



NEWSLETTER
NO 9
17th January 2025



Dear Parents and Carers

Happy New Year! It has been a settled start to the new term. Children have enjoyed getting back into routines of learning and seeing their friends.

Thank you to parents for the many positive comments for the end-of-term events. The Christmas video was a hit! It was a lot of fun to make and thank you to Mrs Lord who led the project and spent many hours editing it.

Schools Partnership Programme

Schools Partnership Programme (SPP) is the largest school peer review programme in the UK. It is centred around using a collaborative approach to support school development. As a group of leaders across the Trust, we spend time in each other's schools to address areas for improvement and evaluate the impact.

On Tuesday, we welcomed Mr John Bagwell (Headteacher of Parley First School) and Mrs Dawn Wilks (Executive Headteacher of Broadstone Middle and First School) who spent the day with us. They were exploring the impact of our new Relational Policy and the impact on children's engagement in lessons.

Both Headteachers were highly complementary about how well children were engaged with their learning. Mr Bagwell was very impressed with the high-quality maths teaching he saw in Year 4 and Mrs Wilks was impressed with the calm school environment and our values driven ethos.

The children spoke positively about the journey the school has been on regarding the development of our relational approach. Year 4 children showed a good understanding of the importance of intrinsic motivation and that we 'do the right thing because it is the right thing to do, and we don't need stickers anymore.' Children spoke positively about Friday's celebration assembly and enjoy the certificates that recognise their achievements linked to our school values.

Have a lovely weekend and thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr Sean Watts
Headteacher

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New Appointments

We have welcomed Miss Chick and Mr Tomsett to our cleaning staff team recently and have also appointed a new midday supervisor, Mrs Kelly, who will increase our capacity over the lunchtime period. We look forward to working with them all.

Smart Phone Free Childhood

We are currently in the process of arranging some pupil and parent workshops to explore the issues around the use of Smart devices with young children.

If you would like to find out more about Papaya – Parents Against Phone Addiction in Young Adolescents, please follow the link below.

<https://www.papayaparents.com/>

Mobile phones and connected devices

Children are not allowed to bring mobile phones to school. Smart watches, gaming devices or any device that connects to the internet are also not allowed. This is part of our safeguarding procedures.

M & M Productions - Sleeping Beauty



We will welcome M&M Productions back to school on Friday 24th January for a production of Sleeping Beauty. M&M Productions visit us annually and their shows are such good fun with brilliant staging, acting and singing.

A ParentMail has been sent home providing further details and requesting a contribution of £2.20, which we request is paid no later than Friday 24th January. Thank you for your continued support.

Life Education Workshop Visit

Usually known as 'The Life Bus', the Coram Life Education & SCARF team will be visiting the school on **Tuesday 4th - Friday 7th February**. Workshops will take place in classrooms, to support our work teaching a variety of themes in Personal, Social and Health Education.



A ParentMail letter is being prepared and will be sent home shortly providing further details regarding this visit.

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Swimming Lessons

Year 3

We are pleased to advise that we will be offering swimming lessons to children in Year 3 during the Spring term starting after the February half term holiday. Please look out for a ParentMail letter which is being prepared and will be sent home shortly providing further details.



Year 4

Year 4 children will get the opportunity to swim in the Summer term, with any children who need further support having the opportunity to continue lessons when they move up to Ferndown Middle School.

Year 4 - Trip to Winchester Science Museum

On Wednesday 15th January, Year 4 went on a school trip to Winchester Science Centre. The children loved exploring the interactive exhibits. This included venturing through an enormous guitar, climbing in a giant ear, and learning British Sign Language.

We participated in a loud, interactive workshop where the children explored how we hear and process sound. They experimented with weird and wonderful gadgets and learned about volume and pitch. We even tested our own hearing and compared our ears to creatures in the animal world.

The children were amazed by the Planetarium. They experienced zooming through the solar system. I am sure this is a memory that they will never forget.



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Car Park

General and Blue Badge Holder Parking



At the beginning and end of the day, our school car park is for the use of authorised visitors and staff only.

Please be aware that there is only 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 here if possible. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Entry & Exit Routes

We are very grateful for the overwhelming support that parents and children have shown with regard to the entry and exit routes at the beginning and end of the day. This is working well and will continue to remain in place.

Pedestrian Routes

Parents are asked to ensure that they always keep to the marked pedestrian routes into and out of school and please avoid walking through the middle of the car park. Children should be supervised and should not be allowed to play between the parked cars.

UKHSA - A Parent's Guide to Keeping Children Healthy this School Year



As children return to school following the Christmas break, the UKHSA has reminded parents of some of the seasonal illnesses that tend to peak during the winter and steps you can take to keep your family safe and well. Please see the link below for useful guidance and reminders.

<https://ukhsa.blog.gov.uk/2024/09/04/a-parents-guide-to-keeping-kids-healthy-this-school-year/>

We continue to allocate cleaning staff to clean during the school day to keep toilets and sinks clean and topped up with soap. Hand sanitiser is still available for children to use throughout the school day.

Dorset Mental Health Support Teams in Schools

Share your Voice: Shape the future of Mental Health Support
21st January from 6.30 - 7.30pm via Microsoft Teams



If you are a parent, carer or supporter of a child in a Dorset School, the Mental Health Support Team (MHST) are working to promote emotional wellbeing for young people in schools and colleges - and they'd love your input! Please see the poster at the end of this Newsletter providing further details on how you can join them via Microsoft Teams to share your thoughts and experiences to help them improve mental health support.

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Uniform

Parents are asked to ensure their child wears the required uniform to school at all times, please.

For more information on our uniform requirements and where you can purchase uniform, please see the 'School Uniform' section under the 'Parents' tab on our website.

Our yellow polo tops can be purchased from Sainsburys, Ferndown. As the weather is now much colder, please ensure your child has a named coat in school.

Your child should wear either black or dark coloured shoes to school. Trainers are not permitted.



PE Uniform

Our PE uniform consists of a plain white t-shirt and black or navy shorts. Children are allowed to wear a plain navy, black or grey tracksuit on cold days and they may wear trainers to school. Please do not send your child to school in any affiliated team kit or branded clothing which is not suitable for school. Children not in PE uniform will have to take part in their school uniform.

Hairstyles/Jewellery/Nail Varnish

Please ensure that any hair below collar length is tied up with a dark coloured band/hair fastener.

For health and safety reasons, pupils are not allowed to wear *jewellery or nail varnish to school.

**Small stud earrings are acceptable. If your child cannot remove their earrings, parents will need to provide micropore tape to cover the earrings during PE lessons and out of hours' activities. If this is not done, the child will not be permitted to take part.*

Water and Snacks

We would prefer that children only drink water from their water bottles during lessons. Squash is allowed as a lunchtime drink. Fresh fruit, vegetables or a plain biscuit are the only permitted items for snack. Grapes to be cut in half please.

Birthday Sweets

We are proud to be a Healthy Eating school, so we are sorry but cannot assist those parents who request we hand out birthday sweets to children in their child's class.

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Nuts

Parents are reminded that we are a nut free school and no products containing nuts should be packed into lunch boxes or snack pots.

Please be extra vigilant when checking ingredients. Some items that contain nuts but aren't obvious are:

- Pesto
- Cereal bars
- Chocolate flavoured or chocolate sauce/spread items

We have several children and adults in school with severe nut allergies so your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Supervision at the beginning and end of the day

Parents are responsible for ensuring children arrive at school safely. Our children are very young and we ask parents to accompany their children to school, supervising them until children enter the school.

Children have been seen running ahead of their parents and into school, leaving parents worried as to whether their child has come into school or not and then having to check with members of staff. Please supervise your child to where they enter the school so you know they have entered school safely. Thank you.

Breakfast Club

If your child attends Breakfast Club, parents should accompany children to the staff entrance door and wait with them until Breakfast Club opens. Parents must have a confirmed booking for their child.

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 close the waiting areas and bring year groups in to 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>

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Dates for your Diary

We have provided some dates for your diary over the rest of 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

Spring Term 2025	
Friday 24 th January	M&M Productions - Sleeping Beauty
Tuesday 4 th - Friday 7 th February	Life Education Workshops
Thursday 13 th February	Yr 4 Avon Tyrrell Final Parents' Meeting
Tues 25 th and Thurs 27 th February	EYFS Vision Screening
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
Tues 11 th and Wed 12 th March	EYFS Trip to Charisworth Farm
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 3.05pm - 4pm Mrs Jackson	
			Drawing Club Rec, Yrs 1 & 2 3.15pm - 4.15pm Miss Cully	
			Sewing Club Yrs 2, 3 & 4 3.15pm - 4.15pm Mrs Boswell	

Information on all the clubs above is usually provided through ParentMail. Please check your ParentMail / Newsletter regularly for any updates regarding new clubs that are starting up.

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FERNDOWN FIRST SCHOOL
TERM DATES & HOLIDAYS
SEPTEMBER 2024 - JULY 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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SHARE YOUR VOICE: SHAPE THE FUTURE OF MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

21ST JANUARY 2025 6.30-7.30PM
VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Are you a parent, carer, or supporter of a child in a Dorset school? The Mental Health Support Team (MHST) is working to promote emotional wellbeing for young people in schools and colleges—and we'd love your input!

If you're 18+, join us and share your thoughts and experiences to help us improve mental health support.



**SIGN UP TO
OUR VIRTUAL
EVENT:**

bit.ly/3ZA4LWg



Please note: We ask that only up to two adults per household attend but welcome you to gather the views of the network around you, if you would like. We are unable to discuss individual cases. You can email us with any questions on: dhc.MHST.Participation@nhs.net

@DORSETMHST

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NEW MULTI SPORTS CLUB

Teamwork
Attitude
Resilience
Basic Skill
Smiles



'modern coaching covering a variety of sports with a heavy emphasis on 'life skills'

Led by **Will Tarbard** (Bath RFC PDG Rugby Coach) &
Jack Delves (Semi-Professional Footballer)

Only 24 places available

Date: **Monday 17th February 2025**

Location: Reef Community Centre

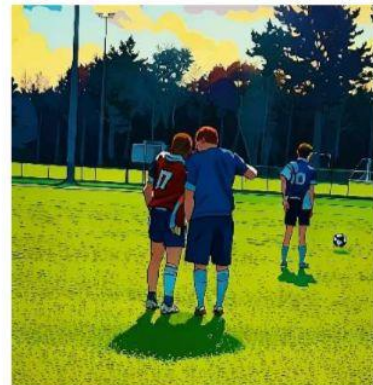
Time: 9am to 3pm

Age Range: 5-8 year olds

£30

(£25 if you refer a friend who ends up booking)

Contact Will Tarbard via [07515536465](tel:07515536465) or coachtarbs@gmail.com for more information or book a place.



'As a parent, PE teacher and sports coach, I fully understand the importance of active to build confidence and reach their full potential'

Qualifications:

BA (Hons) Physical Education and Teaching including QTS
Advanced Coaching in Rugby (Level 2)
FA Football Coaching (Level 1)
England Basketball (Level 1)
Trampoline Coach (Level 2)
Safeguarding Level 3
Paediatric First Aid Qualified (1 Day)
Full DBS Check
15 years PE teaching experience
Bath RFC PDG Academy Coach
Wimborne Town U7's Football Coach

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