



NEWSLETTER
NO 7
13th December 2024



Dear Parents and Carers

Christmas time is a lovely time in school. This week, our youngest children performed their 'Countdown to Christmas' show. It was lovely to see each child take their turn on the stage, and I thought the speakers did a very good job saying their lines into the microphone, in front of lots of parents. Memories were made!

We have filmed 'The Pirates of the Curry Bean' show in school. We will share this next week after we have edited it. There might be another Christmas surprise we have been working on too. Watch out for that next week! There are still plenty of raffle tickets left for the Christmas Hamper raffle. The hampers are looking great. Well worth £1 per ticket.

There will be a final Newsletter for 2024 next Friday when we will share updates on all the lovely events that the children have been taking part in over the final week of this term.

Have a lovely weekend!

Mr Sean Watts
Headteacher

Christmas Cards – NO chocolates, please!

It is lovely to see the children receive Christmas cards from their friends at this time of year; however, parents are reminded that, due to several children in school with allergies and dietary restrictions, chocolates should not be attached/put into envelopes. Thank you for your cooperation



New Pathway News

We are pleased to advise that we have received confirmation that a new pathway is going to be constructed at the end of February between Ferndown Leisure Centre and the main pathway through to King George V playing grounds.

Dominic in Year 2 and his mum, who have tirelessly fundraised enough money for this path to be installed, also wanted to pass on their thanks to all those parents who donated which has helped to enable the construction of this path to go ahead.

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New Appointments

We have welcomed Miss Julian to our cleaning staff team recently and have also appointed two new midday supervisors, Mrs Mackins and Mrs Evans, who will increase our capacity over the lunchtime period. We look forward to working with them all.



Car Park – Reminder

Parents continue to park illegally by parking on kerbs and double yellow lines outside the school causing obstructions and, therefore, endangering the safety of other parents and children who are using the pavements or trying to cross the road.

Parents are advised to leave plenty of time to park safely 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.

School Meals - Clever Chefs

Since Clever Chefs took over the provision of our school meals, we have noticed that the quality of the food has really improved. We are very pleased with the way children have adapted to their new meals and how they have adopted the changes we have made at lunchtimes.

We are very grateful for any feedback we receive from parents, grandparents or carers; a message from a grandparent recently stated that they were *'so pleased with the change in lunch provider as their picky granddaughter is eating more variety and different veg and is generally happier around lunches!'*

Free hot school meals are available to those children in Reception, Years 1 and 2. For more information, please contact the school office.

Smartphone Free Childhood Survey – Please complete!

We continue to support the Smartphone Free Childhood campaign as a school.

Thank you to over 120 parents who have already completed our short survey (link below) which will give us some idea of smartphone use amongst the children at our school. If you have a couple of minutes to spare, please complete this before Monday 16th December. I would like to provide a summary of the results in next week's final newsletter of the term. Thank you.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=DOiXCLYRckSc8hQrKwfx_Nk_IAFgkHtMr2WQDGG441NUMDIZODM4R0tVNEFOQ1NYU0czMkFBN1FKRCQIQCN0PWcu

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

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Tips for Staying Safe Online this Christmas



With a huge increase in sales of devices, it's important to ensure that you and your children are safe when playing with new technology. To help, the UK Safer Internet Centre and CEOP (NCA) have provided a few top tips to help keep your household safe online over the holidays. Please use the following links for further information:

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/top-tips-for-staying-safe-online-at-christmas>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/Parental-controls/>



Education from
the National
Crime Agency

Christmas Lunch – Reminder: Action Required

Further to the information in our last newsletter regarding Christmas Lunch taking place on Thursday 19th December, Clever Chefs have now requested that all lunches are pre-ordered by **1pm on Monday 16th December**.

Due to the volume of meals being prepared on this day, your child will be able to pre-order from the following options:

- Roast turkey, pig in blanket, skin on roasties, parsnips, carrots, peas, stuffing and gravy
- Vegetarian option: Nutless roast, vegan sausage, roast potatoes, carrots, peas, sprouts and gravy
- Special dietary requirements: alternative menu request

Dessert will be a snowy chocolate brownie.

Please note: There will be no other food available from the school kitchen on this day.

Normal lunch fees will apply. Your child is of course still welcome to bring in a packed lunch and they will still participate in the festivities of the day!

Please complete the form that has been sent out on ParentMail **as soon as possible and no later than 1pm on Monday 16th December**. You can use this form to indicate if your child will be bringing in a packed lunch from home.

If the form is not completed and your child does not have a packed lunch with them on Thursday next week, we will be phoning home and asking you to bring them a packed lunch into school.

Please be reminded that next Thursdays normal menu of meatballs will be available to order on Wednesday instead.



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Bedtime Story Event



We had lots of fun at our annual Christmas Bedtime Story event last week! A record number of children came back to school dressed in the pyjamas for a Christmas story and craft session.

The classrooms were decorated beautifully with fairy lights and decorations and the children got cosy, listening to a festive story. Lots of care was taken to create colourful tree decorations which the children were able to take home.

Thank you to Tesco for donating the milk and biscuits and to the PFA for decorating the classrooms!

Christmas Jumper Day

Thank you to all those parents who supported our Christmas Jumper Day by allowing their children to wear a festive jumper into school...there was certainly a huge variety of brightly coloured Christmassy designs on show!

Events next week...

Christmas Services – Wednesday 18th December

There will be two separate services in the morning on Wednesday 18th December. Our choir will sing at both services. If you do not wish your child to participate in the church services, please email the office.

ALL children should be dressed in school uniform on this day. Thank you.

- 09.15: EYFS, Years 1 and 2 Service
- 10.45: Years 3 and 4 Service

Choir on Tour

Our Choir on Tour will be particularly busy next week! They will be singing to the residents of a selection of Ferndown's nursing and care homes on Tuesday, Kings Park Care Home on Wednesday and visiting the Beacon Café at St Mary's Church and Fairlawns Care Home on Thursday. This is in addition to a visit to the Village Hall on Wednesday this week! **If your child is in the choir, please ensure your child is wearing their school uniform on these days.**

On 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.

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Supporting the Community at Christmas

Food Parcels – Our thanks go to Mrs Hurst’s husband who is Managing Director of MVS Audio Visual, and who has very generously donated a large quantity of food to the school which has been divided up into food parcels and which will be distributed to families locally.

Santa Sacks – Many thanks also to Ferndown Community Support Group who have donated several Santa Sacks to our school again this year which contain a variety of gifts for those children and families locally.

Fairlawns Care Home - Reindeer photo opportunity

Fairlawns Care home in Ferndown, who are located opposite the doctors’ surgery near to Tesco, have advised us that they have a wooden sleigh on their lawn which they are very happy for children to play on and have photos taken on it.

Last Day of Term Collection Arrangements

Friday 20th December is the last day of term – there are two collection times on this day. Parents may pick up their children at 1.15pm or 3.05pm.

A collection form for parents to complete will be available on Monday 16th December on ParentMail. Please ensure you complete this as soon as possible. Thank you.

Adverse Weather – Information for Parents re School Closure

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://mapping.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/closedservices/Service/schools>

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Christmas Hamper Raffle



We are very grateful to everyone who supported our Christmas Hamper 'Wear Your Own Clothes Day' last week where children brought in a donation for the PFA Christmas Hamper Raffle draw which will be taking place on Thursday 19th December.

We have already sold around 900 tickets which is fantastic news! To win one of the lovely Christmas hampers we are offering, please ensure the stubs are completed and returned to the main school office with the correct money in a sealed envelope, marked with your child's name, class and 'RAFFLE' by 3pm on **Wednesday 18th December**.

If you require more tickets, please see a member of the school office. Tickets will only be sold if the purchaser has the correct money, as no change can be given at the office.

Your School Lottery – How it Works....

In the last PFA Newsletter, a new initiative was introduced called 'Your School Lottery' specifically to raise money and make a difference for the children.



Please find attached to the end of this Newsletter further information regarding this weekly lottery and how, by joining, you can make a real difference to Ferndown First School. A link to Your School Lottery is also provided below which will take you to the Your School Lottery Ferndown First School page. Thank you.

https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/ferndown-first-school?utm_campaign=Howitworks&utm_source=ysl&utm_medium=Leaflet&utm_content=Hyperlink

Donations

We are very grateful for all your generous donations to the various events that have taken place over the last week, and which are due to take place before the end of term. These have been very much appreciated:

Yr 4 Pirates of the Curry Bean Production - £354.33

EYFS Christmas Performances - £113.15

Bedtime Story Event - £681.16 (PFA Funds)

Children in Need - £62.85

Donations from Y4 and EYFS performances will be split between Macmillan Cancer Support and the school fund. We will have further information regarding the total amounts for any other events in our first Newsletter after the holidays.

**** For further information and photos about the events above and below, please take a look at our website****



YOUR
SCHOOL
LOTTERY

**SUPPORT
OUR LOTTERY
TODAY**

**£1 per
week**

**Weekly
cash prizes**

**£25,000
jackpot**



Splitting the £1.00

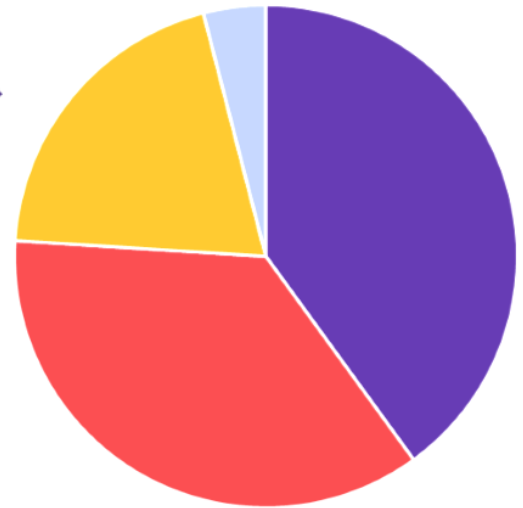
How it works...

It's simple—choose 6 numbers between 0-9 and if they match the weekly lottery draw, you win great prizes. One of our players will win a cash prize every week, maybe even the £25k jackpot! Tickets cost just £1 per week and the proceeds are donated to Ferndown First School

Every Saturday at 8pm the numbers are drawn and posted online. Winners are notified by email and winnings paid into the account of your choice.

The easiest way to join our lottery is online by direct debit or debit card.

It's so easy to join and will make a real difference to Ferndown First School



- 40p** goes to our school
- 36p** goes to cash prizes
- 20p** goes to admin costs
- 4p** goes to VAT

The Maths... 100 tickets sold a week means

= £30 weekly cash prize

= £2,080 a year for our school



Buy A Ticket

GambleAware

