

# FERNDOWN FIRST SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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Newsletter No 13

1<sup>st</sup> April 2021

Dear Parents

## REFLECTIONS ON THIS HALF TERM

The Spring Term draws to an end today. It's been rather a rollercoaster of a term but one which is ending positively. The children have been a complete delight, since their return on 8<sup>th</sup> March. Staff are so proud of them. The work we have done during the past few weeks will be a great springboard to launch a summer term with far less disruption, hopefully.

## CATCH UP FUNDING

### 'Catch-up funding'

Following the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent closure of schools, the government issued an amount of catch-up funding to all schools to support with closing gaps in learning. The amount of funding allocated is based on pupil numbers and is paid to school over two financial years.

A ParentMail letter has been sent home today providing an explanation on how we have considered the age of our children when deciding how to allocate and spend our money. We have also used the government recommended, 'COVID-19 Support Guide for Schools' published by the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) to identify the best strategies, based on long term research, that will enable us to achieve the most positive outcomes.

## STAFF NEWS



We will welcome Miss Weguelin to our school after the Easter holidays. Miss Weguelin will be teaching class 3B and replacing Mrs Bremner until the end of the academic year, whilst Mrs Bremner is redeployed before she commences her maternity leave later in the year.

We are also grateful to Mrs Wallace who will be teaching class 2EH on Thursdays and Fridays after the Easter holiday for the rest of the academic year. Mrs Wallace, who is well known to the children in Year 2, will replace Mrs Hurst whilst she is redeployed pending the start of her maternity leave later in the year.



We wish Mrs Bremner and Mrs Hurst and their families our very best wishes as they await their new arrivals.



## **PARENT MEETINGS**

Thank you to parents who took the time to join in the recent Zoom meetings. Phase Leaders have provided a short summary for parents who missed these meetings.



### **EYFS**

The EYFS meetings were all positive and were a good opportunity for teachers to share an update on the children's general progress and next steps. It was also a chance to look forward to Year 1. We discussed how we are preparing the children for transition to their new year group as well as what parents can do at home to support.

### **Year 1**

It was a great opportunity to answer questions and offer reassurance as to how well the Year 1 children have settled back into school and their learning.

There were a couple of questions around assessment and we were able to confirm that the Year 1 Phonics Screening check, due to take place in June, has been cancelled. We anticipate that children will sit a Phonics Screening check in the autumn term in Year 2, but this is not yet confirmed.

The NFER assessments that the children have completed have been used by teachers to identify key teaching priorities for the summer term.

### **Year 2**

We hope you found it useful to hear about how well the children have settled back into the routines of school, as well as the key curriculum areas which we have been focusing on.

There were a couple of questions around assessment and we were able to confirm that the KS1 SATS which the children would have undertaken in May have been cancelled.

The children took the Year 1 Screening Check in November (it would have been June 2020) and we will be reporting the results of this to parents in the summer term.

### **Years 3 and 4**

The meetings provided a great opportunity for teachers to give feedback on how children have returned to school after lockdown. Children have shown a lot of resilience during this period and their enthusiasm for being back in school and seeing their friends has been very encouraging!

Teachers also explained the next steps they will be taking going forwards. We hope you felt reassured by our plans for the Summer Term. As mentioned in the meetings, please feel free to contact class teachers on Tapestry if you have any follow up questions.

## **BUILDING WORK PLANS**

During the Easter holiday, contractors will be on site to begin enabling works in readiness for a much bigger phase of school improvement work taking place from the middle of May onwards.



## YEAR 4 - OSMINGTON BAY DAY TRIPS 2021



Whilst we know the children will be disappointed to miss out on a residential experience, we have made arrangements to take the children on two consecutive day trips on **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> and Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2021**. A letter has been sent out to parents via ParentMail giving further details.

It is possible (subject to spaces available) that we may be able to take more children on each of the days. If your child wasn't booked to participate in the residential, but would like to go for the two days, please contact the office to express an interest.

We will arrange an online parents meeting nearer the time to talk through all of the details of the trip.



### NEW PARENTS – TRANSITION

Due to Covid restrictions still in place, we will be following a similar approach to transition this year as we did last year. Our priority is to provide parents with the help and guidance they need, in readiness for their child's first day at school. Mrs Clod is the Early Years Phase Leader. Please look out for further information being sent home in due course.

### RESPECT FOR OUR NEIGHBOURS



Further to my ParentMail recently regarding parents allowing their children to play in neighbouring residents' gardens, I was appalled to learn that a parent thought it was appropriate to take their child into a neighbour's garden to go to the toilet. This is totally unacceptable. Please have respect for our neighbours.

### END OF THE DAY - CONGESTION BY SCHOOL GATES

At the end of the school day we have 362 children leaving our school via the main gate. Directly beyond our gate is a public pavement where growing groups of parents have started to wait. Doing this is causing an obstruction, making it difficult to pass and forcing pedestrians into the road.

We ask for your consideration to help keep everyone safe. Please keep the path, leading from school to Mountbatten Drive clear, so our families can exit our premises, safely.

### TUESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> APRIL – FILMING PROJECT

Students from Ferndown Upper School are filming in school on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April. Please can all children in EYFS wear school uniform on this day please and not PE Kit. Children will only be videoed if you have given permission. If you wish to withdraw permission, please make sure we know by Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April. Thank you.



### COOL MILK – NO DELIVERY MONDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

Parents should be aware that due to how the milk round is structured, Cool Milk have advised that they are unable to deliver milk for the children on the first day of term. The children will therefore receive their first milk delivery on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April.





## SUMMER TERM – UNIFORM

Children will be able to wear their summer uniform to school when we return from the Easter holiday. Parents are reminded of our uniform requirements, as detailed below:

Yellow and white summer dress  
Grey skirt/pinafore/tailored trousers/shorts with yellow polo shirt  
Navy blue sweatshirt or cardigan with school logo  
Black shoes/sandals  
Navy, grey or black socks or tights

Long hair (collar length and longer) should be tied up and secured with a dark coloured hair band. Thank you for continuing to support our uniform policy.

## SUN SAFETY AND PROTECTION

As the weather is turning for the better, we need to ensure we keep safe whilst in the sun. Although children are outside during their lunch hours, there is always shade available to them if they want a break from the sunshine.



Parents are reminded of the importance of applying sun cream every day, **before school**, depending on the forecast, and should also provide their child with a hat (named please) for when they are outside, ie for PE lessons / playtimes. Thank you.

## EASTER BREAK



## EASTER HOLIDAYS

On behalf of the staff and Governors, I wish you all a very happy Easter. I hope the weather continues to improve so that we are all able to enjoy some special family time.

We look forward to seeing you on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April.

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 27<sup>th</sup> March.

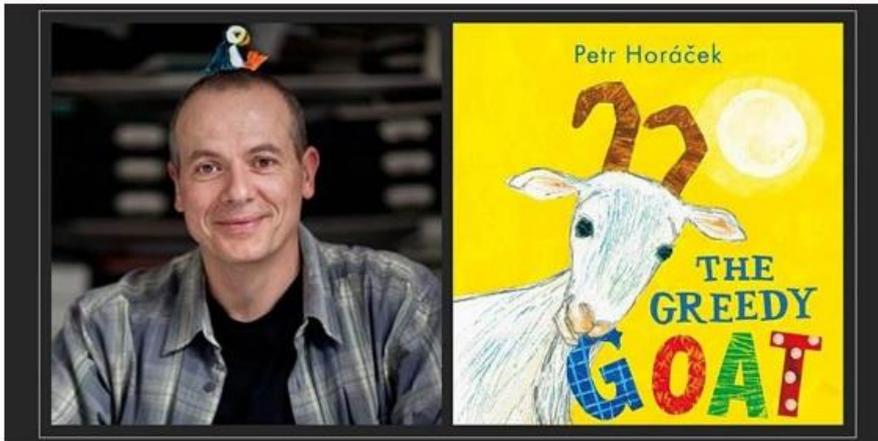
If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us via [office@stmarys-ferndown.org.uk](mailto:office@stmarys-ferndown.org.uk) or call 01202 897087

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.





# EASTER AT NOTHE FORT

12th - 18th April 2021

**An Easter Hunt for all the Family**

- Count the Easter Bunnies
- Hunt for the Easter Eggs, including our unique Golden Egg
- Find the facts to solve our Easter quiz
- Only £3.50 per adult and £1.50 per child



Note: Only the outdoor areas of the Fort will be open



 Last Entry 3pm  
 No Pre-Booking Necessary

## Ferndown Library

### Get Creative with our Easter Colouring Competition!



**Opening date for submissions: 2nd April 2021**  
**Closing date of competition: 16th April 2021**

Download our colouring pages from Ferndown Library Facebook Group and submit your entries to: [ferndownlibrary@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:ferndownlibrary@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk) to be in with a chance to win some 'eggcellent' prizes.

 @DorsetLibraries
  DorsetLibraries


 [dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/libraries](http://dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/libraries)



### MESSAGE FROM 'RARING2GO' MAGAZINE

We've put together a digital magazine for this spring.

This issue includes our own local roadmap to what's re-opening in the area, activities to do at home, mental health tips, local charity news (most of the people we feature are charities or not for profit organisations) and competitions which we know parents love.

To access our digital magazine, please go to:

<https://magazines.raring2go.co.uk/bournemouth/spring/>

### THE GO-TO GUIDE FOR YOU AND YOUR CHILD



**Big Moments of summer fun!**

**ALL STARS CRICKET**

For all 5 – 8 year-old boys and girls  
Give your little star a summer of big moments, making new friends, learning new skills and creating new memories.  
Every participant receives their very own personalised kit bag including bat, ball, cap and t-shirt!

Sign up today at [allstarscricket.co.uk](http://allstarscricket.co.uk) or at the centre

**DYNAMOS CRICKET**

**This is our game.**

Calling all 8-11 year-olds!  
Sign up today, at [dynamoscricet.co.uk](http://dynamoscricet.co.uk)

To register for a place on Allstars or Dynamos go direct to [ecb.clubs.park.uk/](http://ecb.clubs.park.uk/)

## All Stars Cricket

### Who's it for?

- The perfect introduction for all boys and girls aged 5 to 8 years old, new to cricket

### What's included?

- Eight 60-minute sessions held over eight weeks\*
- New sign-ups receive an All Stars Cricket participation pack including a bat, ball, backpack with bag tag and personalised t-shirt. Early sign-ups will also receive an All Stars Cricket cap
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## Dynamos Cricket

### Who's it for?

- For all boys and girls aged 8 to 11 years old, either coming out of All Stars Cricket or those totally new to the sport

### What's included?

- A minimum of six 60 to 90-minute sessions\*
- A New Balance t-shirt for every participant, personalised with name and number, a pack of Topps Cricket Attax cards at each session and exclusive access to the Dynamos Cricket app