



**Ferndown First School**  
**Mountbatten Drive**  
**Ferndown**  
**Dorset**  
**BH22 9FB**



**Mrs J M Di-Pede BA (Hons) NPQH**  
**Headteacher**

**Tel no: 01202 873747**

E-mail: [office@fernfirst.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@fernfirst.dorset.sch.uk)

Website: [www.fernfirst.dorset.sch.uk](http://www.fernfirst.dorset.sch.uk)

---

16<sup>th</sup> December 2022

Dear Parents

I'd like to thank everyone who has donated to our Christmas Charities this year. As you know, we have been raising funds for Wessex Children's Cancer Unit and CLIC Sargent. Both organisations are providing invaluable support to Theo and his family.

I am delighted to advise that the amount raised so far is £790. I hope we can raise even more as we have our Christmas Jumper/Non Uniform Day today. There is still time to donate. Please check ParentMail for more details.

### **Goodbye and Thank You**

In the late 1980's, I lived in Mountbatten Drive. I walked past Ferndown First School every day, on my way to Ferndown Upper School where I studied for my A levels. I could not have imagined then, at 16 years old, that my career would bring me back to Mountbatten Drive, to this school and to the Ferndown community my family have been part of for 35 years.

Well now it's time to say goodbye.

After sixteen years as Headteacher, this is my final letter to you before my teaching and school leadership career draws to an end and a new chapter begins for me and for Ferndown First School. I'm incredibly proud of the school and everything we've achieved. It's been a pleasure to work with your children and I'm going to miss everyone a great deal.

The team at Ferndown First School truly deserve my sincere thanks, recognition and appreciation for the meaningful and important work they do. It can be rather difficult and demanding work at times too and I often wish parents could all see the magic staff weave as they generously and kindly support children and families navigate the special and memorable times and the increasingly complex situations life throws our way.

Thank you for your kind words, cards, gifts and for sharing so many happy memories with me over recent weeks.

I leave the school in very capable hands. I know Mr Watts and Mrs Errington will lead the school to further success in the New Year and I hope you will offer them the same high level of parental support I've enjoyed over the years.

## Looking Forward.....a message from Mr Watts

I feel privileged and excited to step into the role of Acting Headteacher from January.

Mrs Di-Pede is certainly a hard act to follow but I look forward to continuing our focus on school improvement priorities, working with parents, families and children as well as continuing our involvement within the local community. I have been Deputy at Ferndown First School for 13 years and prior to that worked at two very large primary schools in Bournemouth. I cannot believe I have been teaching for 25 years!

Have a great holiday, however you choose to celebrate, and I look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023!

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Yours sincerely



Jo Di-Pede  
Headteacher



Sean Watts  
Acting Headteacher