

Ferndown First School

WEEKLY UPDATE

13th March 2026



Attendance

Whole School Attendance to date: **95.6%**
National: **94.6%** Whole School target: **97%**

Message from the Headteacher

Another super busy week with only two more weeks until we break for Easter!

Thank you to parents and carers that supported the PFA Mothers Day pop up shop. I am delighted that this event has raised **£550** that can be put towards school projects. Dads, don't worry, there is a pop up Father's Day shop planned for June!

Year 2 children looked lovely today in their Titanic inspired costumes. We had some very posh First Class passengers, Captains, maids, barbers and engine room mechanics. The children love learning linked to this topic and I had a great chat with Ted from Year 2 whose great-great grandfather's brother, Arthur White, was a barber on the Titanic. Ted shared pictures of artefacts that his great-great grandfather had on board the Titanic including coins, a purse and badges. Ted really is our current resident expert on all things Titanic!

Children in Year 2 have also been busy rehearsing for their music concert for parents next week. You are in for a treat!

Regular attendance remains a focus for the school. Please be aware that there is now an updated Attendance Policy for all SET schools. It can be found on our website.

Please also look out for my grumpy Headteacher letter about illegal parking on yellow zig-zag lines outside of the main gates. This must stop if we want our children to remain safe.

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**

- 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
- **21st May - Avon Tyrrell Parents' Assembly 9am Hall**
- 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.

Parenting in a Digital World

Dorset Council is hosting a free online event, Parenting Together in a Digital World. The session includes practical insights and advice from local professionals, along with an opportunity to submit questions as part of a Q and A.

I would highly recommend this event. I have listened to Dr Helen Thomas speak before and she is passionate about supporting parents to ensure their children are safe from online dangers.

Please see details in the flyer below.

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

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.

Community Noticeboard

Parenting together in a digital world

Join us for an online information event designed to help parents and carers feel confident supporting their child in today's digital world.

This online event offers practical insights and open, non-judgemental conversations about how smartphones and digital technology can influence children's wellbeing. Professionals will share insights on supporting safe and balanced tech use, and there will be the chance to ask your own questions.



Our speakers include:

Dr Helen Thomas, Hampshire GP

James Law, Primary Headteacher

Leanne Symmonds, Secondary Headteacher

David Sidwick, Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner



Sign up by scanning the QR code or by visiting:
www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/parent-together-event



This event is delivered in partnership with:



Community Noticeboard

Mr Higgins Fun Football Club
@ Ferndown First School

This session is all about making fitness fun, engaging, and accessible for every child. Through a wide variety of exciting games and challenges, children will be moving constantly.

I believe it's vital to give children a positive relationship with fitness from a young age. This club is designed to build that mindset early—with energy, enthusiasm and enjoyment leading the way. All sessions will be inclusive of ability. Let's make Wednesday afternoons one of the best hours of their week.

Price £84.50 Per Person

Activities & Skills

- ✓ Agility - Balance - Coordination
- ✓ Teamwork
- ✓ Passing and Shooting
- ✓ Dribbling

Contact
Call/ Message: 07980 301728
Facebook/ Instagram @mrhigginsmultisports

Venue
Ferndown First School

3.15-4.15 On The Playground

FUN - FITNESS - FAIR PLAY REINFORCED

Wednesdays APR: 15, 22, 29 MAY: 6, 13, 20 JUNE: 3, 10, 17, 24 JULY: 1, 8, 15

Places Leisure Because Community Matters
Part of Places for People

Intensive swimming courses

During school holidays at Ferndown Leisure Centre

Tap to find out more

a skill for life

ferndown.placesleisure.org

Places for People Leisure Ltd working in partnership with Dorset Council Dorset

Places Leisure Part of Places for People

EASTER MULTI-SPORT DAYS

Dates

- Tuesday 31st March
- Wednesday 1st April
- Thursday 2nd April
- Tuesday 7th April
- Wednesday 8th April
- Thursday 9th April

What to Bring

- A refillable water bottle
- Packed lunch and snack
- Swimming kit
- Weather-appropriate clothing

(Please ensure sun cream is applied before arrival and children bring a hat.)

Time
9:00am–3:00pm

Pricing
£23 for the first day booked
£18 for any additional days
(Discount applies only when bookings are)

How to Book
Visit our friendly reception team or call 01202 877468

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
						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 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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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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
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 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
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
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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
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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
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
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				

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Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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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						

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Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
	1	2	3	4	5	6
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

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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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