

Newsletter 2

18th September 2026



Dear Parents and Carers

A Message from the Headteacher - Everyday Matters.

At our school, we know that attendance is about so much more than academic success. Every day a child is in school is an opportunity to build friendships, develop confidence, establish positive routines and feel a true sense of belonging within our school community. Research shows that messages about friendships, enjoyment, belonging and children's daily experiences at school are especially important when helping families understand the value of regular attendance.

School is where children learn, but it is also where they laugh with friends, take part in clubs, performances and activities, develop resilience, and build the social skills that will help them throughout their lives. When children miss school, they do not just miss lessons; they miss playtimes, lunchtime conversations, shared experiences and special moments with their classmates. Quite simply, children miss their friends, and their friends miss them too.

Good attendance helps children establish healthy habits and routines that support both learning and wellbeing. Consistent morning routines, arriving on time and being part of school every day help children feel secure, confident and ready to succeed. Developing these habits early creates a strong foundation that benefits children throughout their education and beyond.

We understand that families can face challenges from time to time, and we are committed to working in partnership with parents and carers. If you ever need support with attendance, routines or helping your child return to school confidently, please do get in touch. By working together, we can ensure every child enjoys the rich experiences that school has to offer and has every opportunity to thrive.

Thank you for your continued support in helping your child attend school regularly and make the most of every day. Together, we can help our children build strong friendships, create lifelong habits and enjoy all the wonderful opportunities that school provides.

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
- 14th Dec: iRock Parent Concert 2.30pm
- 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 08.45am and 2.30pm
- 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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Safety on School Site

We would like to remind all parents and children that bicycles and scooters must not be ridden on the school site. Please dismount before entering the school grounds and walk with your bike or scooter at all times.

Thank you for helping to keep our school community safe and for being considerate of other pedestrians.



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 Robin classroom. 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.

Year 4 - Applications for Middle School for September 2027

If your child is due to start middle school in September 2027, an email was sent out to Year 4 parents last week. Applications are open until 15th January 2027.

Reminders for Snacks and Lunchboxes

Please be reminded that we are a nut free school. Take care when choosing items such as cereal bars or those that contain chocolate as many of these also contain nuts.



Keep us Up to Date

Please email the school office if any of the information we hold needs updating. This includes a change in family circumstances, address, telephone numbers of parents, the names and telephone numbers of emergency contacts, those named on your child's collection list.



Year 4 - Avon Tyrrell Residential

There will be one last chance for those who have yet to pay the deposit to secure their child's place to attend Avon Tyrrell going live on Arbor soon. Once we have final numbers, further information will be sent out to all families who have signed up.

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Back to school safely

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service would like to welcome everyone back to school. We would like to share some safety tips for you to discuss with your child as appropriate.

Enter our prize draw quiz to win a VIP trip to a fire station and other prizes by using what3words to find the firefighters Find the Firefighter - what3words – Fill in form

Or use this QR code

Travelling to and from school:

In the car or other vehicle:

- Always wear your seatbelt
- Do not distract the driver
- Exit the car carefully, especially if you are stepping onto the road

As the driver, always drive to the road conditions and take extra care around the school area where there could be young children crossing the roads.

Please park considerately to avoid accidents or preventing emergency vehicles getting through.

On your bike or scooter:

Wear your safety gear; helmets, wrist, elbow and knee protectors.

Ride carefully being aware of other road and pavement users

Use lights as it gets darker in the mornings and evenings.

Make sure your bike or scooter is in a good condition.



Walking:

Cross the roads carefully; remember stop, look, listen and think before you cross.

As the mornings and evenings get darker, wear bright and reflective coats so you can be seen.

Always listen to the adult you are walking with.

If there is help to cross the road such as a crossing patrol, a zebra crossing, traffic lights then use them.

If you are old enough to walk without an adult, remember to take care and never rush to cross the road.

Water and ice:

If you walk near waterways such as rivers or canals, always take care and never walk near the edge, especially if it is muddy and slippery.

Never walk on ice.

Know how to “float” like a star if you ever get in difficulty in water.

At home:

Cooking

If you are old enough to be allowed to cook at home, always take care around the cooker. Never leave the cooking unattended.

Around the cooker should be tidy so things do not fall onto the hot hob.

Never play near the cooker.

Charging items

If you have any items which need charging, and you are old enough to be allowed to plug them into charge make sure you always plug them in carefully.

Only charge items when you are awake.

If you have a mobile phone, never leave it in your bed or under your pillow whilst you sleep

Always use the correct charger for the item ie your phone, tablet, switch etc

In an emergency

If the smoke alarm sounds:

- Get out - make sure you know your fire escape plan
- Stay out - until an adult tells you it is safe to return inside
- Call 999 - give the address of where help is needed and what the problem is

If you have a mobile phone, consider downloading what3words so you can give an accurate location, this is very useful if you need help outside. .

Look out for more safety advice and prize draw safety quizzes from the fire and rescue service throughout the year.

Stay safe and have a great time at school

Thank you, from the firefighters of Dorset and Wiltshire



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.



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
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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LUNCHTIME AND AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS TIMETABLE FROM SEPTEMBER 2026

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 Sch After School Club All Years 3.05pm – 6pm	Ferndown First Sch After School Club All Years 3.05pm – 6pm	Ferndown First Sch After School Club All Years 3.05pm – 6pm	Ferndown First Sch After School Club All Years 3.05pm – 6pm	Ferndown First Sch After School Club All Years 3.05pm – 6pm
Wellbeing Club Yrs 1-4 3.05pm-4pm	Karate Yrs 2, 3 & 4 3.05pm – 4.15pm (External)	Football with Mr Higgins Yrs 3 & 4 3.15pm-4.15pm (External)	Art Bee Yrs 1 – 4 3.05pm – 4.05pm (External)	Debating Club Yrs 3 & 4 3.05pm-4pm
	Football and Multisports with Mr Higgins Yrs 1 & 2 3.15pm-4.15pm (External)		High 5 Gymnastics Years 1 – 4 Yrs 1 & 2: 3.15 – 4.15pm Yrs 3 & 4: 4.15 – 5.15pm (External)	
			Cooking Club Yr4 3.05pm-4.15pm	

Information on all the clubs above is usually provided through email. Please check your emails / the weekly Newsletter regularly for any updates regarding new clubs that are being offered to children throughout the year.

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