Whole School Attendance from 1st September until today: 92.77%. Our Target: 96%

Dear Parents

We are welcoming Mrs Beaven and Mrs Lake to our staff team next week. Both Mrs Beaven and Mrs Lake have been volunteers at our school for a while and we are pleased to advise that they have now been appointed as Teaching Assistants.

Another new member of staff due to join us is Mrs Badger who is a highly experienced Teaching Assistant who is moving from a local school and will join us at the start of the new academic year.

We have appointed two new teachers who will start work at our school in September. We will welcome Mrs Etches and Miss Wrixon to our teaching team. Miss Wrixon is an experienced teacher who has been teaching at a local Infants school and Mrs Etches has just completed her teacher training.

I am sure you will join me, the staff and children in congratulating all our new staff on their new appointments.

Mrs Beaven  Mrs Lake  Mrs Badger  Mrs Etches  Miss Wrixon
Celebrate Learning

EYFS

This week, Reception children visited Blashford Lakes nature reserve. The children took part in pond dipping, meadow sweeping and den building. The children had a wonderful time and were impeccably behaved.

Back in school, we have been writing our own ‘Dear Zoo’ books. We have been very impressed with the children’s writing.

Year 1

In Year 1, we have been enjoying the variety in our curriculum. Here are just a few examples!

Our maths is focusing on halves and quarters, money and time. Enjoy developing your child’s understanding by providing real life examples like cutting cakes and pizza, talking about what time you will do something and showing them any coins you have.

We have commenced a longitudinal study in science to collect rainwater and measure temperature. We will compare our results to previous seasons and hope to confirm our predictions.

We are most excited about our history learning at the moment. We are learning about the history of the car and we are looking forward to our visit to Beaulieu Motor Museum next week. We have looked at photographs as a source of evidence to compare how cars have changed and look forward to seeing real vintage cars on our trip.

In phonics, we are learning new graphemes for sounds we know. These graphemes appear less frequently in words but they will help our reading and spelling as we progress into Year 2. Thank you for your support in helping your child read. Fluency and expression remain a focus as confidence in reading grows. Keep questioning your child about what they have read to ensure understanding.

We love stories in Year 1. Particularly our visits to our lovely school library!
Year 2

In writing lessons, Year 2 have been applying skills they have previously learnt e.g. using conjunctions, accurate punctuation and adjectives when writing independently. They wrote a non-chronological report about owls and an innovated story ending based on Jack and the Beanstalk. Well done, Year 2!

In maths lessons, Year 2 have been practising telling the time to the nearest fifteen minutes. Please keep practising this skill at home. They have also used their problem solving skills to tackle word problems for the four operations - addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

In science lessons, we have been learning about different habitats and microhabitats within them. The children have learnt how different animals and plants are suited to their habitat and how the habitat meets their basic needs for survival.

The children have enjoyed using Scratch Jr in computing lessons. They have been practising how to create a program with different outcomes for the sprites.

We have been practising multi-skills during PE lessons in preparation for Sports Day. The children are very excited to show off their skills!

Thank you for your support at home.

Year 3

This week, Year 3 have been working hard on the Fiver Challenge. Groups have created a business name and logo. They have been sourcing necessary resources and have started making their products. The Year 3 children have demonstrated excellent teamwork skills. They have been listening to each other well and have been fulfilling different roles in their group. The children have been discussing how much they want to sell their products for so that they can make a maximum profit.

We look forward to seeing Year 3 parents and carers on **Thursday 29th June at 2pm** for the sale.
Year 4

Today, Year 4 visited Verwood Solar Farm which was organised by Earth Energy Education. The children enjoyed learning about what makes solar renewable and the benefits of using renewable power. The children explored why solar panels are constructed to face south at an angle of 30 degrees and learned about how electricity is generated and transported. Did you know renewable energy sites are managed to support many different plants and animals? At the solar farm, we were able to identify different species using a classification key.

On Monday, Tracy from Earth Energy Education will be coming into school to run a workshop with each class. The children will be working together to design and make a solar powered toy.

Tennis Club

Tennis club for Yrs 1-4 started at lunchtime today and the children had a great time learning the basics and starting to develop their skills in serving, receiving and keeping a rally going.

You can still book for the last 4 weeks of term via the link below:
https://www.live4tennis.co.uk/ferndown?category=c3335de9-0c8b-4803-b271-58637b29483e

The classes are limited to 24 children per week but there are still spaces available.
Summer Reading Challenge -

We were joined in assembly this week by Kirsty from Ferndown Library who told us all about this year's Summer Reading Challenge.

Last year over 5000 Dorset children aged 4-12 years participated in the Summer Reading Challenge – the national Reading Challenge run annually by libraries and The Reading Agency. This year’s Challenge, Ready, Set, Read! is all about games and sports. Children will join the library’s fictional team (and their animal mascots!) as they use their skills to weave their way through a summer obstacle course.

Developed in collaboration with Youth Sport Trust, the 2023 Summer Reading Challenge will celebrate play and participation, encouraging children to engage in games and sports in any way that best suits them. Ready, Set, Read! will showcase how reading can be active and engaged and can itself involve teamwork and community.

How the Ready, Set, Read! Will Work
(The promotion will run 1st July – 23rd September in Dorset Public Libraries and Community Managed Libraries)

- Children can join the Challenge at their local library or community managed library by signing up and collecting a card collector folder.
- As the children read or listen to six books, they will be given six stickers to add to their folder.
- On reading six books and completing the Challenge, the children will qualify for a medal which will be given to them in the library.
- In addition, the Summer Reading Challenge website, which is live all year, will be given a makeover for the Challenge and offers a great range of information, useful links, activities and games to compliment the challenge. More info online https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/
- All Dorset Libraries will have a prominent display of books, posters and book reviews by the children.

We hope many of you will join in with the challenge and we look forward to hearing all about it after the summer holidays!
Fete on the Field - Thank you!

Thanks to all those who came along to visit our stall at Fete on the Field last Saturday which was manned by Mrs Bramley and staff. We had great prizes thanks to your generosity and managed to raise £211.85 for our school.

Our winners for the colouring competitions are:
Jessica – Year 1
Elise – Year 2
Emily – Year 4

Well done! Your prizes have been handed out by Mrs Bramley today!

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 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.

We are aware that Transfer Day for current Year 4 students has been moved to Monday 10th July for Ferndown Middle School, West Moors Middle School and Emmanuel Middle School. This falls on our INSET day.

Sun Safety & Hydration

With the weather set to stay warm and sunny until the end of term, we recommend children keep a named sunhat at school for break times and outdoor activities.

We ask 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.

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Year 4 - First Day at School Photos Wanted – Final Reminder

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.

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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.

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!

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.

- 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
- **Thursday 13th July** – Drop in session at The Centre (Trickett’s Cross) 9.30-11am with Mrs Bramley
- 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, enjoy the sunshine safely and happy Pride month 2023!

Yours sincerely

Mr Sean Watts
Headteacher
### FERNDOWN FIRST SCHOOL
### TERM DATES & HOLIDAYS
### SEPTEMBER 2023 - JULY 2024

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