

# 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



**HALF TERM FUN**  
Monday 17<sup>th</sup> - Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February

**INSET DAY**

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February**

**Children return**

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February**

## WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

|               |     |
|---------------|-----|
| Little Owls 1 | 98% |
| Little Owls 2 | 93% |
| Tawny Owls 1  | 98% |
| Tawny Owls 2  | 93% |
| Tawny Owls 3  | 96% |
| Snowy Owls 1  | 99% |
| Snowy Owls 2  | 99% |
| Snowy Owls 3  | 90% |

**Whole School 96%**

**Target**



**The school day begins at 08:40**

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

## Headteacher Update Friday 14th February 2025

Well, that's another half term completed, and it ended on a high note with another positive week across the school for our children.

We celebrated Internet Safety Day with an assembly led by Mrs. Davis, our Computing Lead. All our children then took part in focused sessions on online safety. Remember, being safe online isn't just a one-day event—it's a continuous conversation throughout the academic year during our computing lessons. It's incredible to think how quickly technology has advanced since my own days at First School, when we queued for a five-minute slot on a computer that often crashed! Nowadays, you can get online from almost anywhere and on multiple devices. The internet is a remarkable tool when used safely and responsibly.

Thank you to everyone who has updated their details on Arbor, our new management information system. A special thank you goes to Mrs. Tarrant for working tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure a seamless implementation for the team at Hillside.

Year 1 enjoyed an exciting visit to the East Dorset Museum on Monday as part of their Toys learning experience—right down to the coach ride, which generated plenty of excitement! Meanwhile, our Year 3 and 4 children ventured out again, this time exploring the heathland right on our doorstep. We feel incredibly lucky! A huge thank you to East Dorset Museum and to Sarah Allen and her team at the Dorset Urban Heath Partnership for arranging everything and making the visit possible.

Our Snowy Owls classes added a competitive twist to the week with the culmination of the Battle of the Bands times table competition! Every class participated enthusiastically, and all children got involved. Certificates were awarded to the top three 'most valuable' players in each class during a special assembly, and a trophy was presented to the winning class—Snowy Owls 2! Congratulations to them and to all the children for their superb efforts.

Finally, a massive thank you to all of you for your ongoing support—to our volunteers, local school committee members, dedicated staff team, and, of course, our wonderful children.

Wishing you all a fantastic half term. I look forward to welcoming you back on Tuesday 25th February.

Best wishes, Mr. Graves

**NSPCC**



**We raised £156 for the NSPCC – thank you for your support!**



Returns after half term

# The Book Nook



**Levi, Frank and Harrison in LOI all chose their favourite book Stickman by Julia Donaldson.**

Levi said his favourite part was when Stickman was taken by the dog. Frank liked when stickman got a lift back home from Father Christmas in his sleigh and Harrison thinks the whole book is great!



# Heathland Visit



Some of our Year 3 and 4 children enjoyed an educational visit to the heathland next to our school as part of a "What Makes Dorset So Special?" experience! The session focused on geography through a variety of activities, including: A guided walk exploring local maps, creating their own sketch maps, playing an OS map symbol bingo, discovering nature's colour palette and a wildlife talk featuring models and images. It was a fantastic opportunity for learning outside the classroom.



We welcomed back **Mrs. Drummond** for a few days this week and look forward to her returning to Snowy Owls 1 after the half term break.



**Mrs. Monger**, who is completing her teacher training, will be working at another school during the second half of the Spring Term as part of her placement in a different setting. We wish her every success and look forward to welcoming her back at the start of the summer term.





# Meet our heroes



Mason recently played for his team, Verwood Town Eagles. He played very well and earned 'Player of the Match' award. He scored two goals and two assists. Mason loves being part of the team, especially when he's scoring goals!



He is proud of the Eagles and the hard work they put in every week.

**Fantastic, well done Mason!**



Millie performed in her first Dance show 'Once upon a fairy tale'. She performed in two dances 'Rapunzel' and 'The Gingerbread man'.



Millie showed star quality and smiled all the way through!



**What a superstar Millie, well done!**

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 6<sup>th</sup>  
INSET Day



## February

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Year 3 Snowy Owls School Trip  
(Winchester Science Museum)

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup>  
Year 4 Snowy Owls School Trip  
(Winchester Science Museum)

Monday 10<sup>th</sup>  
Year 1 School Trip  
(Museum of East Dorset)

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> - Friday 7<sup>th</sup>  
Children's Mental Health Week

Friday 7<sup>th</sup>  
NSPCC Number Day



Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup>  
Safer Internet Day

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> - Friday 21<sup>st</sup>  
Half Term

Monday 24<sup>th</sup>  
INSET day

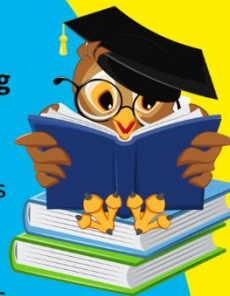


Friday 28<sup>th</sup>  
PTA Event  
Mufti Day & School Disco  
Reception - Year 1 15:00-16:30  
Year 2 - Year 4 17:00-18:30



## March

Week Commencing  
Monday 3<sup>rd</sup>  
World Book Day  
week of celebrations

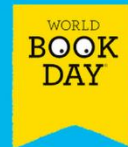


Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup>  
Parent Consultations  
(15:30-19:00)

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup>  
Parent Consultations  
(15:30-17:30)



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



Friday 14<sup>th</sup>  
Sponsored Bounce



Friday 21<sup>st</sup>  
Comic Relief



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



## April

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> to  
Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April  
Easter  
Holidays

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup>  
INSET Day

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> - Friday 25<sup>th</sup>  
Year 4 Residential Trip  
(Hooke Court)



Monday 28<sup>th</sup>  
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](mailto:office@hillsidefirstschool.org) or 01202 822737

[www.hillsidefirstschool.org](http://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](mailto:info@dorsetcreatedance.co.uk) t: 07759 949 478  
[www.dorsetcreatedance.co.uk](http://www.dorsetcreatedance.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)



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](mailto:office@hillsidepreschool.org)

or visit: [www.hillsidepreschool.org](http://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**



# 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](mailto: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](http://www.vocalize-choir.co.uk/vocalizeyouth)  
If you have any questions or queries please send an email to [vocalizeyouthchoir@gmail.com](mailto:vocalizeyouthchoir@gmail.com)