

Hillside News

DATES TO
REMEMBER



Parent Consultation



Tuesday 4th March
15:30 – 19:00

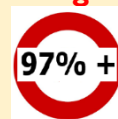
Wednesday 5th March
15:30 – 17:30

WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Little Owls 1	98%
Little Owls 2	97%
Tawny Owls 1	96%
Tawny Owls 2	96%
Tawny Owls 3	99%
Snowy Owls 1	91%
Snowy Owls 2	94%
Snowy Owls 3	97%

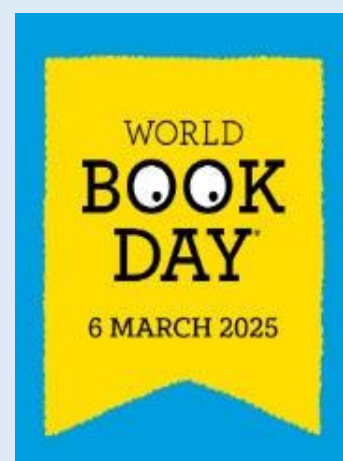
Whole School 96%

Target



The school day begins
at 08:40

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



Hillside First School

where
children
are at
the heart of
everything we do



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



Headteacher Update Friday 28th February 2025

Welcome back! I hope you had a great half-term break.

We've had another busy week at school. On Tuesday, I led an assembly where we recapped our school rules, values, and British Values (democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect). I also introduced a new piece of play equipment for Years 3 and 4—the Trail Blaze balance beam—which the children have thoroughly enjoyed this week.

You may have seen in the news this week reports about the importance of children playing outside. One report suggests that the amount of time children spend outdoors has declined by 50% in a generation. I firmly believe that outdoor play is vital and offers tremendous benefits. As you know, our children participate in Forest School, and we encourage them to be outside as often as possible. Watching them play with old car tyres, crates, and tarpaulins is truly inspiring—they are not only having fun but also developing important skills such as problem-solving, teamwork, and communication. With our extensive grounds, we strive to maximise outdoor opportunities for their benefit. This is also why we are fundraising, in partnership with the circus, to create a forest-themed trim trail for our children to enjoy.

We are very excited about the upcoming circus at Hillside First School on Sunday 13th July. This is a genuine circus featuring a big top, called Happy Circus. Please see the two promotional videos below:

[School 2024 Promo .mov](#)

[Happy's Circus Promo Video 2024 02.mp4](#)

It would be wonderful to see as many of you as possible at the event. Tickets are available via the QR code below or online at:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/hillside-county-first-school-pta>

We are also looking forward to World Book Day next week. Thank you for the wonderful entries already submitted for our junior competition. Please continue to send in your stories next week, up until and including World Book Day on Thursday, 6th March.

I hope you found the metacognition and growth mindset video useful, which you can access at: <https://www.hillsidefirstschool.org/learning>

Finally, our children are buzzing with excitement as they eagerly prepare to show off their moves on the dance floor during the school disco. Have a great weekend!

Best wishes, Mr. Graves

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



The Book Nook



Dominic likes to read '**How things work**' by Conrad Mason.

I like to lift the flaps inside the book and find out fun facts about how things work. My favourite page is where it shows me how a tower crane works and escalator works. I also love the page where it shows me how water goes in and out of a house.



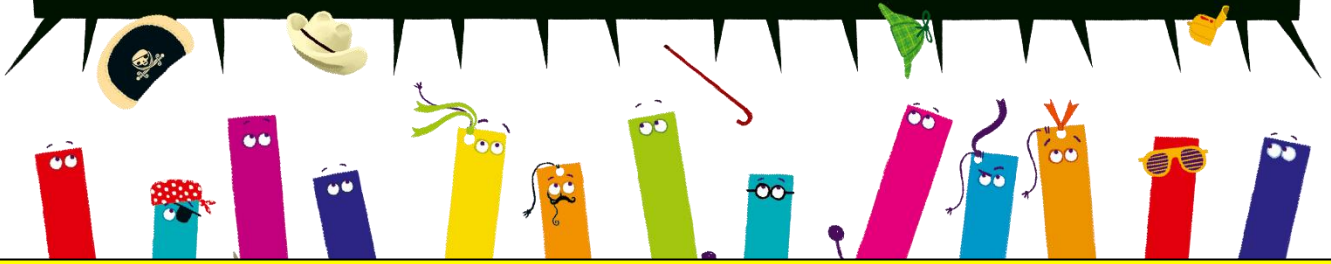
The children had great fun celebrating and recognising **Number Day** towards the end of last half term. They participated in a **number-themed competition** in school, showcasing their creativity and understanding of numbers. The winning entries were:

Tawny Owls 1	Tommy
Tawny Owls 2	Bella
Tawny Owls 3	Millie
Snowy Owls 1	Riley
Snowy Owls 2	Ryley
Snowy Owls 3	Molly

Here are some photos of our beautiful school grounds, including the exciting new Trail Blaze equipment.



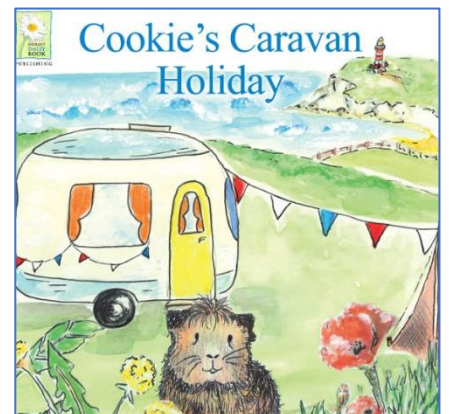
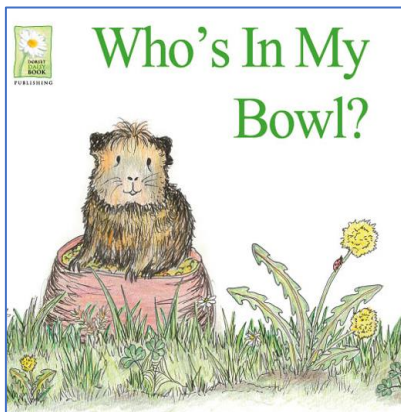
IT'S WORLD BOOK DAY!



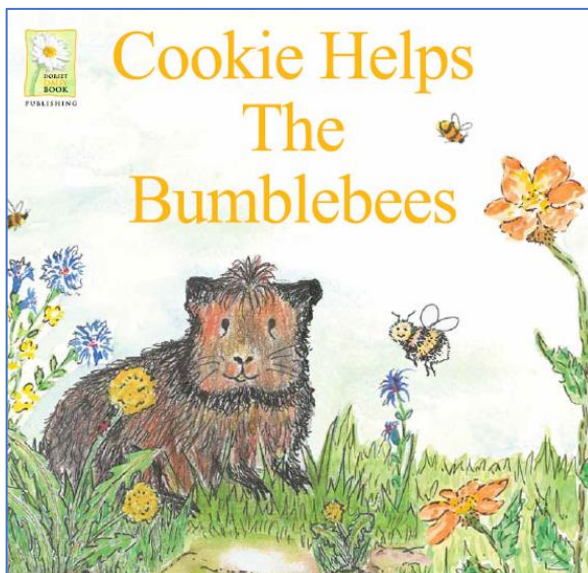
Thursday 6th March

All children are invited to come to school on World Book Day, dressed as a character from one of their favourite books.

Author to visit Little Owls and Tawny Owls on World Book Day!



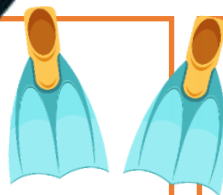
Lynda Stewart



Lynda is a local author who will be visiting EYFS and KS1 on the afternoon of World Book Day. She will be reading her books, answering questions and doing short activities with the children. **Lynda will be signing and selling her books in the hall from 3:00pm on World Book Day Thursday 6th March.**



Meet our heroes



Bertie moved up to Green Hat Stage 4 at swimming.



A huge achievement for him moving into a much faster paced lesson in the big pool.



Super swimming Bertie, well done!

Cohen, after having some time off from swimming has gone back and worked so hard over the last couple of months with his swimming and has just achieved his stage 2 in swimming and moved to stage 3.



He is now able to swim 2 widths of the pool without stopping, we are super proud of him!



Amazing achievement, well done Cohen!

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

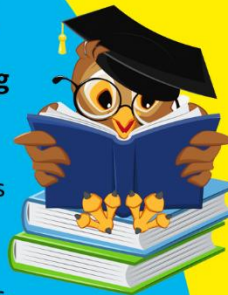
PTA Event

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

WORLD
BOOK
DAY

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



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)





**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 ➔





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@dorsetcreativedance.co.uk t: 07759 949 478
www.dorsetcreativedance.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 as they move.

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 featuring four stylized, dark green silhouettes of evergreen trees of varying heights and shapes, arranged in a row at the bottom of the page.