Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a positive start to this half term.

Today we have had been working with a representative from the Ramsbury English Hub to further improve our teaching of phonics and early reading in EYFS and Year 1. I enjoyed being in lessons and seeing how well the children are doing in remembering their sounds and using them to help read words. The paired reading I saw between Year 1 children was very encouraging. The children were helping each other read sentences three times to improve their speed and confidence.

The biggest barrier that is stopping some of our children doing as well as they could is that they are not being given enough opportunities to practice reconnecting new sounds and the ‘harder to read’ words. The more practice a child has, the quicker the new learning goes into their long term memory.

Parents have a crucial role to play in helping children become fluent readers. Children need time to read with an adult to allow them to become confident in recognising sounds and blending them together to read words. Children reading the same book each week develops their confidence, speed and ability to add expression.

Children that read well do better as they move up through the school. There is much of the curriculum that relies on children being able to read.

Please take time to read every night either with your child or to your child.

If you would like further support, please speak with your child’s teacher.

Children who read...

Are more likely to overcome disadvantage caused by inequalities
Are more likely to be happier, healthier and experience better mental wellbeing and self-esteem
Are more likely to do better at school and make more progress across the curriculum
Are more likely to develop empathy and creativity

booktrust.org.uk/benefits-of-reading-news
We will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 7th March and we are very much looking forward to having a day of fun and book related activities together. Reading is a crucial part of education and we want to enjoy a day which encourages all of the children to immerse themselves in books and learn to love reading.

Book Swap

As part of our World Book Day activities, we will be holding a Book Swap. We invite children to bring in a book from home that they no longer need/use. It could be a story book or an information book, in good condition, please. The children will have the opportunity to swap this book for another book brought in and then take it home to keep. If your child has more than one book that they no longer need/use, they can also bring these books in. Any leftover books at the end of the day will be put out on a table in the playground at home time for children to take, in exchange for a small donation to school funds.

Book Fair

On World Book Day and the day after (Thursday 7th and Friday 8th March), Anne from Usborne books will be setting up a book fair in school. Children will have an opportunity to come to the book fair during the school day with their teacher, to browse the selection of books. If there is a book they particularly like, we will write down the title on a ‘wish list’ form and the children will bring that home. You can then contact Anne to arrange purchasing the book and the book will arrive in school, a few days later. Please keep an eye out for a Parent Mail with further details about how to purchase.

Dressing Up

Children are welcome to come into school on World Book Day (Thursday 7th March) dressed as a character from a favourite book. They are also welcome to bring in their favourite book to share with their class. There are lots of simple ideas on the internet which involve things you may already have at home. No football kits please.

World Book Day Token

Every child will receive a £1 book token which can be used in most book shops and retailers to buy this year’s World Book Day £1 books or to receive £1 off any book. You can also use the token to receive £1 off any book at the Usborne book fair in school or other high street book shops.

We can’t wait to celebrate World Book day! I am looking forward to it and will be sorting out my costume this weekend. I love any opportunity to dress up!
Avon Tyrrell - Remaining Balance and Final Parents’ Meeting

Thank you to those parents who have continued to pay for their child’s visit to Avon Tyrrell in April. The remaining balance payment of £62 is due by Friday 22nd March 2024.

There will be an online parents meeting to discuss the final details of this trip and to answer any questions you may have on Wednesday 27th March at 6pm. A link will be sent out closer to the day.

School Disco

We are pleased to advise that we will be holding after school Discos on Wednesday 13th March for children in Years 1 – 4. The disco for Year 1 and Year 2 will run from 4 - 4.50pm. The disco for Year 3 and Year 4 will run from 5 - 6pm. Please look out for a flyer which will be sent out to parents shortly, providing further information about how to book a place for your child.

Children in Reception classes will also have their own disco on the same day, however, this will be held during school time, at the end of the afternoon before collection time. Reception children can wear disco clothes to school on this day, however, please ensure your child wears sensible shoes. Thank you.

Year 2 Titanic Assembly - Invite to Parents

Following on from our learning in History about the Titanic, we would like to invite all Year 2 parents to a special ‘Titanic’ assembly on Thursday 21st March. During this assembly the children will be displaying what they have learnt in their topic this half term.

You are welcome to attend at either of our two performances at 9.15am or 2.15pm. Please note: Due to health and safety regulations, we are only able to offer 2 seats per child on this occasion.

To help the children get into character for this assembly, we would like them to come to school dressed up as either a passenger or crew member of the Titanic. Some ideas could include an Edwardian lady or gentleman, a captain, or even a chamber maid.

Children will need to either wear their school uniform underneath their costumes, or bring it with them in a separate bag to change into after the assembly.

Entry to the hall for the assembly will be through the staff entrance and doors will be opened 10 minutes beforehand.
Year 1 Phonics Meetings for Parents

Your child will be taking a statutory Phonics Screening Check during the week of the 10th June.

A ParentMail is being prepared and will be sent home inviting you to a Parent Information meeting on Tuesday 26th March, during which Year 1 teachers will give you information about the Phonics Screening Check and how you can support your child at home.

The first meeting will take place in the hall at 2.30pm. The second online meeting will start at 6pm. A Teams link for this meeting will be sent home to parents in due course. (Please note: These meetings will include the same information so parents need only attend one meeting).

Please ensure you let us know which meeting you will be attending using the form that will be sent home via ParentMail.

Easter Services

We are very much looking forward to our Easter Services at St Mary's Church on Wednesday 27th March, where we will also be able to hear our school choir sing, details as follows:

**EYFS, Years 1 and 2** – service starts at 9.15am

**Years 3 and 4** – service starts at 10.45am

Parents, families and friends are welcome to join us at the service but we must allow the children into church first. The congregation are asked to wait in The Beacon or wait outside church for us to arrive. When all the children have been seated, the congregation will be asked to find their seats.

We would be grateful for help so if any parent is available to help walk the children down to the church, please speak to your child's class teacher. Parents of those children attending the EYFS, Yrs 1 & 2 service may wait in the playground for the children before walking to the church as we will be leaving school at approx. 8.50am. Parents of children in Yrs 3 and 4 are asked to wait outside the main gate until children are ready to walk over to the church. We will be leaving school for the Yr 3 & 4 service at approx. 10.20am. Thank you for your continued support.

Easter - Non-Uniform Day

The final day of this term, Thursday 28th March, will be a non-uniform day. Children can wear their own, Easter coloured, clothes to school (NO football kits, please). If they have made an Easter bonnet at home, children can also bring this into school to wear on the day. Please note: There is no Easter Bonnet Competition / prizes this year.
Ferndown First School – Computers in the 1990s

Our thanks go to Mr Dyer who emailed us with an item of historical nostalgia from the Bournemouth Echo about Ferndown First School and how visitors to our school hall got to grips with computers in the 1990s! How things have changed! Please use the link below for more information and pictures...

Ferndown parents learnt about computers in the 1990s | Bournemouth echo 2022

Our next Newsletter is due to be published on Friday 8th March.

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Watts
Headteacher
PUBLIC MEETING - NOTIFICATION

Ferndown Town Council has asked us to share the following information with parents who may be interested in attending a public meeting - details below: