

Newsletter 1

11th September 2026



Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that everyone had a lovely summer break and enjoyed the brilliant, sunny weather.

It has been a positive start to the new term. The children have come back refreshed and have been eager to settle back into learning. We have welcomed 85 new children into our EYFS classes who are settling in well.

The priority of a new school year is always for teachers to get to know the children in their class. Building relationships is essential to ensuring children feel happy, safe, valued, and listened to.

We have been reminding the children of our high expectations for behaviour and learning and there has been lots of practising of school routines.

The start of a new school year can be an anxious time for parents. If you have any questions or concerns, please pick up the phone, email the school office, or catch me when I'm at the school gate.

Year teams have prepared 'Welcome' PowerPoints for parents which include key information about curriculum, routines and expectations for learning. These will be shared on Tapestry today.

I will continue to publish dates for events as far in advance as I can. I will add new dates in red to the column to the right.

To all our new families joining us this year, I offer a warm welcome and I look forward to working with you

Have a great weekend.

Mr Watts
Headteacher



Key Dates

Whole School

- 5th Oct: Flu Immunisations
- 16th Oct: School Photographs
- 21st Oct: Parents' Evening
- 11th Dec: Christmas Jumper Day
- 16th Dec: St Mary's Christmas Services
- 24th Mar: St Mary's Easter Services
- 7th Jun: INSET DAY
- 14th Jul: St Mary's Summer Services

EYFS: PE Day - Wednesday

- 24th Sept: Phonics Workshops for parents at 8.45am and 2.30pm
- 8th Dec: Christmas Sing-along for parents at 9.15am and 2.30pm

Year1: PE Days - Thursday & Friday

- 1st Oct: Phonics Workshops for Y1 parents at 08.45 am and 2.30 pm
- 7th Oct: Postponed Blashford Trip for half of Y1
- 1st & 2nd Dec: Trip to Museum of East Dorset
- 10th Dec: Christmas Sing-along for parents at 9.15am and 2.30pm

Year 2: PE Days - Tuesday & Thursday

- 18th Mar: Music Concert for Parents
- 19th Mar: Music Concert for Parents

Year 3: PE Days - Monday & Wednesday

- 1st July: Fiver Challenge at 2.15pm

Year 4: PE Days - Tuesday & Friday

- 30th Sept: Multiplication Check Meeting for parents - Online at 5.30pm
- 26th Nov - Year 4 Show - Barrington Theatre at 1.30pm
- 2nd Jul: Fiver Challenge at 2.15pm
- 25th Jun: Transfer Day
- 20th Jul: Leavers' Assembly

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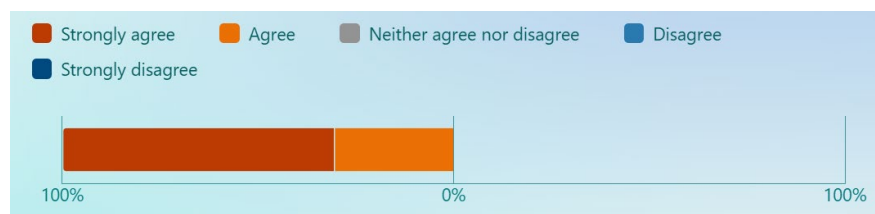
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Parent Survey Sumer Term 2026: Thank You for Your Feedback

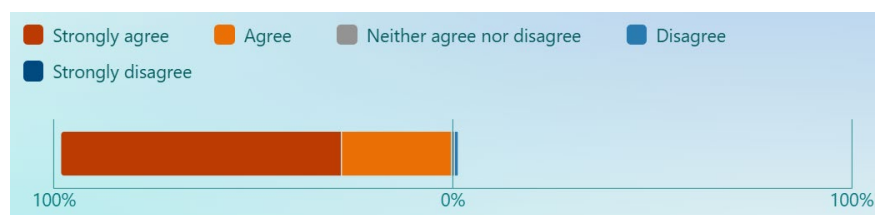
We had 98 responses to our parent survey. The responses were incredibly positive.



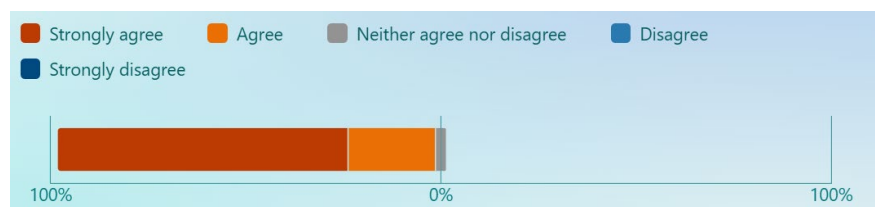
I found the Autumn and Spring Term Progress Reports useful



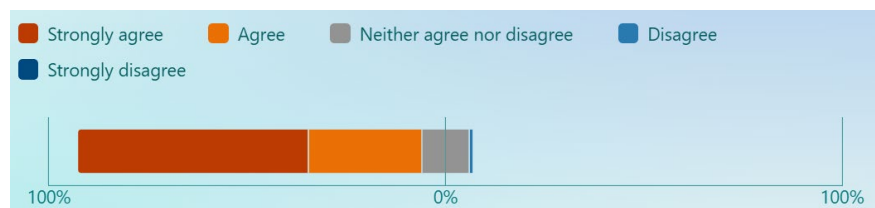
My child's achievements and attainment are clear in the End of Year Progress Report



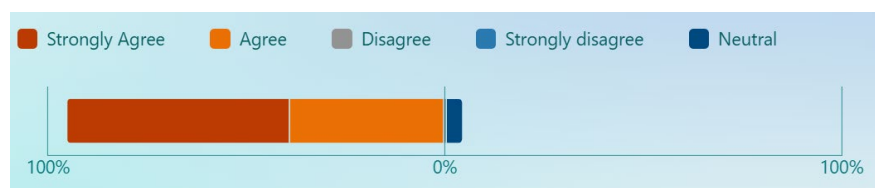
My child has made progress this year



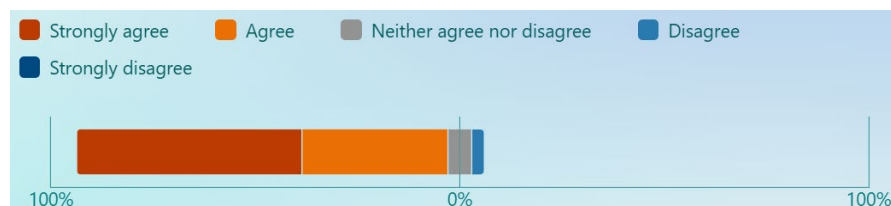
I have found parent consultation meetings useful



I understand how to support my child and help them improve



I have found the information clear regarding the statutory data scores



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A number of clear themes emerged from the feedback. Parents consistently highlighted the caring, dedicated and approachable staff who go above and beyond to support children both academically and emotionally. Many families spoke about the warm, welcoming atmosphere within school and the strong sense of community that helps children feel safe, valued and happy. Several parents commented that Ferndown First feels like a family, where every child is known as an individual and supported to achieve their potential.

You praised the quality of teaching across the school, with many families recognising the impact that teachers and teaching assistants have had on their children's confidence, wellbeing and progress. It was particularly heartening to read comments about children developing a genuine love of learning and growing in confidence during their time with us.

Parents also highlighted the excellent communication between home and school, the visibility and approachability of staff, and the many opportunities available beyond the classroom, including clubs, trips, performances, music, sporting activities and community events. Families appreciated the wide range of experiences that help children develop new skills, interests and friendships.

Many respondents also recognised the support provided for children with additional needs, those requiring targeted interventions, and those facing personal challenges. Several families shared how much they valued the care shown during difficult circumstances and the way staff worked alongside them to ensure their children felt supported and included.

We were delighted to read that many children are excited to come to school each day, feel safe and secure, and are thriving both socially and academically. Ultimately, this is the greatest measure of success for us.

Alongside the positive feedback, parents also provided thoughtful suggestions to help us improve further. The most common themes included:

- Exploring opportunities for longer or additional parents' consultation meetings.
- Providing more opportunities for parents to view children's work and assessments.
- Sharing additional information about interventions and how families can support learning at home.
- Giving as much advance notice as possible for events and activities.
- Continuing to develop playtime resources, outdoor spaces and opportunities for community involvement.

We will carefully consider all suggestions as part of our ongoing school improvement planning.

Thank you once again for your continued support, encouragement and partnership. We are extremely proud of our school community and feel privileged to work with such wonderful children and families. Your feedback confirms that Ferndown First School remains a happy, nurturing and ambitious place where children can flourish.



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Allergy Safety and Benedict's Law

Keeping children safe is our highest priority. New national expectations around the management of allergies in schools, including the introduction of **Benedict's Law**, place an even greater emphasis on allergy awareness, staff training and reducing risks for children with severe allergies. To support this, we recently held a whole-school assembly to help children understand the importance of being allergy aware, including why we must never share food and how we can help keep our friends safe. We have also introduced a new **Allergy Safety Policy**, which is available on our website for parents and carers to read. Thank you for continuing to work with us to ensure Ferndown First School remains a safe, inclusive and supportive environment for every child.

Parents are reminded that we have several children in school with severe nut allergies and therefore, we are a **NUT FREE** school. Please do not send your child into school with snacks or food that may contain nuts.

EYFS and Year 1 Phonics Workshops

We will be holding parent phonics workshops to tell EYFS and Year 1 parents about our approach to the teaching of early reading and sharing information about the statutory Phonics Screening Check that children complete at the end of Year 1. We will be sharing ways in which you can support your child at home with phonics and progress in reading.

- **EYFS: Thursday 24th September at 8.45 am and 2.30 pm.**
- **Year 1: Thursday 1st October at 8.45 am and 2.30 pm.**

Please come to the main office where you will be directed to the staff room. Unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate pushchairs and young children in the session. For those unable to attend, we will put the information on Tapestry for you to read.

Library

Children will begin to use the library next week. There are still quite a few children who have library books that still need to be returned from the summer term. Please ensure children bring to school any books that need returning. Children will not be able to take new books if they have outstanding loans.

Easyfundraising



Please help us to raise money for the school when making online purchases! The brand you are purchasing from donates the money, so it doesn't cost you a penny! Ferndown First School has a dedicated page and so far, we've raised a fantastic total of **£1,216!** You can sign up and support this cause by using the link below:
<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ferndown1st/?searchSessionId=36a76bba-a437-4adc-8758-0839d59218d3>

We greatly appreciate any help from parents.

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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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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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26	27	28	29	30	31	

NOVEMBER 2026						
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30						

DECEMBER 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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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
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

FEBRUARY 2027						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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MARCH 2027						
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29	30	31				

APRIL 2027						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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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
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Bank and Public Holidays 2026-2027

25 December 2026	Christmas Day
28 December 2026	Boxing Day

1 January 2027	New Year's Day
26 March 2027	Good Friday

29 March 2027	Easter Monday
3 May 2027	May Day Holiday

31 May 2027	Spring Bank Holiday
30 August 2027	August Bank Holiday

Key

School Holidays	Bank Holidays	Staff Training Days	Last Day of Term
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