



**NEWSLETTER**  
**NO 11**  
14<sup>th</sup> February 2025



Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a successful and busy start to the new term and the children have all worked very hard to produce some fantastic learning. There is lots to look forward to when we return to school after half term. Year 4 children are very much looking forward to their residential trip to Avon Tyrrell. I am looking forward to getting a chance to be away from my office and enjoy spending time with the children outdoors.

We have also welcomed 6 new children and families to our school who have settled in well, enjoying their new surroundings and making lots of friends.

There have been very positive comments made about our school recently on social media. I am also pleased that early indications show we have 58 first choice preferences for our September 25 intake. This is really positive as we are officially a two-form entry school.

*"My youngest just started Ferndown First School and I'm very impressed with the school and the facilities. He moved from an outstanding school in Bournemouth. I was a bit worried about it, but he's doing great, and he loves it."*

*"Both my eldest daughters went to Ferndown First and absolutely loved it. Great little school. My twins will be starting in September 2026 and hoping to get them into Ferndown First."*

*"Ferndown First is a lovely school, amazing facilities teachers are all ace. Definitely recommend going to visit and have a walk around."*

*"I would suggest going to look at the school. Both my older children went to Parley and my daughter is due to go to school this year ...we decided to look round Ferndown First School, and it was such a lovely school...The library and art facilities are incredible. It's bigger than Parley but I saw this as a positive as it prepares them for middle school but in a gentle way. I will be actually disappointed if she doesn't get into Ferndown First school."*

I wish you all an enjoyable holiday with your children.

We look forward to seeing the everybody back at school on **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February.**

Yours sincerely

Mr S Watts  
Headteacher

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## Parking

On Friday 7th February, we were informed that at around 3pm an ambulance struggled to drive along Mountbatten Drive to attend to a local resident. The ambulance struggled to pass several double-parked cars. This incident was upsetting for the family concerned, who also had difficulties getting to the hospital quickly due to parking issues.

We would like to remind parents to park respectfully in the local roads around our school. Thank you.

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## Leaving Children Alone in Cars

I have received worrying reports of young children being left alone in cars whilst parents are dropping off/collecting their children from school. The Gov.UK website states:

The law does not say an age when you can leave a child on their own, but it's an offence to leave a child alone if it places them at risk.

Use your judgement on how mature your child is before you decide to leave them alone, for example at home or in a car.

The [National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children \(NSPCC\)](#) says:

- children under 12 are rarely mature enough to be left alone for a long period of time
- children under 16 should not be left alone overnight
- babies, toddlers and very young children should never be left alone

**! Parents can be prosecuted if they leave a child unsupervised 'in a manner likely to cause unnecessary suffering or injury to health'.**

Where we see very young children being left alone in cars, we will report this to the police and make a referral to Social Care.

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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. A ParentMail has been sent out to Year 3 parents this week 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.

We can confirm that there is **no charge** to parents for swimming as this is part of the National Curriculum.

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## Avon Tyrrell - Final Parents' Meeting and Assembly

Thank you to those parents who attended our final Avon Tyrrell meeting online yesterday evening where we provided important information prior to your child's residential visit. If you do have any further queries before our visit, please email the school office.

As mentioned at the meeting, I am pleased to advise that we will be holding an Avon Tyrrell assembly for Year 4 parents on **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March** at **9.15am**.

As requested, the slides for the presentation have been sent out today which include an updated menu for the residential visit.



## Smartphone Free Childhood

We can confirm that we are in the process of setting up children's workshops for KS2 and finalising a date for parent workshops. More details will follow in due course.

## Year 1 Phonics Meetings for Parents



Your child will be taking a statutory Phonics Screening Check during the week starting 9<sup>th</sup> June.

Parents are invited to attend a Parent Information meeting on **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March**, during which Year 1 teachers will give you information about the Phonics Screening Check and how you can support your child at home.

The first meeting will take place in the hall at **9am**. The second meeting will start at **2.30pm** in the hall. *(Please note: These meetings will include the same information, so parents need only attend one meeting).*

A ParentMail form will be sent out after we return from the half term holiday so parents can indicate which meeting you will be attending.

## Job Vacancy - Teaching Assistant

We currently have a vacancy for a full-time or part-time Teaching Assistant. For more information and how to apply, please see our website:

<https://www.fernfirst.dorset.sch.uk/our-school/staff-vacancies/>

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## Life Education Workshop Visits

Life Education workshops took place last week in classrooms and the children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about a variety of themes in Personal, Social and Health Education. We have provided some quotes from the children below:



"I liked sharing what I am grateful for."  
Year 2

"We learnt to say, 'we can't do it – yet'."  
EYFS

"We learnt about the brain."  
Zachary - Year 1

"We learnt about people that can help us."  
EYFS

"I liked talking about my feelings."  
Scarlett - Year 1

"I enjoyed when Harold came out and we helped him out by giving him some advice."  
Year 3

"I loved learning about finger breathing strategies!"  
Thomas - Year 4

"I have learned that we need to make sure we keep our brains healthy."  
Molly - Year 4

"I enjoyed learning about gratitude."  
Year 2

"I enjoyed hearing what other people say how they show SCARF (safety, caring, achievement, resilience and friendship)."  
Year 3



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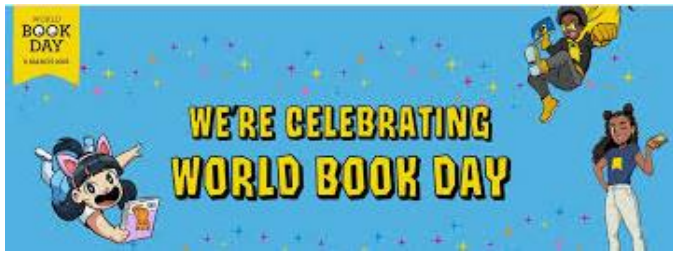
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## World Book Day is coming!

We will be celebrating World Book Day on **Thursday 6th March** and we are very much looking forward to having a day of fun and book related activities together. Reading is a crucial part of education and we want to enjoy a day which encourages all of the children to immerse themselves in books and learn to love reading.

### Book Swap

As part of our World Book Day activities, we will be holding a Book Swap. We invite children to bring in a book from home that they no longer need/use. It could be a story book or an information book, in good condition, please. The children will have the opportunity to swap this book for another book brought in and then take it home to keep. If your child has more than one book that they no longer need/use, they can also bring these books in. Any leftover books at the end of the day will be put out on a table in the playground at home time for children to take, in exchange for a small donation to school funds.

### Book Fair

On World Book Day and the day after (Thursday 6th and Friday 7th March), Anne from Usborne books will be setting up a book fair in school. Children will have an opportunity to come to the book fair during the school day with their teacher, to browse the selection of books. If there is a book they particularly like, we will write down the title on a 'wish list' form and the children will bring that home. You can then contact Anne to arrange purchasing the book and the book will arrive in school, a few days later. Please keep an eye out for a Parent Mail with further details about how to purchase.

### Dressing Up

Children are welcome to come into school on World Book Day (Thursday 6th March) dressed as a character from a favourite book. They are also welcome to bring in their favourite book to share with their class. There are lots of simple ideas on the internet which involve things you may already have at home. No football kits please.

### World Book Day Token

Every child will receive a £1 book token which can be used in most book shops and retailers to buy this year's World Book Day £1 books or to receive £1 off any book. You can also use the token to receive £1 off any book at the Usborne book fair in school or other high street book shops.

We can't wait to celebrate World Book Day!

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## 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>

## PFA News



### PFA - School Discos (Rescheduled Date)

As advised earlier today, we are pleased to advise that the rescheduled date for the PFA School Discos is **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March**. A flyer and ParentMail providing further details regarding payment have been sent home today - the flyer is also attached at the end of this Newsletter.

## Your School Lottery - How it Works....

The PFA has recently introduced a new initiative called 'Your School Lottery' specifically to raise money and make a difference for the children at our school.



A link to 'Your School Lottery' is provided below which will take you to the website where further information can be found. By joining, you can make a real difference to Ferndown First School. Thank you.

[https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/ferndown-first-school?utm\\_campaign=Howitworks&utm\\_source=ysl&utm\\_medium=Leaflet&utm\\_content=Hyperlink](https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/ferndown-first-school?utm_campaign=Howitworks&utm_source=ysl&utm_medium=Leaflet&utm_content=Hyperlink)

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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 **£532!** 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.

### 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	
Tues 25 <sup>th</sup> and Thurs 27 <sup>th</sup> February	EYFS Vision Screening
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 Trips to Charisworth Farm
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	PFA School Discos
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Yr 4 Avon Tyrrell Assembly
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Parents' Evening
	St Mary's Easter Service
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

Ferndown First School  
PFA Event



**WEDNESDAY 19<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2025**

**Years 1 & 2 from 4.00pm - 4.50pm**

**Years 3 & 4 from 5.00pm - 6.00pm**

**Reception - During school day**

### Arrangements for entry and collection

- Children will leave school at normal time and return to school in their disco clothes (if your child is booked for After-School Club or Football and you would like them to go straight from this club to the disco, please email the school office).
- Entry will be via the playground using the normal one-way system.
- All children should enter school through the same door they use in the morning. You will then be able to register your child's attendance with a member of staff.
- Collection will be as normal using the one-way system and children will be collected from classrooms/playground.
- Squash/water and sweet/savoury biscuits will be available during the disco.
- A quiet classroom will be available during the disco for children who would like a break from the music and lights.
- **As their disco is during the school day, Reception children can wear their disco clothes into school instead of their uniform on this day.**

### Who is collecting your child?

- Years 1 - 4: We will use our usual collection permission lists to dismiss children. If anyone else will be collecting your child, please let the school office know.

### Payment Arrangements

- Years 1 - 4: To secure your child's place you will need to make a payment of **£3.00** via ParentMail. Please check the 'Shop' tab of the payments section. If the payment is not made by 1pm on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March, your child will not be admitted to the disco.

**Payment cannot be taken at the door.**

If you have not secured your child's place beforehand then, unfortunately, your child will not be admitted to the disco.

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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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## 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)	
Construction Club Yrs R, 1 & 2 3.05pm - 4pm Miss Wrixon			Cooking Club Yrs 3 & 4 3.05pm - 4.15pm Miss Fearn	
Jigsaw Club Yrs R, 1 & 2 3.15pm - 4.15pm Mrs Bremner				

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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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



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BCP  
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# Make waves of progress

**Intensive holiday courses now booking**

Stage 1 - 5 lessons are available during the February half term at a discounted rate of £25, when mentioning your school name

For more information, visit  
[ferndown.placesleisure.org](http://ferndown.placesleisure.org)  
or call 01202 877468 



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Part of Places for People

Because Community Matters

## Children's gymnastics

We offer sessions for children aged 4+ to introduce them to the exciting world of gymnastics and teach them gymnastics skills through fun activities

[Click here to find out more](#)

For more information, call 01202 877468,  
or visit [ferndown.placesleisure.org](http://ferndown.placesleisure.org)

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