

Hillside News

DATES TO REMEMBER



Parent Consultations
Monday 21st October

Wednesday 23rd October

We've had a great take up and have a few spaces left to book.

WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Little Owls 1	94%
Little Owls 2	93%
Tawny Owls 1	99%
Tawny Owls 2	99%
Tawny Owls 3	98%
Snowy Owls 1	95%
Snowy Owls 2	95%
Snowy Owls 3	97%

Whole School 96%

Target



The school day begins at 08:40

Gates open at 08:30

School finishes at 15:00

Just a reminder that we are a nut free school.



To help keep all our children safe, especially those with severe nut allergies, we kindly ask that you avoid sending any nuts or nut-based products (like Nutella) with your child.

Thanks so much for your support!



Hillside First School

where children are at the heart of everything we do



www.hillsidefirstschool.org ~ 01202 822737 ~ office@hillsidefirstschool.org

Headteacher Update Friday 4th October 2024

Firstly, a huge thank you to all the families who contributed so generously to our Harvest donations! Your kindness will make a real difference to those in need within our community. We're excited to celebrate this at our special Harvest Assembly on Monday, and afterwards, all donations will be taken to the local Trussell Trust food bank.



On Wednesday, we held our first Open Morning and Evening for prospective parents for the next academic year. I couldn't have been prouder as I walked through the school in the morning, seeing our happy, engaged children immersed in their learning. We received lots of positive feedback from visitors, which was fantastic to hear!

Looking ahead, we've got a couple of exciting events coming up:

- **PTA Meeting:** Join us this Wednesday at 6:00 pm for our rescheduled PTA meeting.
- **World Mental Health Day:** On Thursday, we're inviting everyone to wear something yellow for a mufti day in support of World Mental Health Day.

In line with requests from our recent parent survey, we've also included some valuable advice on well-being from Kooth, a platform recommended by CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services). Mental health and well-being are so important for all of us, and it's wonderful to see this area receiving more attention in society. We are committed to supporting mental health at school as well.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend!

Healthy regards,

Mr. Graves

Congratulations to the following children
for being our latest **Stars of the Week**:

Star
of the
WEEK



Little
Owls 1
James

Little
Owls 2
Lara

Tawny
Owls 1
Harper

Tawny
Owls 2
Bailey

Tawny
Owls 3
Harper

Snowy
Owls 1
Harrison

Snowy
Owls 2
Gruff

Snowy
Owls 3
Tio



Hot chocolate time!

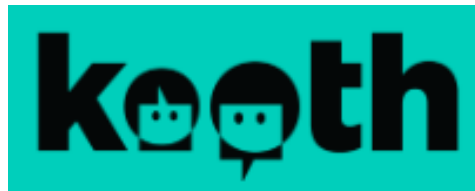
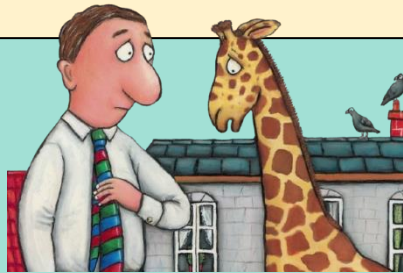


The Book Nook



Jude would like to suggest *The Smartest Giant in Town* by Julia Donaldson.

He really enjoyed the whole story but his favourite part was when the giraffe was cold and the giant gave him his brand-new tie to wear and keep him warm.



Mental Health and Well-Being support for families and young people: <https://explore.kooth.com/families/>

What is Kooth?

Kooth is an online platform to help young people with their mental health and wellbeing.

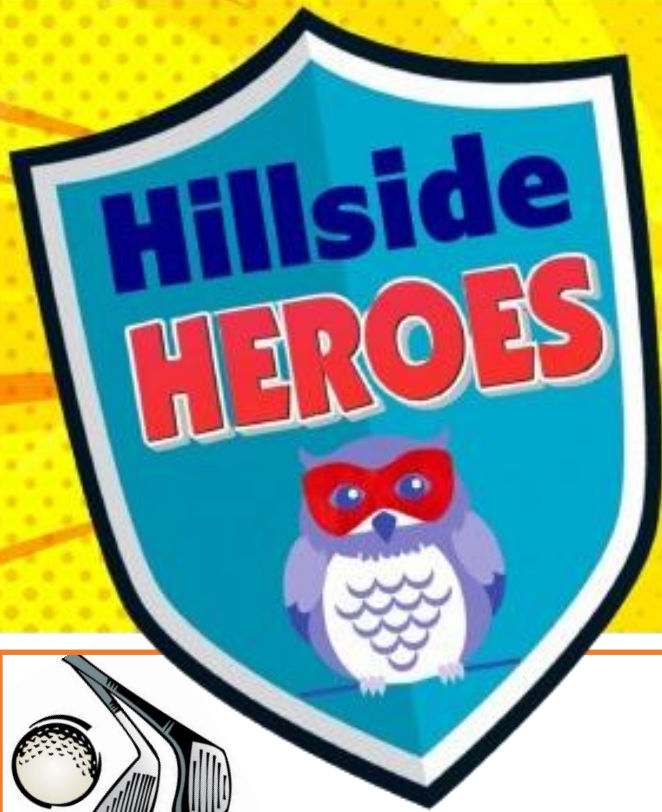
It's a welcoming space for your child to safely explore their feelings. They can anonymously talk to other people their own age on moderated discussion forums, and chat to mental health professionals via messaging.

We're a BACP-accredited digital mental health service, and provide free services through the NHS.

Our team of professionals are trained to offer clinically-safe advice while lending a supportive ear for whatever your child's facing.

Open Evening Ready – Here’s a sneak peek at a few photos from our beautifully arranged library, the hall, and the refreshed area just outside my office, complete with our brand-new sofas.





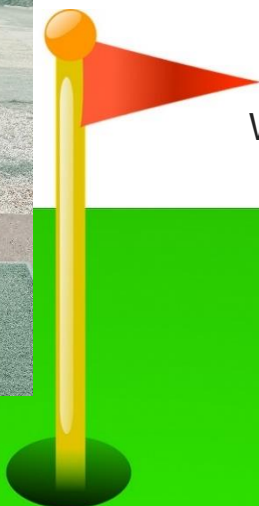
Meet our heroes



Lucius has recently achieved, not just his first, but his second 50 yard hole in 1 in Golf.



Jayden took part in a scooter competition at the weekend and was placed 2nd.



Well done Lucius!

He worked really hard and had so much fun doing it. Well done Jayden!



Verwood Rotary Club Christmas Shoebox Scheme.

This year, the Rotary has provided us with a small amount of shoeboxes. If you would like to take part in the scheme and would like a shoebox, please collect one from the school office. Please note that ordinary shoe boxes can also be used if you have one at home. Please return your Christmas shoebox to school by **Wednesday 16th October**.



We are excited to announce that we will be hosting a special Harvest Festival for the children on **Monday 7th October**. In the spirit of giving and community, we would appreciate any food donations you can kindly spare which we will take to a local Food Bank.

If you are able to help, we kindly request donations of the following items by Friday 4th October:

- Canned goods
- Pasta sauce
- Long-life milk
- Long-life juice
- Cereal
- Biscuits
- Tea bags

Thanks in advance for your generosity and support.



Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS



Online event for schools with children's author Ruth Quayle



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



15th October 09:15 –10:00

This is an online event. [Click here to book your place.](#) Schools will be invited to join the fantastic Ruth Quayle. Have you ever wanted to see inside a writer's world? Ruth will talk about how she became an author, with pictures, props and funny stories. She will read her books aloud and answer loads of questions.

The event is aimed at primary aged children

St Michael's Church CHILDRENS FREE LIGHT PARTY

SUNDAY 27TH OCTOBER 2024
TIME: 12PM - 2PM

NO HALLOWEEN COSTUMES / CHILDREN TO BE SUPERVISED

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH PARISH CENTRE
MANOR RD, VERWOOD BH31 6DZ

MUSIC | GAMES | FOOD

BOOKING VIA EMAIL MANDATORY BY 18TH OCTOBER
EMAIL: MARINA
STMICHAELS.CHILDRENSWORKER@GMAIL.COM



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about IN-GAME CHAT

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Video games are continuing to grow in popularity – including, of course, among children and young people – and the emergence of gaming communities has been accelerated by the inclusion of chat functionality across many different titles. While in-game chat isn't inherently a bad thing, it can create some concerns about online safety and the people that children might be interacting with.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF CHAT

There are a number of ways that gamers commonly chat with one another online. As the name would suggest, in-game chat happens within the game itself. There's also party chat: a group voice conversation that console users can have with anyone on the same platform. This tends to be more commonly used by players who already know each other. Finally, many gamers – especially on PC – will chat via a third-party app such as Discord.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Whether it's text- or voice-based, in-game chat is frequently open to all players to use. Many games default to making it an opt-in function, but some don't: meaning a child could start seeing messages within the game from people they're playing with, regardless of whether they know those individuals or not. While most strangers won't necessarily have ill intent, there are some who may behave inappropriately when chatting to a child – intentionally or otherwise.

DANGER OF GROOMING

It's been reported that some young gamers have encountered older players online who pretend to be a lower age to manipulate children, sending gifts in exchange for chatting and sending photos. Just as on any messaging platform, it's good to advise young people to avoid speaking to strangers; emphasise that they shouldn't accept gifts from anyone online that they don't know.

BULLYING AND ABUSE

While some in-game chat can turn toxic because of how a match plays out, others turn that way because of people who engage in trolling – in essence, behaving in an offensive and abusive way simply to cause pain or get a rise out of whoever they're talking to. These 'trolls' often lean on racial slurs, anti-LGBT sentiment and other hateful rhetoric; they normally feel most confident preying on younger, more impressionable gamers.

POTENTIAL FOR PRIVATE CHAT

If a player would like a re-match with a stranger after meeting them in the game, they can send a friend request, or use the party chat together in the future. For the most part, this is harmless – but it might lead to messages being exchanged in private. This could then escalate to the sharing of private information, and potentially attempts to manipulate or scam younger players.

COMPETITIVE ATMOSPHERE

Certain games are very competitive, and players can sometimes get upset if they feel a teammate is underperforming, an opponent won unfairly, or they're just a bad loser. This can lead to unpleasant messages that stray away from playful 'trash talk' and wander into the territory of bullying. Some players have been known to get incredibly abusive in situations like this, and the impact of this on a young gamer's emotional wellbeing could be severe.

Advice for Parents & Educators

LOCK-DOWN IN-GAME CHAT

In-game chat can often be disabled in the game's settings. This allows children to play without risk of contact from strangers – but it will need to be done in each individual game. Text chat appears in the corner of the screen in many titles, so it's normally easy to take a quick glance and see what's being said. With voice chat, explain to children what behaviour is inappropriate, so they can spot the dangers themselves.

REPORT POTENTIAL OFFENDERS

Most games offer a robust means of reporting other players, so you can flag an account as potentially harmful. This normally leads to the account not being matched with yours in the future and, if that person's conduct breaks any of the game's rules, they may be banned from playing entirely. This is done within the game itself, so each title has a slightly different process, but these tend to be designed for simplicity.

CONSIDER OTHER CHAT OPTIONS

If a child wants to play with people they know, consider using party chat or a third-party service like Discord. This allows everyone involved to chat on a private server and even enjoy each other's company while playing different games. It's also far more secure, as anyone looking to join will need to request and be granted access – normally by whoever is hosting the chat.

COMMUNICATION IS KEY

Make sure children understand the differences between being competitive and being abusive. Talk about what constitutes unusual or inappropriate behaviour from strangers online. Be clear that if anything ever concerns or worries them, they should tell a trusted adult as soon as possible. Empower children to identify the risks of in-game chat for themselves and reassure them they won't get in trouble for seeking help if anything goes wrong.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Editor in Chief of GGRcon and has been working in the games media industry for five years. He's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his work has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at nationalcollege.com/guides/in-game-chat

Autumn *term*

UPCOMING EVENTS



September

Tuesday 3rd

Inset Day

Wednesday 4th

Inset Day

Monday 16th

Individual & Sibling Photographs

Thursday 19th

PTA AGM - new members welcome
18:00 at Hillside First School



December

Wednesday 4th

Pyjama Themed Movie Night
Year R and 1

Friday 6th

Christmas Jumper Day

Wednesday 11th

Pyjama Themed Movie Night
Year 2-4



**Thursday 12th &
Friday 13th**

PTA Christmas Shop



Friday 13th

Christmas Performances

Monday 16th

Christmas Performances

Tuesday 17th

Christmas Performances

Wednesday 18th

Christmas Party Day
& Chartwells
Christmas Lunch
FREE Mufti day
Children invited to
wear party clothes

Thursday 19th

Last day
of term



November

Monday 4th

Inset Day

Thursday 7th

Flu Immunisation

Friday 8th

School Disco

Monday 11th

Remembrance Assembly
Anti Bullying (Friendship Week)

Friday 15th

Children in Need

Monday 18th

Dog's Trust Assembly and KS1 Workshops

Tuesday 19th

Dog's Trust KS2 Workshops

Wednesday 20th

New Parents Open Morning
09:00 - 11:00

Wednesday 20th

New Parents Open Morning
09:00 - 11:00

Friday 22nd

Mufti Day for Christmas Tombola

Friday 29th

Christmas Fayre



October

Wednesday 2nd

New Parents Open Morning
09:00 - 11:00

Wednesday 2nd

New Parents Open Evening
17:00 - 19:00

Monday 7th

Harvest Assembly

Thursday 10th

World Mental Health Day

Wednesday 16th

New Parents Open Morning
09:00 - 11:00

Monday 21st

Parent Consultations

Wednesday 23rd

Parent Consultations



Monday 28th - Friday 1st November
Half Term

FREE Online Courses for Parents/Grandparents/Carers

Family Learning bring you these great FREE adult courses to help you support and enable your child's future academic and social success

Course Code	Course Title	Day	Start Time	End Time	Start Date	End Date	Wks
FN1631G	Family Learning: Autism Awareness	Tue	10:00	13:00	10/09/2024	10/09/2024	1
FN1655G	Family Learning: Introduction to Psychology	Mon	18:30	20:30	16/09/2024	21/10/2024	6
FN1633G	Family Learning: Autism Awareness	Tue	18:00	21:00	17/09/2024	17/09/2024	1
FN1679G	Family Learning: Supporting Your Own Mental Wellbeing	Thu	18:00	21:00	19/09/2024	19/09/2024	1
FN1708G	Family Learning: Understanding Your Child's Behaviour	Tue	18:30	20:30	01/10/2024	22/10/2024	4
FN1707G	Family Learning: Understanding Your Child's Behaviour	Tue	10:00	12:30	01/10/2024	22/10/2024	4
FN1704G	Family Learning: Understanding and Supporting your Child's Mental Health	Thu	18:30	20:30	03/10/2024	24/10/2024	4
FN1681G	Family Learning: Supporting Your Own Mental Wellbeing	Tue	18:00	21:00	05/11/2024	05/11/2024	1
FN1637G	Family Learning: Autism Awareness	Tue	10:00	13:00	05/11/2024	05/11/2024	1
FN1639G	Family Learning: Autism Awareness	Thu	18:00	21:00	07/11/2024	07/11/2024	1
FN1710G	Family Learning: Understanding Your Child's Behaviour	Tue	10:00	12:30	19/11/2024	10/12/2024	4
FN1705G	Family Learning: Understanding and Supporting your Child's Mental Health	Tue	18:30	20:30	19/11/2024	10/12/2024	4
FN1711G	Family Learning: Understanding Your Child's Behaviour	Thu	18:30	20:30	21/11/2024	12/12/2024	4

Book your place now by contacting the below

☎ 01202 123444 🌐 www.skillsandlearningace.com ✉ enquiries@salbcp.com



Do you run a sports club, activity fitness group, art or craft club?

Hire our facilities

Our school hall and large outdoor space are available for hire.

Our facilities are available to book on weekday evenings, weekends and holidays.

Contact us:

Hillside First School

Hillside Road, Verwood, Dorset BH31 7HE

For further information contact us at office@hillsidefirstschool.org or 01202 822737

www.hillsidefirstschool.org



After School Clubs

Hillside First School are pleased to offer the following clubs:

Monday

15:00-16:00 – Creative Dance (Year R-2)

16:00-17:00 – Creative Dance (Year 3-4)

Tuesday

08:00-08:30 – Sports & Fitness Breakfast Club (Year R-4)

12:00-12:30 – Sports & Fitness Lunch Club (Year R-4)

15:00-15:50 – After School Football Club (Year 1-4)

Friday

Lessons in school – Rocksteady

15:00-16:00 – Dodgeball /Bench ball (Year 1-4)



DORSET CREATIVE DANCE

HILLSIDE FIRST SCHOOL
AFTER SCHOOL DANCE CLUB

Fun and creative dance classes for children attending Hillside First School
Password for booking: Hillside2024!!

Bookings now open through our website!

Mondays 3pm Reception, Years 1 & 2

Mondays 4pm Years 3 & 4

e: info@dorsetcreativedance.co.uk t: 07759 949 478
www.dorsetcreativedance.co.uk

POOLE FOREST SCHOOL
HILLSIDE

Thursday after school. Cook on the campfire, learn to use tools, build dens, nature crafts. Woodland games and challenges.

Bookings being taken@
www.pooleforestschool.com