

# Hillside News

DATES TO REMEMBER



Hillside First School

where children are at the heart of everything we do

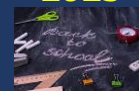


www.hillsidefirstschool.org ~ 01202 822737 ~ office@hillsidefirstschool.org



Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December

Children return on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025

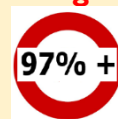


## WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Little Owls 1	98%
Little Owls 2	90%
Tawny Owls 1	94%
Tawny Owls 2	94%
Tawny Owls 3	89%
Snowy Owls 1	93%
Snowy Owls 2	94%
Snowy Owls 3	93%

Whole School 93%

Target



The school day begins at 08:40

Gates open at 08:30  
School finishes at 15:00

## Headteacher Update Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024

I hope you've had a good week. It's certainly been a busy and enjoyable one at Hillside First School, filled with festive preparations and exciting events. Here's a look at what's been happening and what's coming up!

Don't forget to enter our **Christmas Story Writing Competition (closing date 9th December)**! Winning entries from each year group will be judged by our school librarians. Winners will have the special opportunity to visit Verwood Care Home to share their stories and will also receive a certificate and prize. We're so excited to see the creativity of our children—good luck to everyone taking part!

It's hard to believe December is just around the corner, and with it, the countdown to Christmas—just 26 sleeps to go! The school is buzzing with festive spirit, with decorations brightening the halls and our beautiful indoor Christmas tree now in place. Next week, we'll be setting up the performance staging, ready to showcase our children's talents in the highly anticipated Christmas performances.

This week, eight of our Year 3 and 4 children represented Hillside at the **2024 East Dorset Panathlon Indoor Multi-Skill Primary Panathlon** event at Emmanuel Middle School. Organized by Katrina Cole, East Dorset School Games Organiser, this inclusive event gave children the chance to try a variety of activities, focus on teamwork, and most importantly, have fun. We're delighted to share that our team placed **2nd overall** among eight schools! The children received certificates, medals, and a trophy for the school. They represented Hillside brilliantly, and we're incredibly proud of their efforts.

We also had our termly safeguarding visit from the Trust Safeguarding Lead last week. We're pleased to report a **green rating in all areas**, reflecting our unwavering commitment to the safety and welfare of every child in our care.

Tonight, we look forward to welcoming you to our eagerly awaited **Christmas Fayre**, running from **17:00 to 19:30**. This event wouldn't be possible without the tireless efforts of our PTA team, who have worked hard over recent weeks to organize everything. Thank you also to everyone who has supported by purchasing raffle tickets, donating prizes, volunteering, or helping to run stalls. Your contributions play a vital role in raising much-needed funds for our school.

Our **School Parliament members** were announced during Monday's assembly, and we've already held our first meeting! Badges for our Parliament members are on their way, and as soon as they arrive, we'll share a photo. In addition, we are finalising roles for our **Play Leaders, Eco Warriors, and Librarians**. Congratulations to all the children taking on these important responsibilities.

A big thank you goes to **Goadsby** for their generous donation of a real-life Christmas tree. Your ongoing support means so much to us and helps make this festive season extra special for our children.

Thank you for your continued support of Hillside First School. Have a fantastic weekend, and we hope to see many of you at the Fayre this evening!

Best wishes,  
Mr. Graves

## Celebration of Achievement afternoon



Please join us on **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December** straight after school by visiting your children's and other classrooms across the school.

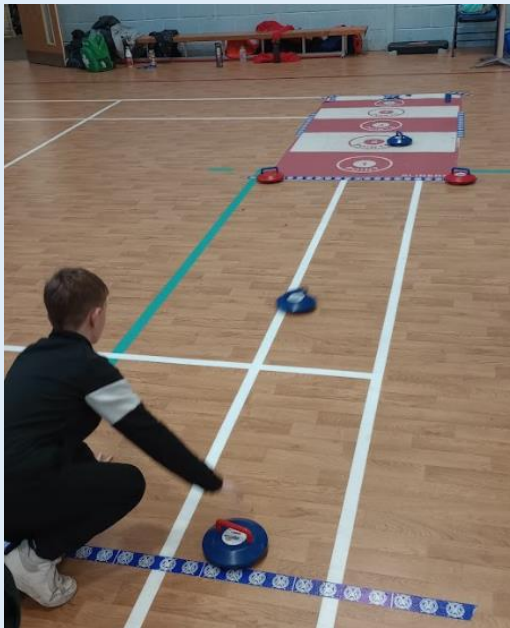
**Congratulations** to the following children  
for being our latest **Stars of the Week**:



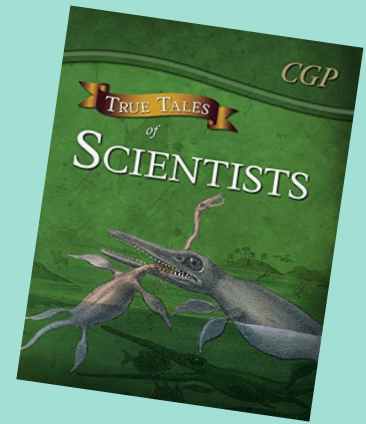
**Hot chocolate time!**



## Our Year 3 and 4 Panathlon Super Stars!



# The Book Nook



Alicia has been enjoying the book 'True Tales of Scientists' which she has been reading in school. 'I love how interesting this book is and it has some amazing stories that I can't believe are true. My favourite is the story about Marie Curie.'

Alicia is now asking Santa to bring her this book for Christmas!

If you're planning to purchase books as gifts through Scholastic, please consider selecting our school at checkout. Doing so will help raise valuable funds for us!

 **SCHOLASTIC**

<https://shop.scholastic.co.uk/spend-your-rewards>

**FREE books for your school**

Every order over £10 earns 20% of the order value back to your chosen school in FREE BOOKS

[Find your school](#)



# Meet our heroes



Gruff loves doing parkrun at the weekend and has just completed his tenth 5k parkrun to get this cool t-shirt!



Fantastic, well done Gruff!



Lyra achieved her 20 metre swim badge this week. It's the first time she has swam the whole length of the pool so was very proud of her achievement.



Amazing, well done Lyra!

# Christmas at Hillside



**HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS!**



## Christmas Holidays

Last day of term: **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December**

Children return to school on: **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025**



*Christmas*  
**MOVIE NIGHT**

**Mufti PJ's Day**

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December  
3.00pm-4.30pm Year R-1

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December  
3.00pm-5.00pm Years 2, 3 and 4

Tickets  
£3.50

Tickets can be purchased via ParentMail.

## Christmas Party

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December  
**FREE MUFTI**

Children are invited to wear Christmas party outfits on this day.

## Christmas Jumper Day

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December

Children can wear a Christmas jumper to school. This is a non-school uniform day.

## Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December

Book your festive lunch with Chartwells by **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December**

## Christmas Performances

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December  
09:15 - Little Owls Nativity  
13:45 - Year 1/2 Christmas Concert

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December  
09:15 - Year 3/4 Christmas Concert  
13:45 - Little Owls Nativity

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December  
09:15 - Year 1/2 Christmas Concert  
13:45 - Year 3/4 Christmas Concert

Tickets are free of charge and are limited to 2 per family due to the capacity of the hall. Tickets will be available to reserve via the shop on ParentMail until **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December**.

# MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS

At Hillside First School, we are dedicated to promoting the emotional health and wellbeing of our children and staff, understanding that mental health is just as vital as physical health.

We believe in equipping our young people with the strategies and tools they need to thrive. You can find plenty of helpful resources on the Mental Health and Wellbeing page of our website [here](#).

## Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA)

An ELSA is a specialist with extensive experience working with children and young people. Trained and regularly supervised by Educational Psychologists, ELSAs play a key role in supporting emotional development and helping children navigate life's challenges. They also assist in finding solutions to any difficulties a child may face. At Hillside, our ELSA is Mrs. Thomas.

Find out more about ELSA at Hillside on our website [here](#).



If you have concerns about your child's emotional wellbeing or behaviour, please don't hesitate to contact the school. We are here to provide further support and guidance.

# THANK YOU

A very big 'Thank You' to Goadsby for their generous donation of a beautiful real-life Christmas tree.

Your continued support means so much to us and brings extra joy to our children this festive season.





**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December**



**10:30 am - 12 noon**

**Verwood Methodist Church**



Join Nick The Vic, Suzannah & the fab **TREE HOUSE** team for a morning full of fun Christmas craft activities. Make some great decorations for the church tree - and some for your own. Expect cool craft, Christmas music, drinks & biscuits - and all for FREE! To register a place please visit: [www.nickthevic.co.uk](http://www.nickthevic.co.uk)

and click on 'Crafty Christmas'  
**Hope to see you there!**



Verwood Methodist Church  
Vicarage Road  
Verwood BH31 6DR



# Autumn *term*

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## September

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
Inset Day

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>**  
Inset Day

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup>**  
Individual & Sibling Photographs



**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>**  
PTA AGM - new members welcome  
18:00 at Hillside First School

## October

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
New Parents Open Morning  
09:00 - 11:00

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
New Parents Open Evening  
17:00 - 19:00

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup>**  
Harvest Assembly

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup>**  
World Mental Health Day

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup>**  
New Parents Open Morning  
09:00 - 11:00

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup>**  
Parent Consultations

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
Parent Consultations

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> - Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November**  
Half Term



## November

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup>**  
Inset Day

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>**  
Flu Immunisation

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup>**  
School Disco

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup>**  
Remembrance Assembly  
Anti Bullying (Friendship Week)

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup>**  
Children in Need

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup>**  
Dog's Trust Assembly and KS1 Workshops

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup>**  
Dog's Trust KS2 Workshops

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup>**  
New Parents Open Morning  
09:00 - 11:00

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
Mufti Day for Christmas Tombola

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup>**  
Christmas Fayre



## December

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>**  
Pyjama Themed Movie Night  
Year R and 1

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup>**  
Christmas Jumper Day  
Rocksteady Performance 14:15

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>**  
Pyjama Themed Movie Night  
Year 2-4

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> &  
Friday 13<sup>th</sup>**  
PTA Christmas Shop



**Friday 13<sup>th</sup>**  
Christmas Performances

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup>**  
Christmas Performances

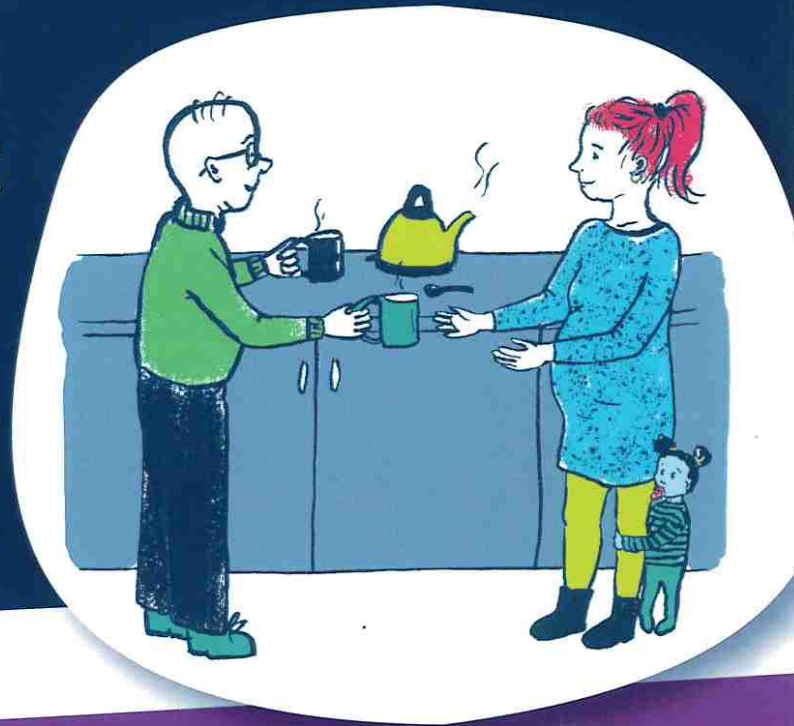
**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup>**  
Christmas Performances

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup>**  
Christmas Party Day  
& Chartwells  
Christmas Lunch  
FREE Mufti day  
Children invited to  
wear party clothes

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>**  
Last day  
of term



“ I wanted someone non-judgemental to speak to about some of the issues I was having ”



I found them at Ferndown Family Hub

Find your local Family Hub at  
[dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/family-hubs](https://dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/family-hubs)



The Centre, Barns Road  
Ferndown  
Dorset  
BH22 8XH

01202 872312

With a wide range of support on offer, Family Hubs are here for you. There's so much available, including parenting support, baby groups, mental health advice, SEND support, financial guidance and much more.

Part of Dorset's **Family Hub** network

# 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](mailto:info@dorsetcreativedance.co.uk) t: 07759 949 478  
[www.dorsetcreativedance.co.uk](http://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](http://www.pooleforestschool.com)