Dear Parents and Carers

Time marches on! Next week is the final week of what has been a successful term. There is a lot to complete in school next week as teachers finalise assessment data and start to prepare progress updates for parents. We are also looking forward to our Easter church service at St Mary’s on Wednesday.

We are hoping to set up a PTA in the summer term. If you are interested in being part of this, please email the school office.

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Celebrate Learning

Reception

This half term, we have been learning about the season of spring. We went on a spring detective walk to find changes that we could see happening with the plants. We spotted daffodils and trees beginning to shoot. Last week, we planted some lettuce seeds and were very excited to find that they have begun to shoot too! We learnt that plants can grow from seeds and bulbs and need water to keep healthy.

Year 1

In Year One this half term we have been learning about watercolour in Art. We explored different watercolour techniques and discussed a range of artists' watercolour paintings. This week we painted a spring painting, using all of our newly learnt artistic skills.

In DT, we learnt about how to create a stable structure using recycled materials. We then made car garages and animal shelters, with stable pillars to support. In History, we have been learning all about King Charles III and studying the timeline of our Monarchy. In Science, we learnt all about signs of spring, which helped us to write a non-chronological report all about the signs of spring.
**Year 2**

This half term was welcomed with extra enthusiasm by all due to the much-anticipated history learning about the Titanic and it didn’t disappoint. The circumstances that led to the tragic event have been of particular interest and we have learnt, through sources of evidence, how the legacy of the disaster has changed marine safety to this day. We now have a Titanic model and an iceberg as a permanent fixture in the Year 2 shared area!

We used our knowledge about the Titanic in our writing of a non-chronological report in English. Conjunctions were selected to extend our sentences and allow us to demonstrate the detail we have learnt about the disaster.

Our science learning built on the knowledge of animals that we acquired in Year 1. We have enjoyed hearing about how children have applied what they have learnt to caring for pets at home.

It has been a fun-packed half term, with wonderful costumes on World Book Day, a fun disco, a teddy bear’s picnic, a visit from Waterwise and information about safety around dogs from the Dog’s Trust. We are looking forward to a busy week next week. Thank you for all your support.

**Year 3**

In Year 3, we have been learning about the Victorian era in history. We have researched important people, such as Queen Victoria and Isambard Kingdom Brunel. We have also discovered a variety of inventions that occurred around that time. We have linked this learning to our current writing topic.

We have also been writing a non-chronological report about Queen Victoria. They have included amazing facts from our history lessons and from the children’s own research.

**Year 4**

This half term has been brilliant in Year 4! The children have engaged well with a range of learning and have enjoyed the topics we have covered.

In writing, the children have written a continuation of the Aladdin story. We have made sure our writing included a range of exciting fronted adverbials, direct speech and conjunctions. It was lovely to read how creative and imaginative the children were with their stories. In maths, we have covered multiplication, division and fractions. The children have realised that knowing their times tables fluently will help them to speed up their calculations and work more efficiently in many areas of maths.

Our history learning was based on the Romans, which the children have thoroughly enjoyed. We started the learning by experiencing an invasion ourselves. This helped the children to understand how it felt to
be living during the time of the Romans. We learned that the Roman Empire invaded many countries and that when they invaded the UK, they brought many modern inventions to improve living.

Finally, in science we have been learning all about electricity and how it works. The children have built simple series circuits using a bulb, battery, switch, buzzer, motor and wires. This learning will support our DT unit where the children will be creating their own light boxes and testing them with a circuit. It has certainly been a busy half term, but full of wonderful learning!

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**Gymnastics Tumbling Competition at Ferndown Upper School**

This morning, children from Year 3 and 4 took part in a Gymnastics competition at Ferndown Upper School alongside 6 other local schools. We are delighted to announce that our boys’ team came 1st and our mixed teams came 1st and 2nd place!

We are very proud of all our competitors and the sportsmanship they displayed.

We would like to thank Mrs Lord who organised this competition and arranged after school practices to make our teams so successful!

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**Big Bid**

We are pleased to say that we have been successful in securing an additional £21,500 worth of funding for the school. The Big Bid is open to all schools to submit bids for funding to support projects that will support children in care.

We will be using the money to support several projects across the school, which include:

- developing an outdoor therapeutic play space for KS2 children which will include outdoor gym/fitness training equipment.
- Resources to support a physical regulation space in EYFS.
- Auditory resources.

We look forward to updating parents as these projects develop.

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**Parents’ Evening**

Parents’ Evening takes place on Wednesday 24th April (and 25th April for Oak class). Parents will again have the choice of meeting their child’s teacher in person or via an online meeting.

Please look out for the Parents’ Evening booking forms which are now live on ParentMail.
Report Consultation - Parent Survey - Reminder

Parents will have received a ParentMail earlier this month 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: 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!

Comic Relief 2024

Thank you to everyone who supported Comic Relief this year by wearing something red. There was a sea of red noses in school! If you haven’t already donated but would like to, please make your donations direct to Comic Relief. We can confirm that the sum of £13 was raised from collections at the gate. Thank you for your support.

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 is due today.

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 next week.

School Discos

Thank you to the children who supported our Discos last week. All the children had a fabulous time and really enjoyed letting off some steam in the hall by showing us a wide variety of their super dance moves!

I am pleased to advise that a fantastic amount of £567 was raised from the Discos which will now go towards our school fund. Thank you for your continued support.
World Book Day - Book Swaps

We are pleased to advise that following the Book Swaps that took place around World Book Day, the donations we received from the left over books which children could take home amounted to £49 on Thursday 7\textsuperscript{th} March and £57 on Friday 8\textsuperscript{th} March. These donations will go towards school funds. Thank you for supporting this event.

Year 1 Phonics Meetings for Parents

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

A ParentMail has been sent home inviting you to a Parent Information meeting on \textbf{Tuesday 26\textsuperscript{th} 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. \textit{(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 \textbf{Wednesday 27\textsuperscript{th} March}, where we will also be able to hear our school choir sing, details as follows:

\textbf{EYFS, Years 1 and 2} – service starts at 9.15am

\textbf{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.
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.

Bikeability – Year 4

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

Additional Pathway across King George V Fields

I recently wrote to Ferndown Town Council to provide my support to some of our parents’ requests for an additional pathway from the car park at Ferndown Leisure Centre to the main path on the playing fields. I have today received a response from the council which, unfortunately, advises that they are unable to accommodate this request due to extreme budgetary constraints.

The Town Council has added, however, that it may be willing to revisit this request if the school were able to assist with a contribution to the cost of this project.

I know this decision will be disappointing to those parents who have supported this request.

Candle – Offer to Parents

Dorset based brand, Lush Limited, generously donated a pallet of their candles to the school which parents were able to purchase at a cost of £1 on Monday after school.

Thank you for your support - we are pleased to advise that the sum of approx. £200 was raised through these purchases which will go towards our school fund.

Reminder – Ferndown Youth Club

Ferndown Youth Club has asked us to remind parents that children are not permitted to go behind the barriers near the container by the Youth Club. The barriers have been put there for a reason and for health and safety reasons, children should not be allowed to play around this area. Thank you.
Car Park - Engines Idling

Idling is the act of sitting in a stationary vehicle with your engine running and producing harmful emissions. Parents are asked to please switch off their engines when parked/waiting in the car park. Thank you for your support.

Hot School Meals – Price Increase from April

Following my letter in October 2023 advising parents of the increase in prices for hot school meals, please look out for a letter providing details of the latest price increase due to start from next month. As advised, this price increase is due to the continued pressure on the cost of wholesale food, energy and transport for our caterers.

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-lord
Hair Donation for Charity

We have been contacted by Logan’s parent in Year 4 as he has made the decision to very kindly donate his hair to charity. Please see the email from Logan’s mum below:

’Hi there. As you have probably seen, Logan has very long and beautiful hair and would like to have it cut later this year. I have asked him if he wanted to donate it as it’s so long, which he would really like to do. He absolutely loves his hair but he would like to be able to gift it to those in need to support someone going through hair loss/cancer treatment which is just really something I want to try and help him to achieve.’

If you would like to donate and support Logan via the Little Princess Trust, which is his nominated charity, please use the Just Giving link below:


Summer Term - Uniform

Children will be able to wear their summer uniform to school when we return from the Easter holiday. Parents are reminded of our uniform requirements, as detailed below:

Yellow and white summer dress

Grey skirt/pinafore/tailored trousers/shorts with yellow polo shirt

Navy blue sweatshirt or cardigan

Black shoes/sandals (covered toes)

Navy, grey or black socks or tights

Long hair (collar length and longer) should be tied up and secured with a hair band in our school colours. Thank you for continuing to support our uniform policy.

End of Term Collection Arrangements

On the last day of term, Thursday 28th March, parents will have the choice to collect their children at either the early afternoon slot at 1.15pm or you can choose to collect at the end of the day at normal time.

A form has been sent home via ParentMail for you to complete and return to indicate your collection time.
We break up for the Easter holiday on **Thursday 28th March**. As this is the last Newsletter before the end of term, I wish you all an enjoyable holiday with your children, however you choose to celebrate.

We look forward to seeing the children back at school on **Monday 15th April** for a very busy final term of this academic year.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Watts
Headteacher

**STAFF VACANCIES**

**MIDDAY SUPERVISORS URGENTLY REQUIRED!**

**CASUAL AND PERMANENT POSITIONS AVAILABLE**

We have several positions available for Midday Supervisors, either on a permanent or casual basis.

**Part-Time, Term Time only**

7.5 hours per week (Monday to Friday)

CAT Grade C SP3 - £11.79 per hour

A ParentMail will be sent home early next week providing more details.
Make waves of progress

Intensive holiday courses now booking

Stages 1, 2 & 4 lessons are available during the Easter holidays at a discounted rate of £20, when mentioning your school name

For more information, visit ferndown.placesleisure.org or call 01202 877468
**About Us**

We believe community creates the beating heart of a place. Since our humble beginnings we have striven to support all & any members of our local community, whether they need a little bit of extra help with shopping or collecting prescriptions, or if they are feeling lonely & disconnected, & many other things! We also love arranging events, particularly our Christmas events where we seek to support the community in need & spread joy. Our Community Larder, Food, Pet Food & Hygiene Bank, continues to provide vital support to those most vulnerable, & that's not all we do! We are Ferndown Community Support CIC, a HMRC registered not for profit organisation. Our mission is to keep all our residents as healthy, connected, safe & comforted as possible, in whatever way possible. We have a great bunch of volunteers at all levels (but we always need more!); this is truly a community effort with everyone pulling together for each other. Please read on to discover what we do, how we can help, & what you could be part of!

Please consider supporting our work if you can, donations can be made online, in the larder & food bank, or food, pet & hygiene items in Tesco’s, Orchid House & Coop Funeralcare. Thank you.

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**Easter Fayre**

**Saturday 23rd March**

10am-3pm

Ferndown Day Centre, Library Road, Ferndown BH22 9JP

- **Craft stalls**
- **Raffle**
- **Refreshments - Hotdogs, Homemade Cakes & more!**
- **Children’s Craft & Activity Room**
- **Mrs Honey’s Guinea Pig Rescue**
- **Games**
- **Face Painting**

Meet the Easter Bunny!

FREE entry!

Tel: 01202 936121

[EVENT IMAGE]

**FCS**

Ferndown Community Support

**Email:** info@ferndowncommunitysupport.org.uk

**Phone:** 01202 936121 (9-5pm Mon - Fri (answerphone out of hours))

**Web:** www.ferndowncommunitysupport.org.uk

**Facebook:** @ferndowncommunitysupport

**Instagram:** @ferndowncommunitysupport

You can find our Community Larder, Food Bank+, and Saturday Club here.

Ferndown Community Support CIC reg no 13292899