Ferndown First School

Where every child matters

Newsletter 5
9th October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Black History Month

October marks **Black History Month**, an opportunity to celebrate, recognise and learn about the contributions, achievements and experiences of Black people throughout history and in modern society. Through this year's assemblies, we are helping children to develop an understanding of equality, respect and inclusion while celebrating inspiring individuals who have made a positive difference to the world.

This week, the children learned about **Rosa Parks** through our *Little People, BIG DREAMS* assemblies, exploring how her courage and determination helped challenge racial segregation and inequality. Next week, we will be learning about the life and achievements of **Ella Fitzgerald**, whose remarkable talent and perseverance made her one of the most influential jazz singers of all time.

As part of Black History Month, we will also be supporting **Show Racism the Red Card** on **Friday 16th October**. Show Racism the Red Card is an anti-racism educational charity that works to challenge racism, celebrate diversity and promote inclusion. This year, the campaign continues to encourage children and young people to recognise the importance of respect, equality and standing together against discrimination. To show our support, children will be creating their own **red cards and posters**, helping to reinforce the message that racism has no place in our school or wider community. We look forward to coming together as a school to celebrate diversity and ensure that everyone feels valued, respected and included.

Have a good weekend.

Mr Watts
Headteacher

Key Dates

Whole School

- 16th Oct: School Photographs
- 21st Oct: Parents' Evening
- 6th Nov: Wear Blue for Betsy day.
- 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

- 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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A Reminder About Respectful Conduct on School Site

At Ferndown First School, we are proud of the positive relationships we share with our families and the supportive community we work together to create for our children. Unfortunately, we have recently experienced a small number of incidents where parental behaviour and language towards members of staff have fallen below the standards we would expect.

We would like to take this opportunity to politely remind all parents and carers that everyone on our school site deserves to be treated with respect, courtesy and kindness at all times.

As adults, we are role models for our children. The way we communicate with others, particularly when we may feel frustrated or upset, teaches our children valuable lessons about respect, empathy and appropriate behaviour.

The role of a teacher, teaching assistant or any member of the school team is both demanding and rewarding. Our staff work tirelessly to support the children in their care, and the last thing they should have to experience is abusive behaviour, aggressive language or inappropriate conduct from parents and carers.

The school operates a zero-tolerance approach to abusive, threatening or disrespectful behaviour towards staff, pupils or other members of our community. A Trust-wide Parent Code of Conduct is in place to support this expectation, and we will always challenge behaviour that falls short of these standards.

While we are committed to working in partnership with families and welcome respectful discussions about any concerns, all communication must remain polite and constructive.

Thank you for your support in helping us ensure that our school remains a safe, welcoming and respectful environment for everyone.

Reminder - School Start and Finish Times

We have noticed an increase in the number of children arriving late to school. A prompt start to the day helps children settle quickly and ensures they do not miss important learning opportunities.

Please remember that the school gates close at **8.40am** for morning drop-off.

The school day ends at **3.05pm**. To support a smooth and efficient collection process, the gates are opened to parents from 3.00pm, allowing children to be dismissed promptly from their classrooms or designated collection areas.

Thank you for your support in ensuring children arrive on time and are collected promptly each day.

Parents' Evening

Parents' Evening appointments will be available to book via Arbor at the beginning of next week. Both in person and online appointments will be available.

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Term Dates 2026-2027

Southern Education Trust

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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COMMUNITY NEWS

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

Dorset Council

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