

# FERNDOWN FIRST SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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For up-to-date information visit our website: [www.fernfirst.dorset.sch.uk](http://www.fernfirst.dorset.sch.uk)  
Headteacher: Mrs J Di-Pede BA (Hons) NPQH

Newsletter No 6

2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021

Dear Parents

It's fast approaching the end of term and we are busy making plans to celebrate the festive season.

We have a couple of surprises for the children up our sleeve which I am sure they will tell you about over the coming week or so.

## COVID CASES

Numbers of cases for pupils and staff continued to rise since our last Newsletter, with 20 cases being confirmed last week. We have had far less positive cases in school this week which is encouraging. We do, however, need to maintain increased measures for the remainder of this term. As always, our provision and level of care for the children remains our highest priority.

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

Parents are asked to help us to limit further transmission by increasing the regularity of lateral flow testing at home. This really will help us in school.

Parents can also 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>

## INCREASED COVID MEASURES

- Parents are politely reminded that we are restricting visitors to school and we ask you not to enter the school premises, unless you have planned appointment. Please contact the office by email or by telephone if you need our help.
- All parents have been asked to return to wearing a face covering when on school premises, including when waiting at the beginning and end of the day please. Unless you are exempt, we would appreciate your support please.
- If you need to speak with your child's teacher, please make an appointment to speak with them by phone or online. Staff are unable to have face to face conversations with parents at this time.



# CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS

## 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, 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 instead. More details can be found below.

## CHRISTMAS JUMPER NON-UNIFORM FUNDRAISING DAY

**TUESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER**



We are eager to replace the old playground play trail which had to be taken down earlier this year. It had served us well for almost twenty years but we were no longer able to maintain it.

The children are really missing it but the cost to replace it will be at least £10,000 with delivery and installation on top. Ideally, we would like to be able to buy an even bigger and better one than we had, which will cost more.

We have been unable to run many of our usual fundraising activities during the pandemic so we are asking parents to consider making a donation.

Any donations you give will be greatly appreciated and will be set aside to buy new playground equipment for all children to enjoy.

On Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December, children may come to school in their own clothes and a Christmas jumper, in exchange for a donation to the school fund.

Children won't need to wear PE Kits on this day.

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 £20
- If parents want to donate more this is possible and the office can help you.

**Thank you, in advance,  
for your support and generosity.**



## PRE-ORDER CHRISTMAS LUNCH – 17<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER



A ParentMail has been sent home with information about pre-ordering Christmas Lunch. Due to high numbers of meals prepared on this day there will only be a main or vegetarian option. No jacket potatoes will be available.

All meals for Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December must be pre-ordered before THURSDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER.  
There will be no option to book on the day.

## CHRISTMAS CARDS

If your child would like to send **one** Christmas card to their class, please send this in on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> or Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December. We are sorry that we are unable to offer the Christmas post box service again this year.



## LAST DAY OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS

There will be two options for collection on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December. Please let us know by completing the ParentMail form coming home soon. If you don't complete the form we will expect you to collect at the normal time.

Early Collection – between 1.15pm and 1.30pm – starting with EYFS, then Y1, Y2, Y3 and Y4. Please queue in your usual waiting area. We will do our best to move the queues as quickly as possible.

Normal Collection – between 2.50pm and 3.05pm – starting with EYFS, then Y1, Y2, Y3 and Y4. Please queue in your usual waiting area. We will do our best to move the queues as quickly as possible.

If you have any queries regarding this then please contact the school office.

## YEAR 2 PHONICS



Last week the children in Year 2 demonstrated their phonic knowledge in the Phonics Screening Check, where they read a selection of real and nonsense words to their teacher. The Year 2 team are super proud of how hard the children have been working in their phonics lessons and in the lead up to the Phonics Screening Check.

The results will be reported to parents in the summer term.

## BREAKFAST CLUB – CAPACITY



Parents are advised that we are seeing an increased demand for Breakfast Club bookings.

In order to keep the children safe, we have to comply with strict ratios of staff to children. This may mean that some parents are disappointed when they cannot make a last minute booking due to the day they have requested being at full capacity.

Please, therefore, ensure that you have alternative child care in place, just in case you cannot book your child into the Breakfast Club.

Parents are also reminded that they **MUST** book their child into the Breakfast Club even if they do not pay so we can monitor availability of spaces. Thank you for your cooperation.



## REQUEST FOR DONATION OF SOCKS/TIGHTS

If you have any spare, clean socks or tights which are in good condition that you could donate to the school, please drop these off to the office porch or hand to a member of staff when you drop your child to school.

Donations for children that are in Reception and Year 1 would be particularly welcome.

Thank you.

## 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.

- 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.
- There may be days when we have to close the waiting areas and bring year groups in to school from doors at the front of school.
- Parents will be notified of any changes to the entry and exit arrangements but this might be at short notice, so we ask for your patience, understanding and co-operation.
- Parents must:
  - adhere to the designated, gritted pathways into school only
  - supervise their children before and after school whilst on school premises
  - ensure that their children are wearing sensible footwear and warm coats
- Please check ParentMail text messaging service and updated notices on our website.



## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

We have job opportunities for Midday Supervisors and Cleaners at this school. Please see the information at the end of this Newsletter for further details.

## REPORTING POSITIVE COVID CASES DURING THE HOLIDAY

As the school office is closed during the holidays, there is a central email address for all Castleman Academy Trust schools where parents can report if their child receives a positive Covid result.

Email [covid19@castlemanacademytrust.co.uk](mailto:covid19@castlemanacademytrust.co.uk) with the following details please

- School Name
- Name of Child
- Name of person tested positive and relationship to child
- Date of Symptoms
- Date of Positive test results



## 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

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES AT FERNDOWN FIRST SCHOOL

### MIDDAY SUPERVISORS REQUIRED

Appointment Type: Fixed Term End date: 31st August 2022  
CAT Grade C: £9.62 per hour – 7.5 hours per week

We are seeking to appoint at least one Midday Supervisor to join our friendly team to support the children for the lunchtime period during term time only. Your role will be to help children whilst eating their lunch and when they are playing. Duties include setting up the school hall, assisting the children during their lunch, supervising the children in the hall, classrooms and on the playground, and clearing the hall and/or classrooms after lunch. There is manual handling involved in setting up and clearing away the hall.

7.5 hours per week (38 weeks per year – term time only) Monday to Friday

For more information about the post please contact Mr Watts, Deputy Headteacher for an informal discussion.

Ferndown First School promotes equal opportunities for its workforce. We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment

**Closing Date: Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021**

### CLEANING STAFF REQUIRED

We are looking for at least two reliable, hardworking and committed people 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.







presents

# Ferndown Christmas!

## Little Santa Sacks

HoHoHo! Following the huge success of this last year, Santa will again be delivering little sacks of gifts to deserving children and teenagers in our local area who will really appreciate a little something at this time and who might otherwise not receive anything. We can't say what's going to be in the sacks (Santa never tells!) in case we spoil the surprise for children, but the gifts will all be lovely & useful items. Please go to our website to purchase a sack for a child or teenager – scan the QR code for quick access. Or call us on 01202 936121. Sacks cost £20 each. We are asking for donations rather than items so that we can get all the same items, and arrange discounts where achievable so that the children get as much as possible.



SCAN ME



SCAN ME

## The Great Christmas Front Garden Competition!!

*Kindly sponsored by Meyers Estates Ferndown*

Think 'In Bloom' but CHRISTMAS!! Decorate your front garden and bring joy and festivity to your neighbours, friends, passers by, children etc. Silly, creative, ingenious, colour coordinated – all is welcome! You don't have to spend much money; the judges will be looking for creativity, fun and ingenuity so get those creative thinking caps on! We have a Pinterest board of ideas for inspiration – do take a look. Free to enter – entry forms are available on the website, scan the QR code for quick access. Judging will take place on the 20<sup>th</sup> December at dusk so if lights aren't part of your display that's fine – we'll still see it, and if they are that's good too as we'll see them! Awesome prizes worth £65 (1st place), £40 (2nd place) and £20 (3rd place) so get planning now! Beat thy neighbour!!



[www.ferndowncommunitysupport.org.uk](http://www.ferndowncommunitysupport.org.uk)  
01202 936121



CHRISTMAS  
EVENTS  
for children at



CAREYS  
secret garden

NATURAL CHRISTMAS  
DECORATION WORKSHOP  
SAT 4TH DECEMBER  
11AM-12PM

GO ON A BEAR HUNT WITH  
ACCLAIMED CHILDRENS AUTHOR  
SARAH LEAN AND HEAR ALL ABOUT  
HER NEW BOOK AWARDED  
'WATERSTONES CHILDREN'S BOOK  
OF THE MONTH'  
SAT 11TH DECEMBER  
10AM-2.30PM

BOOK TICKETS VIA  
[www.careyssecretgarden.co.uk](http://www.careyssecretgarden.co.uk)  
(Adult courses available too)



# Ferndown Christmas Tree SWITCH ON!

Market Stalls  
Entertainment  
A Special Guest  
2-6pm

Tree Light Up  
5pm



**Saturday 4th  
December  
Pennys Walk  
Ferndown**



[www.ferndown.biz](http://www.ferndown.biz)

Supported by Lakes Bakery, DTC, Tesco, Xerocad  
& The Ferndown Fairy