

Hillside News

DATES TO REMEMBER



Monday 3rd – Friday 7th
February

Children's Mental
Health week

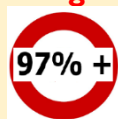


WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Little Owls 1	96%
Little Owls 2	94%
Tawny Owls 1	100%
Tawny Owls 2	98%
Tawny Owls 3	96%
Snowy Owls 1	95%
Snowy Owls 2	96%
Snowy Owls 3	97%

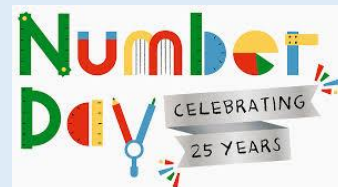
Whole School 96%

Target



The school day begins
at 08:40

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



Friday 7th February

Children are invited to wear their favourite number to school—this could be on a t-shirt, badge, or even a homemade design. We look forward to a fun-filled day of number-themed activities!

Hillside First School

where
children
are at
the heart of
everything we do

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



Headteacher Update Friday 31st January 2025

It has been one of those weeks you don't want to end! I have been incredibly impressed and proud of everything happening across the school.

Our **Eco Warriors** have been working hard, checking classrooms to ensure recycling bins are used correctly and that we are being energy efficient. They also led an assembly to share their current focus and launched the **crisp packet recycling scheme**, which the children have embraced enthusiastically.

Our **Play Leaders** have been busy organising playtimes across the school, and the children have responded brilliantly. Meanwhile, our older children in **Years 3 and 4** have been having great fun, getting creative with their **den building and camp-making activities**.

The **Reading Exchange** has been a fantastic success! Each class paired up with another to share stories and promote a love of reading. The children engaged wonderfully, and we hope to continue fostering this enthusiasm. More details can be found below.

The Circus is Coming to Hillside! 🎪

You may have heard the exciting news—the **circus is coming to Hillside First School on Sunday, 13th July!** This is a first for our school, and we can't wait. Please see the flyer below for details on how to book your tickets.

Educational Visits

This half-term, we have several exciting **educational visits** planned:

Year 1 will be visiting **East Dorset Museum**.

Years 3 and 4 will be heading to **Winchester Science Centre** next week, followed by a **walk across the heath** to put their **Ordnance Survey skills** to the test.

Reception and Year 2 will have their visits after half-term.

Supporting Emotional Literacy

I've included some **top tips below** to help develop children's **emotional literacy**, which you may find useful.

And Finally...

In case you didn't know, the **Men's Six Nations Rugby Championship** kicks off tomorrow! **Come on, England!**



Have a great weekend.

Best wishes,

Mr. Graves

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



The Book Nook



Tawny Owls 3: Lola and Layla both love fairy tales.

Lola's favourite tale is Cinderella. " I like it because . . .She really wanted to go to the ball but her step sisters said NO! And I really like the fairy godmother because she gives her a beautiful dress and shoes. I wish I was Cinderella and lived in a palace with a prince."

Layla's favourite character is Aurora in Sleeping Beauty. However, she really enjoys reading Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs." I like it because there is the rhyme "Mirror, mirror on the wall, who is the fairest of them all?" I like the characters, especially the evil queen because it makes the story so exciting when she makes the poison apple."

Congratulations to Elsie in Year 4! She was chosen as the winner of the Verwood House Care Home bauble decoration competition, which they kindly organised for our children at Hillside.

This week, Emilia from the care home visited us to present Elsie with her prize.
A big thank you to everyone for your support!



This week at school, we are hosting a **Reading Exchange**, where different classes are pairing up to read together. Today, Snowy Owls 1 and Little Owls 1 took part, and the children absolutely loved it! Some of their excited comments included:

- 📖 "Best day ever!"
- 📖 "That was fun!"
- 📖 "Can we do it again?"
- 📖 "I loved it!"

It's wonderful to see our children so enthusiastic about books as we continue to promote a love of reading!





A Reminder About Safety at the Zebra Crossing

We kindly ask all parents and carers to be mindful when waiting or chatting near the zebra crossing by the school field gate. A recent incident highlighted the potential danger when a child suddenly stepped onto the crossing from behind a group of adults, nearly resulting in an accident.

To keep everyone safe, please ensure the crossing remains clear and that children are always visible to drivers. Your awareness and cooperation will help prevent any accidents and keep our school community safe.
Thank you for your support.





Meet our heroes



Harrison joined Verwood town cobras football team a couple of months ago.

He got player off the week after Sundays game, not only scoring his first goal for his team but scoring a Hatrick.



Fantastic, well done Harrison!



Alicia recently organising a protest against climate change and cutting down trees.



Aroma cafe kindly agreed to display Alicia's poster.
I am so proud of Alicia.



Amazing, well done Alicia!

STEP INTO A WORLD OF

MAKE
BELIEVE

AND
WONDER

-AT-

HILLSIDE COMMUNITY
CIRCUS

joins

JULY 13TH
FROM 1PM

AT HILLSIDE FIRST SCHOOL,
VERWOOD, BH31 7HE

PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS NOW
FOOD AND DRINK WILL BE AVAILABLE BEFORE THE EVENT
AND DURING THE BREAK.

[HTTPS://WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/HILLSIDE-COUNTY-FIRST-SCHOOL-PTA](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/hillside-county-first-school-pta)



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO DEVELOP EMOTIONAL LITERACY

Emotional literacy refers to the ability to recognise, understand and express our feelings effectively. It plays a crucial role in strengthening a child's wellbeing by enhancing their relationships and resilience. However, emotional literacy is not necessarily an innate talent, and its development may present challenges. This guide gives parents and educators practical tips on supporting children to cultivate this essential skill.

1 NAME THE EMOTION

Encourage children to identify and name their emotions. This helps them understand what they're feeling and why. Use simple language and relatable examples to make it easier for them to share their emotions. This builds a foundation for emotional understanding and open communication.



2 MODEL EMOTIONAL EXPRESSION

Demonstrate healthy emotional expression by sharing your feelings visibly. When children see adults properly displaying how they're doing and what they're thinking, they learn to do the same. Discuss how you handle emotions in different circumstances, providing a real-life framework for young ones to follow.



3 MINDFULNESS ACTIVITIES

Teach children mindfulness practices to help them stay present and manage their emotions during more challenging moments. Activities like deep breathing, meditation or yoga can reduce stress and enhance emotional regulation. Regular practice can improve focus and emotional stability, which can significantly help children both as they're growing up and throughout their adult life.



4 USE STORYTELLING

Incorporate storytelling to help children understand emotions. Stories can offer relevant scenarios illustrating how the characters experience and manage their feelings. Discuss the emotions depicted in stories and ask children how they might feel in similar situations.



5 PRACTISE EMPATHY

Teach children to consider others' views and emotions – and to explore why they might think or feel this way. Role-playing and discussing various scenarios can enhance their ability to empathise. Understanding others' emotions helps children to develop compassion and improves their social interactions.



6 ENCOURAGE JOURNALING

Suggest keeping a journal to make note of thoughts and emotions, as writing can provide an outlet for self-reflection and emotional processing. Encourage children to write about their daily experiences and feelings, helping them gain insight into their emotional world. Do this alongside them, so they can see and experience how to do it effectively.



7 TEACH PROBLEM-SOLVING

Do what you can to help children develop problem-solving skills to assist in managing emotional challenges. Discuss potential solutions to emotional conflicts and encourage them to think critically about what they (and others) can do to process their feelings in a healthy way. This empowers children to handle emotions positively and build resilience.



8 CREATE A SAFE SPACE

Establish an environment where children feel safe to display their emotions without judgement. Encourage open exchanges and reassure them that all feelings are valid. This supportive atmosphere promotes trust and encourages children to express themselves with confidence.



9 USE VISUAL AIDS

Take advantage of visual aids like emotion charts or mood meters to help children identify and express their feelings. Use these tools regularly in your interactions. They provide a visual representation of emotions, making it easier for children to communicate their emotional state.



10 CELEBRATE EMOTIONAL GROWTH

Acknowledge and celebrate progress in emotional literacy, and praise children for expressing their emotions and handling them effectively. Positive reinforcement is a useful tool that will encourage continued growth and reinforces the importance of emotional literacy – encouraging young people to maintain the good habits and healthy behaviours that you've taught them.



Spring term



UPCOMING EVENTS

January

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Monday 6th
INSET Day



February

Monday 3rd
Year 3 Snowy Owls School Trip
(Winchester Science Museum)

Thursday 6th
Year 4 Snowy Owls School Trip
(Winchester Science Museum)

Monday 10th
Year 1 School Trip
(Museum of East Dorset)

Monday 3rd - Friday 7th
Children's Mental Health Week

Friday 7th
NSPCC Number Day



Tuesday 11th
Safer Internet Day

Monday 17th - Friday 21st
Half Term

Monday 24th
INSET day



Friday 28th
PTA Event
Mufti Day & School Disco Reception - Year 1 15:00-16:30
Year 2 - Year 4 17:00-18:30



March

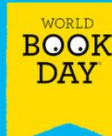
Week Commencing Monday 3rd
World Book Day week of celebrations

Tuesday 4th
Parent Consultations
(15:30-19:00)

Wednesday 5th
Parent Consultations
(15:30-17:30)



Thursday 6th
World Book Day
Dress up as a character from one of your favourite books



Friday 14th
Sponsored Bounce



Friday 21st
Comic Relief



Monday 24th
PTA Event
Someone Special Shop
Purchase a gift for a special person on Mother's Day



April

Monday 7th to Monday 21st April
Easter Holidays

Tuesday 22nd
INSET Day

Wednesday 23rd - Friday 25th
Year 4 Residential Trip
(Hooke Court)



Monday 28th
Class and Year 4 leavers photographs





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: Hillside2025!!

Bookings now open through our website!

Mondays 3pm Reception, Years 1 & 2

Mondays 4pm Years 3 & 4

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

A photograph of five young girls in purple long-sleeved shirts and black leggings performing a dance on a stage. They are holding long, colorful ribbons (blue, green, yellow, purple) that are swirling around them.

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 graphic design for a school club poster. The background is a dark green color. At the bottom, there are several stylized, dark green silhouettes of evergreen trees of varying heights and shapes.



Supporting our Community



WE ARE NOW TAKING BOOKINGS FOR CHILDREN STARTING SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2026



Hillside Pre-School is open term time, Monday - Friday and accepts children with both 15 and 30 hour funding. We have a Breakfast Club running from 7:45am, and After School Club running from 3pm, for both Hillside First and Pre-School children.

To book a tour of our wonderful setting, which opened in April 1990, contact Mrs Ford on:

01202 820 679

Email: office@hillsidepreschool.org

or visit: www.hillsidepreschool.org

Click on the icons for a quick link to our social media pages, website and email



CHILDREN'S CLASSES

Yarnley House Care Home, Ringwood
Fridays

Creative Playhouse (6m-7years) 9:50-10:40
Story Explorers (2.5years-7years) 11-11:50
complimentary refreshments
and cake between classes
Double class deals

Use code 'Hillside'
for 10% off!



Bright Sparks Creative Learning



BRIGHT SPARKS
CREATIVE LEARNING

KARAOKE

Nights

AT VERWOOD HUB

with Vocalize Choir

KIDS 5.30 - 7.30PM

ADULTS 8 - 11PM

2025

JANUARY 31ST
FEBRUARY 28TH
MARCH 28TH
APRIL 25TH
JUNE 27TH
JULY 25TH
AUGUST 29TH
SEPTEMBER 26TH
OCTOBER 31ST
NOVEMBER 28TH

FREE ENTRY

CONTACT US

01202 828740
dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/verwoodhub



Exclusively for 7-17 year olds, our highly experienced coaches will be offering kids, teens and young adults the chance to get up on stage and be like their idols! Whether you love pop, rap, rock or musical theatre there will be something for everyone

Rehearsals take place every Thursday evening
5.30- 6.30pm

The Helix Centre, 17 Moorlands Road, Verwood,
Dorset, BH31 7PD.

£25 per calendar month - 1st session will be free

Website: www.vocalize-choir.co.uk/vocalizeyouth
If you have any questions or queries please send an email to vocalizeyouthchoir@gmail.com