

Hillside News

DATES TO
REMEMBER



Children return on
Tuesday 7th January
2025

Hillside First School

where
children
are at
the heart of
everything we do



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



Headteacher Update Thursday 19th December 2024

Well, that's a wrap—what an incredible week! We've finished the Christmas performances, enjoyed a party day, shared a festive Christmas lunch, welcomed a party entertainer (a big thank you to the PTA for organizing that!), and even had a visit from Father Christmas himself!

I've been so proud and impressed watching the performances. Our youngest children, who only started school this term and are just 4 and 5 years old, stood confidently on stage in front of a large audience. Meanwhile, our Year 4 children performed at Christmas for the final time at Hillside First School—an emotional fifth and final performance. Time really flies! I often remind everyone: blink and you'll miss it. Make the most of every opportunity, find the positives even in challenges, and embrace life.

Mr. West and I had the pleasure of taking our Christmas story-writing winners to Verwood House Care Home, where they shared their stories with the residents. I firmly believe in giving children a sense of purpose, and seeing them share their creative work made it a truly meaningful experience for everyone involved.

The children had a fantastic time during their Christmas party day on Wednesday, which included a festive lunch in the hall filled with singing and dancing during the second sitting. This morning, they were delighted and entertained by Mr. Merlin, and they also received gifts from Father Christmas (thank you once again to the PTA for making these magical moments possible!).

Finally, I'd like to express my heartfelt thanks:

- To all our families for your continued support,
- To the local community,
- To our amazing volunteers,
- To the members of our local school committee,
- To the PTA,
- To our incredible staff team, who go above and beyond every day, and,
- Most importantly, to our incredible children, who are at the heart of everything we do.
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This is why we do what we do.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Best wishes,
Mr. Graves

WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Little Owls 1	95%
Little Owls 2	87%
Tawny Owls 1	94%
Tawny Owls 2	84%
Tawny Owls 3	90%
Snowy Owls 1	88%
Snowy Owls 2	91%
Snowy Owls 3	92%

Whole School 90%

Target

97% +

The school day begins
at 08:40

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

Merry Christmas

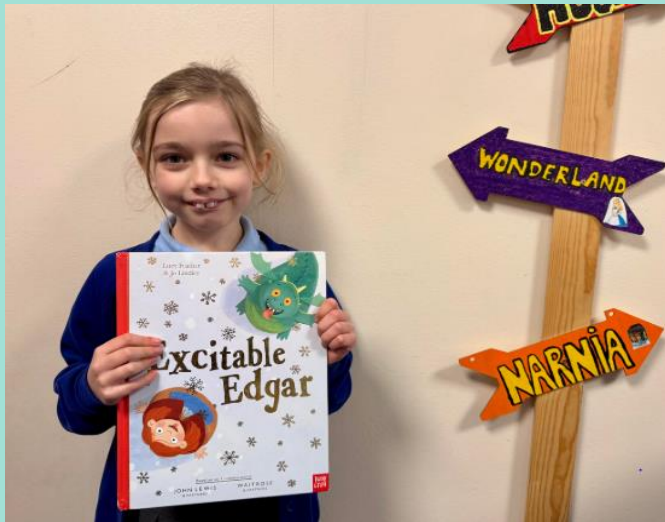
From all the children
and staff team at
Hillside First School!



Christmas Stories at Verwood House Care Home



The Book Nook



Snowy Owls 1

Athena recommends *Excitable Edgar*, a story she has really enjoyed reading. You might recognize Edgar from the John Lewis advert in 2019. You can find more about him here: [Edgar](#) .

Athena said, "There is snow, and it's all about Christmas! I really liked it when Edgar lights the Christmas pudding and skates across the ice. We've been writing an apology letter on Edgar's behalf in class this week, and, by chance, my grandparent brought me the book as well!"



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



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

A photograph of a young girl with blonde hair, wearing a bright pink t-shirt and black pants. She is smiling and holding two long, colorful ribbons (one purple and blue, the other orange and yellow) that are trailing behind her.

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

A row of stylized, dark green tree silhouettes of varying heights and shapes, set against a light green background.