



**NEWSLETTER  
NO 10  
31<sup>st</sup> January 2025**



Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a very busy few weeks in school.

We welcomed Mrs Debbie Zachary into school on Wednesday. Debbie visits us throughout the year as our Challenge Partner, supporting our school improvement and verifying our judgements. As an Ofsted inspector, Debbie brings her experience of inspecting many schools to help our continued school improvement. The focus of Wednesday's visit was writing. We have been working hard to improve our writing curriculum to ensure there is a strong focus on children securing basic skills.

Debbie was incredibly complimentary about the sharp focus of the writing lessons she observed in every year group. I was delighted that Debbie found children's behaviour of a high standard across the school and exemplary in many classrooms.

On Monday, we will welcome Chloe Stobbart, a Literacy Specialist from Ramsbury English Hub, to observe phonic lessons in EYFS and Year 1.

**Edurio Staff Choice Award - We're in the Top 10!**

Following a recent staff survey managed by Edurio (who provide a service which enables education leaders to survey their staff, pupils and parents), we are extremely proud to advise that our school, part of the Castleman Academy Trust, has been recognised as one of the top 10 performing schools for their Staff Choice Award!

*'This award celebrates exceptional efforts in creating schools in which staff are proud to work. Based on national survey data from staff during the 2023/24 academic year, Ferndown First School from your trust has achieved remarkable results, ranking among the highest in the country.'*  
Edurio



To celebrate this achievement, the following is a testimonial from Edurio's CEO, Ernest Jenavs:

*"The trusts and schools recognised with this award are the top nationally, based on staff recommending them as great places to work. The exceptional responses from staff demonstrate a deep sense of pride in being part of these trusts and schools. Your commitment to fostering a strong sense of community is inspiring, and you should be incredibly proud of what you've achieved."*

COMMUNITY

ASPIRATION

RESPECT

EXCELLENCE

Tel: 01202 873747

[www.fernfirst.dorset.sch.uk](http://www.fernfirst.dorset.sch.uk)

## Attendance Reminder

There are an increasing number of children arriving at school after the Youth Club gate closes at 8.45am. If your child is being brought in through the office, please note that this will be recorded as a 'late' mark and will affect their attendance record.

As per our Attendance of Pupils Policy (which can be found on our website):

*'Pupils may start arriving at school from 08.25 but we expect all of our pupils to be on site and sitting in their classrooms by 08.45. Register completion starts at 08.45 and finishes (closes) at 08.50 for morning sessions. Any pupil not in their classrooms by 08.45 will be considered late.'*

Thank you for your continued support.

## School Safety in the Morning

In assembly on Monday this week, we gave the children some reminders about staying safe in the morning, on arrival at school. Drop off is a busy time of day and it is important that the children understand the expectations which are in place. We shared the following messages with children:

- Stay with your grown up in the queue; the area outside the Youth Club is not a playground
- Stay behind the black gate until a member of staff has opened it
- Walk with scooters or bikes from the gate
- Walk, with grown up onto the playground and into school; please do not run

We appreciate your support in reinforcing these messages with the children so that we can keep everyone safe.

## Celebrate Learning

### Reception



This month in science, Reception have been learning about winter. We've observed the weather outside our classroom window and discussed different types of winter weather. We conducted fun experiments with ice, observing how it melts when exposed to heat. We explored different ways to speed up the melting process. We learned about the importance of wearing warm clothes in winter. We discussed different types of winter clothing and why they are important.

COMMUNITY

ASPIRATION

RESPECT

EXCELLENCE

Tel: 01202 873747

[www.fernfirst.dorset.sch.uk](http://www.fernfirst.dorset.sch.uk)

## Year 1

In Writing, the children have been learning to use 'and' to join words in their sentences. Next week they will be applying their newly learnt knowledge when writing sentences about the story 'Grandad's Island'.

In Maths, the children have been learning to add and subtract within 20 using various methods. They will continue to practise this skill to ensure the children are confident when solving math problems.

In Geography, the children have been learning all about the contrasting country, Greenland. They have been learning about the climate, the equator and physical/human features. They will continue to compare the similarities and differences between Ferndown, England and Nuuk, Greenland.



## Year 2



In maths, we have been focusing on addition and subtraction using money. We have used our knowledge of counting in 2s, 5s and 10s to find the total and work out change. We have been using a number line and a hundred square to count on and used part-whole and bar models to represent the problem we are trying to solve. Continuing to improve our recognition of notes and coins will help us as we continue our learning.

Our English text, 'The Building Boy' has aided our understanding of the past and present tense and given us opportunities to display our understanding of using commas in a list. In our independent write, we will use our imaginations and write about another building project the boy completes.

The theme of architecture has continued in our art curriculum. We have been learning about the role of the architect. We observed design features in our local area and sketched the interesting features. We will apply what we have learnt to the design and creation of our own building.

## Year 3

Year 3 have been learning that forces are pushes and pulls in science. They have enjoyed investigating how the toy cars move differently on different surfaces, depending on how rough they are. The rougher the surface, the more friction is produced.

In art, the children have been researching the artists, Hannah Rae and Alice Kettle. Both artists use embroidery in their work for texture and colour. The children have explored the colours, textures and tones used, including the direction of sewing. We have practised running stitch and whip stitch ready to embroider our own work in the coming weeks.



COMMUNITY

ASPIRATION

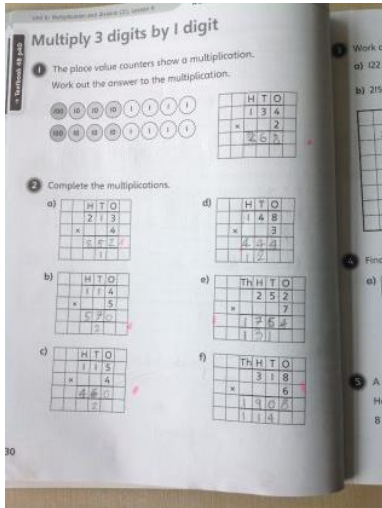
RESPECT

EXCELLENCE

Tel: 01202 873747

[www.fernfirst.dorset.sch.uk](http://www.fernfirst.dorset.sch.uk)

## Year 4



The Spring term in Year 4 is well underway now and we have made an enthusiastic start to all of the learning and opportunities involved. In Maths, we will be continuing with multiplication and division before moving onto length, perimeter, fractions and decimals. Currently, in Writing we are learning about non-chronological reports and using the features to write one based on rainforests. This links nicely to our Geography lessons where we are learning all about rainforests, including climate, human impact and their locations on our planet.

Earlier in the half term, we had the opportunity to visit Winchester Science Centre, which greatly supported our scientific knowledge of sound and how it is created and travels. In Music, the Year 4 children have started to learn how to play the ukulele and have enjoyed using their knowledge of the instrument in our science experiments.

Our PSHE learning is centred around keeping safe. This involves important discussions about what safe and unsafe feels like and what we can do in situations where we don't feel safe. The children have shown our school values in these discussions by listening to each other respectfully and highlighting the importance of the school and wider community around us.

We have lots more exciting learning and opportunities over the Spring term including the fast-approaching residential trip to Avon Tyrrell and cooking a vegetable pasta bake in DT, which we are very much looking forward to! Thank you for your ongoing support with spelling rockets, times tables, reading and home learning.

## Music

Mrs Charters, Music Lead, has advised that children will be learning the following in their music lessons over this term:



### EYFS

Spring 1 – Rhythm and Pulse  
Spring 2 – Pitch

### Y1

Spring 1 – I've Got Rhythm  
Spring 2 - Glockenspiel Magic

### Y2

Spring 1 - Ukulele  
Spring 2 - Ravel's Bolero

### Y3

Spring 1 - Ukulele  
Spring 2 - Classical Traditions and the Orchestra

### Y4

Spring Term - Ukulele

COMMUNITY

ASPIRATION

RESPECT

EXCELLENCE

Tel: 01202 873747

[www.fernfirst.dorset.sch.uk](http://www.fernfirst.dorset.sch.uk)



## Smart Phone Free Childhood

If you would like to find out more about Smartphone Free Childhood, please find attached an information sheet for parents which provides 10 Useful Tips for Parents from Dr Chatterjee.

## Mobile phones and connected devices - Reminder

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 welcomed M&M Productions back to school for their performance of Sleeping Beauty last Friday afternoon. There was a lot of singing, giggling and shouting in pantomime style coming from the hall - the children all thoroughly enjoyed the performance!



## Life Education Workshop Visit



Usually known as 'The Life Bus', the Coram Life Education & SCARF team will be visiting the school on **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> - Friday 7<sup>th</sup> 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 has been sent home this week providing further details regarding this visit.

## 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** 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.

COMMUNITY

ASPIRATION

RESPECT

EXCELLENCE

Tel: 01202 873747

[www.fernfirst.dorset.sch.uk](http://www.fernfirst.dorset.sch.uk)

## 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.

## 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>

## Pre-Loved Uniform sale - Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February

Following the success of the last pre-loved uniform sale, there will be another one in the school hall from **2.30 - 3.00pm on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2025**. You can enter through the staff entrance.

Logo jumpers and cardigans are priced at £3 each. Other items (grey trousers, skirts, pinafores, plain navy sweatshirts, joggers and hoodies) are priced at £1 each.

We are only able to accept cash for the time being.

Please bring a bag (or two!) and pick up a bargain. You'll be helping to reduce landfill as well! Funds raised from this sale will go straight back into the school to support the children.

As always, if you require any support with uniform, please contact our Family Support Worker (Mrs Bramley) to discuss options available to you.

COMMUNITY

ASPIRATION

RESPECT

EXCELLENCE

Tel: 01202 873747

[www.fernfirst.dorset.sch.uk](http://www.fernfirst.dorset.sch.uk)

## 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	
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	Life Education Workshops
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	Yr 4 Avon Tyrrell Final Parents' Meeting
Tues 25 <sup>th</sup> and Thurs 27 <sup>th</sup> February	EYFS Vision Screening
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	PFA School Discos
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
Tues 11 <sup>th</sup> and Wed 12 <sup>th</sup> March	EYFS Trip to Charisworth Farm
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

COMMUNITY

ASPIRATION

RESPECT

EXCELLENCE

Tel: 01202 873747

[www.fernfirst.dorset.sch.uk](http://www.fernfirst.dorset.sch.uk)

## 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 3.05pm - 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.

COMMUNITY

ASPIRATION

RESPECT

EXCELLENCE

Tel: 01202 873747

[www.fernfirst.dorset.sch.uk](http://www.fernfirst.dorset.sch.uk)



**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

COMMUNITY

ASPIRATION

RESPECT

EXCELLENCE

Tel: 01202 873747

[www.fernfirst.dorset.sch.uk](http://www.fernfirst.dorset.sch.uk)



Monday 17th to Friday 21st February  
9am to 3pm



# FEBRUARY 2025 CREATIVE PLAY HOLIDAY CLUBS



## LOCATION

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

£12.50 Per Day (HAF Spaces Available)

[www.pesspa-education.co.uk](http://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



Dorset  
Council



BCP  
Council



Ofsted  
REGISTERED

COMMUNITY

ASPIRATION

RESPECT

EXCELLENCE

Tel: 01202 873747

[www.fernfirst.dorset.sch.uk](http://www.fernfirst.dorset.sch.uk)