Ferndown First School

Where every child matters

Newsletter 8
6th November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope everyone had a good half term break and enjoyed a few lie ins! The children have come back refreshed and have settled to their learning well.



We have had a wonderful week remembering Betsy. The theme of our assemblies has been being brave, and we have been reminded of just how brave Betsy was and how much joy she brought to our school community. The week has culminated in fantastic cheerleading workshops run by members of RCA cheerleading team. The children and staff have loved learning a new routine today; please do ask your children to show you their new skills!



Thank you to everyone for your generous donations, we will update you next week about the amount being shared between the charity 'Gully's Place – Poole Hospital' and the school fund.

Year 4 are enjoying their rehearsal for their upcoming production of 'Ali Baba and the Bongo bandits'. Parents are in for a treat! Tickets are selling fast!

Mr Watts
Headteacher

Key Dates

Whole School

- 11th Nov – PFA AGM at 6.30pm
- 3rd Dec – PFA Bedtime Story Event
- 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.

Holidays in Term Time

At Ferndown First School, we are committed to ensuring that every child has the best possible opportunity to learn, make progress, and enjoy their time in school. Regular attendance is a key part of this, and we ask for your support in avoiding holidays during term time wherever possible.

As you may already be aware, schools are unable to authorise holidays taken during term time except in exceptional circumstances. The Government has recently updated its guidance regarding unauthorised absences and Penalty Notices.

When a Penalty Notice May Be Issued

A Penalty Notice may be considered when a child accumulates 10 sessions (equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10-school-week period.

Please note:

- The 10 sessions do not need to be consecutive.
- Unauthorised absences can include a combination of absence types, including unauthorised late arrivals.
- For example, a 5-day unauthorised holiday during term time would meet the threshold.
- The 10-school-week period can span different terms and even different school years.

First Penalty Notice

If a Penalty Notice is issued for the first time, the fine will be:

- £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.
- Increasing to £160 per parent, per child if paid between days 22 and 28.



Second Penalty Notice (Within Three Years)

If a second Penalty Notice is issued within a three-year period:

- £160 per parent, per child, payable within 28 days.
- No reduced rate is available.

Third and Subsequent Offences (Within Three Years)

For a third offence within a three-year period, a Penalty Notice will no longer be issued. Instead, the case may be referred directly to the Magistrates' Court.

This could result in:

- A criminal conviction.
- Fines of up to £2,500.
- The possibility of the conviction appearing on future DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks, due to a failure to secure a child's regular attendance at school.

We understand that family circumstances can vary, and we encourage parents to speak with us if they are experiencing difficulties affecting their child's attendance. By working together, we can ensure all children benefit from the continuity of learning and the opportunities that regular school attendance provides.

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.

Year 4 Production – Ali Baba and the Bongo Bandits



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.

This week, the children have been using their scripts during rehearsals. From Monday 9th November, we would like them to rehearse without their scripts so that they can focus fully on their acting and performance skills. Please could you support your child by helping them to learn their lines off by heart over the coming days.

We would be grateful if children could start bringing their costumes into school. Please ensure that all items are **clearly named** and brought in a **named carrier bag**. Ideally, we would like costumes to be in school by **Friday 13th November**.

Year 4 Residential Trip to Avon Tyrrell

Please look out for a letter being sent out on Monday with the payment schedule for Year 4's residential trip to Avon Tyrrell.

Year 4 - Applications for Middle School for September 2027

Please be reminded you need to apply for your child's middle school place before the deadline on the 15th January 2027.

PFA

If you have purchased any Christmas cards or other items from School Print World, these should have come home with your child this week. It is not too late to place orders if you should wish to do so, but you will now have to pay for home delivery. For those that placed their orders for free delivery to school, you have helped to raise £270.10 for the PFA, thank you for your support.



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.

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) takes place on Wednesday 11th November at 6.30pm; all parents and carers are welcome to attend.

We are looking forward to our parent event of Christmas Wreath Making taking place on Wednesday 25th November. Please email enquiries.ffs.pfa@gmail.com to book your place.

Save the date for our Bedtime Story Event happening on Thursday 3rd December. More details about this event, including booking your child's place, will be sent out soon.

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

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

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.

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.

Free Parent/ Carer session: 'An Introduction to Autism'



What is the session about?

The session was co-developed with parents of autistic children, a SENCo, Dorset Parent Carer Council and Specialist Teachers and Educational Psychologists from Dorset Council.

It will help you to:

- Understand what autism is and how it may impact young people and families
- Learn some practical strategies to support an autistic child/young person
- Please note, this is a general information session, so we won't be able to discuss individual children or schools

The session will be delivered by either an Educational Psychologist or a Specialist Teacher from Dorset Council

Who can attend?

Anyone from the community, this could include people:

- with an autistic child
- with a child undergoing an assessment for autism
- who are interested in learning more about autism

Where and when?

Via Teams - There are two sessions a term and 50 spaces available for each session.

To book a place, please fill in this form and pick the session that suits you best:

An Introduction to Autism

Please click on this Link or scan the QR code above:

Children's Christmas Light COMPETITION

Ferndown Town Council would like to invite all local young people to design a new, simple design that can be transformed into a special Christmas light motif.

Step 1: Draw your design on a sheet of A4 paper (landscape or portrait). Your design can include any Christmassy designs, such as gingerbread men, stars, snowflakes or even Father Christmas himself! Don't forget to include your name, age and contact details.
Step 2: Now comes the fun part! Choose where you would like 'light strings.' This will fill the large areas of your design. They come in lots of different colours!
Step 3: Now choose where you would like 'rope lights.' This will outline your design to make it stand out more. Make this clear by using a darker crayon or felt pen.
Step 4: You can now add any details. Little details, like eyes, baubles or stars!
Step 5: Submit your design!

Light strings



Rope lights

Please send your designs to **customerservices@ferndown.gov.uk** or drop into the Ferndown Town Council offices in The Barrington Centre, Pennys Walk, BH22 9TH

The Winning Design will be announced at the Christmas Light Switch On event: on Saturday 28 Nov 2026.

The winning design will be sent to Ferndown Town Council's Christmas light Contractor for them to turn into a Christmas light display. The completed motif will be unveiled at the next Christmas Light Switch On event in November 2027.

Closing Date for Submissions: **20 NOV 2026**

Gully's Place



Helping provide the best possible care to children with life-limiting or life-threatening conditions

Supporting families every step of the way...

Caring for a child with a life-limiting illness brings both challenges and joy. Gully's Place, funded by University Hospitals Dorset NHS Charity, is here to help families create lasting memories while receiving the care and support they need.

From the moment of diagnosis, we offer care in hospitals, at home and within the community - ensuring families feel supported through every stage of their journey.





How do we help?

- Specialised medical equipment and therapeutic experiences to enhance care for patients and their families
- Immediate and ongoing palliative bereavement support, ensuring a safe space for families to grieve and honour their little ones
- Memorial and community events for the children and families touched by Gully's Place
- Resource materials and keepsakes that help families create lasting memories together
- A beach hut retreat where children and their families can experience the beauty and joy of our stunning coastline
- Access to specialised suites and step-down care from hospital to home, empowering parents and carers to feel confident in managing their child's needs



Gully's Place family suites provide a private and dignified place within a hospital setting

Become a Gully's Place supporter today

Whether it's a cake sale, a daring skydive, a fun golf day or a sponsored walk, every gift of kindness to Gully's Place helps bring moments of comfort, joy and care.

You can make a meaningful difference in the lives of the incredible children and families supported by Gully's Place.



If you're ready to make a difference or wish to donate, please reach out to us:

- Complete and return the donation form on the back
- Visit www.UHDcharity.org/GullysPlace
- Email us at UHD.GullysPlace@nhs.net
- Call us on 0300 019 4060/8449

Every act of giving helps enhance care for children and young people with life-limiting conditions who, along with their families, rely on support from Gully's Place.

Thank you for supporting this vital service.

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.