Dear Parents

It gives me great pleasure to introduce myself as the new Headteacher of Ferndown First School. I feel very privileged to have been appointed by the Castleman Academy Trust and our governors.

I am looking forward to working with the whole community to ensure Ferndown First School is the best school it can be.

We have a committed staff and wonderful children which is a great place to start and I will be listening to the views of the pupils and parents as we move towards our goals. I believe that Ferndown First School has many great strengths and the relationship between parents, staff and pupils is crucial to the success of the school. By working together, we can ensure that children enjoy their time at school, make good progress and leave us with the necessary skills and attitudes to be successful in the next stage of their education journey.

I look forward to seeing you on the gate!

Brave Women

‘Brave Women’, alongside International Women’s Day, has been our assembly theme this week. Children were reminded of the inspirational Pakistani activist Malala Yousafzai. At 11 years old, Malala began protesting the closing of girls’ schools in her area. In 2012, she was shot as a result of her protests. Yousafzai survived the assassination attempt and spoke all over the world about the importance of the education of girls. Awarded when she was 17, she is the world’s youngest Nobel Peace Prize laureate.

We also introduced children to some of the women that have been instrumental in space exploration. Women like Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson: a group of African-American mathematicians who worked at NASA during the 50’s and 60’s. The film ‘Hidden Figures’ is a brilliant film portraying their achievements.

Margaret Hamilton was an engineer and computer programmer. The astronauts get most credit for landing on the moon but they did it with help from a system Margaret created to warn of inflight emergencies. As Barack Obama said: “Our astronauts didn’t have much time, but thankfully they had Margaret Hamilton.”

It has been an important week to celebrate women’s achievements and remind ourselves of the importance of striving for a gender equal world.
Dates for your Diary

Please see some important dates for your diary below......these are also available to view on the school calendar on our website which is updated regularly.

2023
17 March  Comic Relief Day
23/24 March  Book Fair
29 March  Easter Service @ St Mary's Church
           Easter Bonnet Competition
           Yr 4 Parents’ Avon Tyrrell On-line Meeting
30 March  Community Outreach Drop-In at Heatherlands with
           Mrs Bramley
31 March  Term Ends
3 – 14 April  Easter Holiday
17 April  Staff Training Day
18 April  Term Starts
26 April  Online Parents’ Evening
1 May  May Day Holiday
8 May  Bank Holiday for King’s Coronation
18 May  Open Evening 5pm – 7pm
29 May – 2 June  Half Term Holiday
10 July  Staff Training Day
19 July  Summer Service at St Mary’s Church
21 July  Term Ends

Comic Relief Day - Friday 17th March

Friday 17th March is Comic Relief Day. Children are asked to come to school in their uniform, as usual, but wear something red to support the charity, eg red socks, red hair band. To avoid the transmission of germs, please do not send your children in with red noses. Parents are asked to make donations direct to Comic Relief. Thank you.

Easter Service

We are very much looking forward to our Easter Services at St Mary's Church on Wednesday 29th March, as follows:

   EYFS, Years 1 and 2 - service starts at 9.15am
   Years 3 and 4 - service starts at 10.45am

Parents, families and friends are welcome to join us at the service but we must allow the children into church first. The congregation are asked to wait in The Beacon or wait outside church for us to arrive. When all the children have been seated, the congregation will be asked to find their seats.

We would be grateful for help so if any parent is available to help walk the children down to the church, please speak to your child’s class teacher.
Easter Bonnet Competition

We will be running our very popular Easter Bonnet Competition again this year. This competition is free to enter.

Children are asked to bring their bonnets into school on **Wednesday 29th March** when children will wear them to the church. Bonnets will then be judged and the winners announced and celebrated.

More information about this will be coming home shortly. We look forward to seeing some fabulous creations!

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Strike Action

We are pleased to advise that there were no disruptions to teaching due to the teachers’ strike on Thursday 2nd March and school operated as normal.

Further strike action is planned for Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March. Please look out for a letter coming home to parents via ParentMail from the Trust providing further information.

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Community Outreach Drop-In Sessions

As we are seeking to further develop stronger links with our local community, Mrs Bramley, our School Support Worker, will be available at the Heatherlands Centre, Ferndown on Thursday 30th March between 9.30 - 11am to discuss any concerns or answer any questions you may have regarding your child(ren). This will be a ‘drop-in’ session so no appointment is necessary.

Monthly ‘drop-in’ sessions are being arranged and information regarding these will be provided on a flyer being sent home soon. Mrs Bramley looks forward to meeting you!

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2023 Year Group Trips

School trips enhance children’s curriculum experience and learning. We are, therefore, pleased to be able to provide you with the dates of planned trips for each year group this academic year.

More details regarding these trips will be provided in due course:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Group</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EYFS</td>
<td>Wednesday 21st June</td>
<td>Blashford Lakes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yr 1</td>
<td>Tuesday 27th June</td>
<td>Beaulieu Motor Museum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yr 2</td>
<td>Tuesday 23rd May</td>
<td>Raptor Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yr 3</td>
<td>Date – to be confirmed</td>
<td>Brownsea Island</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yr 4</td>
<td>Wednesday 3rd – Friday 5th May</td>
<td>Avon Tyrrell Residential</td>
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Castleman Academy Trust. Registration No: 9101036. Registered Address: Tudor Road, Broadstone, Dorset BH18 8AA. Registered in England and Wales.
Yr 4 - Avon Tyrrell Residential Visit – Online Meeting

There will be an online parents meeting to discuss the final details of this trip and to answer any questions you may have on Wednesday 29th March at 6pm. A link will be sent out closer to the day.

Thank you to all those parents who have made their payments for their child’s trip. Please refer to your last ParentMail letter regarding this to find out when your next payment is due.

Book Fair – Rescheduled dates!

We are pleased to advise that the Book Fair, which was due to take place earlier this month, has now been rescheduled for Thursday 23rd March and Friday 24th March.

Mary from Usborne books will be setting up a book fair in school. Children will have an opportunity to come to the book fair during the school day with their teacher, to browse the selection of books. If there is a book they particularly like, we will write down the title on a ‘wish list’ form and the children will bring that home. You can then contact Mary to arrange purchasing the book and the book will arrive in school, a few days later. Please see previous ParentMail about World Book Day.

The next Newsletter is due to be published on Friday 24th March.

Have a lovely weekend!

Kind regards,

Mr S Watts
Headteacher