Dear Parents

It has been a pleasure to welcome the children back to school this week for what is going to be a very busy last half term of this academic year. I hope you and your children enjoyed some of the long-awaited summer sunshine we have been lucky to experience – let’s hope it continues!

I am currently attending the Inspiring Leadership Conference in Birmingham with other leaders from The Castleman Academy Trust. The conference brings together a powerful line-up of keynote speakers from the worlds of business, sport, the arts, humanities, and education. Speakers have included writer, podcaster and workplace culture enthusiast Bruce Daisley, renowned journalist, author and humanitarian Fatima Bhutto, Chief Executive of Ipsos in the UK and Ireland, Kelly Beaver and Professor Bill Lucas - Director of the Centre for Real-World Learning at the University of Winchester.

It has been inspiring listening to leaders across many walks of life and I will share some of their stories with staff during our September INSET day. It is also a good opportunity to reflect on my own leadership and consider how I can become a better leader.

Congratulations – Our New Deputy Headteacher!

I would like to congratulate Mrs Errington on her well-deserved, new appointment as Deputy Headteacher at Ferndown First School.

Mrs Errington has been a long-standing member of our staff since 2005. She is part of the Senior Leadership and Management Team and has taken on several roles since joining the school, including Class Teacher, Year Leader, Phase Leader, English Co-ordinator, Assistant Headteacher and Acting Deputy Headteacher. She has a wealth of experience and knowledge which she has accrued and carried with her through the school over the years and we are extremely grateful for all she has done and continues to do for our school.

I am sure you will join me in wishing Mrs Errington the very best for the future as she starts this new phase of her school life.
New Clubs!

We are pleased to advise that we have three new clubs running in school:

**Forest School – After-School Club**

![Forest School](image)

We were delighted to see how much the children enjoyed the first Forest School After-School Club took which place on Tuesday. I chatted to a few children that attended and they were full of enthusiasm for the activities. I know one or two children came home a little muddy - a sign of a great forest school!

During the club, the children took part in some exciting activities including sawing, whittling, drilling and they also made clay models.

**Cooking Club**

![Cooking Club](image)

Cooking Club began this week with Miss Fearn.

Children used their cutting skills to make a fruit salad. The children could choose from grapes, strawberries, kiwis, oranges and pineapple. They discussed the health benefits of eating these superfoods which provide us with vitamins to help our immune systems. The children also thought about what else we could use the fruits for, the children suggested cakes and fruit drinks!

We are looking forward to next week.
Art Club

Miss Pentney is now running a new Art Club for children in Years 3 and 4 which takes place during lunchtime on a Wednesday when children will be focusing on key skills from what is taught in Years 3 and 4. This week the children used watercolours and added more or less water to change the tone.

Next week, they are going to be doing marbling, using food colouring and water in a tray.

All the clubs mentioned above are full at present, however, we hope to be able to offer these to more children in the future.

Mini Marathon

On Thursday 8th June, a team of 13 Year 1 and 2 children from our school took part in a Mini Marathon event, organised by the Castleman Sports Partnership. The team had to run a total of 10 miles as part of a relay, with each child running 4 laps of 310 metres each. The event was not a race, but a fun, team-building experience. The children showed real determination and stamina and we are so proud of them. They completed the 10 miles and crossed the finish line with big smiles on their faces. What an achievement!

We are excited that this is the first of a range of sporting events which will be organised by the Castleman Sports Partnership in the future. The partnership aims to provide opportunities for children to take part in fun, non-competitive sports outside of the curriculum. Our aim is for as many children as possible at Ferndown First to have the opportunity to represent our school at one of the events throughout the next academic year.
RSE Parents’ Online Meetings

Thank you to those Year 1 and Year 4 parents who attended our recent RSE online Parents’ Meetings. If you have any further questions regarding this, please do not hesitate to contact the school office or view our RSE Policy which can be found on our Information page of the school website.

The remaining dates for online RSE meetings are as follows and links for these meetings will be sent out to parents in due course:

Year 2 - Tuesday 13th June at 6 pm
Year 3 - Wednesday 14th June at 6 pm

Breakfast Club – Reminder to Parents

Parents are reminded that, if they’d like their child to attend Breakfast Club, then they MUST book their child onto the club BEFORE attending. We have a maximum number of children that can attend the Breakfast Club and, therefore, booking is essential to secure your child’s place.

If your child is attending Breakfast Club, we would also ask that children are escorted to the door and handed over to a member of staff so that they can be registered. Children should not be left to make their own way into Breakfast Club. Thank you for your cooperation.

End-of-Year Reports

Class teachers are currently writing reports which will be in the form of a letter to each child. The letters will recognise the progress your child has made in class and celebrate their achievements across the curriculum.

End of Year Report letters will be published on Thursday 13th July. More information will be shared with you about this in due course and parents will be given the opportunity to raise any questions before the end of term.
Year 4 – Managing Moving Up Workshop

Children in Year 4 will be taking part in a Managing Moving Up Workshop on Wednesday 14th June. This workshop is being run by the NHS Mental Health Support Team and aims to support children with the transition when moving up to their next school. The workshop will include the following:

- ‘Normalising feelings about moving up to their next school by discussing why it is important to talk about how we feel and sometimes challenge our thoughts. We talk about how sometimes we can do this on our own or we can use our support network to help us do this.’

- ‘Practical skills to help cope with worries, such as useful mottos, and how pausing helps your brain. Examples of how to pause such as grounding techniques – breathing, Progressive Muscle Relaxation (PMR) and problem-solving. Also, how to boost the sense of belonging in your new school.’

If you have any questions then please do not hesitate to contact the school office or your child’s class teacher. Thank you.

Good Luck Mrs Cloud

Mrs Cload has now commenced her maternity leave. I am sure you will join me in wishing Mr and Mrs Cload our very best wishes for the impending birth of their baby and we look forward to meeting their new arrival later in the year.

Year 3 Parents – Avon Tyrrell Residential Visit 2024

Parents of Year 3 children are invited to an online meeting at 6 pm on Wednesday 5th July.

This meeting will provide further information regarding the residential trip to Avon Tyrrell next year. A link for the meeting will be sent home in due course.

Transfer Day Information – Friday 7th July

Children in EYFS to Year 3 will have an opportunity to meet their new teacher on Friday 7th July when they will also bring home a letter to confirm their new teacher.

Children in Year 4 will attend their chosen middle schools for the day. Ferndown Middle School has already sent out information to parents of those children going to their school in September.
We are aware that there may be another Transfer Day (for Dorset schools). Any children not involved in Transfer Day on Friday 7th July are welcome to attend school as normal.

Sun Safety & Hydration

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has upgraded an alert for hot weather in five regions of the country as warnings have also been issued for thunderstorms over the weekend. Parts of the country are predicted to be hotter than Marbella, Ibiza and Tenerife.

Now that the weather is warming up, children can keep a named sunhat at school for break times and outdoor activities.

We recommend that long-lasting, high-factor sun protection cream is applied to children before the start of the school day. No suncream is to be brought into school. Staff are not able to apply suncream.

Parents are asked to ensure their child has a named water bottle in school at all times so children can refill these throughout the day. Please ensure these are filled with water. Squash is only permitted for lunchtime. Thank you.

Year 4 - First Day at School Photos Wanted!

We know it is hard to believe but your children will be leaving Ferndown 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. Thank you for the photos we have already received.

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.

The closing date for submission of photographs is Friday 30th June.
Years 3 and 4 – Fiver Challenge

This year, we are participating in the Fiver Challenge, a free national competition for young people. The challenge is run by Young Enterprise, the UK’s leading enterprise and financial education charity, which helps bring learning to life and helps to encourage future aspirations in young people.

The £5 pledge has been provided by Young Enterprise. It’s a great programme supporting children to gain core enterprise skills such as communication, confidence and creativity and it’s great fun too! More details on the Fiver Challenge can also be found at www.fiverchallenge.org.uk, where you can also register as a parent/carer to access the resources.

Thanks to Mrs Cook, from the Young Enterprise, who led an assembly with Year 3 and 4 children which introduced this year’s Fiver Challenge. She talked about what makes a successful entrepreneur.

A ParentMail letter has been sent home providing further information. Parents are invited into school on the following dates to view and purchase the products the children have created:

Year 3 - Thursday 29th June 2-2.45pm in the school hall

Year 4 - Friday 30th June 2-2.45pm in the school hall

Please enter via the staff entrance.

We are all very excited about getting involved with this Challenge!

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St Mary’s Summer Services

We are very much looking forward to our Summer Services at St Mary’s Church on Wednesday 19th July, as follows:

**EYFS, Years 1 and 2** – service starts at 9.15 am

**Years 3 and 4** – service starts at 10.45 am

Parents, families and friends are welcome to join us at the service but we must allow the children into the church first. The congregation is asked to wait in The Beacon or wait outside the 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 you are available to help walk the children to the church, please speak to your child’s class teacher. Parents of those children attending the EYFS, Yrs 1 & 2 service may wait in the playground for the children before walking to the church as we will be leaving school at approx. 8.50 am. Parents of children in Yrs 3 and 4 are asked to wait outside the main gate until children are ready to walk over to the church. We will be leaving school for the Yr 3 & 4 service at approx. 10.20 am.
• Wednesday 21st June – EYFS trip to Blashford Lakes
• Tuesday 27th June – Year 1 trip to Beaulieu
• Wednesday 5th July – Year 3 Parents’ Online Meeting re Avon Tyrrell Trip 2024 at 6 pm
• Monday 10th July – INSET Day
• Friday 14th July – Sports Morning – more information will be shared in due course
• Wednesday 19th July – St Mary’s Church Summer Service
• Wednesday 19th July – Piano Assembly – 9 am
• Friday 21st July – Year 4 Leavers’ Assembly at 10 am

Have a lovely weekend and enjoy the sunshine safely. I look forward to seeing parents and children at the gate next week.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Mr Sean Watts
Headteacher
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