Dear Parents

Where did those two weeks go? I hope everyone enjoyed the break and enjoyed holidays, time with family, friends and celebrations.

We welcomed the children back to school this week for what promises to be a very busy summer term! Children have been keen to get back into their learning routines and classrooms have felt settled and purposeful.

Our Muslim families are currently celebrating Ramadan. Ramadan is a holy month of fasting, introspection and prayer for Muslims. Ramadan began on Wednesday 22 March, following the sighting of the moon over Mecca. Lasting for 30 days, Ramadan will end on Friday 21 April, with the celebratory days of Eid al-Fitr starting on Saturday 22 April or Sunday 23 April.

We were delighted to welcome one of our parents, Mrs Soliman, who led assembly on Tuesday. Mrs Soliman explained to the children the meaning of Ramadan and how important it is for Muslims. It was a lovely assembly.

We wish all of our Muslim families a happy Eid al-Fitr!
Easter Service

Thank you to everyone who attended and who helped walk the children to our Easter Services at St Mary’s Church on Wednesday 29th March. Both services were lovely with the choir singing beautifully. I was particularly impressed with the children who read in front of the congregation. How impressive that Year 2 children are confident to read in front of so many people.

We look forward to our summer term services which take place on Wednesday 19th July.

Online Parents’ Evening - Reminder

Online Parents’ Evening takes place across next week. These meetings will be held via Microsoft Teams and parents are now able to make a booking to see their child’s teacher via ParentMail.

Links for the Teams meeting will be sent out early next week to enable parents to log on and ensure you have access before your time slot.

If you have any problems when making a booking then please contact the school office.

Drop Off and End of Day Collection Arrangements

Thank you to all those parents who have supported the alterations to our morning drop off and afternoon collection routines which have worked well this week. The changes to our end of day times are allowing an additional 50 minutes per week for teachers to read good quality texts to the children in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2.

We would appreciate that parents do not bang on the classroom windows or try to distract their children as they are listening to a story at the end of the day. This is important learning time for the children.

No dogs on school premises

We would like to remind parents that dogs are not allowed on the school premises, which includes the car park and paths leading to the school gates, at any time. Thank you for your co-operation.

Scooters & Bikes

We have had quite a few children running ahead of their parents, collecting bikes and scooters and then riding back to their parents, against our one way system. This is dangerous. We would appreciate children remaining with their parents and collecting bikes and scooters together and walking them off the premises. Thank you.
Coronation of King Charles III Celebrations

In recognition of the Coronation of King Charles III, we will be marking the event with celebrations on Friday 5th May.

The day will begin with an assembly to mark the occasion and, in class, children will take part in a short history lesson to understand the role and achievements of King Charles.

In the afternoon, each year group will enjoy a creative activity which will allow the children to make and take home a memento of the day. Children will be designing a postcard to send to King Charles. They will introduce themselves, ask King Charles some questions and give a suggestion as to something he may like to focus on.

We will send the postcards off to Buckingham Palace and see if we get a response!

Attendance

At Ferndown First School we place great importance on good attendance and punctuality.

We know that a child’s attendance has a direct impact on their learning. Those children who are regularly absent from school and regularly late do not achieve their potential and do fall behind in class. Please support the school in this by ensuring that your child attends school regularly and arrives ready to learn and on time at 8.40am.

Attendance matters! It is important that your child gets to school on time and aims for as high a level of attendance as possible.

Children’s attendance is monitored across the school and our family support worker, Mrs Bramley, works alongside families where there are attendance concerns.

Our whole school attendance is currently 92.5% and, while there has been a drop in attendance nationally, this is simply too low. It must improve. Please support the school by sending your child to school every day.
Save the Date - Open Evening
Our school Open Evening is taking place on
Thursday 18th May from 5pm – 7.00pm
This is for all children and families. Further details will be sent home in due course.

Yr 4 - Avon Tyrrell Residential Visit
Thank you to those parents who attended the online parents’ meetings recently. If you have any further questions or queries regarding your child’s trip to Avon Tyrrell, please do not hesitate to contact your child’s teacher or email the school office.

Yr 4 – Provision for Children not Attending Avon Tyrrell
Year 4 children remaining in school from Wednesday 3rd – Friday 5th May will be taking part in an exciting alternative timetable for these two days which will include an art activity (courtesy of Pots & Paint in Ferndown), sports challenges and team building and a special activity on Friday afternoon to celebrate the forthcoming Coronation. Children will continue to have PE and Music.
Please ensure your child wears their PE kit to school on both days.

Year 4 - First Day at School Photos Wanted!
We know it is hard to believe but your children will be leaving first school at the end of this term!

To help us prepare for our Leavers’ celebrations, please would you provide a digital photograph of your child’s first day at school.

Please send images to office@fernfirst.dorset.sch.uk. It would help us if you could rename the JPEG with your child’s initials. A landscape photo is preferred, if possible.

If you don’t have a first day at school photo, don’t worry. Any photo of your child when they were 4 turning 5 would be perfect! Thank you for your help.

Closing date for submission of photographs is Friday 30th June.
Provisional Date – Sports Morning

We are pleased to advise that a provisional Sports Morning has been set for Friday 14th July. More information will be made available regarding this event in due course.

Summer Term - Uniform

Parents are reminded of our summer 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
- Black shoes/sandals (covered toes)
- Navy, grey or black socks or tights

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

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely

Mr Sean Watts
Headteacher