

Ferndown First School

WEEKLY UPDATE

24 April 2026



Attendance

Whole School Attendance: **95%**

National: **94.8%**

Whole School target: **97%**

Message from the Headteacher

I am writing this from Avon Tyrrell. It has been a great residential with our Year 4 children. The weather has been brilliant, and the children have had a ball! They have enjoyed climbing, archery, shelter building, campfires, orientation, and the adventure course. The children have been a credit to the school. They have supported each other in being successful, overcoming their fears, and challenging themselves.

We have already booked dates for the next three years, and Year 3 parents are invited to an online parents' meeting on **Wednesday 3rd June** about the Avon Tyrrell Residential Trip 2027.

Next week is Arts Week. The theme this year is 'shape and colour'. We are taking our inspiration from artists such as Bridget Riley, Keith Haring, Kandinsky and Mali Morris. I am sure children will enjoy creating their own artwork, which we will display for our Open Evening on **Thursday, 21st May**.

Finally, I would like to say good luck to Mrs Morgan-Clapham who will be leaving us today to start her new role at Parkstone Grammar School as part of their admin team. Mrs Morgan-Clapham has been a highly valued member of the team for the last four years. We are sad to see her go and I know parents will miss her sunny nature. At Ferndown First School we are incredibly lucky to have such a welcoming office team.

Have a good weekend!

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**

- 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

- **21st May - Open 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

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!

School Crossing Patrol

You may have seen on Facebook recently that our lovely school crossing patrol, Mrs Middleton, is being supported by the Ferndown Town Councillors in a petition to keep her in post from the Autumn term.

Whilst we are pleased with the Zebra Crossings that have been installed on Church Road, we agree that having Mrs Middleton available to help our children cross safely is invaluable.

You can sign the petition using the QR code.



Year 4 – First Day at School Photos Wanted!

We know it is hard to believe, but your children will be leaving first school at the end of term!

Please send us a digital photograph of your child's first day at school (even if it was a different school!) so we can prepare for our Leavers' celebrations.

Please send images to office@fernfirst.dorset.sch.uk. If possible, rename the JPEG with your child's initials. If you don't have a first day at school photo, don't worry. Any photo of your child when they were 4 turning 5 would be perfect!
Thank you for your help.

Resources for Arts Week

We are in need of any coloured wool, yarn or string for our upcoming Arts Week. If anyone has any spare that they could kindly donate, please drop into the school office.

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)	

Community Notice Board

May Half Term 2026 







Arts and sports events for Dorset children aged 5-17 who need additional support



**Forest Fun • Hairy Cow Cuddles & Craft
Sensory Sessions • Hands-on History**

 View full programme or email leisure@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk [dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/sport-leisure/artz-sportz](https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/sport-leisure/artz-sportz) 

  @DORSETMHST   Dorset HealthCare University NHS Foundation Trust


PARENT/CARER WEBINAR


HELPING YOUR CHILD MANAGE BIG EMOTIONS

Is your child finding big feelings hard to manage? Are they becoming upset, angry or worried, or finding it hard to calm down after things go wrong? The MHST might be able to help. This pre-recorded webinar is suitable for parent/carers of children up to 12.

In this 1 hour session we will:

- Explore emotional regulation
- Understand triggers and early warning signs
- Share ways to support your child to calm and cope
- Offer practical strategies you can try at home

WATCH NOW 



to watch now: <https://forms.office.com/e/TxhWjE3tza>

  @DORSETMHST   Dorset HealthCare University NHS Foundation Trust

MHST: SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD WHEN THEIR BEHAVIOUR IS CHALLENGING

Join the Dorset Mental Health Support Team for Schools online for a webinar exploring how you as parents/carers can support your child when you are finding their behaviour challenging.




This session provides information on how to respond to children when their behaviour becomes challenging. The sessions covers the theory of behaviour as communication, the importance of play, and the power of positive praise to encourage behaviours parents would like to see more of. It includes practical tools that parents can use to support children when they are dysregulated.

Join us on May 14th 2026 at 1pm

<https://bit.ly/4cjQwdZ> 

enquires to: dhc.mhsteam.northandeastdorset@nhs.net
To leave feedback: <https://gthr.co.uk/24fz>

@DORSETMHST


  @DORSETMHST   Dorset HealthCare University NHS Foundation Trust

MHST: SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD WITH SIGNS OF ANXIETY Y6 AND UNDER

Join the Dorset Mental Health Support Team for Schools for a webinar designed for parents of young people in year 6 and below who are struggling with anxiety.

This session is available for parents/carers who are looking to understand and support their child with anxiety or worries.

The session covers theory around anxiety in young people, potential triggers and maintenance factors, and key strategies to support their child with managing worries. It also explores parental wellbeing and the importance of this when supporting their child.

Join us on
Thursday 7th May at 2pm:
<http://bit.ly/4tJuBDn> 

enquires to: dhc.mhsteam.northandeastdorset@nhs.net
To leave feedback: <https://gthr.co.uk/d34c>

@DORSETMHST

Ferndown First School – Weekly Update – 24 April 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
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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
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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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28	29	30				

OCTOBER 2026						
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NOVEMBER 2026						
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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
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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

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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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Summer Term 2027

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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
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