 10 years, but all ages are welcome.

This is a virtual event using Zoom. [Book your FREE place](#) on Eventbrite.

