

Ferndown First School

WEEKLY UPDATE

20th March 2026



Attendance

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

Message from the Headteacher

It has been a very busy week in school. Our children in EYFS enjoyed their trip to Charisworth Farm. Luckily, the weather was lovely! They found out that cows have four stomachs and no top teeth! They met Richard the farmer and learnt about what grows in the fields. Their next trip is to Blashford Lakes in June. It is our aim to take all children out on as many trips as possible. I am really pleased that our youngest children will enjoy two trips this year. Many thanks to parent volunteers that supported this trip.

Year 2 children enjoyed performing their musical concert to parents this week. They sang enthusiastically and showcased their skills playing the ukulele, boomwhackers and xylophones - all within a rock and roll theme! We offer all children the opportunity to learn to play the ukulele over their time at school. Children start to learn the ukulele in Year 2 and carry this on through Year 3 and 4. Thanks to Mrs Charters who is such a brilliant music teacher.

We will be arranging a Year 3 music concert in the summer term so that all children have had an opportunity to perform to their parents.

We're excited to let you know that our school has joined The Hidden Treasure Hunt - a fun, national recycling challenge that helps children learn how to responsibly manage old, unwanted or broken tech and electricals, while working together as a community to win tech for their school. Please look for more details in a letter coming out today.

Have a good weekend and enjoy some sunny weather!

Key Dates & Information

More detailed information about the events below will be communicated through ParentMail and/or Arbor

EYFS

PE Day: **Wednesday**

- **16th & 17th June - Trip to Blashford Lakes**

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 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

- **27th March - Easter Church Services at St Mary's**
- **27th March - Last Day of Term finish at 1.15pm or 3.05pm - A form is now available on ParentMail**
- **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 next week.

Please look out for this information via email and register your child when prompted.

We will be using only Arbor from 1st September 2026. Until then, all communication will also be sent via ParentMail.

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.

End of Term Collection

Next Friday, 27th March, parents will have the option to collect children at either 1.15pm or 3.05pm.

There is now a form on ParentMail to indicate your preference, including if your child is attending After School Club.

It would be much appreciated if you could complete this by Thursday 26th March.

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 - thank you to those that have already confirmed they can help.

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

Year 1 Fun with Phonics!

Please join us with your child for our final Spring Term Fun with Phonics session after school next Tuesday 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

The PFA ran a very successful Mother's Day Pop Up Shop last week and raised over £500!

Children were able to choose which flower they would like for their grown ups and everyone got a sweet treat!

The discos were also a success this week, children had a great time dancing with their friends.

Thank you to Mrs Saunders, Mrs Miller, Mrs Thorne, Miss Barber and Mrs Ellement who, along with school staff and parent volunteers, helped to make the events a success!



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

Event details:
Tuesday 14 April
7.00pm to 8.30pm

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

This event is delivered in partnership with:



FREE COURSE

Understanding Your Child's Behaviour


Course Code: FA1506H 14April –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

Please visit <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/let-s-talk-send> to sign up for the events below

Let's Talk SEND

Our 'Let's Talk SEND' online events give people in Dorset with children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) a chance to come together and hear from the SEND team at Dorset Council. The sessions always include plenty of time for questions and answers.

Sign up for the next event

The next Let's Talk session will take place on Tuesday 24 March 2026.

Session from 1pm to 2pm

In this session, we'll be discussing the government's White Paper on SEND reforms that has recently been announced. Senior leaders will be joining us to share helpful information about the upcoming consultation and to answer your questions during the live Q&A.

[Register for the 1pm session >](#)

Session from 6:30pm to 7:30pm

To ensure as many people can join us for this conversation we will also be running an evening session at 6:30pm. This session will contain the same information as the earlier time, and both will have a Q&A section.

[Register for the 6:30pm session >](#)

To help us get through as many questions as possible, we suggest you pre-submit your questions using our [online form](#).

Community Noticeboard

Mr Higgins Multi Sports
PE STARS

Easter 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 301728
Facebook/ Instagram @mrhigginsmultisports

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 30 MARCH TUE 31 MARCH WED 1 APR THUR 2 APR

DORSET FIT

Support Mobility Confidence

MUM FIT

Mums and babies gentle group exercise with Hannah.

Active IQ Level 3 Qualified in Supporting Pre & Post-Natal Clients

Google Rating 5.0 ★★★★★

Ferndown, Royal British Legion
RBL Club Ferndown BH22 9ET

Gentle exercise in a supportive, sociable setting. Regain confidence in movement and your body. Book by calling Hannah on 07871323747

- Starting on the 14 January 2026
- £12 per class, 6-week GP all-clear required

BOOK YOUR SPOT TODAY
EMAIL HANNAH@DORSETFIT.COM
OR CALL **07871323747**

dorsetfit.com

Places Leisure
Part of Places for People

Because Community Matters

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 Christ Church Dorset

Easter Colouring Competition

Kings Park Care Home are running an Easter colouring competition.

If your child would like to take part, you can collect a colouring sheet from the school office.

Please return to Kings Park Care Home by 29th March and winners will be announced on 1st April!



Ferndown First School – Weekly Update – 30 March 2026

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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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
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

OCTOBER 2026						
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NOVEMBER 2026						
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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
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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				

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Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
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
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

JUNE 2027						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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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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Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

AUGUST 2027						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
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