

Ferndown First School

WEEKLY UPDATE

8 May 2026



Attendance

Whole School Attendance: **95.0%**

National: **94.8%**

Whole School target: **97%**

Message from the Headteacher

It has been a positive week in school.

I have been pleased to see how focussed Year 4 have been in practising their times tables. They will be sitting their national Multiplication Check in June which assesses children's fluency of all the multiplication tables up to 12 x 12. The children only have 6 seconds to answer each of the 25 questions. I would like to see all children score 25 out of 25. Please continue to practise with your child at home.

Year 1 have been focussing their learning on ensuring children are confident to use their phonics to read real and unfamiliar words. I can see how hard the children have been working during their phonics lessons. The last few weeks leading up to the Phonics Screening check are especially important. We will write to parents if their child still has gaps in their learning so they can practise these at home.

I am seeing an increase in requests for term time leave for family holiday. Whilst I understand the financial benefits to families, I will not authorise term time leave. It has a significant impact on children's progress - missing a week of education starts allowing gaps to form in children's knowledge which puts children at a disadvantage to their peers. Teachers will not be providing any learning for children to be completed during term time holidays.

Today the children celebrated the 100th birthday of Sir David Attenborough. His career has spanned eight decades, and he has made an outstanding contribution to raising awareness of the protection of our natural environment and conservation of wildlife. The children have watched a live assembly this afternoon which celebrates Sir Attenborough's life and achievements.

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!

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.

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.



Cool Milk

Did you know? Children currently receive free school milk until their fifth birthday through the Government's school milk scheme. After this point, the entitlement ends. This means that within the same Reception class some children continue receiving milk while others do not, depending on when their birthday falls. At Ferndown First School, we are supporting the Fair Milk for a Fair Start campaign, which calls for a simple change so all children can receive free school milk until the end of their Reception year.

Find out more or show your support:
<https://fairmilkfairstart.com/>

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

DORSET FIT
ALL WELCOME
dorsetft.com

FERNDOWN CHARITY WALK OR RUNATHON
SUNDAY 7TH JUNE 06:00-16:00

- Walk or run – As much or as little as you like.
- Bring your friends, family and a picnic!
- Everyone welcome.
- Raising money for John Thornton Young Achievers Foundation.

CALL OR MESSAGE HANNAH ON 07871323747 TO LET US KNOW WHAT TIME YOU CAN MAKE IT

CLIMB AS HIGH AS YOU CAN DREAM
John Thornton Young Achievers Foundation

Ferndown
King George V Playing Fields

£680 RAISED LAST YEAR!



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

School Special Price: £27.50
Contact the centre on 01202 576666 and name your school to receive the discount.
ferndown.placesleisure.org



¡HOLA! SPANISH MINI EXPLORERS
AGES 4-7
¡VAMOS!

Fun, engaging Spanish through games, songs and speaking.
Build confidence and a love of language from an early age!

WEDNESDAYS ON ZOOM

MINI EXPLORERS (BEGINNERS) ★ 4:00 – 4:30pm	JUNIOR EXPLORERS (HIGHER LEVEL) ★ 4:30 – 5:00pm
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STARTS: Wednesday 10th June
6-WEEK COURSE
£42 UPFRONT (£7 per lesson)
CERTIFICATE AT THE END!

DELIVERED BY A FULLY QUALIFIED MFL TEACHER WITH EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE

TO BOOK A PLACE:
minispanishexplorers@gmail.com
LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE!

¡HASTA PRONTO!



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 

K E V S F O T B A L L   **T R A I N I N G C A M P S**

10am – 2pm
Only £25 per day
Pizza for Lunch (included in the price)
Medals for Everyone
Prizes for the Tournament Winners

MERLEY FIRST SCHOOL
Boys and Girls aged 4.5 – 10 years old
Friday 29th May

Improve your Football Skills, Technique and Knowledge in a sociable environment whilst encouraging sportsmanship and team spirit with the emphasis on HAVING FUN and ENJOYING FOOTBALL!

 Email Totalsportsdorset@gmail.com or Message **07795258274** to book a space

 **Join our FREE Trial Week**

In support of International Learn to Swim Week

11th-17th May 2026

 **FREE** trial lessons at all venues

Book your space today

T&Cs apply

01202 031701
info@individualityswimmingandfitness.co.uk

Individuality SWIMMING & FITNESS

  

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/4cjQwd7>



enquires to: dhc.mhsteam.northandeastdorset@nhs.net
 To leave feedback: <https://gthr.co.uk/24f9>

@DORSETMHST



Ferndown First School – Weekly Update – 8 May 2026

Term Dates

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
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					

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
			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	

NOVEMBER 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						

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
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 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				

APRIL 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		

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						

JUNE 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				

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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	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

AUGUST 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
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