

Ferndown First School

WEEKLY UPDATE

6th March 2026



Attendance

Whole School Attendance: **95.0%**
National: **94.6%** Whole School target: **97%**

Message from the Headteacher

Well done to the members of our school council who attended a community event at King's Park Care Home to celebrate a local community hero Sarah Middleton, who is the lollipop lady for the Ferndown Schools.

This was a timely event as it is International Women's Day on the 8th March. School Council performed a short poem and presented Sarah with a card which children from across the school contributed to, thanking her for keeping them safe on their journey to and from school.

Sarah's final day will be 17th July. We will arrange something as a whole school to say thank you later in the year.

I wanted to give an update on our plans to develop a quiet area of our playground and seating area in memory of Betsy Badminton. I have commissioned local artist, Kizzie B, to design and install a large mural on the Year 2 brick wall facing the playground. The mural will incorporate things Betsy loved. Examples of Kizzie's work can be found at <https://www.kizzibcreative.com/>

We are also in the process of sourcing some high-quality seating for this area with the generous donations from parents. Mrs Lord has also secured another £3500 from a successful 'Big Bid' application which will be put toward the project. I had wanted to put an area of artificial grass to demarcate this area, but the quote is just too expensive!

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 - 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

- 18th March - School Discos - see ParentMail for details
- 27th March - Easter Church Services at St Mary's
- 27th March - Last Day of Term finish at 1.15pm or 3.05pm
- 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
- 17th July - Last Day of Term finish at 1.15pm or 3.05pm

Important Information

Arbor

We are pleased to announce that our move to Arbor MIS has been successful. Adopting Arbor will allow us to communicate with you more efficiently and bring all core school data and workflows into one system.

We are looking forward to inviting parents to log into the app and will send further communication about how to register during the last week of this half term. Please look out for this information via email and register your child when prompted.

We are hoping to use solely Arbor from 1st September 2026. Until then, all communication will be via ParentMail as well as via Arbor. Breakfast and After School club will be booked via Arbor after the May half term. Further details will be sent nearer the time.

Any queries please contact the school office.

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 some helpful parent information leaflets here:

- [Schools White Paper - What parents need to know](#)
- [The Education Hub - Changes to the SEND system](#)

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.

ParentMail app update

We are aware that the ParentMail app has been updated. Please ensure that you update the app to ensure you are using the latest version.

If you have any issues with any aspect of the new app, please let us know. Thank you very much for your continued support.

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.

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)	

School led clubs run half-termly. Information for booking or registering your interest is via ParentMail. Please contact the office if you have any queries.

PFA News

Thank you to those that attended the PFA AGM this week. If you missed it but would still like to get involved, please contact the office.

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.
Gift bags are now available to purchase via ParentMail.

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.
A flyer with information and the payment item for tickets is available now via ParentMail.


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.

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Community Noticeboard

  
@DORSETMHST




 Dorset Mental Health Support Team in Schools

 NHS
Dorset HealthCare University
NHS Foundation Trust

PARENT/CARER WEBINAR

SUPPORTING SLEEP

To mark World Sleep Day, the Mental Health Support Team in Schools would like to invite you to an online webinar focused on supporting healthy sleep in children, young people and teenagers.

We hope you can join us!  Tuesday 10th March
 13.00 – 14.00
 Online

During the session, we will cover:

- Why sleep matters for children and young people
- Common sleep difficulties and what contributes to them
- Practical tips for creating healthy routines
- Where to find further help if you need it



For more info & sign up: bit.ly/4kfZZFQ

Street Arts Easter Camp

Street dance, DJing and arts and crafts



Tuesday 7 – Thursday 9 April 2026
Coastland College, Weymouth Campus

Junior crew 9.30am–12.30pm

Senior crew 1.00pm–5.00pm

1-1 support available

£10 per day or
free with a
HAF code

For more information and to book:
remix@activateperformingarts.org.uk

activate
performing arts



Arts Council
ENGLAND



Remix
THE

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



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

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Term Dates

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
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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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
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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
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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

Last Day of Term



Term Dates 2026-2027



Autumn Term 2026

SEPTEMBER 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
	1	2	3	4	5	6
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

OCTOBER 2026						
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NOVEMBER 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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30						

DECEMBER 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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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
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28

MARCH 2027						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

APRIL 2027						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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26	27	28	29	30		

Summer Term 2027

MAY 2027						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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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						

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Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
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Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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