

Ferndown First School

WEEKLY UPDATE

27th March 2026



Attendance

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

Message from the Headteacher

It has been a very busy but successful term. I have been pleased to see that attendance is beginning to improve. Regular school attendance is vital to ensure children reach their full potential.

Progress reports have been sent home this week and parents will have a chance to discuss these in the upcoming parent consultation meetings during the first week back after the holidays.

I would be grateful if parents of children in Year 1 could practise phonics daily in the holidays in preparation for the Phonics Check.

Year 4 children should be practising their times tables as often as they can in readiness for the Multiplication Check.

Thank you to parents and carers that joined our Easter services at St Mary's Church today. During the services our choir sang beautifully, children read with expression and the Dood and Toot players performed confidently. Filming on devices is not permitted at school events. This is to keep children safe. Thank you to the very large majority of parents that did not film today. I did have to give several reminders during and after the service.

Considering the safety of children in a digital world, please see the flyer below for an event happening in April which again I feel is vital in this modern world we are living in. Hopefully you will be able to attend the Parenting Together training on Tuesday 14 April at 7pm.

I look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 13th April for what will be a busy summer term. Have a good Easter break and enjoy spending time with family and friends.

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**.

Library day: **Wednesday**

- 8th - 12th June - Phonics Screening Check

Year 2

PE Days: **Tuesday and Wednesday**

Library day: **Thursday**

- 13th May - Trip to Liberty's Owl, Raptor & Reptile Centre

Year 3

PE Days: **Monday and Tuesday**

Library day: **Friday**

- 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**

Library day: **Wren - Monday, Lark - Tuesday**

- 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

- 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

The Arbor Parent Portal has gone live this week and parents have been invited to log into the app.

Please ensure you log in to your parent portal account as soon as possible. Thank you to those parents that have already done so.

We will be using only Arbor from 1st September 2026. Until then, all communication will also be sent via ParentMail - please do not delete your ParentMail account yet!

Breakfast and After School club will be booked via Arbor after the May half term. Further details will be sent nearer the time.

Any questions or problems with logging in, 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.

Library Books

We have implemented our Library reminder sticker system and are very grateful to those who have returned books.

Please help us to keep the library well stocked by having a hunt at home over the holidays for any books that are still outstanding.

If books are still missing when we return, parents will receive a letter 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.

Yr 4 Avon Tyrrell

Thank you to all those who have made payments towards their child's Avon Tyrrell trip. All monies are due in via ParentMail by Friday 3rd April.

Please email the office if you have any queries.

Cleverchefs – New Summer Menu

Our school meal provider, Cleverchefs, have a new menu when we return from the Easter break. You can view the new menus on our website or click [here](#)

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)	

Summer Term 1 clubs

In the first half of the Summer Term, we have the following clubs on offer:

- **Gardening Club** for Years 1 to 4 - (limited spaces as children can choose to continue into the next half term)
- **Craft Club** for Years 1 and 2 (please see the expression of interest form on ParentMail)
- **Cooking** for Year 3 (this starts on 7th May as per recent ParentMail sent)

Don't forget that any school-run clubs that your child attended this half term will continue for the first week back after Easter, as they run in 6 week blocks.

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.

Event details:
📅 Tuesday 14 April
🕒 7.00pm to 8.30pm

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:

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

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

 @DORSETMHST


 Dorset Mental Health Support Team in Schools


 Dorset HealthCare University NHS Foundation Trust


PARENT/CARER WEBINAR

EMOTIONALLY BASED SCHOOL NON ATTENDANCE

The Mental Health Support Team in Schools invites you to an online webinar on Emotionally Based School Non-Attendance (EBSNA). This session, suitable for parents and carers of secondary-school young people, will explain why some students struggle to attend school due to emotional distress or anxiety and will offer practical strategies to help them return to and stay in education.

During the session, we will explore:



- What EBSNA is and how it presents
- Common triggers and underlying causes
- Impact on school attendance
- Practical strategies
- Where to find additional support




Tuesday 21st April
12.30 – 13.30
Online


For more info & sign up: bit.ly/4rxJY1W

Please see the below flyer about autism information sessions for parents and carers being offered by Dorset Council. This is free of charge to all, not only those who have an autistic child. You can sign up by following this link: [Autism Information Session](#)

 @DORSETMHST


 Dorset Mental Health Support Team in Schools


 Dorset HealthCare University NHS Foundation Trust


WATCH NOW →


PARENT/CARER WEBINAR

SUPPORTING SLEEP


Join the Mental Health Support Team (MHST) for a practical and informative recorded webinar focused on helping children and young people develop healthier sleep routines. In recognition of World Sleep Day, this session will explore why sleep matters, common challenges that affect young people's sleep, and simple, evidence-based strategies families can use at home.

<https://forms.office.com/e/Rgr5pKcc2V>




 World Sleep Day
 Sleep Well Live Better
 March 13, 2026

Free community session: 'An Introduction to Autism'



What is the session about?

The session was co-developed with parents of autistic children, a SENCo, Dorset Parent Carer Council and Specialist Teachers and Educational Psychologists from Dorset Council.

It will help you to:

- Understand what autism is and how it may impact young people and families
- Learn some practical strategies to support an autistic child/young person

Please note, this is a general information session, so we won't be able to discuss individual children or schools.

Who can attend?


Anyone from the community, this could include people:

- with an autistic child
- with a child undergoing an assessment for autism
- who are interested in learning more about autism

Where and when?

Leigh Park Family Hub and Community Centre, Gordon Road, Wimborne, Dorset, BH21 2AP - Tuesday 12th May 2026 at 9:30am until 11:30pm

To Book a place, please scan this QR code or click on this Link [\[Link\]](#)



Wimborne - An Introduction to Autism - Community Training Session - Summer Term

The session will be delivered by either an Educational Psychologist or a Specialist Teacher from Dorset Council

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Term Dates

Spring Term 2026

JANUARY 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
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FEBRUARY 2026						
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MARCH 2026						
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APRIL 2026						
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Summer Term 2026

MAY 2026						
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JUNE 2026						
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JULY 2026						
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AUGUST 2026						
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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						
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OCTOBER 2026						
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NOVEMBER 2026						
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DECEMBER 2026						
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Spring Term 2027

JANUARY 2027						
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FEBRUARY 2027						
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MARCH 2027						
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Summer Term 2027

MAY 2027						
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JUNE 2027						
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