

Ferndown First School

WEEKLY UPDATE

26 June 2026



Attendance

Whole School Attendance: 94.9%

Message from the Headteacher

Dear parents and carers

Thank you to everyone for their support this week. It was the right decision to close school yesterday. The extreme heat was unprecedented, and it was important to prioritise children's safety. All staff were working yesterday, either at home or at school. I was hoping for a good rainstorm overnight, but the storm seems to have bypassed us!

I would like to thank staff who have continued, in difficult circumstances, to support the children. It has not been easy. The positive emails received from parents have been very welcome to offset the grumbles and moans.

Thank you to parents and carers who have applied for free school meals under the category of Targeted or Expanded FSM. Please do refer to the letter sent out last week and, if you are eligible, apply online at: <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/free-school-meals> This will ensure the school receives the correct amount of funding.

Children have met their new class teachers today. It was a very settled transition, and I spent time in each new class. Please support positive conversations about the children's new classes. There has been much time spent trying to get the right balance in each class and children will continue to mix with their friends at play times and lunchtimes.

Hopefully there will be some cooler weather over the weekend which we can all enjoy!

Key Dates & Information

More detailed information about the events below will be communicated through Arbor.

EYFS

PE Day: Wednesday.

Year 1

PE Days: Thursday and Friday.

Library day: Wednesday

Year 2

PE Days: Tuesday and Wednesday

Library day: Thursday

Year 3

PE Days: Monday and Tuesday

Library day: Friday

- 2nd July - Fiver Challenge 2.15pm, School Hall
- 10th July - African Music Concert, 9.15am, School Hall
- 13th July - Junior Duke Assembly, 9.15am, School Hall

Year 4

PE Days: Thursday and Friday

Library day: Wren - Monday, Lark - Tuesday

- 2nd July - Swimming at Ferndown Leisure Centre
- 3rd July - Fiver Challenge 2.15pm, School Hall
- 13th July - Junior Duke Assembly, 9.15am, School Hall
- 17th July - Leavers' Assembly 10am, School Hall

Whole School Dates

- 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

Sun Safety & Hydration

Children can keep a named sunhat at school for break times and outdoor activities. We would like to reassure parents that we keep children inside during extreme heat.

We recommend that long-lasting, high-factor sun protection cream is applied to children before the start of the school day. No suncream is to be brought into school. Staff are not able to apply suncream.

Parents are asked to ensure their child always has a named water bottle in school so children can refill these throughout the day. Please ensure these are filled with water. Squash is only permitted for lunchtime and no fizzy drinks are allowed. Thank you.

Year 3 – Avon Tyrrell Residential Trip 2027

A letter has been sent home to parents advising the approximate cost and requesting a £50 deposit to secure your child's place. Please note that this non-refundable deposit must be received by the school no later than Friday 11th July. Thank you.

Year 3 & 4 – Junior Duke Assembly

We would like to invite Year 3 and 4 parents to a Junior Duke assembly on Monday 13th July at 9.15am. Parents are asked to access the hall through the staff entrance. All 10 challenges will need to be completed by 8th July so that Mrs Lord has time to prepare the certificates and badges for the Junior Duke assembly.

Hidden Treasure Hunt

The deadline for the Hidden Treasure Hunt has been extended until 6th July

What to do:

- Rummage for any old, unwanted or broken electricals (anything with a battery, plug or cable)
- Recycle them at Currys or another local drop-off point
- You can find all your local-drop off points across the UK - including all Currys stores - by searching 'Recycle your electricals'
- Scan the QR code or visit hiddentreasurehunt.org to register your recycling and earn a Planet Care Point for our school

Every registration counts – and families who take part are also entered into a prize draw to win £100 Currys' vouchers for Microsoft tech.

Full details can be found at:
hiddentreasurehunt.org

Thank you for supporting our school and helping give unwanted tech a new life.

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 Noticeboard

SEPTEMBER BOOKINGS NOW OPEN!

Swimming Lessons
For All Ages & Abilities

Venues across Bournemouth, Poole and Ferndown




Book your space today!

01202 031701
info@individualityswimmingandfitness.co.uk



SUPPORTERS FORUM

Topic: Emotionally based school non attendance (EBSNA)

Are you a parent, carer or supporter of a child in a Dorset school or college? We need your voice!

The Mental Health Support Team in schools warmly invites you to a forum to learn more about Emotionally Based School Non-Attendance (EBSNA) and to help shape the support families would like or need.

💬 This is a supportive and collaborative space. The focus won't be on individual situations, but on helping us understand what support would make the biggest difference for families across Dorset.

What happens at a forum?

- ✓ 20-minute expert presentation – tips for parents and useful signposting to local support.
- ✓ Your turn to share – via chat, email, verbally, or using our interactive whiteboard.
- ✓ No pressure – Cameras and micros optional
- ✓ Your privacy protected -names anonymised
- ✗ we can't discuss individual cases

Tuesday 30th June
6:15–7:30pm
Online event



[For more information and to sign up: https://bit.ly/4unnVL6](https://bit.ly/4unnVL6)

Community Notice Board

LIVE4TENNIS PRESENTS

SUMMER TENNIS CLUBS

2026 **FERNDOWN COMMUNITY TENNIS**

SIGN UP TODAY

- ✓ 6 hours of active play each day – perfect for burning energy and staying engaged
- ♥ Stay active and healthy with lots of movement and outdoor exercise
- 🔥 Build determination and resilience through sport-based challenges
- 🏆 Afternoon matchplay – friendly competition in a supportive environment
- 😊 All ability levels welcome – perfect for beginners or those looking to improve

FROM 28TH JULY TO 27TH AUG 2026 – 9-3PM – £27 A DAY

DATES:

TUESDAYS: 28TH JULY / 4TH / 11TH / 18TH & 25TH AUGUST

THURSDAYS: 30TH JULY / 6TH / 13TH / 20TH & 27TH AUGUST

Follow us @live4tennis

More info & Sign up www.live4tennis.co.uk

SCAN ME

Week 1: 20, 21, 22, 23 July. Week 2: 27, 28, 29, 30 July

Mr Higgins Multi Sports

PE STARS

Mr Higgins Multi Sports Summer Holiday 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 @mrhigginsmultiports

VENUE

Ferndown Leisure Centre, Cherry Grove, Ferndown BH22 9EZ, United Kingdom

SPORTS INCLUDE

- ✓ Dodgeball
- ✓ Capture the Flag
- ✓ Football
- ✓ And many more

Week 3: 3, 4, 5, 6 August Week 4: 10, 11, 12, 13 August

BEST START IN LIFE

Dorset Council

Schools out!

Music Adventure

Arts Sports

Workshops Nature

Get involved - sign up now

Get ready for a summer of trying new things, making friends and having fun experiences!

Sign up now

dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/haf-programme

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dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/haf-programme

This summer, get ready for days packed with fun, laughter and unforgettable experiences! Join us at our holiday clubs, action-packed activities and fantastic fun days – there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Help with costs is available for eligible families. Visit Holiday activities and food (HAF) programme – Dorset Council to find out more.

During Schools out you can expect...

- a wide variety of sessions including sports, music, arts and crafts, cooking, drama, story writing and much more
- lots of unique and exciting experiences to enjoy with new friends
- tasty meals at activities and tips for how you can eat well from home

Funded by Department for Education

If you have any questions, contact us holidayactivities@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk 01305 221157

Community Notice Board



Summer Reading Challenge parent carer news

Joining the Summer Reading Challenge

Children sign up through their local library and receive a sticker booklet. They set a reading goal and borrow books of their choice during the summer and can join in with library events, collecting special stickers along the way.

Children who complete the Challenge are presented with a medal when they have collected 6 stickers, and a certificate is sent to school in the Autumn term.

Read to the Beat starts Saturday 4 July



The Summer Reading Challenge website will be having a Read to the Beat makeover - take a look at the [webpages](#) from early July. It will be full of book recommendations, games, quizzes and fun things for children to explore.



Culture Quest

Over the summer holidays, The Arts Development Company will be running Culture Quest. Through a Culture Passport, children will be encouraged to explore Dorset's rich creative offer trying new activities, and discovering new interests.

Children can pick up their passports from their local library from 24 July.



2026 Summer Reading Challenge: Read to the Beat

The 2026 Summer Reading Challenge - Read to the Beat, celebrates the joy of reading through music, rhythm and performance. Through vibrant illustrations, fun rewards and free library activities inspired by music and sound, Read to the Beat invites children to discover how stories and music connect, while enjoying their local library and sharing the experience with family and friends.

The Summer Reading Challenge is a free holiday activity for children, and a key moment for the National Year of Reading. It's all about reading for fun, aiming to improve children's reading skills and confidence.

Library events

Libraries will have free events planned throughout the summer holidays for children to join in with. Keep checking our [What's On](#) webpages as more events are listed all the time.

Look out for some special events delivered by Dorset Music Service in Dorset libraries.



Proud to support
The National Year
of Reading 2026.

GO
ALL
IN.

The Summer Reading Challenge is developed by The Reading Agency and delivered in partnership with public libraries.

Our Library Service mission is to **Inspire, Connect and Enable** our communities



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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
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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
						1
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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
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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				

JULY 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	

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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