

6th February 2026



Attendance

Whole School Attendance: **95%** National: **94.8%**
Whole School target: **97%**

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers

Whole school attendance has taken a dip over the last two weeks. This has been largely due to the weather and outbreaks of chicken pox in Year 1 and 3. Remember that holidays in term time are not authorised and penalty notices are being issued by the Local Authority.

I was able to tour a member of the Local Authority Inclusion Team around the school yesterday. School had a lovely atmosphere, children were polite and respectful and clearly trying their best with the learning. Our visitor was highly complimentary of our school, its resources and the efforts we are making to meet the needs of all children.

Thank you to all parents and carers that attended the Multiplication Check meeting last night. It is important that parents understand the expectations of the check and how they can support their children to be successful. Year 4 take their statutory multiplication check in June. They are expected to know all the times tables up to 12 x 12 with only 5 seconds to answer each question.

Mrs Errington and myself will be leading the Year 1 Phonics check meeting on the **12th February at 9.15 am or 2.15 pm**. This will be a useful meeting for parents to find out how they can best support their child to pass this important statutory check in June.

Unfortunately, there have been too many complaints recently about parents and their use of our car park. The car park is a private car park. Parents should only use the car park if they have a parking permit. Once children have been dropped off, parents should leave the car park immediately. This allows more spaces to be available for other parents with permits. We are writing a car park policy which will make our expectations clear. Any abusive behaviour towards staff or continued flouting of rules will result in car park permits being withdrawn. If problems persist, I may choose to close the car park to everyone.

Key Dates & Information

More detailed information about the events below will be communicated through ParentMail.

EYFS

PE Day: **Wednesday**

- 17th & 18th March - Trip to Charisworth Farm
- 19th March - Disco 2.30pm (during school day)

Year 1

PE Days: **Thursday and Friday**

- 12th February - Phonics Screening Meeting - 9am or 2.15pm, in school
- 8th - 12th June - Phonics Screening Check

Year 2

PE Days: **Tuesday and Wednesday**

- 13th March - Titanic Dress Up Day
- 19th & 20th March - Music Concert for parents 9.15am
- 13th May - Trip to Liberty's Owl, Raptor & Reptile Centre

Year 3

PE Days: **Monday and Tuesday**

- 3rd June - Avon Tyrrell 2027 Parents' Initial meeting - online, 6pm
- 2nd July - Fiver Challenge 2.15pm, School Hall

Year 4

PE Days: **Thursday and Friday**

- 26th March - Avon Tyrrell Final Parents' Meeting - online, 6pm
- 22nd - 24th April - Avon Tyrrell Residential
- 11th May - Bikeability sessions begin.
- 1st - 12th June - Multiplication Check
- **4th, 11th & 25th June - Swimming at Ferndown Leisure Centre**
- 26th June - Transfer Day
- **2nd July - Swimming at Ferndown Leisure Centre**
- 3rd July - Fiver Challenge 2.15pm, School Hall
- 17th July - Leavers' Assembly 10am, School Hall

Whole School Dates

- **5th March - World Book Day**
- 18th March - School Discos - see overleaf for details
- 27th March - Easter Church Services at St Mary's
- 15th April - Parents' Evening
- 18th June - Sports Morning
- 29th June - INSET Day
- 9th July - Sports Morning (Reserve Date)

Important Information

Year 4 Swimming

We are pleased that Year 4 will have the opportunity to attend Swimming Lessons at Ferndown Leisure Centre during the Summer Term.

These sessions will take part on 4th, 11th and 25th June and 2nd July. There will be no session on 18th June because of Sports Morning. More information will be sent out closer to the time.

Year 1 Fun with Phonics!

Please join us for our Spring Term Fun with Phonics sessions every Tuesday after school from 3:10 – 3:40 pm.

These sessions are a wonderful opportunity for you and your child to practise phonics together in a fun, interactive and supportive environment. Phonics is a vital part of early reading—it helps children understand how letters and sounds work together, giving them the strong foundations they need to become confident, fluent readers.

This year, all Year 1 children will take part in the Phonics Screening Check in June. These weekly sessions will give you an insight into the phonics skills they are learning in school and how you can support them at home as they build towards this important milestone. Our Year 1 teachers will be there each week to model useful strategies, offer guidance, and answer any questions you may have about phonics or the screening check.

And of course, there will be squash and biscuits for the children to enjoy!
We hope to see you there!

Library Books

We are very fortunate to have a wonderful school library which every class visits once a week, so children can choose a book to enjoy at home.

However, we are increasingly finding that books are not being returned, and over time our stock is gradually decreasing. To help us keep the library well-resourced for all pupils, we are introducing a clearer system for reminding families about overdue books.

From the beginning of next half term, reminders will be sent home via a sticker given to your child, showing the title of the book that needs returning. If the book is still not returned after two reminders, we will then send a letter to parents requesting either a replacement copy or the cost of replacing the book.

Our aim is to keep the library a place where we celebrate books, nurture a love of reading, and ensure that every child has access to a rich and varied collection.

Thank you for your support in helping us look after this wonderful resource for the whole school community.

World Book Day

We will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 5th March. Children are welcome to come to school dressed as their favourite character from a book. If children are not comfortable dressing up, they are welcome to wear their own clothes.

Clubs & Activities

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
LUNCHTIMES				
		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
AFTER SCHOOL				
Ferndown First School After School Club. All Years. 3.05pm – 6pm				
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.

PFA News

PFA AGM - Tuesday 3rd March 6.30pm

Congratulations!! If you have a child at our school, you are already a member of the PFA.

The PFA will be holding its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 3rd March 2026 from 6.30pm in the Staff Room.

At the AGM, we will be looking back over the last year, as well as looking ahead and sharing ideas for forthcoming fundraising events.

More information will be sent home regarding this meeting in due course.

Mother's Day Gift Shop - Thursday 12th March

We will be holding a pop-up shop during the school day on Thursday 12th March for children to choose a gift for someone special.

All gift bags will contain the same quantity of items, but children can choose from a variety of colours and styles.

Look out for a flyer coming home soon!

School Discos - Wednesday 18th March

Yr 1 & Yr 2 - 4pm to 4.50pm. Yr 3 & Yr 4 - 5pm to 6pm. £3 per child

If your Yr 2 child attends Football Club, arrangements can be made for them to go straight from Football to the disco.

More information on securing your child's place and payment arrangements will be sent via ParentMail in due course.

EYFS Disco - Thursday 19th March

The EYFS disco will be during the school day on 19th March. EYFS children can wear their disco clothes into school instead of their uniform on this day. This is free of charge.

Community Noticeboard

Mr Higgins Multi Sports **PE STARS**

February Holiday Multi Sports Club
@ Ferndown Leisure Centre

Mr Higgins is an experienced Head of PE with 20 years experience. Mr Higgins thrives in inspiring everyone to enjoy their sport through advocating FUN, FITNESS and FAIR PLAY.

PRICE
£25 Per Person Per Day

CONTACT
Call Message: 07980 901728
Facebook/ Instagram @mrhigginsmultiports

VENUE
Ferndown Leisure Centre,
Cherry Grove, Ferndown BH22 9EZ, United Kingdom.

SPORTS INCLUDE

- ✓ Dodgeball
- ✓ Capture the Flag
- ✓ Football
- ✓ And many more

9am-3pm
Ages 6-14

MON 16 FEB **TUES 17 FEB**

Live4Tennis **February Tennis Fun!**

For Years R-7 Action-packed February Half Term Tennis
£27 daily Club! Fun games, skill-building and match
Bring packed lunch play in a friendly environment. Perfect for all
Ferndown only pre-order meal deals. (link on sign up) abilities.

Sandleheath Monday 16th Feb
SCAN ME

Ferndown Tuesday 17th & Thursday 19th Feb
SCAN ME

Donhead Monday 16th & Tuesday 17th Feb
SCAN ME

Year 8+ Holiday Clubs
Donhead Tuesday 3:30-5pm
Ferndown Tuesday 3-5pm

For more information visit:
www.live4tennis.co.uk/holiday-tennis

NEW CHILDREN & YOUTH CLUBS
TUESDAYS — ST MARY'S FERNDOWN

We are really excited to be launching three after school and evening children's and youth clubs from Tuesday 16th September and we would love to see you there!

FROG YrR-Yr3 3:30 - 4:45pm
A fab after school club with games, activities, craft, refreshments and a fun look at the bible. Just £1 per child.

FISH Yr4-Yr7 5pm - 6:30pm
Full of energetic games and activities, space to think and discuss whilst also seeing what the Bible has to say about stuff and tuck shop at the end. It'll be a cracking time! There's no charge for this group but young people are welcome to bring up to £1 to spend in tuck shop.

BEACON Youth Nights Yr8+ 7pm - 8:30pm
A time to chill with friends with drinks, snacks and games in the cafe as well as more lively games in the hall. There will also be time to unpack some of life's big questions and hear about the impact Jesus makes in our lives. Young people are welcome to bring \$1 for tuck.

These clubs start on Tuesday 16th September and will run weekly during term time. If you would like your child to attend you can complete the online consent form in advance (please scan the QR code) or you can fill out a form on the night. We look forward to seeing you!

Miriam Biggs Children & Families Minister
Mike Orman Youth & Worship Pastor

Scan here to sign up

BABY & TODDLER GROUP
HERE IN FERNDOWN

NEW MUMS WELCOME

RELAXED & FRIENDLY

MONDAYS
9.30-10.30 AM
ST MARY'S CHURCH

Pay just £6.50 for the family. Siblings, adults and refreshments are free. We are a PAYG class, so there is no need to book or make a commitment for multiple classes

TWINKLES

CONTACT SUE 07752 015897

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/TWINKLESORSET

Term dates



Term Dates 2026-2027



Autumn Term 2026

SEPTEMBER 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				

OCTOBER 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	

NOVEMBER 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						

DECEMBER 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			

Spring Term 2027

JANUARY 2027						
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 2027						
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 2027						
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 2027						
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 2027

MAY 2027						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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 2027						
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

JULY 2027						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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 2027						
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 2026-2027

25 December 2026	Christmas Day
28 December 2026	Boxing Day

1 January 2027	New Year's Day
26 March 2027	Good Friday

29 March 2027	Easter Monday
3 May 2027	May Day Holiday

31 May 2027	Spring Bank Holiday
30 August 2027	August Bank Holiday

Key

School Holidays

Bank Holidays

Staff Training Days

Last Day of Term
