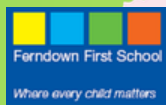


Ferndown First School

WEEKLY UPDATE

27 February 2026



Attendance

Whole School Attendance: **95.0%**

National: **94.8%**

Whole School target: **97%**

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a busy but very positive start to the second half of the spring term. If any parents are interested in supporting fundraising for the school, please feel welcome to attend the PFA AGM on Tuesday 3rd March at 6.30 pm in the staff room.

Fun with Phonics

Thank you to Year 1 parents that attended the Fun with Phonics session that took place on Tuesday. It was lovely to see parents and children enjoying a range of activities to support children in preparation the the National Phonics Screening Check which takes place in June. These sessions will run every Tuesday after school.

White Paper

The government has now released its new SEND White Paper, and we want to reassure families that nothing is changing immediately for children with SEND or children with an education and health care plan (EHCP). The proposals are still part of a consultation process, and no changes are expected to come into effect until 2029-2030 at the earliest. We'll continue to keep you updated as more information becomes available. In the meantime, you can read the parent information leaflet here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/699c1171bfdab2546272c0cd/Parent_leaflet_-_What_parents_of_children_and_young_people_with_SEND_need_to_know.pdf

Filming at School Events

In line with the 'filming performances policy', which can be found on our website, parents are no longer permitted to film children at any event. For example, this would include performances, concerts, church, assemblies or sports days. Photographs of your own children are still permitted but must never be shared.

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**

- **4th March - Visit to Ferndown Library**
- 26th March - Phonics Check 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: 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)
- **15th July - Summer Service at St Mary's**

Important Information

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!

Easter Church Services

Our Easter Church services will be held on **Friday 27th March** this year, rather than the usual Wednesday services.

EYFS and Year 1 – service starts at 9.15am

Years 2, 3 and 4 – service starts at 10.45am

Parent helpers would be much appreciated and we will ask for these closer to the time.

Children who would usually wear their PE uniform on a Friday (Year 1 and 4) should wear their normal uniform instead on this day.

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)	

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 6.30 pm 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 - 5 pm to 6 pm. £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/TWINKLESBORSET

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



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

Stay Well Dorset

Bringing you the best local health and care advice from Dorset's NHS, councils and, voluntary organisations.

visit: staywelldorset.nhs.uk

- ✓ Primary care
- ✓ NHS 111
- ✓ Urgent health advice
- ✓ Dental care
- ✓ Vaccinations
- ✓ Hypertension
- ✓ Digital healthcare



Not sure if it's an urgent dental problem?

You can still get an urgent dental appointment by calling NHS 111 - even if you don't have a regular dentist:

- ✓ Broken or lost filling or crown
- ✓ Toothache that's not getting better
- ✓ Broken tooth that's causing discomfort
- ✓ Sensitivity or swelling in the mouth
- ✓ Gum problems causing pain or bleeding

You'll be assessed and directed to a local dentist for the right treatment. Urgent appointments are there to help manage these problems quickly - before they get worse.

Call NHS 111 or visit 111.nhs.uk for urgent or unscheduled dental care



Easter Egg Hunt!

22 March

Village Hall
Braeside Rd.
BH24 2PH

Follow the map collecting each question as you go. Then it's back to the village hall to collect!

The early chick catches the egg!

Entrance £5 per child including egg

Refreshments also available

To book or want more information, contact Marie mariestshall@yahoo.com or text to 07340 099036

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
					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 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				

JULY 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				

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
