

Hillside News

DATES TO REMEMBER



Hillside First School

where children are at the heart of everything we do



HALF TERM FUN
Monday 17th - Friday 21st February

INSET DAY

Monday 24th February

Children return

Tuesday 25th February

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



Headteacher Update Friday 7th February 2025

We have now raced into February with just one more week to go until the halfway point of this academic year. There have been many highlights across the school this week, and I'm excited to share some of them with you.

We recently hosted a school readiness event for families with children starting school in September. It was wonderful to welcome so many children and families to the school, and we thoroughly enjoyed our time together.

I make it a point to attend at least one educational visit each academic year. This week, I had the pleasure of joining our Year 4 children on an exciting trip to the Winchester Science Centre. The children were in their element, representing our school impeccably and applying the knowledge they gained from their science lessons. A huge thank you goes to Mrs. Andrews for organising everything, as well as to all the staff and volunteers who helped with both yesterday's trip and the Year 3 visit on Monday.

Thank you for your enthusiastic support of NSPCC Number Day today. It was wonderful to see so many different numbers on display as the children participated in our school-wide competition. We will announce the winning entries for each class next week once Mr. West, our Maths Leader, has reviewed them.

Fun fact: I wore my favourite number, 23, today because it was the number worn by my sporting hero, Michael Jordan, during most of his career. Interestingly, it was Michael's idea to halve the number 45—worn by his older brother Larry—and round up to 23. He once said that if he could be half as good as his older brother, he'd be happy!

This week is also Children's Mental Health Week. In class, the children have been engaging in activities related to mental health and well-being. I encourage you to check out our dedicated page on our website, created by Mrs. Corrie and Mrs. Tarrant, for further information and resources: [Mental Health and Wellbeing](#).

Additionally, there is the option to enter the M&S and YoungMinds competition (details were included in the letter sent out earlier this week). Some of our talented children have already started designing.

Finally, I have a plea for help. Do you or someone you know have a drone and the appropriate licence to fly it? We are in need of a licensed operator on Thursday, 6th March, at around 11:00 AM for approximately 30–45 minutes please. I can't reveal too much at this stage as I don't want to spoil a potential idea, but I promise to share more details later if everything works out. Please email the school office at office@hillsidefirstschool.org if you can help.

Thank you for your ongoing support. I hope you have a great weekend.

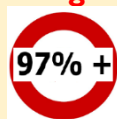
Best wishes, Mr Graves

WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Little Owls 1	96%
Little Owls 2	95%
Tawny Owls 1	98%
Tawny Owls 2	90%
Tawny Owls 3	96%
Snowy Owls 1	96%
Snowy Owls 2	98%
Snowy Owls 3	96%

Whole School 96%

Target



The school day begins at 08:40

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

Celebration of Achievement Afternoon



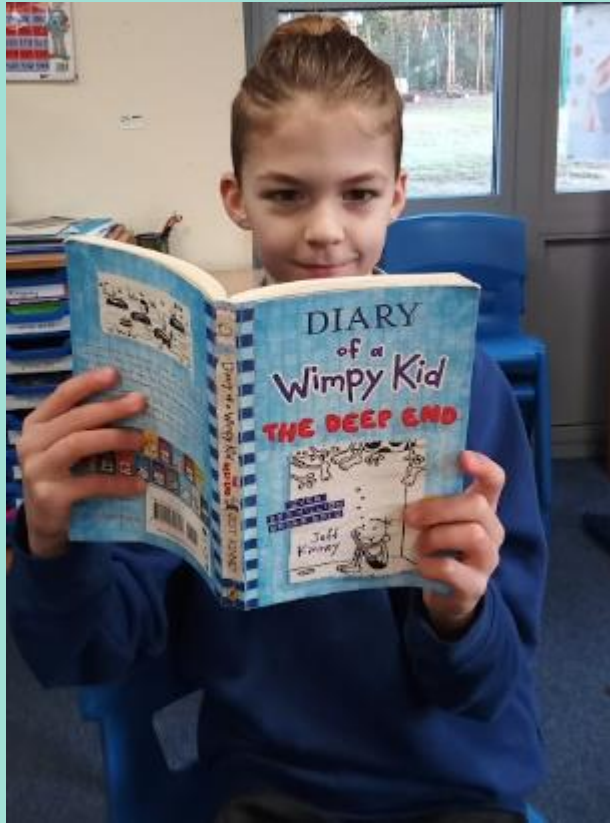
Tuesday 11th February

Straight after school

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



The Book Nook



Snowy Owls 3: Ollie

Ollie's favourite book is Diary of a Wimpy Kid - The Deep End by Jeff Kinney. Ollie has read all of the books in this series but this one is his favourite because it has lots of drama and is quite funny. Ollie thinks he and his friends are a lot like the characters in this book. Ollie loves reading and is often seen with his head buried in a book!



Meet our heroes



Just a reminder to send in your child's achievement for inclusion in the 'Hillside Heroes' feature of our newsletter.

If you would like to share a photo and a short explanation of something your child is proud of—whether it's earning a swimming badge, creating artwork, learning to ride a bike, or mastering a times table—please send it to office@hillsidefirstschool.org for consideration.

We'll post the submissions in the order they're received.

This will be limited to one submission per academic year, per child.

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)



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

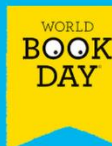
Week Commencing
Monday 3rd
World Book Day
week of celebrations

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 trailing behind them in the air.

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