



Dear Parents and Carers

At Ferndown First School, we pride ourselves on being a welcoming community where diversity is celebrated and every child feels they belong.

Recently, national education reports have highlighted a concerning rise in racist incidents and discriminatory behaviour in schools across the country. I am saddened to share that we have also seen a rise in racist incidents. It is clear that some children are coming into school and sharing views that they are hearing outside of school and from the media.

There is no room for prejudice within our school community. We have a zero-tolerance approach to racism, discrimination, and hate speech of any kind. Every reported incident - whether verbal, physical, or online - is taken seriously, investigated thoroughly, and dealt with through our behaviour and safeguarding policies.

When incidents occur, we do not just apply sanctions; we use a restorative approach to educate children on the real-world impact of hurtful language and prejudice.

We will continue to actively teach equality, tolerance, and respect through our curriculum and assemblies.

I ask that parents have open conversations with your child(ren) about kindness, inclusion, and the importance of respecting differences. Please monitor what children are seeing on media platforms.

Together, in partnership with our families, we can ensure that every child learns in an environment free from any form of prejudice.

Have a good 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

- 8th Dec: Christmas Sing-along for parents at 9.15am and 2.30pm

Year 1: PE Days - Thursday & Friday

- 7th Oct: Postponed Blashford Trip for half of Y1
- 13th Oct: Geography Walk
- 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

- 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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ASPIRATION

RESPECT

EXCELLENCE

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School Library

The children have been enjoying visiting our school library. Library books should be returned each week to enable your child to take home a different book.

Library days:

Year 1 - Wednesdays

Year 2 - Tuesdays

Year 3 - Thursdays

Year 4 - Mondays



EYFS will visit the library throughout the week during their explore time.

If your child's library book is not returned after two weeks, we will issue a reminder sticker with the name of the book, that looks like this:

Can you help me look for my library book at home?

Please return this book to school as soon as possible
so that your child can choose another one
next week. Thank you 😊



National Poetry Day

Thursday 1st October marked National Poetry Day and the children enjoyed hearing lots of poems with their class throughout the day. National Poetry Day celebrates the power of poetry, bringing people together and encouraging everyone to discover and share the joy of words.

Parents' Evening - Save the Date!

Our first Parents' Evening of this academic year takes place on Wednesday 21st October. Both in person and online appointments will be available. More information will be sent out next week about how to book your appointment via Arbor.



Thank you - EYFS and Year 1 Phonics Workshops

Thank you to all parents who attended our Phonics Workshops. They were a great success and we hope you found the information helpful. For those who were unable to attend, the information has been shared on Tapestry.

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An exempt Charitable and Company Limited by Guarantee.

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
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

DECEMBER 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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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
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

MARCH 2027						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

APRIL 2027						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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Summer Term 2027

MAY 2027						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
					1	2
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

JUNE 2027						
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				

JULY 2027						
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	

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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An Amateur production by arrangement with the Really Useful Group Ltd

Phoenix Musical Theatre Presents

8th October - 10th October

www.ticketsource.co.uk/Phoenix
Booking fees apply

Signed Performance
Saturday Matinee
signer located right side of theatre

Performing at the
Barrington Theatre
BH22 9TH
Ferndown

JOSEPH
AND THE
AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT

Lyrics by
Tim Rice

Music by
Andrew Lloyd Webber

NODA

Dorset Mental Health Support Team in Schools

WATCH DORSET MHST WEBINARS ON DEMAND

Can't make a live session?
No problem. Access our recorded webinars in 3 simple steps:

- 1 Complete the form
- 2 Select your webinar
- 3 Get the link by email

Parent/Carer link:
bit.ly/3URzbTP

KING'S KIOSK KIDS' COMEDY
WITH **KRAZY KEY**

AGES 3+

17TH OCTOBER
1:15 - 1:45
REGENCY ROOM AT KGV
FREE PARKING

KIOSK OPEN FOR REFRESHMENTS

ICE CREAM INCLUDED WITH EACH PURCHASED TICKET UP TO THE VALUE OF £3

ONLY £8.50 PER CHILD

LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE!

QR code for booking

Mr Higgins Multi Sports

MR HIGGINS MULTI-SPORTS

OCTOBER HALF TERM HOLIDAY CLUB

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

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 • FITNESS • FAIR PLAY

HALLOWEEN FANCY DRESS OPTIONAL!

26, 27 & 28 OCTOBER 9AM - 3PM
AT FERNDOWN LEISURE CENTRE

BOOK NOW - PLACES ARE FILLING FAST!

SPORTS INCLUDE:
Dodgeball, Benchball, Capture the Flag, Team Challenges, Football, And many more

CONTACT:
Call / Message: 07980 301728
@mrhigginsmultisports

Ages 6-14

Dorset Library Service news for schools

Reception class visits

For Reception class children, the Autumn term is a perfect way to introduce young children to libraries and the free resources that can be accessed with a Dorset library card.

This year's book is *Never Show A T-Rex A Book!* by Rashmi Sirdeshpande - is a fun-filled, laugh-out-loud adventure about a T-Rex whose love of books leads to all sorts of wonderful mischief. With its playful story and lively illustrations, children will delight in the chaos and enjoy joining in the fun from beginning to end.

By having the opportunity to use the public library children:

- will develop their confidence and motivation, seeing themselves as readers outside school
- read more widely and independently develop good reading habits from a young age
- have free access to a range of resources and activities where all are welcome

Book a Reception class visit

Class visits

Our school programme is free and available throughout the school year. We offer 3 programmes for primary schools, each session lasts for 60 minutes. They are:

- **Discover your Library** - this session aims to introduce children to the exciting world of their local library. Children will explore the wide range of books, and free services available through library membership, helping them become confident, independent library users and lifelong readers
- **Reading for pleasure** - find your next favourite book - an opportunity to talk and learn about new books. Children will be encouraged to read for pleasure and discover a range of stock to suit all levels and interests
- **Information skills: Library detectives** - unlock the mysteries of the library by learning how books are organised using the Dewey Decimal Classification System. Pupils will develop key information-finding skills, enabling them to locate resources independently for study or leisure

Find out more about our offer to schools and book a class visit [Library services for schools and teachers](#)

Thank you for your support

The 2026 Summer Reading Challenge: Read to the Beat! has now finished. Over 4600 children took part, reading a book of their choice or attending library events. Certificates are now being printed for children who chose to collect theirs from school.

Look out for your certificate delivery in the next few weeks.

Exciting online event with children's author Ashley Thorpe, 19 October 1:30 pm



Ashley Thorpe is a children's author whose fantasy stories, including *The Boy to Beat the Gods* and *Spirit Warriors*, are inspired by West African and Caribbean mythology, manga and folklore. In this online event for children across Dorset, Ashley will share the inspiration behind his characters and stories and will encourage pupils to use their imaginations to create their own characters and heroes. Ashley introduces young readers to diverse cultures and inspires them to see themselves as storytellers with stories worth sharing.

The event offers links to the National Curriculum, and provides a great opportunity for schools to celebrate Black History Month in a meaningful way, helping children explore different cultures, perspectives and storytelling traditions. The event is aimed at KS2 years 4-6, and will include an opportunity to ask Ashley a question.

Booking form for KS2 online Black History month event with Ashley Thorpe



Book now for KS2 event with Ashley

Thorpe

Proud to support The National Year of Reading 2026.

GO ALL IN.

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



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