

Hillside News

Hillside First School

where children
are at the heart of
everything we do



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

DATES TO
REMEMBER



Last day of term

Friday 4th April
2025

END OF
TERM

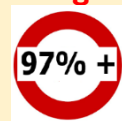


WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Little Owls 1	96%
Little Owls 2	96%
Tawny Owls 1	100%
Tawny Owls 2	95%
Tawny Owls 3	91%
Snowy Owls 1	98%
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

Headteacher Update Friday 14th March 2025

What a fantastic week it has been at school! I have felt incredibly proud of our children and the collective achievements of our school community.

Our School Parliament members had an exciting opportunity this week as they visited the Town Council. On Monday morning, they met with Mayor Cllr Rev'd Julian Macro JP and Town Clerk Carrie Lloyd. During their visit, the children asked the Mayor for advice, and he encouraged them to help others and work to improve the world. They also debated how best to spend a generous £250 donation, ultimately voting to invest in books. We extend our thanks to the Town Council, the Mayor, and the Town Clerk for their ongoing support!

Some of our Year 4 children have been busy with some outstanding sporting events. On Wednesday, a talented team of gymnasts took part in a tumbling competition at Ferndown Leisure Centre. Today, another group of Year 4 children participated in a rugby festival at Bournemouth Sports. The event celebrated the memory of a former mini rugby player who sadly lost his battle with cancer, with all profits being donated to Amelia's Rainbow Charity. With 23 schools and nearly 400 children involved, our team represented our school brilliantly. A huge thank you goes to Miss Zachariades for organising these opportunities.

Tuesday also marked our Peer Review Day, when we welcomed Mr Gough (Headteacher at Burton Bradstock Primary), Mr Homer (Headteacher at St Mary's Charminster), and Mrs Waldron (Deputy Headteacher at Merely First School) to our school. This valuable opportunity allowed leaders from other trust schools to focus on specific areas of our work. For us, the day centred on exploring new teaching and learning techniques to further enhance our educational practices.

Mr Gough remarked, "Thank you for having me today, it was great to visit Hillside and see the work you are doing. Please pass on my thanks to the staff and children too for being so welcoming."

Mr Homer added, "You have a wonderful school filled with polite and enthusiastic children, supported by hardworking and compassionate adults who work to the best of their ability to support children's progress. It is clear that children really are at the heart of all you do."

Finally, I must mention the England Men's Rugby team, who will be going head-to-head with Wales in Cardiff this week - a fixture always filled with passion and enthusiasm. Best of luck, England!

Have a wonderful weekend!
Best wishes, Mr Graves



WE'RE HOSTING
A MUFTI DAY, AND WE
INVITE CHILDREN
TO WEAR OR
ACCESSORISE WITH
SOMETHING RED TO
JOIN IN THE FUN!
DONATIONS CAN BE
MADE HERE:

[LINK](#)

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



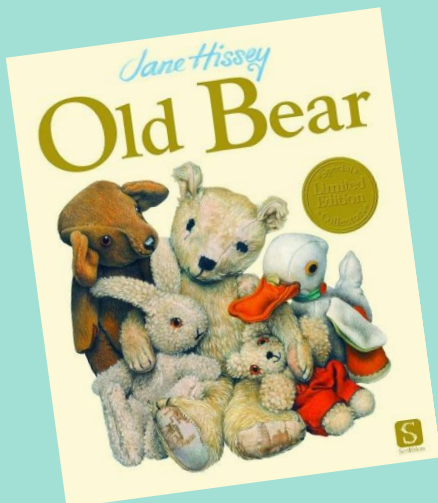
A visit to the Mayor!



Year 4 Sports Events This Week!



The Book Nook



Little Owls

We love Old Bear stories in Little Owls. The children's favourite characters are Old Bear, Bunny and Little Bear. The stories are funny and we like hearing about how they help each other.



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.

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

RED
NOSE
DAY

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)



Free Parent/ Carer session: ‘An Introduction to Autism’



What is the session about?

The session was co-developed with parents of autistic children, a SENCo, Dorset Parent Carer Council and Specialist Teachers and Educational Psychologists from Dorset Council.

It will help you to:

- Understand what autism is and the impact it can have on children/young people
- Learn some practical strategies to support an autistic child/young person

Please note, this is a general information session so we won't be able to discuss individual children.

The session will be delivered by either an Educational Psychologist or a Specialist Teacher from Dorset Council

Who can attend?

Any parents / carers who:

- Have an autistic child
- Have a child undergoing an assessment for autism
- Are interested in learning more about autism

Where and when?

Dorchester Library and Learning Centre, Room 3, South Walks House, Charles Street, Dorchester, DT1 1EE Date: Thursday 22nd of May - 3:30pm - 5:00pm

The Mulberry Children's centre, 2 Newstead Road, Weymouth, DT4 8JE Date: Wednesday 11 June 2025 1:30pm - 3:00pm

Wimborne Children's Centre, Gordon Rd, Wimborne Minster, Wimborne, BH21 2AP Date: Wednesday 11 June 2025 1pm - 2.30pm

Blandford Children's Centre, Black Lane, Blandford Forum DT11 8SW Date: Thursday, May 22nd 1.30pm until 3pm

Wareham Family Hub, Worgret Rd, Wareham BH20 4PH - (Behind Purbeck School, beside the Leisure Centre) Date: Tuesday 24th June from 10-11.30am

Bridport Family Hub, Skilling Hill Rd, Bridport DT6 5LA - (TRAINING ROOM 1) Date: Wednesday 11th June from 1.30pm - 3pm

Gillingham Primary School, Gillingham Police Station, 1 School Rd, Gillingham SP8 4QR -Date: to be confirmed

To book a place, please email elena.gillman@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk



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





**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 →



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)



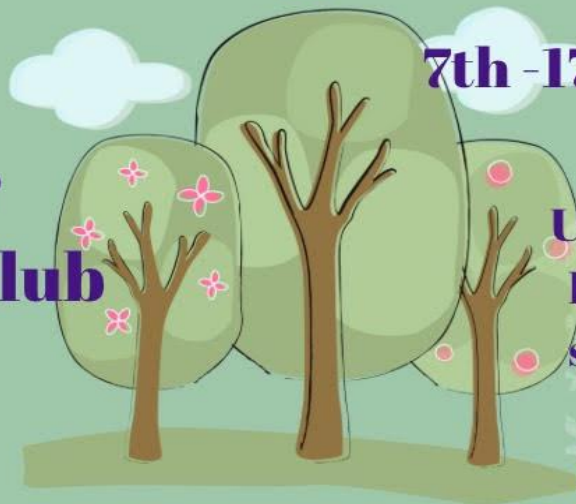
Easter @ Poole Forest School

Book online www.pooleforestschool.com

Ofsted registered

7th -17th April 9-1pm

Easter Holiday Club



Use tools to make
Easter bunnies,
seasonal crafts,
den building,
Spring wreath
making
Campfire treats
mud play and more
outdoor fun!!



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ROBLOX



Roblox is one of the most popular video games among children. In 2020, the game's developers claimed that more than half of the USA's children had played it. As a 'sandbox' title, the game lets players create their own gaming experiences with Roblox Studio to build custom levels, which can then be shared online.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ONLINE PLAY RISKS

Because Roblox connects random players across the world, it can put younger players into an environment with anonymous users who could use the platform for nefarious reasons. For example, some role-play games are used for online dates and mature role play, which could expose youngsters to inappropriate messages in the public chat box.

MATURE CONTENT

Content is difficult to moderate throughout Roblox, due to the number of games available. This is particularly notable on smaller games and experiences, but in summary, some of the games and experiences offered on the platform contain age-inappropriate content that could easily be seen by young players.

IN-GAME SPENDING

The majority of games within Roblox have extensive monetisation options, usually through season passes or microtransactions. Purchases can range in value from a few pennies up to much larger sums of money. While some games offer a lot of content via purchases, others can offer very little for real world money, causing younger players to end up out of pocket.

ANONYMOUS PLAYERS

The anonymity of users can leave players vulnerable to bullying, harassment, and predatory behaviour. Without the right parental controls or monitoring, users can connect with each other via personal messages or friend requests, and it is very difficult to know who's behind a username in this vast online world.

RISK OF ADDICTION

Roblox games can feature rewarding or satisfying mechanics that keep players coming back – or persuade them to stay logged-in for much longer. Like most games, they focus on interactivity, with constant rewards via in-game unlocks and currencies, which can sometimes lead to an addictive need to remain online for long periods of time.

SCAMS

Many of the games on Roblox feature collectible items, pets, or characters. These objects, while digital, are worth a lot of real money on certain online markets. Scammers will attempt to trade with younger users in the hopes of getting rare items that can be sold for real money, manipulating the child into handing them over, usually via misleading information.

Advice for Parents & Educators

MONITOR THE CONTENT

While Roblox does implement plenty of moderation tools and parental controls, it's up to parents and guardians to monitor the types of games a child or impressionable player is experiencing. If a youngster wants to play Roblox, be sure to check out which specific games they want to play within it, and get a good idea of their content.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TOOLS

Use the parental controls within the game itself and teach youngsters how to report and block other players. Knowing the powers within their reach will make Roblox a safer, happier experience. You can set age ranges for who's allowed to contact you, close public chat boxes, block spending, and even make your Roblox profile completely private. All these options are helpful in cutting off bad actors from engaging with children.

PLAY TOGETHER

Consider playing Roblox with the children in your care. There are few more effective ways to see how monetisation works, gauge whether the game could lead to addictive behaviours, or even witness how interaction between players works, than sitting down and trying the game for yourself. This should help you figure out whether it's suitable for particular children.

TEACH ONLINE BEHAVIOURS

Have an open conversation about the risks of online play and how to spend money wisely. By being honest and giving tips on how a younger user can protect themselves, you can empower them to not only take care of themselves, but others too. Any user can be reported to Roblox moderators by other players for behaving inappropriately. With this knowledge, younger players can be aware of what to look for and help prevent it.

Meet Our Expert

Dan Lipscombe is a videogame journalist and author of over 20 books on gaming, including books on Minecraft, Fortnite, Roblox, and more. For 15 years he has been writing about his passion for gaming. When he's not playing games, he's talking about them at GAMINGbible.



The National College