Dear Parents

As you are aware, we were visited by Ofsted at the end of last week. The children were a credit to the school who willingly and politely answered questions from the Inspector, thus enabling her to gain an insight into what it is like to be a pupil at our school. My thanks go to our Castleman Academy Trust colleagues and our Governors for their support and especially to you, our parents and carers, and those who completed the parents’ survey which provided valuable feedback.

We hope to share the report with you before the end of this term.

Card from HRH His Majesty The King

On the 19th May we wrote to His Majesty The King to congratulate him on his Coronation and let him know how we had been celebrating this in school with a cream tea in the afternoon.

We also enclosed with our letter some congratulatory postcards that children had written to The King to send him their best wishes.

We were thoroughly delighted to have recently received a card of thanks from HRHs King Charles and Queen Camilla.

This was a lovely surprise and a piece of history our school can keep forever.
Celebrating Learning

**EYFS** enjoyed a visit from Farmer Dan last week who brought in his tractor to show us. We learnt all about wheat and even had a go at grinding our own wheat. We also had a visitor from the library who came to share a story with us all.

We have learnt all of our Phase 2 words and are now into our third week of learning our Phase 3 words. We are focusing on digraphs, which are two letters that make one single sound. We continue to focus on oral blending.

In Maths we have been comparing 2 sets of numbers and looking at numbers as parts which make up a whole. In Science and Geography we have been looking at the weather and how the trees change. We have been using a weather chart in class to talk about the daily weather.

In PSHE we have been looking at how people live differently. In Art we have created some lovely collage pictures using paper, tissue paper, chalk and pens.

**Year 1** children have begun their history topic learning about schools in the past. The children have been fascinated to learn about the original Ferndown Council School which was demolished between 1990 and 1991 to make way for Old School Close. The children are looking forward to our dress up day next Friday!

In Art, we have been making different prints using the primary colours; red, yellow and blue. In Drawing Club, we have been working on extending our sentences, using the conjunction ‘and’.

**Year 2** children have been enjoying a variety of learning. In maths, we have been focusing on addition and subtraction. We have used our knowledge of number bonds to 10 and have begun writing fact families of equations relating to addition and subtraction operations. We are starting to understand to use the inverse of one operation to check calculations using the other operation. We are learning efficient ways to complete our calculations, such as making 10 first to aid mental calculations. Continuing to improve the rapid recall of number bonds to 10 will help us as we continue our learning.

Our English text, George and the Dragon, has inspired us to extend our sentences using conjunctions and continue to strengthen our understanding of expanded noun phrases. In our independent write, we will write our own ending to the story. We are in the planning stages and have shared lots of creative ideas!
In our history unit about the Wright Brothers, we are exploring how to make predictions using evidence. We decided, based on facts about their life, if we thought they would make an aeroplane fly. We have gone on to learn that they kept on trying despite many failures and that they were the first to fly a powered aircraft. As the unit progresses, we will continue to learn about sources of evidence and how they help us as historians. We will also build on what we learnt about chronology in Year 1 and start to understand how people’s actions create change.

**Year 3** children have recently been on a trip to the Museum of East Dorset. The children took part in three different activities relating to the Stone Age. They took part in an inside dig, cave drawing and object handling.

Children were able to find and touch a variety of artefacts from the Stone Age. They started the trip with some facts and ended with a variety of knowledge about life in the Stone Age.

**Year 4** children went to Ferndown Middle School for a music work shop led by Mr Welcomme. This was part of the transition process. They chose an instrument from a variety of percussion instruments and used this to play a creative piece of music together.

Rehearsals have gone well this week for our performance of Peter Pan on Thursday 23rd November at the Barrington Centre in Ferndown.

The children have continued to learn their lines and are looking forward to performing the production in the school hall on Friday next week so the rest of the school can enjoy it.

**Tickets have now SOLD OUT!**

All tickets will be sent home with children on **Monday 20th November**.

**Royal British Legion Remembrance 2023**

On Friday 10th November, members of the Year 3 and 4 School Council walked to the Royal British Legion with staff to lay a wreath that children in Year 3 had made and attended a short service of Remembrance.

Thank you to all those parents and children who made a donation to the RBL for a poppy.
BBC Children in Need 2023 - Friday 17th November

Thank you to everyone who has supported Children in Need again this year. The children embraced this very popular fund raising event – there were a lot of spots in school today! We will advise parents of the amount they have very generously donated for this very worthwhile cause in due course. Parents can also make their own donations directly to Children in Need.

Choir - Christmas Carols in Ferndown on Sunday

Mrs Charters and Mrs Bramley will be accompanying members of the school choir who will be singing Christmas carols in Ferndown, outside the Day Centre opposite Tesco, this Sunday at 11.15am for around half an hour.

Children will be singing to support Ferndown Community Support Group who are raising funds for Santa Sacks which will be distributed to the more vulnerable families in our community. If you are able to come along to hear them performing some lovely carols, they would be very grateful for your support.

Developing a New Behaviour Policy

We are in the process of reviewing our behaviour policy. We are currently trialling a therapeutic thinking approach to behaviour and are hoping to develop a relational behaviour policy.

Therapeutic Thinking is an approach to behaviour that prioritises the positive feelings of everyone. This is based on research that negative experiences create negative feelings. Negative feelings create negative behaviour. Positive experiences create positive feelings. Positive feelings create positive behaviour. The Therapeutic Thinking approach challenges the concept of ‘rewards and consequences’ frequently used to manage behaviour.

Instead, the approach seeks to foster the independence of children and young people by teaching them how to develop internal discipline and intrinsic motivation.

Changes we are currently trialling include:

- No longer using Good to Be Green system (stop and think cards, yellow warning cards or red consequence cards).
- No longer using a Trackit Light system.
- Raising the profile of ‘positive phrasing’ when talking about behaviour.
- Using the term ‘logical consequences’ if unacceptable behaviour occurs
- Leading restorative conversations to support children to reflect on their behaviour.

We would like to invite parents to a short presentation about the changes that we have been trialling and our new approach. Presentations will take place on Monday 11th December at 09.00 and 14.30.

Both presentations will take place in the school hall. Entry will be via the staff entrance.
School Photos
As advised by the office recently, parents should have received their photo orders by now. If you have any queries regarding your photos then please contact The School Photography Company directly as they will be able to help you.

Christmas Lunch
Christmas lunch will be available on Thursday 14th December. A ParentMail is being sent home today with information about pre-ordering Christmas lunch.

All meals will need to be pre-booked by Friday 8th December.

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2: Children are entitled to free hot school meals so all parents will need to do is pre-book their child’s meal in advance.

Year 3 and Year 4: If you wish to order a meal for your child then this will need to be pre-booked and for those who pay, paid for in advance. An invoice will be sent to you via ParentMail.

Due to the high numbers of meals prepared on this day, there will be no jacket potato option offered. There will only be a main or vegetarian option. 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.

09.15: EYFS, Year 1 and 2 Service.
10.45: Year 3 and 4 Service.

EYFS Christmas Performances
EYFS children are now starting to rehearse for their Christmas performances which will take place on Wednesday 6th December and Thursday 7th December.

More information, including how to reserve tickets to these events, has been sent home to parents today.
Bedtime Story Event – Wednesday 6th December - Can you help us please?

We are looking forward to our annual Christmas Bedtime Story Event on Wednesday 6th December, 5.15-6.30pm.

Many thanks to those parents/carers who have volunteered to help with this event. Mrs Errington will be in contact shortly to provide further details.

More details about the Bedtime Story Event have been sent home to parents this week - tickets will be available to purchase from Friday 17th November through ParentMail for children in all year groups.

Car Park - School Events

Parents will be attending some events in school over the coming weeks.

Please be aware that there will be no parking available in the school car park during the school day and there will only be limited accessible spaces for Blue Badge Holders. If you are a permit holder, a parking space is not guaranteed and cannot be reserved.

Parents are advised to leave plenty of time to park and walk from one of the local car parks at Tesco or the Leisure Centre. Please be respectful to our neighbours in Mountbatten Drive and Brabourne Avenue and avoid parking there if possible.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Dates for your Diary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 23rd November</td>
<td>Yr 4 Peter Pan Performance at Barrington Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 6th December</td>
<td>EYFS Christmas Performance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 7th December</td>
<td>EYFS Christmas Performance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 13th December</td>
<td>Christmas Services at St Mary’s Church, Ferndown</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 14th December</td>
<td>Christmas Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 15th December</td>
<td>Christmas Jumper Day</td>
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<td>End of day either 13.15 or 15.05</td>
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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

[Signature]

Mr Sean Watts
Headteacher
**KARATE CLUB AT FERNDOWN FIRST SCHOOL**

This club is for children that attend Ferndown First School in Year 2, 3 and 4, and takes place after school on a **Tuesday** afternoon. There are spaces available so if you would like to register your child, please contact the club directly for further information.

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**MARTIAL ARTS FOR SCHOOLS**

**AFTER SCHOOL KARATE CLASS AT FERNDOWN FIRST SCHOOL**

**SPACES NOW AVAILABLE**

3.05-4.15PM £4 A LESSON
(PAYABLE TERMLY)

EMAIL OR TEXT THE NUMBER BELOW FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO BOOK YOUR PLACE:

**TEACHING**

- Self Defence
- Confidence
- Co-ordination
- Awareness
- Etiquette
- Respect
- Discipline
- Behaviour
- Fitness
- Strength
- Control

TEXT: 07730 237292
EMAIL: SKA.BOURNEMOUTH@GMAIL.COM
FACEBOOK: @SKA.BOURNEMOUTH

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**Tel: 01202 873747**

**www.fernfirst.dorset.sch.uk**
# FERNDOWN FIRST SCHOOL
## TERM DATES & HOLIDAYS
### SEPTEMBER 2023 - JULY 2024

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term Dates &amp; Holidays</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>AUTUMN TERM 2023</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Inset Day</td>
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<td>Term Starts</td>
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<td>Half Term</td>
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<td>Term Ends</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inset Day</td>
<td>Tuesday 23 July 2024</td>
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