

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you to all parents, family members and friends who came along to what, I am sure you will agree, were outstanding performances by Year 4 children of 'Pirates of the Curry Bean' at the Barrington Theatre this week. It was lovely to welcome the Mayor of Ferndown, Terry Cordery, who loved the performance.

I am incredibly proud of the children in Year 4. They worked hard to learn lines, dances, and songs. We have some very talented children at Ferndown First School. Producing and staging a show in a theatre is a huge undertaking. Year 4 worked as an effective team, and it was clear how they supported each other in the shows. Backstage staff are often the unsung heroes of the theatre world, so I would like to give a special thanks to the children who chose a backstage role for the play. They did a fantastic job, and the play would not have happened without them!

I have received some wonderful feedback from parents; a couple of the comments that I would like to share with you:

'The panto was fantastic yesterday. I laughed a lot. The children were amazing!'

'I was blown away by the amazing panto Year 4 have done this week'



We are pleased to inform you that, through your generous donations, we have collected nearly **£400**, which will be split between Macmillan Cancer Support and our school fund. We have taken some professional photos of the show and filmed some of it in school which will be shared with all Year 4 parents before the end of term. Just give me a minute!

Have a great weekend.
Yours sincerely



Mr Sean Watts
Headteacher

Meyers Winning Christmas Card Entry

Congratulations to Yasmin in Year 2, who won the Meyers estate agent Christmas card competition. A representative from Meyers joined our assembly to present Yasmin with her prize. Yasmin was awarded a £50 voucher, and the school were awarded a £250 voucher.

All children will bring home printed Christmas cards with Yasmin's lovely Christmas design. Well done, Yasmin.



Year 3 Trips

Year 3 has had a super busy couple of weeks! Last week, Robin class made it to the heath to learn all about the wildlife and plants we find there, but unfortunately, Wren and Lark's trip was snowed off. They learnt all about the wildlife on the heath in the classroom instead.



This week, as part of their history learning about the Stone Age, Year 3 enjoyed a trip to the Museum of East Dorset in Wimborne. The children took part in an indoor archaeological dig, cave painting, and object handling.

Although traffic delayed them for a time, the children thoroughly enjoyed the trip and were excellent ambassadors for our school.

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Smartphone Free Childhood - Survey

We continue to support the Smartphone Free Childhood campaign as a school and will soon restrict smartphones at school events.



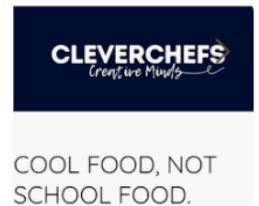
We would be grateful if parents could spend a couple of minutes completing our very short survey (link below). This will then give us some idea of smartphone use amongst the children at our school.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=D0iXCLYRCkSc8hQrKwfX_NtWvy-w1XxEkKhRvSmBQyIUMDIZODM4R0tVNEFOQ1NYU0czMkFBN1FKRC4u

More information about smartphone-free childhood can be found at:
<https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/>

Change to Hot School Meal Provider - Clever Chefs

The changeover to our new hot school meal provider, Clever Chefs, has gone very smoothly. Thank you to parents for supporting us at home by going through the menus with their children to help with the decision-making process at school! I am delighted that we are offering more options for children to choose from. The filled rolls have been popular as have the salad and fruit selection.



Children in Need 2024



Thank you to everyone who has supported Children in Need again this year. As mentioned in my last Newsletter, I can now confirm the total amount raised from your donations totalled **£82.71**, with an additional **£9** from a cake sale that After School Club ran on the day. Thank you. This will now be sent off to the charity.

Poppy Appeal

Thank you to all children and adults that bought a poppy. We raised a total of £25.36. the total raised by the District was £25,500. Your support has made a real difference to those in the Armed Forces.



Year 4 - Avon Tyrrell Residential Visit 2025



The cost of the Yr 4 residential trip to Avon Tyrrell taking place between Monday 3rd and Wednesday 5th March 2025 is £210.

Please refer to the ParentMail letter sent home recently, which provides details on how to pay the balance for the trip, including part-pay options.

- The second instalment of £40 is due by **Friday 6th December 2024**.

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- 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.

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>

Christmas Card Orders

Your child will have recently brought home their Christmas Card design. 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 has now passed. However, orders can still be placed up until 1 December, but a delivery charge will apply.



Car Park - School Events

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

Please be aware that parking will not be 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 on Mountbatten Drive and Brabourne Avenue and avoid parking there if possible. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.



Coats in School - Reminder

As the days are getting colder, please ensure that your children are coming into school with suitable named coats to keep them warm as they will also be wearing these for playtime and lunchtime breaks. Thank you.

Last Day of Term Collection Arrangement.

On Friday 20th December, the last day of term, there are two collection times. Parents may pick up at 1.15pm or 3.05pm. The collection form will go live on **Monday 16th December**.

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Adverse Weather - Information for Parents re School Closure



Whilst the children all enjoyed seeing the snow last week, as the weather can become unpredictable at this time of the year, arrangements need to be in place to cope with sudden snowfalls or severe weather that may prevent staff from reaching school.

- Parents are advised that, in the event of a heavy frost, there may be occasions when site staff have to lock all access gates until gritting of key areas has been completed.
- There may be days when we have to bring children into school from doors at the front of school.
- Parents will be notified of any changes to the entry and exit arrangements but this might be at short notice, so we ask for your patience, understanding and co-operation.
- Parents must:
 - adhere to the designated, gritted pathways into school only
 - supervise their children before and after school whilst on school premises
 - ensure that their children are wearing sensible footwear and warm coats
- Please check ParentMail text messaging service and updated notices on our website.

Parents can also access information on:

<https://gi.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/closedservices/Service/schools>

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service has asked us to make the following information available for parents and carers:

‘Following Storm Bert and Storm Conall, the Met Office has now predicted a sudden drop in temperature.

To help keep yourself, your family, friends, neighbours and others safe please consider reminding yourself of the following advice:

Road Safety

[Dorset & Wiltshire Fire Service | Driving in adverse conditions](#)

[Dorset & Wiltshire Fire Service | Winter driving checklist](#)

Home Safety

[Dorset & Wiltshire Fire Service | Storms and power cuts](#)

[Dorset & Wiltshire Fire Service | Staying warm safely](#)



Water Safety

Stay away from flooded or swollen rivers and the coast in storm conditions. Keep dogs on leads around water. Keep children away from water and ice. If somebody (or animal) is in trouble in the water, never go in the water to rescue them yourself; call 999 and ask for the fire and rescue service (if inland) and coastguard (if at the coast)

Where are you?

Consider downloading what3words on your mobile phone to help give an accurate location should you need the emergency services when out.

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EYFS Christmas Performances

Our EYFS children are busy rehearsing songs for their performances on Monday 9th and Tuesday 10th December.



The performances start at 9.15am daily and are expected to last around 45 minutes. Admission will be via the staff entrance from 9am. Parents are asked to avoid bringing pushchairs into the school hall, please.

A letter with more information has already been sent home to parents. Please don't forget to send into school, in a named carrier bag, a Christmas jumper or festive-coloured top that your child can wear for the performances. These will be sent back home on Tuesday, December 10th.

Tickets will be sent home on Friday, December 6th, so if you have yet to order them, please do so as soon as possible.

There will be a retiring collection in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support and Ferndown First School. We look forward to seeing you next week!

Bedtime Story Event - Thursday 5th December



Bookings are now closed for this event.

We are looking forward to our annual Christmas Bedtime Story Event on Thursday, December 5th, from 5:00 to 6.15pm. Many thanks to the parents/carers who have volunteered to help with this event. Mrs Errington will contact you shortly to provide further details.

More details about the Bedtime Story Event will be sent home to parents shortly.

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Christmas Post

The year group Christmas Post Boxes will be open from **Monday, December 9th**. If children would like to send Christmas Cards to their friends, please make sure the envelopes include their full name and class name if possible. Thank you.

Choir on Tour - December Dates

Our Choir on Tour has a particularly busy schedule in December! On Tuesday, December 17th, children from the school choir will take part in a carol-singing tour of a selection of Ferndown's nursing and care homes. The tour will also visit Ferndown Village Hall on Wednesday, December 11th, Kings Park Care Home on Wednesday, December 18th, and the Beacon Café at St Mary's Church and Fairlawns Care Home on Thursday, December 19th.



A letter with more information and a request to complete an online consent form will be sent home via ParentMail for the children who said they would like to participate. The choir has 80+ members. On the other days, we will split them into smaller groups to attend the different venues. Some may participate on more than one day. Please remind choir members to wear school uniform on the 11th, 17th, 18th, and 19th of December.

On Wednesday 11th December, Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th December, we will be visiting locations within walking distance.

The choir will be travelling by coach on Tuesday 17th December.

Please do not park in Mountbatten Drive on the approach to the school entrance, as we need to ensure coach access. Thank You.



Christmas Jumper Day

Christmas Jumper Day is Friday 13th December. Children are invited to wear a Christmas or festive jumper over their uniform. If your child is due to have PE on Friday, please ensure they wear normal school uniform instead of PE uniform.

Please note that we are not asking for donations this year.

Christmas Lunch

Christmas lunch will be available on **Thursday 19th December**. The menu will swap Wednesday and Thursday that week (Week 1). Children will choose from the options as normal. One of the options will be a roast chicken option. All children will eat together with Christmas hats and music.

If you do not wish your child to be part of the Christmas lunch, please email the office.



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Christmas Services - Wednesday 18th December



There will be two separate services in the morning on Wednesday, December 18th. We are planning these services with St Mary's and will provide more information soon. Our school choir will sing at both services. If you do not wish your child to participate in the church services, please email the office.

09.15: EYFS, Year 1 and 2 Service.

10.45: Year 3 and 4 Service.

Christmas Hamper Raffle

In the run-up to the Christmas festivities, Christmas Hamper 'Wear Your Own Clothes Day' will be taking place on **Friday 6th December**. Children will be able to come to school on this day dressed in their own clothes and will be asked to bring in a donation to go towards the PFA Christmas hampers. Information regarding the requested donations for each year group will be printed on flyers which will be sent home via ParentMail today.

Children will be bringing home two books of raffle tickets on Monday (each book contains five raffle tickets at £1 each).

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

The PFA has already been busy this week, and a flyer regarding the Christmas Gift of Love Appeal, which Ferndown First School PFA is supporting this year, has been sent out to parents. 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.

Please also have a look at the first PFA Newsletter which is being sent home this week. Details on planned events and other information which parents may also find helpful are included. We look forward to working alongside the PFA and thank you for your continued support.

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>

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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 **£479!** 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

The table below provides some dates for your diary over the next academic year. 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	
Thursday 5 th December	PFA Bedtime Story Event
Friday 6 th December	Wear your own clothes day - Donations for Christmas Hamper
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
Thursday 19 th December	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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PESSPA Christmas Holiday Clubs – Book Your Child’s Spot Today!



Monday 23rd December, Thursday 2nd & Friday 3rd January - 9am to 1pm

CHRISTMAS 2024 CREATIVE PLAY CELEBRATION DAYS

LOCATION 1
King George V Playing Fields
Peter Grant Way
Ferndown
BH22 9EN

LOCATION 2
St Lukes CoE Primary School
Bemister Road
Bournemouth
BH9 1LG

£20.00 Per Day (HAF Spaces Available)

www.pesspa-education.co.uk

Activities

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

Ages

5 To 14

We accept childcare and Tax free childcare vouchers







SCAN ME



Monday 23rd December & Friday 3rd January
9am to 1pm

CHRISTMAS 2024 INDOOR FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT DAY

LOCATION 1
Ferndown Leisure Centre
Ferndown
Cherry Grove
BH22 9EZ

£20.00 Per Day (HAF Spaces Available)

www.pesspa-education.co.uk

What To Expect

- ✓ Warm Up Competitions
- ✓ Penalty Shootout
- ✓ Match Play
- ✓ Fairly Run Tournaments
- ✓ Lots Of Prizes To Be Won

Ages

8 To 14

We accept childcare and Tax free childcare vouchers







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