



NEWSLETTER NO 4 25th October 2024



Dear Parents and Carers

It's been a very long half term. I am delighted with how our new children in EYFS have settled into school. The children have settled into new routines very well, are clearly enjoying school and I am impressed with how quickly the children are picking up new phonic learning. I recently toured James McNeillie, Ofsted Regional Director for the Southwest, around school. He said the EYFS PE lesson he saw was the calmest he'd ever seen!

Chloe Stobbart, literacy specialist from The Ramsbury Hub, visited the school on Monday to observe phonics lessons in EYFS and Year 1. She was highly complementary about the standard of teaching and the progress the children were making.

Following her recent visit to school, Jane Cottee, SEND & Inclusion Director for The Castleman Academy Trust, commented *'There was so much good practice going on in your school; I really hope the other schools are able to learn from the work you are doing.'*

Prospective parent tours have begun for September 2025 and many parents have commented on how calm and purposeful the school feels and the bright and vibrant learning environment we offer. Praise indeed.

A big well done to Ethan, Calum, Oak-Lee and Fred, in Year 4, who worked together for 45 minutes to solve a tricky maths challenge! They successfully used trial and error and working systematically to solve the problem as well as showing great perseverance. You can see the maths challenge below if you would like to give it a go? Answers on a postcard!

4 Crack the code.

★ is worth 2,000 less than ♥ .
♥ is worth 1,000 more than ★ .

♥ = ▲ = ♥ = ★ =

Have a great weekend and a fabulous half term break with your children.

We look forward to seeing the children return to school on Monday 4th November for what will be a very busy final half of this Autumn term.

Mr Sean Watts
Headteacher

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Positive Role Models

To clarify our expectations for morning routines, we kindly ask parents/carers to

- keep their children with them until children are safely in school.
- wait by the low black gate until a member of staff opens it.

We will be reminding children that they should not be playing behind the green garage, scooting around the waiting area or playing on the grass between the black gate and the main blue gate.

To clarify our expectations for positive conduct, we kindly ask that parents/carers

- do not smoke or vape anywhere on the school site at any time.
- use language that is always polite and courteous.

As adults, we have a responsibility to always be excellent role models for our children.

Relational Policy

In each newsletter we would like to focus in on a small part of our new Relational Policy. This policy replaces our old Behaviour Policy.

At Ferndown First School, all staff are trained and aware of the PACE (playfulness, acceptance, curiosity and empathy) approach and use this attitude and communication style to support all children in our setting. We focus on connecting with children to allow them to feel safe to explore. Staff respect and acknowledge that focusing on the whole child, not just the behaviour, is key.

- Playfulness - Light atmosphere, gentle, soothing voice, expressing a sense of joy, playful interactions, delighting in being with each other
- Acceptance—Unconditional acceptance, actively communicating acceptance of wishes, feelings, and thoughts, and accepting all children without judgment or evaluation.
- Curiosity - Show interest in their lives, reflect on their behaviour without judgement, and show that adults understand and want to understand why with them.
- Empathy – Adults demonstrate compassion, are empathetic towards children, and show the children that they are important. They feel with children and show them they are not alone with their big emotions. Children are not left to manage distress alone.

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Parent Governor Vacancies

Thank you to parents that have expressed an interest in becoming a parent governor.



There have been four parents that have nominated themselves for the role. As there are only two vacancies, there will be an election taking place. We will be using Choice Voting to manage the election. A link will be sent out on Monday 4th November at 9am to allow parents to read each candidate's supporting statement and cast votes. As there are two vacancies, parents are required to cast two votes. The voting window will close on Thursday 14th November at 9am. Votes are per household.

Internet Safety Reminder

Parents are reminded of the importance of internet safety and knowing what their children are viewing online.



We were recently advised by a grandparent that their grandchild was playing an online game on their tablet (with the relevant parental controls turned on) but in the middle of a game, a pop up appeared for a mini game with the 'prize' to see inappropriate online content. The tablet was immediately taken away from the grandchild, but the grandparent was concerned that the opportunity to view inappropriate content had appeared, even with the parental controls turned on. They have asked us to make parents aware of this.

We have provided a link below from Internet Matters for more information on internet safety and parental controls which parents may find useful:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/#step-by-step>



Parents' Evening

Thank you to all those parents who attended Parents' Evening this week. The feedback I have received has been very positive and it was pleasing to see so many parents in school to see their child's teacher and/or take advantage of our Book Look event.

If you were not able to attend Parents' Evening and still wish to meet with your child's teacher, please contact the office to arrange an alternative date and time.

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Reminder - Snacks



I have received reports that we are having some issues at snack time regarding what the children are bringing into school for their snack. Parents are reminded that snacks should be a fruit or **plain** biscuit only.

Yoghurts, crisps, sandwiches, cheese strings etc are not appropriate snacks for school.

Fruit or plain biscuits should be stored in a small named pot, **not** a big lunch box as we are unable to store these in the classrooms. Also, please remember that grapes must be cut in half length ways. Thank you for your continued support.



Year 4 - Avon Tyrrell Residential Visit 2025

Thank you to all those parents who have paid the £50 deposit for the Avon Tyrrell trip taking place between Monday 3rd and Wednesday 5th March 2025.

We are now able to confirm that the total cost of this trip, including transport, will be £210. Please refer to the ParentMail letter sent home recently providing details on how the balance for the trip can be paid, including part-pay options. As a reminder, the first instalment of £40 is due by Friday 8th November 2024.

- The second instalment of £40 is due by Friday 6th December 2024.
- The third instalment of £40 is due by Friday 10th January 2025
- The remaining balance payment of £40 is due by Thursday 7th February 2025.

All payments are to be made via ParentMail. If you are unable to pay via ParentMail then please contact the school office.

Yr 4 - Pirates of the Curry Bean

Our first few rehearsals for Pirates of the Curry Bean have been going well and children are embracing their parts!

They will be bringing home their scripts today to practise over half term - parents' support with helping children to learn their lines is much appreciated.



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Royal British Legion Remembrance 2024

On Monday 11th November, members of the School Council in years 3 and 4 will walk with staff to take part in the short service of Remembrance held at the British Legion on Church Road. They will also lay a wreath at the British Legion Memorial which is being made in school by children.

Children will be involved in a brief class discussion about Remembrance Day before observing a short period of silence.

If you would prefer your child is not involved in observing the silence, please ensure you have advised your child's teacher no later than Thursday 7th November by emailing the school office.

Poppies

Poppies will be sent round to classes for those children who would like to donate to the RBL. Poppies and a collection box will also be available in the office if you would like to make a donation.



New School Crossing Patrol Information

Dorset Council, together with the new school crossing patrol for Church Road, has provided some information at the end of this Newsletter which we have shared with parents.

The Dorset Council Road Safety Officer has also provided the following link for parents to use, if needed: <https://operationsnap.dorset.police.uk/>

This service has been put in place to facilitate submissions of video and photographic evidence relating to driving incidents/behaviour that members of the public have witnessed.

Change to Hot School Meal Provider

Parents are reminded that from Monday 18th November, our hot school meal provider will be changing to Clever Chefs.

More information has been sent home to parents, with additional information for those parents whose children have special diets.

For more information, please see their website: <https://www.cleverchefs.co.uk/primary-schools>



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BBC 500 Words



BBC 500 Words is now open again this year for entries. It's time to get writing! Submit your stories before 9pm on **Friday 8 November 2024**.

There are two age categories: 5-7 and 8-11 year-olds. All children need to do is write a story they would love to read in 500 Words or less - it's all about creativity!

Mrs Errington and Mrs Lord will be on hand if children would like some tips.

For more information and to enter, please use the link below:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words/articles/zctk7v4>



Children in Need 2024

The School Council is supporting Children in Need again this year. On **Friday 15th November** children can wear one item of spotted clothing, e.g. spotted tights or socks or a spotted hair band.

Collection buckets will be available at the school gates at the end of the day if you would like to make a donation to this very worthwhile cause.

Parents can also make their own donations directly to Children in Need. Thank you.

After School Club and Breakfast Club



After School Club

Thank you to Mrs Stickley and Miss Entwistle who continue to run this club which the children are thoroughly enjoying.

Places are limited to 20 spaces per session for this club and your child must be registered to attend. If you haven't already booked your child's place then please do so as soon as possible. For more information, please see the information on the school website.

Breakfast Club

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.



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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.

Do you need to apply for your child's new school place?

School Admissions for September 2025

If your child is due to start middle school in September 2025, please be reminded that applications are open until 15th January 2025. You can apply via the link: <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/starting-junior-or-middle-school>

School Photos

Unfortunately, we don't have a date when we expect to receive the photos parents have ordered yet, however, as soon as we are notified, we will let you know and these will be sent home with your child.



Asda Cashpot for Schools

Did you know there's an easy way you can help to fundraise for our school!

- Download and sign up to the Asda Rewards app
- Opt into the Cashpot for Schools campaign and select Ferndown First School
- Once opted in, Asda will donate £1 to your chosen school to get you started - no purchase necessary - just sign up!
- If you shop in store at Asda, George or online, Asda will donate a percentage of your shop to your chosen school on purchases made until 30th November 2024.



You can find further information at: <https://www.asda.com/cashpotforschools>

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 and so far we've raised a fantastic total of **£353!** You can sign up and support this cause by using the link below:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ferndown1st/?searchSessionId=36a76bba-a437-4adc-8758-0839d59218d3>

We greatly appreciate any help from parents.

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Dates for your Diary

We have provided some dates for your diary over the next academic year in the table below. Please note that further information on all these events will be sent home to parents in due course.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Autumn Term 2024	
Tuesday 26 th November	Yr 3 visit to Museum of East Dorset
Tuesday 26 th November	Yr 4 Performance 'Pirates of the Curry Bean' at Barrington Theatre
Wednesday 27 th November	Yr 3 visit to Museum of East Dorset
Thursday 28 th November	Yr 4 Performance 'Pirates of the Curry Bean' at Barrington Theatre
Thursday 5 th December	PFA Bedtime Story Event
Monday 9 th December	EYFS Christmas Performance
Tuesday 10 th December	EYFS Christmas Performance
Friday 13 th December	Christmas Jumper Day
Tuesday 17 th December	Choir on Tour
Wednesday 18 th December	Christmas Service at St Mary's Church
	Christmas Lunch
Spring Term 2025	
Wednesday 15 th January	Yr 4 Trip to Winchester Science Museum
Friday 24 th January	M&M Productions - Sleeping Beauty
Tuesday 4 th - Friday 7 th February	Life Education Workshops
Wednesday 12 th February	School Disco
Thursday 13 th February	Yr 4 Avon Tyrrell Final Parents' Meeting
Monday 3 rd - Wednesday 5 th March	Yr 4 Avon Tyrrell Residential Visit
Mon 10 th , Thurs 13 th and Fri 14 th March	Dogs Trust Visit to School
Wednesday 2 nd April	Parents' Evening
	St Mary's Easter Service - TBC
Summer Term 2025	
Tuesday 13 th May	Yr 2 Trip to Liberty's Owl & Reptile Centre
Wednesday 14 th May	MTC Parent Meeting for Yr 4 Parents at 6pm
Tuesday 20 th May (tbc)	Yr 3 Brownsea Island Trip
Thursday 22 nd May	Open Evening
Tuesday 17 th & Wednesday 18 th June	EYFS Trip to Blashford Lakes
Thursday 19 th June	Yr 1 Trip to Hilliers Gardens
Friday 27 th June	Transfer Day
Monday 30 th June	Staff Training Day
Thursday 10 th July	Sports Morning
Wednesday 16 th July	Summer Service at St Mary's Church - TBC
Friday 18 th July	Yr 4 Leavers' Assembly - 10am

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LUNCHTIME AND AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS TIMETABLE

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
LUNCHTIMES				
Book Club Yrs 3 & 4 12.45pm Library Mrs Errington	Computing Club Yrs 3 & 4 12.45pm Lark Class Miss Fearn	Lego Club Yrs 3 & 4 12.45pm Wren Class Mrs Lord	Lego Club Yrs 3 & 4 12.45pm Wren Class Mrs Lord	Chess Club Yrs 2-4 12.30pm Hall Mr Watts
	Lego Club Yrs 3 & 4 12.45pm Wren Class Mrs Lord		Choir Yrs 3 & 4 12.45pm - Music Room Mrs Charters	
AFTER SCHOOL				
Ferndown First Sch After School Club All Years 3.05pm - 6pm	Ferndown First Sch After School Club All Years 3.05pm - 6pm	Ferndown First Sch After School Club All Years 3.05pm - 6pm	Ferndown First Sch After School Club All Years 3.05pm - 6pm	Ferndown First Sch After School Club All Years 3.05pm - 6pm
Live4Tennis Yrs 1 - 4 3.05pm - 4.05pm (External)	Karate Yrs 2, 3 & 4 3.05pm - 4.15pm (External)	PESSPA - Football Yrs 2, 3 & 4 3.05pm - 4.05pm (External)	PESSPA - Dodgeball Yrs 2, 3 & 4 3.05pm - 4.05pm (External)	
Gardening Club Yrs 2, 3 & 4 3.05pm - 4.10pm Miss Spicer/ Mrs Bramley			Art Bee Yrs 1 - 4 3.05pm - 4.05pm (External)	
Dance Club Yrs 3 & 4 3.15 - 4.15pm Mrs Marshall			Cooking Club Yrs 3 & 4 3.05pm - 4.15pm Miss Fearn	
			Singing Club Rec, Yrs 1 & 2 3.05 - 4pm Mrs Jackson	

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FERNDOWN FIRST SCHOOL
TERM DATES & HOLIDAYS
SEPTEMBER 2024 - JULY 2025

AUTUMN TERM 2024

Inset Day	Monday 2 September 2024
Inset Day	Tuesday 3 September 2024
Term Starts	Wednesday 4 September 2024
Half Term	Monday 28 October – Friday 1 November 2024
Term Ends	Friday 20 December 2024
Christmas Holiday	Monday 23 December 2024 – Friday 3 January 2025

SPRING TERM 2025

Term Starts	Monday 6 January 2025
Half Term Holiday	Monday 17 February – Friday 21 February 2025
Term Ends	Friday 4 April 2025
Easter Holiday	Monday 7 April – Monday 21 April 2025

SUMMER TERM 2025

Term Starts	Tuesday 22 April 2025
May Day Holiday	Monday 5 May 2025
Half Term Holiday	Monday 26 May – Friday 30 May 2025
Inset Day	Monday 30 June 2025
Term Ends	Friday 18 July 2025
Inset Day	Monday 21 July 2025
Inset Day	Tuesday 22 July 2025

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Monday 28th - Wednesday 30th October.
9am to 3pm

OCTOBER 2024 CREATIVE PLAY HOLIDAY CLUBS

WHERE WE ARE!
King George V Playing
Fields (Ferndown)

£ COST!
£25.00 Per Day

Activities

- ✓ Arts & Crafts
- ✓ Active Games
- ✓ Cooking Classes
- ✓ Outdoor Play
- ✓ Themed Workshops

www.pesspa-education.co.uk

OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

PRIORITY

At our holiday clubs, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is our utmost priority. We are dedicated to providing a safe, nurturing environment where children can thrive and explore their potential to the fullest extent. Our team undergoes rigorous training and adheres to robust policies and procedures designed to ensure the well-being and protection of every child in our care. We are committed to fostering an atmosphere of trust, respect, and inclusivity, where children feel valued, supported, and empowered to flourish.

Ages
5 To 14

We accept childcare and Tax free childcare vouchers

Logos: Dorset Council, BCP Council, Ofsted

QR Code: SCAN ME

PESSPA EDUCATION & PLAY

This October half term, treat your child to an unforgettable adventure filled with laughter, learning, and thrilling fun at our Halloween Multi Activity Clubs! Our dynamic program promises a diverse range of activities to keep your little ones engaged and entertained throughout the holiday season.

Spooky Sports: From pumpkin bowling to spider web obstacle courses, your child will enjoy exploring themed sports and honing their skills in a spirited and supportive environment.

Creepy Crafts: Spark your child's creativity with Halloween-themed arts and crafts activities, where they can unleash their imagination and create spooky masterpieces to cherish.

Haunted Cooking: Watch as your little chefs conjure up eerie treats and learn valuable culinary skills under the guidance of our experienced instructors.

Outdoor Adventures: Let your child embrace the autumn outdoors with thrilling games, nature walks amidst the changing leaves, and spooky adventures in the crisp, cool air.

Plus, there's more! Our Halloween Multi Activity Clubs offer pumpkin patch visits, engaging group activities, and opportunities for new friendships to blossom amidst the festive spirit.

Ferndown First School Parents will receive 30% off when using this voucher code at check out: **Spooky30%**

To secure your child's space, please visit our website - <https://pesspa-education.co.uk/>



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New School Crossing Patrol Information

Sarah Middleton, the new School Crossing Patrol for Church Road is keen to help educate those using her crossing point and for them to understand why she is there. Although the information below is aimed at Key Stage 3 & 4 children, we believe this may be of interest to parents, should your children (whatever their age) use the school crossing patrol:

School Crossing Patrol Presentation

Welcome address to Key stage 3 & 4 children

Pedestrians

Even where a School Crossing Patrol is provided, parents remain responsible for making sure their children get to school safely, just as they do when a zebra crossing, or pelican crossing is provided. When children arrive at the Crossing Point:

School Crossing Patrols are able to assist anyone who seeks their help in crossing the road - not just children!

It is an offence under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 if you do not stop when signalled to do so by a School Crossing Patrol. If you do not stop the possible penalties include:

- A fine of up to £1,000
- 3 points on your licence
- Disqualification

- 1** The Patrol will tell them to wait on the pavement and may use the Stop sign as a barrier to prevent them from edging forward, until they are called to cross (see fig B overleaf).
- 2** The Patrol will then use the Stop sign to instruct traffic to stop (see fig C). The Patrol may need to wait for a safe gap in the traffic.
DO NOT FOLLOW THE PATROL INTO THE ROAD!
- 3** When the traffic has stopped, the Patrol will call you to cross over (see fig D). Please walk in front of the Patrol so he or she can see you.
- 4** The Patrol will remain in the centre of the road until all the children and adults have completed crossing the road.



Drivers

When approaching a school you should reduce your speed and be prepared to stop, also be patient and considerate. School Crossing Patrols need to see and be seen! It can be difficult to see children on the pavement, especially if there are parked cars by the school. Children may run into the road without thinking about traffic.

If you are a driver, remember:

- By law you **MUST** stop when signalled to do so by a Patrol displaying a Stop sign.
- Do not move forward and please remain patient.
- Do not park close to where a Patrol is working and **NEVER** on the zig zag markings.
- Look out for patrol signs or flashing amber lights which warn of a School Crossing Patrol ahead.
- Park with courtesy and consideration to others, observing all parking regulations in accordance with the Highway Code and in such a way that our children are able to enter and leave the school safely.

PLEASE SLOW DOWN WHEN APPROACHING A PATROL
Remember that a child struck at 20mph will most likely survive but at 40mph they will most likely die.

- A Fine of up to £1000
- 3 Penalty Points
- Disqualification



School Crossing Patrol Signals



Figure A - Sign upside down Not ready to cross pedestrians



Figure B - Sign sideways Barrier to stop pedestrians crossing



Figure C - Sign held up high
Ready to cross pedestrians - vehicles must be prepared to stop



Figure D - Extended out
All vehicles must stop

Please support your local School Crossing Patrol Service

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