

13th February 2026



Attendance

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

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you to the parents and carers that joined Mrs Errington and myself for the Year 1 Phonics check meeting this week. We will run the meeting again on **Thursday 26th March at 2.15 pm** for parents that were unable to attend.

This is a useful meeting for parents to find out how they can best support their child to pass this important statutory check in June.

Arbor

After the half term holiday, we will be using a new management system called **Arbor**.

The migration of data will take place during the half term holiday and we are expecting everything to be in place upon our return to school.

We will initially be using Arbor in a limited capacity and will then gradually expand the services it offers over the coming months.

Arbor will also eventually replace ParentMail. Parents will receive further information and instructions on how to set up their new account and log-in to use the Arbor Parent Portal and App in due course.

Thank you for your continued support as we implement these exciting improvements for our school community. More information will be shared after half term.

Thank you

Thank you to all parents and carers that have contributed to a successful half term. Hopefully the weather will start to improve and it is good to see the daylight increasing! Well done to Edward (Year 4) who beat me at chess today - I must be very tired!

Have a good half term break
Mr Watts

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**

- **26th March - Phonic Screening Check parent Meeting - 2.15 pm - Hall**
- 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

Reminders

- When we return after half term, we will be on the Week 2 menu for school meals.
- Gardening and Wellbeing Clubs will start on Monday 23rd February.
- Yr 2 DT Food begins on Monday 23rd February (see ParentMail)
- Yr 1 Fun with Phonics starts on Tuesday 24th February (see ParentMail)

Year 1 Fun with Phonics!

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

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

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 rents requesting either a replacement copy or the cost of replacing the book.

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.

Extreme Reading Challenge

As part of our World Book Day celebrations we would like to invite the children to take part in an Extreme Reading Challenge. If your child would like to get involved, they need to choose an interesting, unusual or creative place and take a photo of themselves reading there. Please send photos to the school office with your child's name by Tuesday 3rd March. We will compile all the photos and share them with the children on World Book Day!

Book Swap

In addition, we invite the children to bring in a book from home that they have finished with or no longer need. The children will have the opportunity to swap this book for a different book brought in by someone else from their class. The books need to be appropriate for the age of children and in good condition please. Any leftover books not taken at the Book Swap will be put out on the playground for children to take at the end of the day, in exchange for a small donation.



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

FREE COURSE

Understanding Your Child's Behaviour

Course Code: FA1506H

14 April – 09 June 2026
09:30 – 12:00 • 8 weeks

This supportive course is designed for parents, carers, and grandparents of children under 16 who want to better understand and respond to challenging behaviour

The sessions provide a safe space to share experiences, learn practical techniques, and gain confidence in handling everyday challenges

Enrol on this course by calling Skills & Learning on 01202123444 and booking your place now

The Centre, Ferndown
Barns Rd,
Ferndown,
BH22 8XH



SKILLS & LEARNING
Adult Community Education

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

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

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
