

## Dear Parents and Carers

It's been a super busy week! On Monday, members of the Year 3 and 4 School Council walked to the Royal British Legion with me to lay a wreath that children in Year 4 had made and we attended a short service of Remembrance.



It was a lovely service, and the children were great ambassadors for the school.



Congratulations to Oak-Lee in Year 4 who has been competing at a national level for go-karting. Recently, he has achieved first place in the Clay Pigeon Kart Club Championship, Forest Edge Kart Club Championship and Wessex Championship. Well done, Oak-Lee.

I have been with Year 4 this week working on their production of 'Pirates of the Curry Bean'. It has been great fun but also a lot of hard work. We are at the point where children are not using their scripts, and I am impressed with how the children are learning their lines.

We have some very talented children and there is a lovely scene between the characters of Scuttle and Slack that makes me chuckle.

Well done to Ahlia and Kelsey for bringing these characters to life!

Have a great weekend.

Yours sincerely



Mr Sean Watts  
Headteacher



## Staff News



### Miss Piddock

I am sure you will join me in congratulating Miss Piddock on the birth of her beautiful baby, Eloise, who was born in September.

Mum and baby are doing very well. We have already been very lucky to have had a visit from Miss Piddock who introduced us to her lovely daughter!

## Ferndown First School PFA (Parents' & Friends' Association)

Thank you to everyone who attended our first Ferndown First School PFA AGM on Monday evening. It was a very successful meeting where lots of ideas and plans were put forward for some exciting events over the rest of this academic year - we'll keep you posted!

Congratulations to the following parents who put themselves forward and have successfully been appointed as PFA committee members:

Chair: Simon Roberts  
Vice Chair: Sarah Thorne  
Treasurer: Becky Saunders  
Vice Treasurer: Claire Barber  
Secretary: Rebecca Ellement

The PFA has already been busy this week and a flyer has been sent out to parents regarding the **Christmas Gift of Love Appeal** which FFS PFA is supporting this year. As mentioned in the flyer, further opportunities will be available to drop donations off to school over the next few weeks. Thank you for your continued support.

## Anti-Bullying Week

This week, I led an assembly on Monday to introduce Anti-Bullying Week to the children. Year 1-4 children also watched a live lesson which focused on this subject. Thank you to all those parents who supported Anti-Bullying Week by providing their children with odd socks to wear on Tuesday.



We have updated our Anti-Bullying policy which we will publish on our website next week.

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## 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.

### The 4Rs

At Ferndown First School, when a child has become dysregulated, we follow a sequence of engagement created by Louise Bomber, which consists of Regulate, Relate, Reason, and Repair.

### The 4 Rs – Louise Bomber’s Sequence of Engagement

#### REPAIR - A way of re-connecting

- A conversation between the child and the adult to determine what can be done to put things right linked to the behaviour. For example: Saying sorry, fixing something that is broken, doing a random act of kindness, play a game, to ‘put a smile’ back on a person’s face and to make it better.
  - The activities are part of the repair process and help a child to feel that they will be welcomed back no matter what has happened.
  - It is always done together, to decrease both stress and shame and increase learning.
  - We tell the child that we will all start afresh.
- Adults always review what has happened and identify if there was anything that could have been done differently to support the child.

#### REGULATE - A way of soothing

- Use co-regulatory approaches to settle and soothe a child e.g. sensory breaks. - snacks, music, sensory bags.
- Provide the child with a safe, smaller space.
- Using the outdoor space to climb, connect with nature
- Follow lead follow
- Wonder aloud using feelings language “I can see that you are angry” “I can see something is not quite right – can you tell me about it?”
- Empathise “I understand why you are angry” “I would feel angry too if that happened to me”
- Separate the behaviour from the feeling “It’s OK to feel upset, but it’s not OK to hurt”



#### REASON - A way of Reflecting

- Reflection time with an adult from the team around the child.
- Ask **what** instead of **why**. “What were you trying to do when you....” “Let’s think of what you could have done instead”
- Ask thinking questions before feeling questions.
- Reflection time is always supported by an adult. “We will find a way to work this out together.”
- Reflection time needs to happen when the child is regulated and able to reflect upon their behaviour.
- Use drawing, comic strip conversations, a story book, pictures, objects, animals to support the reflective conversations.
- Stay warm, open and engaged.

#### RELATE - A way of connecting

- Use playfulness which will reduce the sense of threat. It enables connection and learning.
- Use less threats which will mean fewer challenging incidents and less confrontations.
- **Name it to tame it** It is a technique that involves noticing and labelling emotions as they’re happening. “I can see you are angry as your fists are clenched.”
- Use curiosity - “I wonder what might have happened”.
- Body language – arms open, take a step back with surrender arms, face expressive of emotion that mirrors the child’s experience.
- Do something together to re-connect. A drawing, a game, a sensory experience.

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## Governor News

### Mr Paul Clarke - Goodbye and thank you!



We said goodbye to Paul Clarke, a long-standing member of our governing body last week, where, at a special assembly, we presented him with a gift of thanks for his service to our school.

Paul has been a member of our governing body since 2014 and has taken on many roles including Vice Chair and Chair. He has seen our school through two Ofsted inspections and implementation of the Castleman Academy Trust.

We are extremely grateful for the last ten years he has supported our school. Staff and children and wish him well for the future.

### Our New Parent Governors - Welcome!

Thank you to those parents who voted for our two new Parent Governors. We were very grateful to the four candidates who put themselves forward for election which closed on Thursday. We are pleased to welcome Miss Claire Barber and Mrs Anna Willis as new parent governors and have provided a summary of their statements below for your information:

#### Miss Claire Barber



*Claire was a student at Ferndown First School and has had 2 children at the school over the last 6 years.*

*Claire currently manages the finances for a not-for-profit organisation which provides financial and HR services for unincorporated charities as well as previously working across the public sector in the Armed Forces, Local Government and in universities.*

*In her new role as parent governor, Claire is, 'looking forward to giving something back to the school that gave so much to me and now to my children.'*

#### Mrs Anna Willis

*As a children's occupational therapist, business owner, and mum, Anna is looking forward to bringing her skills and experience to our School Standards Board*

*Professionally, Anna has significant experience supporting mainstream schools in their inclusion of children with additional needs. She is an Advanced Sensory Integration Practitioner and has a special interest in creating sensory environments, particularly within mainstream schools where budget and spaces are often limited.*

*Anna is looking forward to working with the school as an advocate for those who find it hardest to engage in school life.*



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## Celebrate Learning

### EYFS

This week, we watched a short clip on 'Willo the Wisp'. We then based our drawing club around this. We drew the main character and the wood and thought of what could happen when we write our secret word.

We have now started handwriting practise in the afternoons. We will begin with the long ladder letters and will move on individually once they have been mastered. The letters we begin with are l i t u y j.

We really enjoyed shared reading this week. We read 'Supertato' and joined in with the repeated phrases and spoke about the characters and the main character. We also began our helicopter stories. Each group takes it in turns to tell a story to the teacher at the start of the week. They then get acted out at the end of the week.

We have also started rehearsing for our Christmas performance! It's only 3 weeks now!

### Year 1

In Year 1 this half term, the children are continuing to develop their sentence construction, using capital letters, finger spaces and full stops. We will also be introducing the personal pronoun 'I' and the conjunction 'and'.

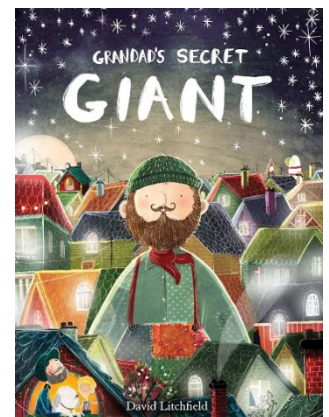
In Science, we are learning all about the season Autumn, the children thoroughly enjoyed going for a walk around the school grounds looking for signs of Autumn. In DT, the children will be designing, making and evaluating their own fruit face - keep an eye out on the website for photos of this activity!

### Year 2

We are enjoying the variety of our learning in Year 2. In maths, we have been focusing on addition and subtraction. We have used our knowledge of number bonds to 10 and have been writing fact families of equations relating to addition and subtraction operations. We are starting to understand to use the inverse of one operation to check calculations using the other operation. We are learning efficient ways to complete our calculations, such as making 10 first to aid mental calculations. Continuing to improve the rapid recall of number bonds to 10 will help us as we continue our learning.

Our English text, Grandad's Secret Giant, has inspired us to write question sentences and to understand that an exclamation mark is used when something is surprising or forceful. We will begin to extend our sentences, creating compound sentences, using conjunctions.

In our history unit about the Wright Brothers, we are exploring how to make predictions using evidence. We decided, based on facts about their life, if we thought they would make an aeroplane fly. We have gone on to learn that they kept on trying, despite many failures, and that they were the first to fly a powered aircraft. As the unit progresses, we will continue to learn about sources of evidence and how they help us as historians. We will also build on what we learnt about chronology in Year 1 and start to understand how people's actions create changes.



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### Year 3

This half term in computing the children are learning about animation. So far, they have made a flip book animation of their own and learned that animation is a sequence of drawings or photographs. The children are excited about planning and creating their own stop frame animations over the next few weeks.

The children in Year 3 and 4 who have signed up to Junior Duke have now received their booklet or an email with login details if they chose the online portal option. The children are excited about choosing their challenges and are keen to get started. A number of children have already completed their first challenge!

If you have signed up for Junior Duke and your child has not received their booklet or login then please speak to your child's class teacher or Mrs Lord (Junior Duke Leader).

### Year 4

In Year 4, preparations are well underway for the Year 4 pantomime, Pirates of the Curry Bean! Children have been working very hard to learn their lines and practice songs. Rehearsals have been going brilliantly. The teachers are very proud! The children are very excited about performing at the Barrington Theatre and showing off their hard work to their families. Thank you for all the support given at home. It is very much appreciated.



### 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 3<sup>rd</sup> and Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

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

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

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## Yr 4 - Pirates of the Curry Bean

We have been rehearsing our performance of Pirates of the Curry Bean this week - these have been going well and children have enjoyed getting into character for their parts!



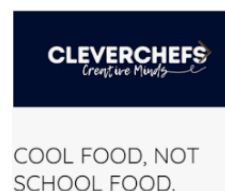
Thank you to those parents who supported their children by helping them to learn their lines over the half term holiday.

**Tickets** - These are still available! Please refer to the letter regarding ticket purchases sent home last week for more information.

- Parents are asked to pay for their seats via ParentMail. We are able to allocate two tickets per child per performance at a cost of £4 per ticket. There will be an item set up for each performance date, with a maximum of two tickets available for each performance.
- Everyone attending the performance **must** have a ticket. (Children under 5 yrs of age will also need a ticket ordered for them but there is no charge for these.) **NO TICKET, NO ADMISSION!** Purchases for tickets via ParentMail will close at 3pm on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November. Your tickets will then be sent home with your child.
- Depending on ticket sales, we will let parents know if there are any additional tickets available on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November.

## Change to Hot School Meal Provider - Clever Chefs

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



More information has been sent home to parents this week regarding the process for ordering meals - please read through the details thoroughly. Children will have more options to choose from each day, so we would appreciate your support at home to go through the menus with your child to help with the decision process at school!



## Children in Need 2024

Thank you to everyone who has supported Children in Need again this year. The children embraced this very popular fundraising event - there were a lot of spots in school today!

We will advise parents of the amount they have very generously donated for this very worthwhile cause in due course. Parents can also make their own donations directly to Children in Need.

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## Bedtime Story Event - Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December

A flyer has been sent home today providing parents with details of our forthcoming Bedtime Story Event which takes place from 5pm - 6.15pm on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December. Please see the flyer for more information. Details regarding payment of £3 per child for this event via ParentMail will be made available on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November.



## Christmas Services - Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December

There will be two separate services in the morning on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December. We are currently planning these services with St Mary's and will provide more information in due course. Our school choir will sing at both services.

09.15: EYFS, Year 1 and 2 Service.

10.45: Year 3 and 4 Service.

## Christmas Card Orders

Your child will have brought home their Christmas Card design this week. Please use these cards to place your orders. If you have mislaid the card, we can obtain your login details - please contact the office for these.



The deadline for orders to be delivered to school for free is **Monday 18th November**. Orders can still be placed up until 1st December but will incur a delivery charge.

All orders placed by Monday 18th November will help raise funds for the school. Thank you.

## After School Club and Breakfast Club

### After School 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.

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## 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.



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>



### Car Park - School Events

Parents will be attending some events in school over the coming weeks.

Please be aware that there will be no parking available in the school car park during the school day and there will only be 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 there if possible.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.



### Hand Hygiene

At this time of year, there is an increase in the normal seasonal viruses such as colds, coughs, sickness and diarrhea and hand, foot and mouth. Children are regularly asked to wash their hands at school, after using the toilet and before lunch, snacktime etc. Please encourage your child to follow the same hygiene procedures at home so that they can remain healthy and free of germs, especially on the run up to the festive season. Thank you.

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

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## LUNCHTIME AND AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS TIMETABLE

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>LUNCHTIMES</b>				
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	
<b>AFTER SCHOOL</b>				
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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