

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 5

18th November 2021

Dear Parents

Thank you for your ongoing cooperation and understanding at a time when we are experiencing high levels of staff absence. I am grateful to the staff who are in school for ensuring our provision and level of care for the children remains our highest priority. I am also grateful to parents who have kindly offered their time and support to help us.

COVID CASES

Numbers of cases for pupils and staff have continued with a growing number in Year 3 and Year 4.

Please keep up to date with the daily statement of new reported Covid cases sent via ParentMail.

Parents can access more information and details about the Covid situation in our local area via Public Health – Dorset:

<https://www.publichealthdorset.org.uk/your-health/protecting-your-health/coronavirus-information>

FACE COVERINGS

Unless you are exempt, we would ask parents in waiting areas, and any essential visitors with an appointment, to wear face coverings please. We greatly appreciated your support when we asked you to help us with this last year. At the moment, it is an important additional measure.

ESSENTIAL VISITORS ONLY

Parents are politely reminded that we ask you not to enter the school building without an appointment. Please make enquiries via email or telephone. We are limiting visitors to the school site at this time.

GATE CLOSURE – CHANGE OF TIME

Parents are advised that the Youth Club gate will be closing at 8.45am.



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION REMEMBRANCE 2021

Unfortunately, we were unable to take part in the short service of Remembrance held at British Legion on Church Road.

Instead, Mrs Clod, Mrs Munday and members of the School Council walked over to the British Legion Memorial at a quiet moment to lay a beautiful wreath made in school by the children and pay their respects.





CHILDREN IN NEED 2021 - FRIDAY 19TH NOVEMBER

The School Council is supporting Children in Need again this year.

On **Friday 19th November** children should come to school in their school uniform (or PE Kit) but can wear one item of spotted clothing, e.g. 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.*

YEAR 2 PHONIC SCREENING CHECK

The postponed Phonics Screening check for Year 2 children is due to take place the **week beginning 22nd November**.

A separate PowerPoint has been prepared for parents with more information about the screening check and how you can help. This has been sent to parents via Tapestry.

CATCH UP TUITION

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. The catch up tuition which took place in the Spring term was successful and we were pleased with the impact. We are now in a position to begin a further round of tuition in Year 1, with a specific focus on reading.

Parents whose children have been selected for this extra tuition in reading using 'Catch Up' funding, which begins next week, will receive a separate letter providing further details.



PARENTS' EVENING – POSTPONED

An online Parents' Evening was due to take place on Wednesday 24th November but we continue to experience high levels of staff absence, which makes co-ordinating and holding this event very difficult. We have, therefore, decided to reschedule.

Parents' Evening will now be held on **Wednesday 12th January 2022** and further details will be sent home in due course.

I am sorry for any inconvenience this may cause and thank you for your understanding. It's been quite a challenging half term, so far.

If you have been waiting for Parents' Evening to discuss something quite specific with your child's class teacher we want to provide an opportunity for that to happen. There are limited, ten minute, online appointments for urgent matters to be raised next Wednesday 24th November between 3.30pm and 4.30pm. Please email the office if you need to arrange an appointment next week.

CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS

Due to the ongoing situation with the rise in Covid cases in our local area and the ongoing uncertainty this brings, we are unable to plan for our traditional nativity, Church Service and other shared celebrations.

Christmas is a special time in school and our events have always been highlights of the year so we are very disappointed that this is the case but it is the right decision, under the circumstances.



We do have a little surprise up our sleeve though, to celebrate the festive season and we will be sharing something special with parents before the end of term.



SQUID GAME

There have been some concerning reports at a national level about children and young people 'playing' Squid Games. Squid Game is rated 15 on Netflix. It is strongly advised that children should not watch Squid Game. The show is quite graphic with a lot of violent content.

CLEANING STAFF REQUIRED

We are looking for a reliable, hardworking and committed person to join our busy cleaning team at Ferndown First School.

The successful candidate will:

- Carry out the cleaning of the interior of the school to an agreed standard under the direction of the Caretaker/Site Manager

Contract and Working Pattern

- Contract type: Permanent, part-time
- Pay range: Grade B, SP1, £9.25 per hour
- Hours: 10 hours per week, Monday to Friday: 3.30pm to 5.30pm, 42.8 weeks per year, Term time plus 5 staff training days and 38 hours during school holidays
- Start date: As soon as possible.

Further details are available from the school office.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY - STAFF TRAINING DAY

Parents are advised that the school will be closed on **Tuesday 4 January 2022** for staff training. There are two remaining staff training days left for this academic year which parents will be advised of in due course.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Jo Di-Pede
Headteacher

