Whole School Attendance from 1st September until today: **92.86%**. Our Target: **96%**

**Dear Parents**

School has now closed for the summer holidays and re-opens to children in Year 1, 2, 3 and 4 on Monday 4th September.

I’d like to thank our whole school community – children, parents, staff, Governors and Trustees for their support throughout the year.

Thank you for your kind messages, cards, donations and gifts which are greatly appreciated.

**Staff Goodbyes**

Our staff deserve our thanks for the work they do to support our children and families. As I said in church, the care and concern I see staff showing our children is simply outstanding. Developing nurturing and positive relationships is fundamental in supporting children in their early years of education.

Today we say goodbyes to several members of staff as they move on.

Mrs Boswell will be leaving us to take up a teaching post at Linwood School, Bournemouth. Mrs Boswell has taught with us for two years and has been an asset to our school. We wish Mrs Boswell all the very best, as she furthers her career.

Mrs Dudley will be saying her goodbyes today. Mrs Dudley has been part of our team for the last four years and will be spending more time with her young family. We wish her all the very best and hope to see her in the future.
Sports Day

We were very disappointed that the weather was not on our side for our sports morning last Friday. The children did take part in four indoor activities in the hall and the children were clearly having a great time, cheering for their teammates! Congratulations to Red Team for being the winning team.

Thank you for the many positive comments from parents about our decision to offer an indoor alternative.

Music Makes the People Come Together!

Piano Assembly

It was lovely to welcome parents into school for our annual Piano Assembly on Tuesday.

Mrs Rossignol led the assembly and it was lovely to see so many children play confidently in front of the whole school.

Previous pupils, Jaya and Elsie, opened the assembly playing beautifully.

Particular congratulations to John in Year 2 who has been writing music in his own manuscript book. This is very impressive. Please see picture to the right.

Ukulele Performance

Congratulations to children that took part in a special ukulele performance for parents last Friday. Children performed with real confidence.

Y4 Samba Performance

Thank you to Year 4 classes who enjoyed showing off their samba skills on the playground last week. The children played successfully as a team and I could hear the drums and applause from my office!

If parents are interested in music lessons for children, please see the letter that has been sent to parents in Years 2, 3 and 4.
Green Flag Award

We are very proud to announce that Ferndown First School have achieved the Eco School Green Flag Award. The eco-committee have been meeting regularly throughout the year. Our focus this year has been on energy, waste and litter.

We would like to say a big well done and thank you to all the members of the eco committee for their commitment and dedication this year. You are fantastic representatives of our school.

Wall Art

We are delighted to have had another Wall Art installation in our Year 1 shared area. The focus for the art has been to help secure children’s understandings of the seasons and to promote children’s understanding of wildlife and plants that can be found within our grounds. This includes a useful reminder to children about adders that can sometimes make their way onto our playgrounds to bask in the sun!

Intergeneration Reading Buddies

On Wednesday our Key Stage 2 Reading Leaders walked over to Kings Park Care Home to read with some of the residents.

It was a lovely afternoon and the residents were delighted, once again, with the children’s polite, respectful manner and of course, their wonderful reading!

This has been so successful and we will be continuing this partnership next year.
Summer Reading Challenge

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.

- 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/](https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/)
- All Dorset Libraries will have a prominent display of books, posters and book reviews by the children.

Breakfast Club - Reminder to Parents

Parents are reminded that, if they would 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.

Eric’s Epic Walk

Following on from our item in the last Newsletter regarding Eric from Kings Park Care Home and his Epic Charity Walk, we are pleased to confirm that a total of £202.27 was raised for the two charities Eric is raising money for, Julia’s House and Lewis Manning Hospice.

Avon Tyrrell Y4 residential 2024

The dates for next year’s Y4 residential have been booked for Wednesday April 17th – Friday April 19th. Thank you to parents who have paid the non-refundable of £30.00. We have had 55 children sign up so far.
Parent Online Feedback

Many thanks to parents that completed the online survey. We had 165 responses in total. The results are as follows.

The spring term progress report was useful.

My child’s achievements are clear in the end of term report.

My child has made progress this year.
Parent consultations have been useful.

I understand how to help my child improve.

I would like future parent consultations meeting to be...

Thank you for the many complimentary comments that were also submitted. I will pass on your thanks to staff.

I am happy to find a way to offer a choice of online or in person meetings next year. I understand that parents would like more opportunities to come into school and see the children’s learning. We will provide this.

There were some useful suggestions about improvements to our reporting arrangements which I thought were fair comments and we can consider for next year.

Some feedback suggested stronger engagements with parents. I would like to see how we can improve this further. For any more specific comments, we will contact parents directly.
End of Term Events

It has been a very positive end to the term. Our Year 4 children have been involved in many events which they have thoroughly enjoyed.

Parent Helpers’ Tea

Selected Year 4 children supported our Parent Helpers’ Tea on Tuesday. Children served tea and coffee and looked after our guests. Choir sang brilliantly and it was a fitting way to say thank you to volunteers that have helped the school this year. There were some lovely emails for those that attended.

‘I’m writing to say how much I enjoyed the thank you tea this afternoon. I can tell the staff and students put a lot of thought and care into it all the details and I felt very honoured to have been invited. The confidence, enthusiasm and maturity of the Year 4 children was lovely to witness, and I was very impressed with the polished performance from the Key Stage 2 choir.

The children are a real credit to the school and I am so pleased that my daughter is part of such a wonderful school community.’

‘Thank-you so much for the lovely afternoon tea. The year 4’s did such a good job and seeing the choir sing was amazing! It really is a pleasure to help and the children are truly a credit to the school.’

St Mary’s Summer Service

Our two summer services at St Mary’s church were very well attended by parents on Wednesday. Year 2 children read summer poems confidently with impressive pace and intonation. The choir performed at both services, with a wonderful solo performance from Angel in Year 4.

Year 4 children shared their memories of their time over the last 5 years and we were all humbled listening to Inaia’s memory of moving to England from Spain and joining our school with little English. Inaia, just look how far you have come to read so confidently in front of a congregation. Well done!

We received a complimentary email from Children & Families Pastor, Ryan Baldwin.

‘Firstly I would like to say a massive well done for the two services this morning. The choir were fantastic and sang with such confidence and the soloist was just amazing. Everyone who participated was super. As Headteacher, you can be proud of the whole school. The children were really comfortable in church and I look forward to welcoming you back next term.’
Year 4 Leavers’ Hoodies

Thanks to Mrs Ellement who organised this year’s leavers’ hoodies. The children looked fab wearing them and they will be great keepsakes for the children.

Year 4 Surprise Fun day

Wow, Year 4 had a brilliant day yesterday! The children enjoyed racing each other and the teachers. I enjoyed giving the obstacle course a go but certainly felt my age!

The children also enjoyed playing table tennis, football, giant Jenga and many other games. They made photo frames and took group selfies using an extra-large frame.

The children finished the day off with a disco in the hall and an ice pop! It was a great way to end their time at Ferndown First School!

Year 4 Farewell Assembly

We held a special assembly this morning to say goodbye to our Year 4 children. This is always a special assembly which the children, staff and parents look forward to. It was emotional and lots of tissues were needed!

Children chose to sing ‘Leavers Song’ which is an oldie but a goodie and one we have sung in school for many years. The second song they chose to sing was ‘Goodbye’ from the Year 4 production of Panto Pandemonium! Great choices.

We wish all our Year 4 children the very best of luck for the future!
Good bye and good luck, Year 4. You will go on to achieve great things!

Enjoy a great summer break and spending time with family and friends. What will I be doing? I will split my time between London and Bournemouth. I want to catch up with some theatre in London and I have a pile of romantic novels to read on Southbourne beach!

See you in September.

Yours sincerely

Mr Sean Watts   -  Headteacher
### AUTUMN TERM 2023

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Inset Day</td>
<td>Friday 1 September 2023</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term Starts</td>
<td>Monday 4 September 2023</td>
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<tr>
<td>Half Term</td>
<td>Monday 23 October – Friday 27 October 2023</td>
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<td>Term Ends</td>
<td>Friday 15 December 2023</td>
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<td>Christmas Holiday</td>
<td>Monday 18 December 2023 – Monday 1 January 2024</td>
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### SPRING TERM 2024

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<tr>
<td>Half Term Holiday</td>
<td>Monday 12 February – Friday 16 February 2024</td>
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<td>Term Ends</td>
<td>Thursday 28 March 2024</td>
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<td>Easter Holiday</td>
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### SUMMER TERM 2024

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<td>Half Term Holiday</td>
<td>Monday 27 May – Friday 31 May 2024</td>
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