Dear Parents and Carers

Happy New Year! It has been a settled start to the new term. Children have enjoyed getting back into routines of learning and seeing their friends. Thank you to parents for the many positive comments for the end-of-term events. The Christmas video was a hit! It was a lot of fun to make and thank you to Mrs Lord who led the project and spent many hours editing it.

Staff News

We are pleased to welcome Ms Moreton-Smith who joins us as a Teaching Assistant and will be based in Year 4.

M & M Productions - Cinderella

We will welcome M&M Productions back to school at the end of this month for a production of Cinderella. M&M Productions visit us annually and their shows are such good fun with brilliant staging, acting and singing.

A ParentMail has been sent home to parents providing further details and requesting a voluntary contribution which we request is paid no later than Thursday 18th January. Thank you for your continued support.

Life Education Workshop Visit

Usually known as ‘The Life Bus’, the Coram Life Education & SCARF team will be visiting the school on Monday 29th January – Thursday 1st February. Workshops will take place in classrooms, to support our work teaching a variety of themes in Personal, Social and Health Education.

A letter has been sent home to parents via ParentMail providing further details regarding this visit.
Car Park

General and Blue Badge Holder Parking

At the beginning and end of the day, our school car park is for the use of authorised visitors and staff only.

Please be aware that there is only 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 here if possible. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Entry & Exit Routes

We are very grateful for the overwhelming support that parents and children have shown with regard to the entry and exit routes at the beginning and end of the day. This has worked very well and we can confirm that these arrangements will continue to remain the same.

Pedestrian Routes

Parents are asked to ensure that they keep to the marked pedestrian routes into and out of school at all times please and avoid walking through the middle of the car park. Children should be supervised and should not be allowed to play between the parked cars.

UKHSA – A Parent’s Guide to Keeping Children Healthy this School Term

As children return to school following the Christmas break, the UKHSA has reminded parents of some of the seasonal illnesses that tend to peak during the winter and steps you can take to keep your family safe and well. Please see the link below for useful guidance and reminders.

https://ukhsa.blog.gov.uk/2024/01/03/a-parents-guide-to-keeping-kids-healthy-this-school-year/#BackToSchool%20#Health

We continue to allocate cleaning staff to clean during the school day to keep toilets and sinks clean and topped up with soap. Hand sanitiser is still available for children to use throughout the school day.
Mobile phones and connected devices
Children are not allowed to bring mobile phones to school. Smart watches, gaming devices or any device that connects to the internet are also not allowed. This is part of our safeguarding procedures.

Uniform
Parents are asked to ensure their child wears the required uniform to school at all times, please.
For more information on our uniform requirements and where you can purchase uniform, please see the ‘School Uniform’ section under the ‘Parents’ tab on our website.
Our yellow polo tops can be purchased from Sainsburys, Ferndown.
As the weather is now much colder, please ensure your child has a named coat in school.
Your child should wear either black or dark coloured shoes to school. Trainers are not permitted.

PE Uniform
Our PE uniform consists of a plain white t-shirt and black or navy shorts. Children are allowed to wear a plain navy, black or grey tracksuit on cold days and they may wear trainers to school. Please do not send your child to school in any affiliated team kit or branded clothing which is not suitable for school. Children not in PE uniform will have to take part in their school uniform.

Hairstyles/Jewellery/Nail Varnish
Parents are reminded that fashion hairstyles, including trame lines and razored cuts, are not acceptable. Please ensure that any hair below collar length is tied up with a dark coloured band/hair fastener.
Please remove all nail varnish.
Small stud earrings are acceptable. No other jewellery should be worn to school. If your child cannot remove their earrings, parents will need to provide micropore tape to cover the earrings during PE lessons and out of hours activities. If this is not done, the child will not be permitted to take part.

Water and Snacks
Water is only permitted for children to drink in lessons, from their water bottles. Squash is allowed as a lunchtime drink. Fresh fruit, vegetables or a plain biscuit are the only permitted items for snack. Grapes to be cut in half please.

Birthday Sweets
We are proud to be a Healthy Eating school, so we are sorry but cannot assist those parents who request we hand out birthday sweets to children in their child’s class.
Nuts

Parents are reminded that we are a nut free school and no products containing nuts should be packed into lunch boxes or snack pots.

Please be extra vigilant when checking ingredients. Some items that contain nuts but aren't obvious are:
- Pesto
- Cereal bars
- Chocolate flavoured or chocolate sauce/spread items

We do have several children in school with severe nut allergies so your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Supervision at the beginning and end of the day

Parents are responsible for ensuring children arrive at school safely. Our children are very young and we ask parents to accompany their children to school, supervising them until children enter the school.

Children have been seen running ahead of their parents and into school, leaving parents worried as to whether their child has come into school or not and then having to check with members of staff. Please supervise your child to where they enter the school so you know they have entered school safely. Thank you.

Breakfast Club

If your child attends Breakfast Club, parents should accompany children to the staff entrance door and wait with them until Breakfast Club opens. Parents must have a confirmed booking for their child.

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 close the waiting areas and bring year groups in to 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
### Key Dates for Your Diary

#### January
- **Friday 19th January**
- **Tuesday 23rd January**
- **Monday 29th January - Thursday 1st February**
  - M&M Productions - Cinderella
  - Yr 4 trip to Winchester Science Centre
  - Life Education visiting all year groups

#### February
- **Friday 9th February**
  - INSET Day

#### March
- **Thursday 7th March**
- **Friday 8th March**
- **Wednesday 13th March**
- **Friday 15th March**
- **Tuesday 26th March**
- **Wednesday 27th March**
  - World Book Dress-Up Day and Book Fair
  - Book Fair
  - Wessex Water visiting - R & Yr 1
  - World Maths Day
  - School Discos
  - Wessex Water visiting - Yrs 2, 3 & 4
  - Yr 1 Phonics Screening Meeting at 2.30pm
  - Avon Tyrrell Parents’ Final Meeting at 6pm (online)
  - St Mary’s Easter Service (awaiting confirmation)

#### April
- **Monday 15th – Friday 19th April**
- **Wednesday 17th – Friday 19th April**
- **Monday 22nd April**
- **Wednesday 24th April**
  - Arts Week
  - Yr 4 Avon Tyrrell Residential Visit
  - Children’s Mid-Year Progress Reports published
  - Parents’ Evening

#### May
- **Tuesday 7th – Wednesday 8th May**
- **Wednesday 8th May**
- **Thursday 9th May**
- **Tuesday 14th May**
- **Wednesday 15th May**
- **Monday 20th – Friday 24th May**
- **Tuesday 21st May**
- **Thursday 23rd May**
- **Friday 24th May**
  - Yr 4 Bikeability – Level 1
  - School Discos
  - New Parents’ Meeting
  - Waterwise visiting - Yr 2
  - Yr 2 trip to Liberty’s Owl, Raptor & Reptile Centre
  - Yr 4 Multiplication Check Meeting for Parents
  - Yr 4 Bikeability – Level 2
  - Yr 3 trip to Brownsea Island
  - Open Evening
  - Sports Morning

#### June
- **Monday 3rd June**
- **Wednesday 5th and Thursday 6th June**
- **Monday 10th June**
- **Tuesday 25th June**
  - INSET Day
  - EYFS trips to Blashford Lakes
  - Yr 1 Phonics Screening Checks begin
  - Yr 4 Multiplication Checks begin
  - Sports Ambassadors’ Assembly
  - Yr 1 trip to Beaulieu
| July              | Children’s End of Year Reports published  
|                  | Piano Assembly (Parents invited to attend)  
|                  | Summer Service at St Mary’s (awaiting confirmation)  
|                  | Year 4 Leavers’ Assembly 10am. (Year 4 parents invited to attend.)  
|                  | Last day of term  

More information about these events will be sent out to parents in due course.

Our next Newsletter is due to be published on Friday 19th January.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

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

### AUTUMN TERM 2023

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### SUMMER TERM 2024

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