

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you to everyone who has supported our Red Nose Day event today - the school was awash with the colour red and a lot of different red noses!

We are grateful for the food donations which have been received and which will be distributed to families in the local community.



School Car Park - Speed Limit Reminder

Those parents who have access to the school car park are reminded that the speed limit in the school car park is **5mph**. Thank you.

Our PFA

The children had a wonderful time at the PFA discos on Wednesday and really enjoyed strutting their stuff on the dance floor! Thank you to the PFA who ran this very popular event and staff who supported. We are pleased to advise that this event raised a fantastic amount of £705! This brings the total amount raised to nearly **£4000** since September.

We are very lucky to have such an active PFA who has supported the school in so many ways since it was set up last year.

With the monies raised from the PFA, we plan to update and refit our Life Skills/cookery room with new units, storage and appliances which will help to enrich the experience of children when they use this facility, however, this is expensive and we envisage will cost in the region of **£20,000**.

COMMUNITY

ASPIRATION

RESPECT

EXCELLENCE

Tel: 01202 873747

www.fernfirst.dorset.sch.uk

Our current Life Skills room:



Traffic & Travel News - Reminder

Ferndown and the surrounding areas have experienced a high number of ongoing road works and travel disruption for what seems to have been a very long time! Unfortunately, we have received details of further road works which may impact getting your child(ren) to and from school, as detailed below. Please leave plenty of time to get to school and time to park elsewhere and walk to the school whilst these works are being carried out. Thank you.



Essential gas main replacement - NORTHBOUND lane closure along Ringwood Road, Ferndown

To enable SGN to replace a section of old metal gas pipe on Ringwood Road, the northbound lane between Ringwood Road's junction with Glenmoor Road and the entrance to Marks and Spencer will be closed from **Sunday 30th March - Friday 2nd May**. A diversion route for traffic travelling northbound towards Ferndown will be in place. The southbound lane from Ferndown to Poole will remain open.



Mountbatten Drive - Roadworks

The boards indicating when fibre was due to be laid along the pathways on Mountbatten Drive appear to have been taken down, which is good news. If they appear again then we will let parents know as soon as possible.

COMMUNITY

ASPIRATION

RESPECT

EXCELLENCE

Tel: 01202 873747

www.fernfirst.dorset.sch.uk



Reception - Visit to Charisworth Farm

Reception children had so much fun last week when they visited Charisworth Farm.

They started their farm adventure by learning about the cows. They heard about their 4 stomachs and how they have no top teeth! They also saw a cow passport, but it didn't have a photo on.

The children met sheep, observing their behaviours and learning about their care.

In the forest, they searched for signs of animals.

The children also had a chance to see what is grown in the fields. They handled the different grains in cups, and they matched the grains with different foods that they would find in the kitchen at home.

Thanks go to farmer Richard for letting the children visit his farm and thank you to all the parent helpers. We couldn't do these lovely trips without your help.



Year 2 Titanic Assemblies

Following on from our learning in History about the Titanic, we would like to invite all Year 2 parents to a special 'Titanic' assembly on **Thursday 27th March**. During this assembly the children will be displaying what they have learnt in their topic this half term.

You are welcome to attend at either of our two performances at **9.15am** or **2.15pm**. Please complete the form on ParentMail to indicate which time you would like to attend.

Dorset Schools' Tumbling Competition

Well done to the children in Years 3 and 4 who took part in the Dorset Schools' Tumbling Competition at Ferndown Leisure Centre on Wednesday 12th March.

We are pleased to advise that the boys team came first place, and the mixed team came first place. The girls team came third place.

COMMUNITY

ASPIRATION

RESPECT

EXCELLENCE

Tel: 01202 873747

www.fernfirst.dorset.sch.uk



The children behaved impeccably and were perfect ambassadors for our school.

What tremendous achievements by all – congratulations!



Years 3 and 4 - Junior Duke

Many children in Year 3 and 4 have been busy completing the different Junior Duke challenges. Mrs Lord has thoroughly enjoyed reading the children's reflections in the booklets or on the online portal. It is wonderful to see the children trying something new.



Tommy in Year 3 made surprise chocolate cupcakes for the cookery challenge. He wanted to make cakes as a treat for his family. Everyone loved the taste of his cakes including Mrs Lord!



Kelsey in Year 4 had joined a community litter pick and even got her whole family involved. It is great to see that she is keen to join the next community litter pick as she can see how much of a difference she had made.

This half term, Year 3 have been enjoying swimming lessons. They have been writing up their reflections so they can complete the swimming challenge. Year 4 will have an opportunity to complete this challenge as part of their swimming lessons after Easter.

After Easter, Mrs Lord will be running a Junior Duke lunch time club on Tuesdays for Year 3 and Wednesdays for Year 4. This will be to support children to complete their reflections in their booklets and complete some of the challenges, eg First Aid challenge.

All challenges will need to be completed by Friday 4th July. Children will be awarded their certificates and badges at the Junior Duke Assembly on Monday 14th July.

COMMUNITY

ASPIRATION

RESPECT

EXCELLENCE

Tel: 01202 873747

www.fernfirst.dorset.sch.uk

Dogs' Trust Visit

Various research, including Tulloch et al., (2021) tell us that the most at-risk in the UK for dog bites are primary school-aged children, when at home. The Dogs' Trust visited the school again last week to teach us safe behaviour around dogs in the home; but also, dogs of friends/ family, and strangers when out and about.

We discussed that some people will live with dogs, some will not. Some people may be excited by dogs, whilst some may be afraid of them.

Through the sessions we learnt how to have safer interactions with dogs in different settings. You can find out more at, www.learnwithdogstrust.org.uk. Should you wish, you can also make a donation to support the work they do.



Easter Services



We are very much looking forward to our Easter Services at St Mary's Church on **Wednesday 2nd April**, where we will also be able to hear our school choir sing, details as follows:

EYFS, Years 1 and 2 - service starts at 9.15am

Years 3 and 4 - service starts at 10.45am

Parents, families and friends are welcome to join us at the services but we must allow the children into church first. The congregation are asked to wait in The Beacon or wait outside church for us to arrive. When all the children have been seated, the congregation will be asked to find their seats.

We would be grateful for help so if any parent is available to help walk the children down to the church, please speak to your child's class teacher. Parents of those children attending the EYFS, Yrs 1 & 2 service may wait in the playground for the children before walking to the church as we will be leaving school at approx. 8.50am. Parents of children in Yrs 3 and 4 are asked to wait outside the main gate until children are ready to walk over to the church. We will be leaving school for the Yr 3 & 4 service at approx. 10.20am. Thank you for your continued support.

If you would prefer that your child does not attend the Easter services, please email the school office.

Choir visit to Ferndown Library

We are pleased to advise that Year 4 children from the school choir will be singing to a community group at Ferndown Library on Tuesday 1st April.



COMMUNITY

ASPIRATION

RESPECT

EXCELLENCE

Tel: 01202 873747

www.fernfirst.dorset.sch.uk



Yr 4 Swimming Lessons

Parents of Year 4 children will have received a ParentMail letter regarding their children's swimming lessons which will take place on a Thursday morning from 24th April to 22nd May. Any children who need further support will have the opportunity to continue lessons when they move up to Ferndown Middle School.

There is **no charge** to parents for swimming as this is part of the National Curriculum.

Year 4 - Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) Meeting for Parents



The National Curriculum states that all children should be confident with all times tables up to 12x12 by the end of Year 4. Rapid recall of these times tables really gives all children an excellent foundation on which they can build a wide variety of mathematical skills.

We make every effort to develop children's confidence in times tables and administer the Multiplication Tables Check in the Summer term. This year, Year 4 children will be sitting their Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) in June.

We would, therefore, like to invite parents to an online meeting, where more information will be provided to parents, on **Wednesday 14th May at 6pm**. A letter regarding the Year 4 MTC will be sent home to parents in due course.

Further information can be found using the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/multiplication-tables-check-information-for-parents>



Avon Tyrrell 2026 - Meeting for Year 3 Parents

Current Year 3 parents are invited to the initial meeting for the 2026 Avon Tyrrell residential visit which takes place from Wednesday 22nd - Friday 24th April 2026. This meeting will take place **online** on **Wednesday 21st May** at 6pm.

Year 4 - Bikeability Levels 1 & 2



Parents of Year 4 children will have received a ParentMail advising them of the Year 4 Bikeability Level 1 and 2 courses that are being held here again this year after the Easter holiday. If you would like your child to take part, then parents are asked to use the QR code or link provided, which will provide further details, and complete the online Consent Form as soon as possible. Thank you.

COMMUNITY

ASPIRATION

RESPECT

EXCELLENCE

Tel: 01202 873747

www.fernfirst.dorset.sch.uk

Mid-Year Reports - Date for your Diary

Your child will be bringing their Mid-Year Reports home on **Monday 31st March**. More information will be made available to parents in due course.



Parents' Evening

Parents' Evening takes place on **Wednesday 2nd April** where parents will again have the choice of meeting their child's teacher in person or via an online meeting. Books will also be available for parents to view as part of their in-person meeting.

Bookings have now gone live. Please remember that you only need to book ONE appointment, in-person OR via Teams. If you would like a separate appointment from your child's other parent, please contact the school office to arrange this.

PFA News



Mother's Day Event

Parents will have received details regarding the upcoming PFA Mother's Day event on Thursday 27th March. A flyer is also attached to the end of this Newsletter for your information. Just a reminder that orders need to be placed via ParentMail by midday on Monday 24th March. Thank you for your continued support.

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



Last Day of Term Collection Arrangements

Friday 4th April 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 from Friday 28th March on ParentMail. Please ensure you complete this as soon as possible. Thank you.

COMMUNITY

ASPIRATION

RESPECT

EXCELLENCE

Tel: 01202 873747

www.fernfirst.dorset.sch.uk

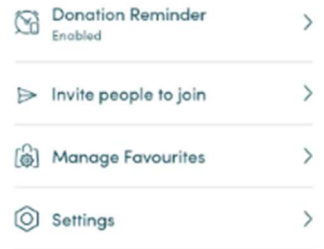
Easyfundraising



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 from the 54 supporters that have registered, a fantastic total of **£551** has been raised so far! It's so easy to sign up and support this cause by using the link below: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ferndown1st/?searchSessionId=36a76bba-a437-4adc-8758-0839d59218d3>

There is also a Donation Reminder feature which could be useful when browsing. When enabled in your profile, this feature pops up when you go to any website which will donate, meaning that you don't need to start shopping in the app. Find more information in the 'Your questions answered' section at: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/how-it-works/>



Have a good weekend.

Mr Watts
Headteacher

Dates for your Diary

COMMUNITY

ASPIRATION

RESPECT

EXCELLENCE

Tel: 01202 873747

www.fernfirst.dorset.sch.uk

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	
Thursday 27 th March	Year 2 Titanic Assembly PFA Mother's Day event
Friday 28 th March	Yr 4 Avon Tyrrell Assembly
Monday 31 st March	Reports Home
Wednesday 2 nd April	Parents' Evening
	St Mary's Easter Services
Thursday 24 th April	Year 4 Swimming begins
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	Yr 3 Brownsea Island Trip
Wednesday 21 st May	Year 3 Online Parent Meeting re Avon Tyrrell Residential Visit 2026
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
Monday 14 th July	Junior Duke Assembly
Wednesday 16 th July	Summer Services at St Mary's Church - TBC
Friday 18 th July	Yr 4 Leavers' Assembly - 10am

COMMUNITY

ASPIRATION

RESPECT

EXCELLENCE

Tel: 01202 873747

www.fernfirst.dorset.sch.uk

Ferndown First School TERM DATES & HOLIDAYS

SPRING TERM 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
Staff Training Day	Monday 30 June 2025
Term Ends	Friday 18 July 2025
Staff Training Day	Monday 21 July 2025
Staff Training Day	Tuesday 22 July 2025

Term Dates 2025-2026

Castleman Academy Trust

Autumn Term 2025

SEPTEMBER 2025						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

OCTOBER 2025						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

NOVEMBER 2025						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

DECEMBER 2025						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Spring Term 2026

JANUARY 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

FEBRUARY 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

MARCH 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

APRIL 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Summer Term 2026

MAY 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

JUNE 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

JULY 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

AUGUST 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Bank and Public Holidays 2025-2026

25 December 2025	Christmas Day
26 December 2025	Boxing Day

1 January 2026	New Year's Day
3 April 2026	Good Friday

6 April 2026	Easter Monday
4 May 2026	May Day Holiday

25 May 2026	Spring Bank Holiday
31 August 2026	August Bank Holiday

Key

School Holidays	Bank Holidays	Staff Training Days (Not yet determined)	Last Day of Term
-----------------	---------------	--	------------------

COMMUNITY

ASPIRATION

RESPECT

EXCELLENCE

Tel: 01202 873747

www.fernfirst.dorset.sch.uk

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	Yr4 Junior Duke Club Yrs 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
	Yr3 Junior Duke Club Yrs 3 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)	
Jigsaw Club Yrs R, 1 & 2 3.15pm - 4.15pm Mrs Bremner			Cooking Club Yrs 3 & 4 3.05pm - 4.15pm Miss Fearn	

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

FERNDOWN FIRST SCHOOL PFA

MOTHER'S DAY

*Something special
for someone special!*

£3 PER GIFT BAG

THURS 27 MARCH

This is an exciting opportunity for your child to visit our pop-up shop and choose a gift for someone special this Mother's Day.

Orders can be placed via ParentMail until midday on Monday 24th March or until maximum sales have been reached.

(Please note: the items will be the same per gift bag, but they are available in a variety of colours / styles for your child to choose from)

COMMUNITY

ASPIRATION

RESPECT

EXCELLENCE

Tel: 01202 873747

www.fernfirst.dorset.sch.uk



Monday 7th to Thursday 17th April *
9am to 3pm

EASTER 2025 CREATIVE PLAY HOLIDAY CLUBS

LOCATION

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

£25.00 Per Day (HAF Spaces Available)

*No session Friday 11th April

www.pesspa-education.co.uk



SCAN ME

Activities

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

Ages

5 To 14

We accept childcare and Tax
free childcare vouchers



The clubs offer a wide array of activities, including but not limited to sports, arts and crafts, STEM projects, team-building exercises, and educational games.

Activities are carefully curated to cater to various interests, ensuring an inclusive and enjoyable experience for all participants.

Multi-Activity Clubs are committed to creating an inclusive and welcoming environment for participants of diverse backgrounds and abilities.

Staff members are encouraged to be mindful of inclusivity, adapting activities as necessary and providing additional support when needed.

DIVERSE
ACTIVITY
OFFERINGS



INCLUSIVE
ENVIRONMENT



AGE-
APPROPRIATE
PROGRAMMING



SAFETY AND
SUPERVISION

Activities are tailored to suit different age groups, ensuring that content is both developmentally and age-appropriate.

Staff are encouraged to adapt and modify activities based on the unique needs and preferences of the participants in their specific age group.

Ensuring the safety of all participants is a top priority. Our staff adhere to safety guidelines and protocols during all activities.

Adequate supervision is provided at all times, and staff members are trained in first aid to handle any unforeseen situations.

COMMUNITY

ASPIRATION

RESPECT

EXCELLENCE

Tel: 01202 873747

www.fernfirst.dorset.sch.uk



PLAY YOUR PART IN CRICKET'S FUTURE

GETTHEGAMEON.CO.UK



The booking links for All Stars and Dynamos are now open. The easiest place to go to find them is at our website: <https://www.parleycricketclub.co.uk/allStarsAndDynamos>

Join us at Parley CC

5 To 8 YEAR OLDS ALL STARS CRICKET

8 To 11 YEAR OLDS DYNAMOS CRICKET

FOR A FANTASTIC SUMMER OF CRICKET!!!

Soft ball cricket for boys & girls of all abilities!

Starting **Friday 16th May**, 6-7pm

Parley Cricket Club, Christchurch Road, West Parley. BH22 8SQ.

<https://tinyurl.com/parleycc>

alan.graham.dcb@gmail.com

£50 for 8 week course **PLUS free coaching** for the rest of the summer!

Every All Star participant receives free: Personalised T-Shirt, Bat, Ball and Backpack!
For every Dynamo: Personalised T-Shirt!

Tell a Friend!

Calling all 5-8 year olds!

JOIN US AT PARLEY CC FOR A SUMMER OF ALL STARS CRICKET!

Starting **Friday 16th May**, 6-7pm

Parley Cricket Club, Christchurch Road, West Parley. BH22 8SQ.

Cost: £50, includes personalised t-shirt, bat, ball and backpack

<https://tinyurl.com/parleycc>

alan.graham.dcb@gmail.com

8 Week Course

REGISTER NOW!

Calling all 8-11 year olds!

Join us

AT PARLEY CC FOR A SUMMER OF DYNAMOS CRICKET!

Soft ball cricket for boys and girls of all abilities!

Starting **Friday 16th May**, 6-7pm

Parley Cricket Club, Christchurch Road, West Parley. BH22 8SQ.

Cost: £50, includes personalised t-shirt, 8 week course + **free coaching** for the rest of the summer!

ECB Level 2 Coaches

<https://tinyurl.com/parleycc>

alan.graham.dcb@gmail.com

8 Week Course

DYNAMOS CRICKET

COMMUNITY

ASPIRATION

RESPECT

EXCELLENCE

Tel: 01202 873747

www.fernfirst.dorset.sch.uk