



Dear Parents,

This will be the last Newsletter of 2025. On behalf of the children, staff and Governors at Ferndown First School, I'd like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

The final week of term has been packed full of events to mark the festive season. The children have thoroughly enjoyed the many events that they have taken part in. For me, the church service was a highlight. The choir sang beautifully, and I was particularly impressed with the children in Year 1 who read confidently during the EYFS and Year 1 service. Choir have been singing in many local care homes over the last few weeks, and the residents have enjoyed the children singing immensely.

I thought the Year 1 sing-along was great. Mrs Jackson played a brilliant starring role which did make me chuckle. Today, the children have all enjoyed seeing the 'surprise' reindeer.

Today, we are releasing a special Christmas video that the staff have been working on. It has been great fun to make, and the children were so excited to watch it in assembly this morning. It is a fitting way to celebrate the end of term and to remember Betsy.

It really does take a very special staff team to pull something together like this. Well done everyone involved - especially Mrs Lord and her son, Harrison, for editing it together.

I would also like to thank all the staff for their continued support and tireless commitment to Ferndown First School. My favourite picture must be our staff human pyramid! It says such a lot about the great team we are.

Finally, have a lovely break and enjoy this special time with your family and friends. We look forward to seeing the children back at school on **Monday 5th January 2026.**

Mr Watts  
Headteacher

## Staff Update

### Welcome Mrs Lathwell

We are looking forward to Mrs Lathwell joining us in Year 3 after the Christmas Holidays. She will be covering for Mrs Laverick whilst she is on maternity leave.

Mrs Lathwell is a very experienced teacher who has been teaching for over 13 years in Hayes, Middlesex. We are looking forward to having her as part of the team.



### Good luck to Mrs Laverick!

This time last year Mrs Laverick, with a cushion up her jumper, played the starring role of Mary in our Christmas video. How life imitates art with Mrs Laverick looking forward to the birth of her own baby very soon!

We would like to wish Mr and Mrs Laverick all the very best as they look forward to their new arrival in the new year.

## Year 4 Wizard of Oz Recording

We are pleased that we can provide the recording of the Year 4 show! I am very proud of the children for their achievement. The show was brilliant and there are some lovely solo performances in the video

Please follow the link below:

[www.castlemanacademytrust.co.uk/Mainfolder/content/videos/Wizard%20Of%20Oz%20Performance%202025.mp4](http://www.castlemanacademytrust.co.uk/Mainfolder/content/videos/Wizard%20Of%20Oz%20Performance%202025.mp4)

If you are having trouble streaming the above, there is also this lower-quality version that may be easier:

[www.castlemanacademytrust.co.uk/Mainfolder/content/videos/Wizard%20Of%20Oz%20Performance%202025\\_low.mp4](http://www.castlemanacademytrust.co.uk/Mainfolder/content/videos/Wizard%20Of%20Oz%20Performance%202025_low.mp4)

## PFA Raffle

### Christmas Hamper Raffle

The popular PFA raffle raised over **£1400** for school funds this year. Our 37 lucky winners were all very happy with their hampers and prizes.

Thank you to our PFA who have worked tirelessly this term to raise money for the school.



COMMUNITY

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Tel: 01202 873747

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

Southern Education Trust

Registered Office: 160 Herbert Avenue, Parkstone, Poole, BH12 4HU

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## School Admissions Consultation 2027-28

Southern Education Trust is consulting on its proposed School Admissions Arrangements for all schools for 2027/28, seeking to:-

- bring Winton Primary School into the previous Castleman Academy Trust policy,
- updating how distance is measured for admissions to Broadstone Schools and
- add extra clarity to some sections of the policy.

The consultation will run from Monday 8 December 2025 to Saturday 24 January 2026.

You can view the full details, including the revised policy and a summary of changes, at: <https://www.southerneducationtrust.com/admissions-consultation>

Responses can be submitted in writing to Southern Education Trust c/o Broadstone First School, Tudor Road, Broadstone, Dorset, BH18 8Aa, or by email to [consultation@southern.education](mailto:consultation@southern.education)

Responses are to be received by **Saturday 24 January 2026**.

**Whole School Attendance: 95.2% National: 94.9% Whole School target 97%**

### Miss school, miss out

It is vital we work together to teach our pupils the value of attending school every day. However, we do appreciate that at times, pupils may not be able to attend school due to illness.

There has been a lot of term time leave requests this half term and unfortunately, we will have to deal with this in the new year. Depending on your child's attendance percentage and the reason for their absence, some penalty notices will have to be processed through Dorset Council.

Should you have a concern about your child's attendance, we ask that you contact us to discuss this.

### School Closure in Adverse Weather

In the event of adverse weather that means we cannot open school, parents will receive a ParentMail message as early as possible. If you would like to check online the website for this is **dorsetforyou.com**.

If we are able to open school but conditions are unsafe to walk around the usual one-way route, drop off will be through the Main Office, Staff Entrance and Quiet Entrance. Parents will be directed to the relevant entrance and be asked to keep to gritted paths. A ParentMail will be sent out to advise of this as early as possible.

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## KEY DATES SPRING TERM 2026

Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> January	Yr 4 Trip to Winchester Science Centre
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> January	EYFS Vision Screening
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	Life Education Workshop
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> February	EYFS Vision Screening
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	Life Education Workshop

More details on these events, and more, will be sent to parents in due course.

## CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>LUNCHTIMES</b>				
		Book Club Yrs 3 & 4 12.45 Library Mrs Errington		Chess Club Yrs 2-4 12.45pm Hall Mr Watts
				Choir Yrs 3 & 4 12.45pm Music Room Mrs Charters
<b>AFTER SCHOOL</b>				
<b>Ferndown First School After School Club. All Years. 3.05pm – 6pm</b>				
Live4Tennis Yrs 3 – 4 3.05pm – 4.05pm (External)	Karate Yrs 2, 3 & 4 3.05pm – 4.15pm (External)	Mr Higgins Football Yrs 2, 3 & 4 3.05pm – 4.15pm (External)	Art Bee Yrs 1 – 4 3.05pm – 4.05pm (External)	
			High 5 Gymnastics Years 1 – 4 Yrs 1 & 2: 3.15 – 4.15pm Yrs 3 & 4: 4.15 – 5.15pm (External)	

Details of ad-hoc Spring term clubs have been sent out on ParentMail.

(Please note: the clubs above are permanent fixtures. All half-termly or ad-hoc club details will be sent when relevant.)

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# WhatsApp Support Service

We believe everyone should have someone to turn to for support.

If you are worried about your children or your family life, message us on WhatsApp

 **07441 444125**

[www.familylives.org.uk](http://www.familylives.org.uk)

