

Hillside News

DATES TO
REMEMBER



Last day of term

Friday 4th April
2025

END OF
TERM



Hillside First School

where
children
are at
the heart of
everything we do



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



Headteacher Update Friday 21st March 2025

We're welcomed the brighter, warmer weather this week, and the children are making the most of their time outdoors. With the improved conditions, please ensure that each child comes to school with a drink, and if they remove any jumpers, cardigans, or tops, kindly label them with their name so lost items can be returned easily.

A huge thank you to everyone for your generous sponsorship contributions and ongoing support, and special thanks to the PTA for organizing the event. Once all sponsorship funds have been received, I'll share the final total with you.

Thank you also for your support during today's Red Nose Day—an important charity event that we celebrate each year.

In a first for Hillside, some of our School Parliament members attended the Local School Committee meeting last night. They shared their achievements from this year and learned more about the committee's valuable work.

This week, our Year R children visited the heathland, focusing on seasonal changes through a nature walk and sensory activities. They explored signs of spring, such as nesting birds, changing plants, animals emerging from hibernation, and the differences between deciduous and evergreen trees. Activities included a hibernation trail, scavenger hunt, clay nest-making, sound capture, and crafting nature bracelets. A huge thank you to Sarah Allen from Dorset's Heath Partnership for her support and leading the visit.

Looking ahead to next week, please mark your calendars for the PTA's "Someone Special" Shop on Tuesday, and our Celebration of Achievement event—now moved to Wednesday 2nd April. We hope you can join us for our Celebration of Achievement event.

Have a great weekend!

Mr Graves

WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Little Owls 1	97%
Little Owls 2	99%
Tawny Owls 1	97%
Tawny Owls 2	99%
Tawny Owls 3	95%
Snowy Owls 1	98%
Snowy Owls 2	97%
Snowy Owls 3	95%

Whole School 97%

Target



The school day begins
at 08:40

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



Celebration of
Achievement
Event

Wednesday 2nd
April.

Straight after
school.

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



The Book Nook



Tawny Owls 2 (Year 1)

Bailey loves to read *In My Heart - A book of Feelings* by Jo Witek. I love this book because it is about feelings and the girl in it is really brave. When I read this book, I feel loved and brave too. I like the page when her heart is silly because she is dressed up like a bunny. I think other people should read it because when you read it you feel happy. Everybody should read it because it is really great!

Our School Parliament meeting the Local School Committee...



Reception

Some photos from Little Owls' heathland visit earlier this week.





Alfie's Story

By Alfie's parents



Today marks World Down Syndrome Day, a day dedicated to raising awareness and celebrating the lives and achievement of individuals with Down Syndrome. In honour of this special day, we want to shine a spotlight on Alfie, an incredible young person who inspires everyone around him.

Let's celebrate Alfie today and every day, and continue to advocate for a more inclusive world for individuals with Down syndrome. Please take a moment to read Alfie's story.

Alfie has Down syndrome and faces challenges with everyday tasks that others may find easy. However, if you know Alfie, you'll see that he tackles everything life throws at him with a positive attitude and a smile on his face!



Children and adults with additional needs require strong support to thrive, and we couldn't be more grateful for the incredible staff at Hillside First School. Since Alfie started in September, he has made tremendous progress, and it's all thanks to their dedication and care.



Alfie also faces some medical difficulties, and even a common cold can be harder for him to manage. Communication can be challenging, but he uses Makaton (a form of sign language) to express his needs and wants.

Every year on March 21st, we celebrate the amazing abilities of children with Down syndrome. One of our traditions is wearing our brightest, most colourful, or mismatched socks to mark the occasion!

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

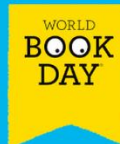
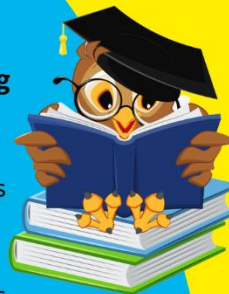
Week Commencing
Monday 3rd
World Book Day
week of celebrations

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



STEP INTO A WORLD OF

MAKE
BELIEVE

AND
WONDER

-AT-

HILLSIDE COMMUNITY
CIRCUS

joining

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)





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





**ARE YOU
LOOKING FOR A
PRE-SCHOOL
PLACE FOR YOUR
CHILD?**

Open Morning Friday 4th April



Join us for an Open Morning at Hillside Preschool on Friday 4th April from 10am - 12pm. Come and explore our warm, welcoming environment, meet our friendly team and discover what makes us a fantastic place for your child to learn, play and grow!

Booking is preferable – please call 01202 820 679 or email office@hillsidepreschool.org to register your attendance.

We look forward to meeting you!





**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)



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.

