

Hillside News

DATES TO REMEMBER



Our Summer Fayre
Friday 16th May
17:00 – 19:30



Hillside First School

where children are at the heart of everything we do



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



Headteacher Update Friday 25th April 2025

Welcome back! I hope you all had a wonderful Easter break and are feeling refreshed for the summer term. During the holidays, we cleared a large section of our woodland (see photos below), which will soon become a fantastic space for creative, free play when the children are on the field at playtimes.

This term we're not only honing skills in maths, reading and writing but also helping every child find their voice through oracy—the art of speaking and listening. At its heart, oracy is about giving children structured opportunities to talk, discuss and question, so they can organise their thoughts clearly before they write, learn from one another and build real confidence in the classroom and beyond.

Research from Voice21 and the Oracy Education Commission shows that classrooms rich in talk boost learning across all subjects—children who discuss and present regularly make stronger gains in reading, writing and maths. You can support this at home by echoing and extending your child's comments. For example, if they say, "That's the bus," you might reply, "Yes—that's the bright red number 5 bus heading into town," introducing new words and ideas naturally. These small conversations add up to a richer vocabulary and greater confidence, laying the groundwork for lifelong success.

You should have received my letter about our VE Day picnic on Thursday 8 May—please send in any family photos or memories for our display. We're also looking forward to the Summer Fayre on Friday 16 May from 17:00 – 19:30, featuring stalls, games and refreshments for everyone! Some of our Year 4 children have just returned from their residential at Hooke Court, brimming with stories and new experiences. A huge thank you to all the staff members for attending and a special mention to Mrs Andrews for arranging everything! Keep an eye out for letters about other exciting educational visits planned for each year group.

A reminder that we have school photos on Monday 28 April, including a special Year 4 leavers' picture. Please ensure children come to school in full uniform, even if it is their PE day.

Finally, good luck to England's Women's Rugby team for their Six Nations Grand Slam decider against France on Saturday!

Have a great weekend

Mr Graves

WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Little Owls 1	99%
Little Owls 2	100%
Tawny Owls 1	100%
Tawny Owls 2	95%
Tawny Owls 3	94%
Snowy Owls 1	97%
Snowy Owls 2	98%
Snowy Owls 3	93%

Whole School 97%

Target



The school day begins at 08:40

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

The Importance of Reading

Did you know: just 20 minutes of independent reading a day exposes your child to **over 1.8 million** words a year—building vocabulary, imagination, and confidence!

Fun fact: children who read for pleasure daily score up to **90% higher** on reading assessments than those who don't.

Reading tip: carving out **15 minutes** each evening for a family read-aloud can boost fluency and help children fall in love with books for life.



GOOD LUCK!

Today we bid a fond farewell to our wonderful Office Administrator, Sarah Childs. From answering phones and managing attendance to reconciling accounts, Sarah's warm spirit and infectious laugh have kept our school running smoothly. Her legendary costumes—Minion, Santa's helper, Mario—brought joy to staff and children alike. Thank you, Sarah, for your tireless dedication and for reminding us every day that a little laughter goes a long way. We wish you all the best in your next adventure!



Our tree and shrub clearance are now complete...





Meet our heroes



Recently, Jack got man of the match in his football game and he also achieved his red belt in his karate belt test.



Amazing Jack, well done!

Oscar has completed Level 4 in swimming and also swam 100 metres. His favourite stroke is butterfly and loves wearing flippers in the water to help him go super fast!



He also enjoys jumping in the pool and is beginning to do kneeling dives.



Fantastic, well done Oscar!

Summer term

UPCOMING EVENTS



July



Tuesday 1st
Year 2 School Trip
(Upton Country Park)



Thursday 3rd
PTA Event - Ice-Cream Sale
To be purchased in advance in Arbor

Thursday 3rd
PTA Event
Break the Rules Day



Friday 11th
Year 4 Leavers Service

Friday 11th
PTA Event - Ice-Cream Sale
To be purchased in advance in Arbor

Thursday 17th
17:00 - 19:00
Year 4 Leavers Party

Friday 18th
PTA Event - Ice-Cream Sale
To be purchased in advance in Arbor

Wednesday 23rd
Last day of term

May

Monday 5th
May Day Bank Holiday

Friday 2nd
Mufti Day in exchange for tombola donations for our Summer Fayre

Tuesday 13th
Little Owls School Trip
(Blashford Lakes)



Friday 16th
17:00 - 19:30
Summer Fayre



June

Friday 6th
PTA Event - Ice-Cream Sale
To be purchased in advance in Arbor

Friday 13th
PTA Event
Someone Special Shop
Purchase a gift for a special person on Father's Day

Friday 13th
PTA Event - Ice-Cream Sale
To be purchased in advance in Arbor

Friday 13th
PTA Event
Mufti Day & School Disco Reception - Year 1 15:00-16:30
Year 2 - Year 4 17:00-18:30

Friday 20th
PTA Event - Ice-Cream Sale
To be purchased in advance in Arbor

Thursday 26th
PTA Event - Ice-Cream Sale
To be purchased in advance in Arbor

Friday 27th
Transfer Day

Mufti Day 2nd May

The children are invited to wear Mufti in exchange for items for Hillside Fayre. Each class has a set theme:

Little Owls: Sweets, Chocolates
Tawny Owls 1: Stationary Packs
Tawny Owls 2 and 3: Sweets, chocolates
Snowy Owls: Alcohol

We would like to thank you for your kind donations to help support the Fayre.

If you have any new unwanted Teddies or New Toys/Raffle prizes we would be grateful for the donations.

JOIN US FOR Hillside First School Fayre

16th May 5pm to 7.30pm

£1 entry
Children are free

All Welcome
Bring Friends and Family

BBQ
Bouncy Castle
Races
Rides
Games
Stalls
Bar
Raffle
and much much more



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)

Celebrating 35 Years
Verwood
Established 1990

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



CODING | AI & MACHINE LEARNING | ANIMATION | GAME DESIGN

AFTER SCHOOL TECH CLUB



WEDNESDAY
15:00-16:00

YEAR 3-4

WEDNESDAY
15:00-16:00

YEAR 1-2

£9.60 PER SESSION

HILLSIDE FIRST SCHOOL

CLICK OR TAP HERE TO BOOK NOW



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)

