Dear Parents

Welcome back! I hope you have had a wonderful holiday with your children.

We begin what is a very busy half term in the lead up to Christmas and have provided some ‘Dates for your Diary’ later in this Newsletter. Please find some important information and messages below.

I have noticed an increasing amount of children coming into school just after 08.40am.

For children that come into school promptly at 08.25am, there are early morning activities that are planned by teachers to support children’s progress towards key skills. These are often activities to

- practice the four operations in maths
- practice key spellings
- practice times tables facts
- read feedback from their teacher and edit and improve their writing
- practice their reading with their teacher

This 15 minutes each day contributes to children securing good progress. For children that arrive after 08.40am each day, they are missing out on over an hour of additional learning time in the week.

Children that are on time and in school every day make better progress.

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**Acceptable Use of Devices**

At Ferndown First School, we understand the importance and benefits of using technology to help with children’s learning and personal development. However, we also recognise that safeguards need to be in place. Your child will be bringing home an acceptable agreement policy which will be stuck into the back of your child’s link book.

While it is aimed at use of devices in school, it will also be a useful reminder about use of devices at home.

Please spend some time talking through the agreement with your child. There is a section for parents and children to sign.
Royal British Legion Remembrance 2023

On Friday 10th November, members of the School Council in years 3 and 4 will walk with staff to take part in the short service of Remembrance held at the British Legion on Church Road. They will also lay a wreath at the British Legion Memorial which is being made in school by children.

Children will be involved in a brief class discussion about Remembrance Day before observing a short period of silence.

If you would prefer your child is not involved in observing the silence, please ensure you have advised your child’s teacher no later than Tuesday 7th November by emailing the school office.

Poppies

Poppies will be sent round to classes next week for those children who would like to make a donation to the RBL.

Poppies and a collection box will also be available in the office from next week if you would like to make a donation.

Volunteers Needed!

Do you have a spare afternoon each week? Could you volunteer your time to listen to a Reception child read? If the answer is ‘yes’ then we would really like to hear from you. If you are interested in volunteering then please email the school office, for the attention of Mrs Errington, with your contact information and we’ll get back to you with more details. We look forward to hearing from you.

BBC Children in Need 2023 – Friday 17th November

The School Council is supporting Children in Need again this year. On Friday 17th November children can wear one item of spotted clothing, e.g. spotted tights or socks or a spotted hair band.

Collection buckets will be available at the school gates at the end of the day if you would like to make a donation to this very worthwhile cause.

Parents can also make their own donations directly to Children in Need. Thank you.
School Photos

Unfortunately, we don’t have a date when we expect to receive the photos parents have ordered yet, however, as soon as we are notified, we’ll let you know and these will be sent home with your child.

Christmas Lunch

Christmas lunch will be available on Thursday 14th December. A ParentMail will be sent home in due course with information about pre-ordering Christmas lunch.

Due to high numbers of meals prepared on this day, it is unlikely that jacket potatoes will be offered. There will only be a main or vegetarian option. Meals will need to be pre-booked. There will be no option to choose a meal on the day.

Christmas Services – Wednesday 13th December

There will be two separate services in the morning on Wednesday 13th December. We are currently planning these services with St Mary’s and will provide more information in due course.

Year 4 Production – Peter Pan

We are pleased to advise that rehearsals are going well for our performance of Peter Pan on Thursday 23rd November at the Barrington Centre in Ferndown.

The children have been keen and energetic when we have been rehearsing. We would like to take this opportunity to thank parents for helping their children learn their lines.

We can’t wait to be able to perform on stage for you!

Further information has been sent home to parents today detailing how to purchase tickets for this event.
Year 3 Trip to the Museum of East Dorset

As part of our history learning about the Stone Age, we are hoping to take the children in Year 3 to The Museum of East Dorset in Wimborne. At the moment we have not had enough voluntary contributions to cover the cost of the trip. If you have not had a chance to make a contribution yet, please find the link through ParentMail. Thank you.

Bedtime Story Event - Wednesday 6th December - Can you help us please?

We are excited to announce that we will be holding our annual Christmas Bedtime Story Event which we plan to hold on Wednesday 6th December, 5.15-6.30pm.

Mrs Errington is looking for a small number of parent volunteers who would be willing to support the planning of this event. It would involve decorating two or three classrooms with Christmas decorations and helping out at the event itself.

If you would be interested in volunteering, please email the school office before Friday 24th November, giving us your contact information. We will then get in touch to discuss it in more detail. Thank you.

More details about the Bedtime Story Event will be sent out to all parents soon, explaining how you can purchase a ticket for your child.

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 7th November  
Flu Immunisations

Thursday 23rd November  
Yr 4 Peter Pan Performance at Barrington Centre

Wednesday 6th December  
EYFS Nativity  
Bedtime Story Event

Thursday 7th December  
EYFS Nativity

Wednesday 13th December  
Christmas Service at St Mary’s Church, Ferndown

Thursday 14th December  
Christmas Lunch

Friday 15th December  
Christmas Jumper Day

More information regarding Christmas events will be sent home to parents in due course.
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.

Easyfundraising

Please help us to raise money for the school when making online purchases! The brand you are purchasing from donates the money so it doesn’t cost you a penny! Ferndown First School has a dedicated page. You can sign up and support this cause by clicking the link below: https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ferndown1st/?searchSessionId=36a76bba-a437-4adc-8758-0839d59218d3

We greatly appreciate any help from parents.

Have a great weekend.

Yours sincerely

Mr Sean Watts
Headteacher
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