Dear Parents

Year 4 Peter Pan Performance

Thank you to all parents, family members and friends who came along to what, I am sure you will agree, was an outstanding performance by Year 4 children of Peter Pan at the Barrington Centre last Thursday.

The children and staff did a fantastic job rehearsing and creating the sets. The children were brilliant, enthusiastic and had learnt their parts for the performance really well. I am extremely proud of them!

We received some wonderful feedback from parents, a couple of the comments which we would like to share with you:

“Congratulations. Peter Pan was such a joyous & uplifting performance, I can’t believe it wasn’t a show from the West End!!”

“What an amazing show!!! The kids were fantastic and should be so proud of themselves. Thank you to everyone involved, for making this happen. Many wonderful memories have been made.”

“Thank you! We really appreciate all of the effort and time that we know will have been put into a truly magnificent Year 4 performance.

My child has been so excited and motivated for weeks to be part of such an excellent performance and we know the memory will stay with him forever!”

We are pleased to advise that, through your generous donations, we collected a total of £230.37 of which £115 will go to Great Ormond Street and the remainder will go into our school fund. Thank you for your continued support. Further photos of the performance can be found on our website.
I am not making any promises but I am considering seeing if we can hire The Barrington Arts Centre in the summer term for a few more performances. What do you think?

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**Coats in School - Reminder**

As the days are getting colder, please ensure that your children are coming into school with suitable named coats to keep them warm as they will also be wearing these for playtime and lunchtime breaks. Thank you.

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**Adverse Weather - Information for Parents re School Closure**

As the weather can become unpredictable at this time of the year, arrangements need to be in place to cope with sudden snowfalls or severe weather that may prevent staff from reaching school.

- Parents are advised that, in the event of a heavy frost, there may be occasions when site staff have to lock all access gates until gritting of key areas has been completed.
- There may be days when we have to bring children into school from doors at the front of school.
- Parents will be notified of any changes to the entry and exit arrangements but this might be at short notice, so we ask for your patience, understanding and co-operation.
- Parents must:
  - adhere to the designated, gritted pathways into school only
  - supervise their children before and after school whilst on school premises
  - ensure that their children are wearing sensible footwear and warm coats

Please check ParentMail text messaging service and updated notices on our website.

Parents can also access information on:
[https://mapping.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/closedservices/Service/schools](https://mapping.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/closedservices/Service/schools)
**BBC Children in Need 2023 - Friday 17th November**

Thank you to everyone who supported Children in Need again this year. We are pleased to advise that the fantastic sum of £112.92 was raised from your very generous donations which will now be sent off to the Children in Need charity.

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**Choir – Christmas Carols in Ferndown**

Mrs Charters and Mrs Bramley accompanied members of the school choir who sang some lovely Christmas carols in Ferndown on Sunday 19th November. This was in support of Ferndown Community Support Group who are raising funds for Santa Sacks which will be distributed to the more vulnerable families in our community.

Thank you to all those parents who came along to see their children sing – your support is really appreciated.

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**Year 4 Trips**

**Winchester Science Centre**

A letter is being prepared and will be sent home next week providing details of a trip to the Winchester Science Centre in late January for children in Year 4.

**Avon Tyrrell Residential Visit from 17th – 19th April 2024**

Following my letter of 12th October, thank you to those parents who have already paid the first instalment of £62 for their child’s visit to Avon Tyrrell next year.

If you have not already paid the first instalment, payment is due TODAY. All payments are to be made via ParentMail – please see the letter for further details. If you are unable to pay via ParentMail then please contact the school office. Thank you.
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. There will be a ParentMail form to complete to confirm attendance.

Both presentations will take place in the school hall. Entry will be via the staff entrance.

Christmas Post

Year group Christmas Post Boxes will be open from Monday 11th December. If children would like to send Christmas Cards to their friends, please make sure envelopes include full name and class name if possible. Thank you.
Choir on Tour - Tuesday 12th and Thursday 14th

On Tuesday 12th December and Thursday 14th December, children from the school choir will be taking part in a carol singing tour of a selection of Ferndown’s nursing and care homes. The tour will also visit the Beacon Café at St Mary’s Church.

A letter with more information and a consent form has been sent via Parent Mail for the children who have said they would like to take part. The choir has 80+ members. We will be splitting them into smaller groups to attend the different venues. Some children will go on Tuesday and some on Thursday. Some may attend on both days.

Choir members will need to wear school uniform on Tuesday and Thursday please.

Choir will be travelling by coach on Tuesday. Please do not park in Mountbatten Drive on the approach to the school entrance as we need to ensure coach access. Thank You.

Christmas Lunch

Christmas lunch will be available on Thursday 14th December. A ParentMail has been sent home 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 more information will be sent home to parents shortly.

09.15am: EYFS, Year 1 and 2 Service.
10.45am: Year 3 and 4 Service.
**EYFS Christmas Performances**

Our EYFS children are busy rehearsing songs for their performances on the Wednesday 6th and Thursday 7th December.

The performances start at 9.15am on each day and are expected to last around 45 minutes. Admission will be via the staff entrance from 9am. Parents are asked to avoid bringing pushchairs into the school hall, please.

A letter with more information has already been sent home to parents – please don’t forget to send into school, in a named carrier bag, a Christmas jumper or festive coloured top that your child can wear for the performances. These will be sent back home on Thursday 7th December.

Tickets will be sent home on Monday, so if you have yet to order them, please do so as soon as possible.

There will be a retiring collection in aid of Ferndown First School. We look forward to seeing you next week!

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**Bedtime Story Event – Wednesday 6th December**

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 today.

**Bookings are now closed for this event.**

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**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 Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 6th December</td>
<td>EYFS Christmas Performance</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bedtime Story Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 7th December</td>
<td>EYFS Christmas Performance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 8th December</td>
<td>Wear a Christmas outfit or festive colours</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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<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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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.
End of Term Collection Arrangements

On Friday 15th December parents will have the choice as to the time you collect your child from school. You can choose the early afternoon slot at 1.15pm or you can choose to collect at the end of the day at normal time.

A form is being prepared and will be sent home via ParentMail for you to complete and return to indicate your collection time.

Have a great weekend.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

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

### AUTUMN TERM 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half Term</td>
<td>Monday 23 October – Friday 27 October 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Ends</td>
<td>Friday 15 December 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<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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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term Starts</td>
<td>Tuesday 2 January 2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inset Day</td>
<td>Friday 9 February 2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half Term Holiday</td>
<td>Monday 12 February – Friday 16 February 2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Ends</td>
<td>Thursday 28 March 2024</td>
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<td>Easter Holiday</td>
<td>Friday 29 March – Friday 12 April 2024</td>
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### SUMMER TERM 2024

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term Starts</td>
<td>Monday 15 April 2024</td>
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<tr>
<td>May Day Holiday</td>
<td>Monday 6 May 2024</td>
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<tr>
<td>Half Term Holiday</td>
<td>Monday 27 May – Friday 31 May 2024</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inset Day</td>
<td>Monday 3 June 2024</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term Ends</td>
<td>Friday 19 July 2024</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inset Day</td>
<td>Monday 22 July 2024</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inset Day</td>
<td>Tuesday 23 July 2024</td>
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