

Ferndown First School

WEEKLY UPDATE

10 July 2026



Attendance

Whole School Attendance: 94.9%

Message from the Headteacher

As we reach the end of another busy week, I would like to thank all of our children, staff and families for their continued support and enthusiasm.

One of the highlights of the week was today's fabulous Year 3 African Music Concert. The children performed with confidence, energy and great musical skill, sharing the rhythms and songs they have been learning throughout the term. It was wonderful to see them enjoying their performance so much, and I know everyone in the audience was incredibly proud of them. Thank you to the staff who supported the event and to the families who joined us.

Unfortunately, the British summer weather had other ideas for our Sports Day plans. While we were disappointed to cancel the event, the safety and wellbeing of everyone must always come first. I know many of you were also disappointed not to see me making my annual appearance in a pair of shorts - every cloud! The children have not quite finished all the indoor activities, so we will announce the winning team next week.

As many of you know, this has been a challenging year for our school community as we continue to remember Betsy. We have been incredibly grateful for the kindness and support shown by children, families and staff. The beautiful mural created by local artist Kizzie, alongside the brilliant seating area built by L. A. Kemble Interiors & Carpentry provides a special place to celebrate and remember Betsy.

On **Thursday at 3.15pm**, we will hold a short gathering in the playground to mark the completion of these tributes. We will sing Betsy's favourite song, When It's a Sunny Day, and spend a few moments in reflection. Families are warmly welcome to join us.



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

- 13th July - Junior Duke Assembly, 9.15am, School Hall

Year 4

PE Days: Thursday and Friday

Library day: Wren - Monday, Lark - Tuesday

- 13th July - Junior Duke Assembly, 9.15am, School Hall
- 17th July - Leavers' Assembly 10am, School Hall

Whole School Dates

- 15th July - Summer Service at St Mary's
- 16th July - Betsy celebration - playground 3.15pm
- 17th July - Last Day of Term finish at 1.15pm or 3.05pm

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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 today, Friday 10th 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 Lord has time to prepare the certificates and badges for the Junior Duke assembly.



Message from Crossing Patrol

Dear children,

Come rain or shine you wave and smile which always makes me feel fine even when there's darkness in the sky.

As you go up a year or even change from school to school just want to send you a cheer and wish you all the best for another year.

I'll miss your happy faces, your chats and your jokes, your endless questions and the little waves from all your folks.

Traffic speeding too and fro, some are all just go go go!

When you cross the road, please stop and take care,
Look both ways twice and always be aware.

You might see me out and about although not know it's me without my high viz and my stick.

From the very tall to the tiny small I'm going to miss you all!

Now it's time for me to say goodbye,
And I won't pretend it doesn't make me cry.

Sarah J Middleton

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St Mary's Summer Church Services

We are looking forward to our Summer Services at St Mary's Church on Wednesday 15th July.

·EYFS and Year 1 – service starts at 9.15am

·Years 2, 3 and 4 – service starts at 10.45am

Parents, families and friends are welcome to join us at the services, but we must allow the children into church first. The congregation are asked to wait in The Beacon or outside church until the children are seated.

We would be grateful if any parent is available to help walk the children down to the church - please speak to your child's class teacher. Parents of those children attending the EYFS and Yr 1 service may wait in the playground; we will be leaving school just before 9am. Parents of children in Yrs 2, 3 and 4 are asked to wait outside the main gate until the children are ready to walk over to the church. We will be leaving school for the Yr 2, 3 & 4 service at approx. 10.20am. If you would prefer that your child does not attend the Summer Services, please email the school office.



Library Books and School Reading Books

Please can all school library books be returned to school as soon as possible so that we can ensure that the library is fully stocked and ready to use for when we return to school in September.

All school reading books should be brought back into school by the end of next week. Please do use the local libraries over the summer break to continue your child's love of reading.

Summer Reading Challenge

Join the free 2026 Summer Reading Challenge: Read to the Beat at your local library

Your child (age 4-11) can join the Summer Reading Challenge this summer. It's fun, free and helps keep up reading skills over the holidays!

- Set a reading goal
- Read whatever they like – books, eBooks, audiobooks, picture books, and more
- Join in with library events
- Earn stickers, rewards and even a certificate

It's a great way to boost confidence and make reading fun!

Read to the Beat is available from all Dorset libraries from 4 July.

For fun digital activities and book recommendations, take a look online:

summerreadingchallenge.org.uk

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

SCOOSC SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUB

THURSDAY 23rd JULY – FRIDAY 28th AUGUST

Bookings are now open for the Summer Holidays!
Join us for a summer full of fun, friendship and adventure.
Children aged 4–11 can enjoy a variety of activities including arts and crafts, outdoor play, sports, Lego, cooking, board games, water play, nature activities and much more!

SUMMER HOLIDAY DATES

Thursday 23rd July to Friday 28th August

OPENING TIMES

Monday – Thursday

- 9am–1pm (HAF sessions FREE)
- Top up option: 8am–3pm for just **£10**
- 8am–6pm

Friday

- 9am–1pm (HAF sessions FREE)
- Top up option: 8am–3pm for just **£10**

PRICES

- 9am–1pm – **FREE** with HAF
- 9am–3pm – Top up just **£10** per day
- 8am–6pm – **£35** per day

HAF PLACES AVAILABLE

We are pleased to be accepting HAF vouchers this summer.
HAF sessions will run from: **9:00am–1:00pm**
Includes a free meal and a fun programme of activities!

FOR PP FAMILIES

We're excited to support PP families! You can top up for just **£10** to extend your day from 8am–3pm.
Includes a free meal, fun activities and a safe, welcoming environment.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ✓ Ages 4–11
- ✓ Free meal included
- ✓ Lots of fun activities
- ✓ Tax-Free Childcare Accepted
- ✓ Childcare Vouchers Accepted
- ✓ Universal Credit Support Available (where eligible)
- ✓ Safe, fun and welcoming environment

WHO MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR HAF?

Your child may be eligible for a HAF place if they:

- Receive benefits-related Free School Meals
- Are in care or a care leaver
- Have an EHCIP (Education, Health and Care Plan)
- Are known to social care

Priority is given to children who are eligible for benefits-related Free School Meals.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Your child must live in Dorset and meet one of the eligibility criteria listed opposite.
A limited number of places are available. Places are allocated on a first come, first served basis and may be limited during peak times.

VERWOOD FIRST SCHOOL
admissions@vwschool.co.uk
07595 470857
sc0056234 | www.verwoodfirstschool.co.uk

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




LESS THAN 2 WEEKS TO GO!

BOOK YOUR CHILD'S PLACE TODAY FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE SUMMER OF FUN, FRIENDSHIPS AND ADVENTURE!

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

- FUN-FILLED MULTI SPORTS
- MAKE NEW FRIENDS
- STAY ACTIVE
- TEAM GAMES & CHALLENGES
- INCLUSIVE FOR ALL ABILITIES
- EXPERIENCED PE TEACHER WITH 22+ YEARS' EXPERIENCE
- SAFE, FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT

BOOK NOW – PLACES ARE FILLING FAST!

LESS THAN 2 WEEKS UNTIL WE GET UNDERWAY! DON'T MISS OUT!

SPORTS INCLUDE:

- ⚽ Dodgeball
- 🚩 Capture the Flag
- ⚽ Football
- 🏊 And many more

CONTACT

Call / Message: 07960 301728

#pecoach Instagram: @mrhigginsmultiports

VENUE

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

9am-3pm Ages 6-14

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




Schools out!

Music Adventure Arts Sports Workshops Nature

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

Get involved - sign up now

Sign up now dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/haf-programme

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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

THE
READING
AGENCY

UNIVERSAL
UNIVERSAL MUSIC GROUP
UNITED KINGDOM

READ to the BEAT

Summer Reading
Challenge 2026

Join FREE at your
local library!



National
Year of
Reading
2026



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Delivered in partnership with libraries
summerreadingchallenge.org.uk

Illustrations © Harry Woodgate 2026. Read to the Beat © The Reading Agency 2026, registered charity number 1085443 England and Wales.

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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
			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				

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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