Ferndown First School

Where every child matters

Newsletter 7
23rd October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

As we reach the end of another half term, I would like to thank our children, staff and families for making it such a busy and successful start to the academic year. It has been positive half term with lots of learning taking place both inside and outside the classroom.

Our Reception children have settled into school exceptionally well. I have been particularly impressed by their focus, enthusiasm and attention during phonics lessons. They have made a fantastic start to their early reading journey and are already learning new sounds with confidence. Please continue to read regularly with your child and practise their phonics sounds, as this helps to reinforce and retain new learning.

Many of our children have enjoyed learning beyond the classroom this half term. Year 3 thoroughly enjoyed their visit to Ferndown Common with local rangers, learning more about the natural environment. Year 1 pupils enjoyed their Geography walk around Ferndown, while some children also attended the postponed trip to Blashford Lakes. A small group of Year 4 children enjoyed a session at Ferndown Upper School learning to be play leaders. These experiences bring learning to life.

I am disappointed that whole-school attendance today was 92.8%. The day before a holiday is just as important as any other school day. Lessons continue as normal and children who are absent miss valuable learning opportunities. Following the half-term break, it is important that we work together to improve attendance so that every child can benefit fully from school life and meet their full potential.

I hope you all have a safe, restful and enjoyable half-term break.

Mr Watts
Headteacher

Key Dates

Whole School

- 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

- 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

- 10th & 11th Nov: Trip to Museum of East Dorset
- 1st July: Fiver Challenge at 2.15pm

Year 4: PE Days - Tuesday & Friday

- 26th Nov: Year 4 Show - Barrington Theatre at 1.30pm
- 5th-7th May – Avon Tyrrell Residential
- 2nd Jul: Fiver Challenge at 2.15pm
- 25th Jun: Transfer Day
- 20th Jul: Leavers' Assembly

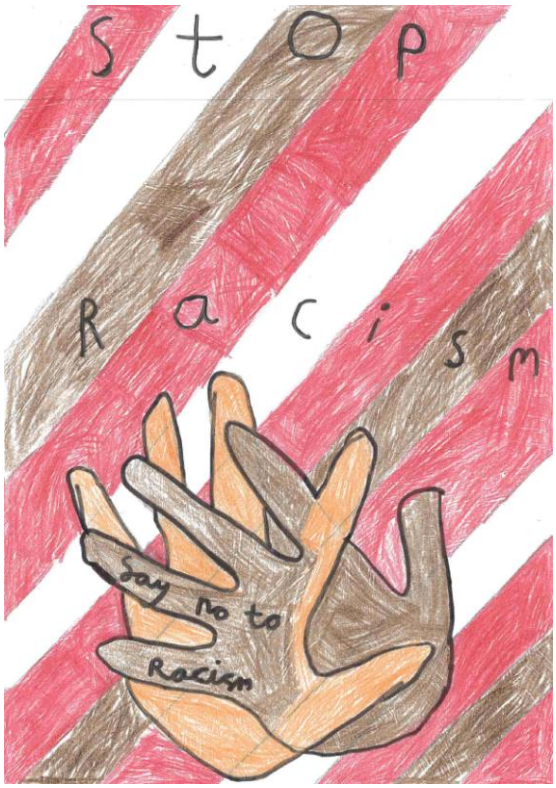
Southern Education Trust. Registered Office: 160 Herbert Avenue, Poole, BH12 4HU.
Registered in England and Wales - Number 08382383.
An exempt Chairty and Company Limited by Guarantee.

Show Racism the Red Card Day.

Last Friday, we came together as a school to recognise *Show Racism the Red Card Day*. Children created some excellent posters which will be displayed around the school, reminding us that Ferndown First School is a respectful and inclusive community that celebrates difference and diversity.

Posters below are by Hollie, Olivia and Luna in Year 4.







Southern Education Trust

Southern Education Trust. Registered Office: 160 Herbert Avenue, Poole, BH12 4HU.
Registered in England and Wales - Number 08382383.
An exempt Chairty and Company Limited by Guarantee.

Parents' Evening

Thank you to all families who attended our parents' evening appointments this week. It has been wonderful to share your child's success with you. If you were unable to make your appointment and would still like the opportunity to speak with your child's class teacher, please email the school office to coordinate this.

Wear Blue for Betsy Day



In memory of Betsy, we are holding a special 'wear blue for Betsy day'. We are delighted to welcome back members of RCA cheerleading team who will be leading short sessions with each year group to teach some more cheerleading routine to build on last years sessions which the children absolutely loved. We would be grateful of donations for the day which will be split equally between the charity 'Gully's Place – Poole Hospital' and the school fund.



School Photo's

All orders for school photo's need to be placed by Monday 2nd November to qualify for free delivery to school. Orders can be placed by scanning the QR code on the card that your child brought home.

Year 4 Production – Ali Baba and the Bongo Bandits – Tickets Now Available



Tickets are now on sale for Year 4's performance of Ali Baba and the Bongo Bandits taking place at the Barrington Theatre on Thursday 26th November at 1.30pm. Tickets can be purchased via the School Shop on Arbor.

Breakfast Club

Our Breakfast Club runs from 7.45am until the start of the school day. Please note that due to the volume of children that attend, we are unable to serve breakfast after **8.05am**. Please ensure your child is in school before 8.05am if you would like them to have breakfast.

School Lunch



When we return to school after the October half term break, we will be on the Week 1 menu.

MHST Information for Parents

Please use the following link to access webinars and resources from the Mental Health Support Team in Schools: https://linktr.ee/MHSTNorthandEast

Southern Education Trust

Southern Education Trust. Registered Office: 160 Herbert Avenue, Poole, BH12 4HU.
Registered in England and Wales - Number 08382383.
An exempt Chairty and Company Limited by Guarantee.

PFA

Thank you for all of your generous contributions today for our non-uniform day. In addition to items for our raffle, we also raised £204.63.

We are looking for donations of good conditioned pre-loved games, puzzles, colouring books, Lego and Duplo ready to set up some 'Wet Play Baskets' for each year group. All donations can be handed in to the school office. Watch this space for future events, including our AGM, Wreath Making (for parents!), Bedtime Story and Christmas Raffle.

Term Dates 2026-2027

Ferndown First School – Where every child matters

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	1 January 2027	New Year's Day	29 March 2027	Easter Monday	31 May 2027	Spring Bank Holiday
28 December 2026	Boxing Day	26 March 2027	Good Friday	3 May 2027	May Day Holiday	30 August 2027	August Bank Holiday

Key

School Holidays	Bank Holidays	Staff Training Days	Last Day of Term



Southern Education Trust. Registered Office: 160 Herbert Avenue, Poole, BH12 4HU.
Registered in England and Wales - Number 08382383.
An exempt Chairty and Company Limited by Guarantee.

Ferndown First School

Where every child matters

LUNCHTIME AND AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS TIMETABLE FROM NOVEMBER 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
Singing Club Yrs R-2 3.05pm-4pm Mrs Jackson	Karate Yrs 2, 3 & 4 3.05pm – 4.15pm (External)	Football with Mr Higgins Yrs 3 & 4 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)	
Gardening Club Yrs 2-4 3.05pm-4.10pm Mrs Bramley and Mrs Cullum	Football and Multisports with Mr Higgins Yrs 1 & 2 3.15pm-4.15pm (External)			
	Games and Puzzles Yrs R-2 3.05pm-4pm Mrs Bremner			
	Mindfulness Yrs 1-4 3.05pm-4pm Miss Wrixon			

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.

Southern Education Trust

Southern Education Trust. Registered Office: 160 Herbert Avenue, Poole, BH12 4HU.
Registered in England and Wales - Number 08382383.
An exempt Chairty and Company Limited by Guarantee.









Southern Education Trust

Southern Education Trust. Registered Office: 160 Herbert Avenue, Poole, BH12 4HU.
Registered in England and Wales - Number 08382383.
An exempt Chairty and Company Limited by Guarantee.