Dear Parents and Carers

We are heading towards the beginning of spring. Thank goodness the days are getting longer and the weather is getting a bit better! The spring term is always the term where we see children making accelerated progress. It is good fun to get caught up the excitement of World Book Day but we must remember how important it is that children learn to read quickly. Children who read well, do better at school and have greater life chances.

Please read with your child every day. It makes a huge difference to their progress.

World Book Day 2024

World Book Day was good fun this year! Thank you to all those parents and carers who helped their children with their costumes – the children looked absolutely fantastic! Well done to all the staff who also made a great contribution with their costumes too.

Reception

Reception children have enjoyed a day filled with book excitement. All of our teachers dressed up as different colour monsters. It was fun to guess which feeling they were. This week, we have made colour monster bunting to decorate our classrooms.

We also read ‘The Tiger Who Came to Tea’ and wrote shopping lists for his tea party. We role played our own tea party with invites to invite our friends.

We all enjoyed coming to school as our own book characters and talking about our favourite book. It was great to share so many story book characters and some children also brought their books in to share with the class. We were able to take part in the big book swap and each child took a new book home to share with their grown-ups. Everyone looked amazing in their World Book Day costumes!
Year 1

We had lots of fun yesterday in Year One for World Book Day! It was great to see the children dressed as many wonderful book characters. We spent the day immersed in fun reading related activities such as making Mr Men characters, Gruffalo masks, Supertato puppets, collaging Elmer and designing new front covers for their book character’s book.

The children thoroughly enjoyed our class book swaps and spent a long time browsing through the different books and choosing a new book to take home. Thank you for your contributions to make this possible.

Year 2

This week, Year 2 had a fantastic time dressing up for World Book Day. There were so many creative costumes. Thank you for all your hard work getting the children ready for a day packed of book related fun. The fun filled day consisted of guess the character riddle writing, the big book swap, reading lots of great stories, colouring bookmarks, story quizzes and lots more besides.

Year 3

Year 3 had a brilliant World Book Day! In the morning, we made funky bookmarks. Children were excited to use these when reading. Before lunch, the children also created stories of their own and acted these out. The children really got into character!

In the afternoon, children had a great time in the library. They loved doing a World Book Day quiz and could identify many characters and authors.

Throughout the day, we created a year group story. We passed it around the classes, adding paragraphs as we went. The children’s ideas were creative and imaginative!

The book swap was a great success. Every child chose a book to take home. The children also attended the book fair and have written down books which they would like. Before home time, the children enjoyed the next chapter of our book, ‘The Girl Who Stole an Elephant’.
Year 4

World Book Day 2024 was fantastic in Year 4! The children made lots of effort with their costumes and were incredibly enthusiastic throughout the day.

In the morning, we coloured in our own bookmarks and took part in a couple of book related quizzes. We were very impressed with the children's knowledge of a wide range of books.

After that, we created a short stop motion animation. This involved the children working in teams to create a background and some characters that they would move around their scene. Each time a character was moved, the children would take a photograph. The photographs are then edited together to create a short video which tells a story. We loved this activity, and it was great to see the creativity in their stories.

The children also participated in a book swap which was very successful due to the lovely books that were brought in. The fun continues tomorrow afternoon when each Year 4 class will go to the Book Fair in school and have the chance to browse through the books.

Report Consultation - Parent Survey

Parents will have received a ParentMail this week seeking your views via an online survey on our current reporting systems and asking for your suggestions for improvements and developments.

Please take time to complete this short survey by 31st March 2024 – link provided below:

https://forms.office.com/e/LaW1kw8uwX

The results will be analysed and your suggestions used to help us improve our reporting arrangements.

Thank you for your assistance. We look forward to hearing all your ideas!
Community Feedback - Proposed Pathway

Information was provided in a recent Newsletter regarding a proposed pathway to bridge the gap from Ferndown Leisure Centre car park to the main path on King George V fields.

Thank you to those parents who emailed the school to provide their views on this. I can confirm that I have now written a letter supporting this proposal to Ferndown Council and have included these parents’ comments.

I am aware that Ferndown Council has said they will price up the cost of the work and see if it can be put into the budget for this year. I have also asked them for an update and will keep parents updated as soon as I receive a response.

Thank you to those parents that are using parking that is available locally and walking with their children to school.

Comic Relief Day 2024 – Friday 15th March

Friday 15th March is Comic Relief Day. Children are asked to come to school in their uniform, as usual, but wear something red to support the charity, eg red socks, red tights, red hair band etc. NO red hair dye, please! Children are also able to wear a red nose this year too, if they would like to. Parents are asked to make donations direct to Comic Relief. Thank you.

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 Discos

School discos are next **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. A flyer has already been sent home providing further information about how to book and pay for 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.

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**Year 2 Titanic Assembly – Invite to Parents**

As advised via ParentMail, the Year 2 Titanic assembly, due to be held on **Thursday 21st March**, has now been postponed to a later date – this will be advised to parents in due course.

Children should, therefore, come to school on this date in their normal school uniform.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

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**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 has been 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 has been 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 Yrs 3 & 4 service at approx. 10.20am. Thank you for your continued support.

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**Non-Uniform Day**

**Thursday 28th March**

**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.**

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**Bikeability – Year 4**

Information will be sent home to Year 4 parents next week regarding this year’s free Bikeability Level 1 and 2 courses run by Rob Doyle which are due to take place in May.

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**Candle – Offer to Parents**

Dorset based brand, Lush Limited, has generously donated a pallet of their candles to the school. We are very grateful for their kind donation.

Parents will be able to purchase these candles at just £1 each next Friday 15th March from the playground after school. All monies raised will go towards the school fund.
Mrs Lord - London Marathon

Mrs Lord has set herself the challenge of running the London Marathon this year, raising money for the NSPCC. At Ferndown First School, we use many of the NSPCC resources to teach children about keeping themselves safe. It is important that these resources are available for schools to use to help prevent abuse and give children the confidence to speak out. Every child is worth fighting for!

On the morning of Thursday 28th March, each year group will join Mrs Lord to do 3 laps or more of our Daily Mile Track, which is located around the edge of our Games Enclosure. All the laps achieved, will mean that each year group will have completed the marathon distance (26.2 miles) together.

Mrs Lord will join the children, who are invited to walk, skip, march, dance or run. If you would like to donate £1 to support Mrs Lord and the children, and of course NSPCC, please send your child in with £1 on the day. Any cash raised for this event will be shared between NSPCC and our school fund.

Alternatively, you can donate directly to NSPCC by clicking on Mrs Lord’s Just Giving page. [https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/amanda-lord1](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/amanda-lord1)

End of Term Collection Arrangements

On the last day of term, Thursday 28th March, 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.

Our next Newsletter is due to be published on Friday 22nd March.

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Watts
Headteacher
APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR...
JUNIOR BAKE OFF
AGED BETWEEN 8-12 AND LOVE TO BAKE? WE’D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!
WWW.APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK
Applications close 17th March 2024

VACANCIES

Midday Supervisors

- Position 1: Term Time only. 38 weeks, 4 hrs per week, 12-1pm Tuesday-Friday
- Position 2: Term Time only. 38 weeks, 5 hrs per week, 12-3pm Monday-Friday

Possibility of additional hours with one of these roles in our After School Club 3:00-4:00pm on a Wednesday and Thursday.

Find out more and apply here: www.parley.dorset.sch.uk/our-school/staff-vacancies