

# Hillside News

DATES TO REMEMBER



Our Summer Fayre  
Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May  
17:00 – 19:30



Hillside First School

where children are at the heart of everything we do



[www.hillsidefirstschool.org](http://www.hillsidefirstschool.org) ~ 01202 822737 ~ [office@hillsidefirstschool.org](mailto:office@hillsidefirstschool.org)



## Headteacher Update Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2025

It might have been a shorter week, but we've certainly packed in plenty of memorable moments.

Yesterday, we came together to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day with a special assembly and an afternoon tea picnic. The children started the day learning about the significance of that momentous day, then created their own flags in class to wave with pride. It was wonderful to see so many of you join us to honour this important milestone in our history. We're also delighted to share a beautiful collection of World War II memories from our families—please take a moment to read their stories here:

<https://www.hillsidefirstschool.org/news-and-events/latest-news/hillside-first-school-ve-day-80th-anniversary-world-war-2-memories>

Let's keep these memories burning brightly in our hearts and carry their stories forward so that future generations never forget the price of our freedom.

Please see the poster about a sense of belonging below:

A strong sense of belonging at Hillside means every child and family feels truly part of our community, where individual strengths are celebrated and everyone supports one another. It grows through everyday moments—when a child's achievements are acknowledged, when friends and staff listen with genuine interest, and when our shared values guide how we treat each other. This connection boosts confidence, inspires curiosity and makes learning more meaningful: children know they're valued for who they are, and families see their contributions woven into our school life. By nurturing respectful relationships, celebrating diverse talents and working together as one community, we ensure that Hillside remains a place where everyone feels welcome, supported and motivated to succeed.

Looking ahead to next week, our much-loved Summer Fayre is just around the corner. Thank you for the tombola donations we've already received, and a huge thank-you to the PTA for working tirelessly behind the scenes. We're all looking forward to an afternoon of fun, treats and community spirit.

With best wishes,

Mr Graves

## WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Little Owls 1	89%
Little Owls 2	92%
Tawny Owls 1	100%
Tawny Owls 2	98%
Tawny Owls 3	98%
Snowy Owls 1	96%
Snowy Owls 2	97%
Snowy Owls 3	93%

Whole School 96%

Target



The school day begins at 08:40

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

A huge thank you to Margot and Ada's Mum and Nanny for donating these beautiful plants and pots to our school!



#RandomActsofKindness

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

**Star**  
of the  
**WEEK**

Little  
Owls 1  
**Harry**

Little  
Owls 2  
**Grace**

Tawny  
Owls 1  
**Hugo**

Tawny  
Owls 2  
**Cam**

Tawny  
Owls 3  
**Layla**

Snowy  
Owls 1  
**Owen**

Snowy  
Owls 2  
**Frankie**

Snowy  
Owls 3  
**Wilbur**





# The Book Nook



## Little Owls I

Maeve, Erika and Casey chose 'The Secret Garden' as they really liked all the bright colours, the Robin who became Mary's friend and because we have been doing lots of gardening too!



## 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](mailto: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.



# Meet our heroes



Charlie has completed his orange level of his golf, while playing in the Lynx junior tour. His scores are getting better each time he plays.



Here he is doing some putting practice before the tournament.

**Amazing Charlie, well done!**

We are so proud of how dedicated and determined he is with playing Golf. In between his other sporting commitments, Lucius spends as much time he can on the course or at the Range. Most recently he has been practicing on the 9-hole course and at his last play hit tee - green in 1 drive (97 yards)



He has been commended on his politeness and sportsmanship by his Club and constantly amazes us by how well he listens and puts every bit of teaching into practice.



**Well done Lucius, fantastic!**

# Summer term

# UPCOMING EVENTS



## May

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup>**

May Day Bank Holiday

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Mufti Day in exchange for tombola donations for our Summer Fayre

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup>**

Little Owls School Trip  
(Blashford Lakes)



**Friday 16<sup>th</sup>**

17:00 - 19:30  
Summer Fayre



**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> to  
Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May**

Half Term



## June

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup>**

PTA Event - Ice-Cream Sale  
*To be purchased in advance in Arbor*



**Friday 13<sup>th</sup>**  
PTA Event

Someone Special Shop

Purchase a gift for a special person on Father's Day



**Friday 13<sup>th</sup>**

PTA Event - Ice-Cream Sale  
*To be purchased in advance in Arbor*



**Friday 13<sup>th</sup>**  
PTA Event

Mufti Day & School Disco  
Reception - Year 1 15:00-16:30  
Year 2 - Year 4 17:00-18:30



**Friday 20<sup>th</sup>**

PTA Event - Ice-Cream Sale  
*To be purchased in advance in Arbor*



**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>**

PTA Event - Ice-Cream Sale  
*To be purchased in advance in Arbor*



**Friday 27<sup>th</sup>**

Transfer Day



## July

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup>**

Year 2 School Trip  
(Upton Country Park)



**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup>**

PTA Event - Ice-Cream Sale  
*To be purchased in advance in Arbor*



**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup>**

PTA Event  
Break the Rules Day



**Friday 11<sup>th</sup>**

Year 4 Leavers Service

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup>**

PTA Event - Ice-Cream Sale  
*To be purchased in advance in Arbor*



**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup>**

17:00 - 19:00  
Year 4 Leavers Party



**Friday 18<sup>th</sup>**

PTA Event - Ice-Cream Sale  
*To be purchased in advance in Arbor*



**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Last day of term



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)

### Hillside First School School Raffle

16th May  
7.30pm

Tickets are £1 each and will be drawn at the Fayre. They can be purchased either on Arbor or from a Raffle Book which will be going home in your child's book bag.

Family and Friends are welcome purchase as well.

Thank you for your support.

**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

# Parent drop-in

Your next drop-in will be on:

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May**  
2.15pm-3.00pm

**Hillside First School**

Your school nursing team can provide non-judgemental and confidential support and advice about:

- Healthy lifestyle advice
- Emotional health and well-being support
- Bedwetting and toileting
- Nutrition and growth
- Sleep advice
- Signposting to various services
- Parenting advice
- Behaviour support

You can contact us via

- School nursing admin hub on 01929 557 558
- Parentline advice 5-19 texting service on 07312263131
- Website at [www.dorsethealthcare.nhs.uk/school-nursing](http://www.dorsethealthcare.nhs.uk/school-nursing)

Follow us on social media:



DorsetHealthCare School Nursing



[dorsethealthcare\\_schoolnursing](https://www.instagram.com/dorsethealthcare_schoolnursing)



We provide a confidential service. This means that you can discuss personal information in confidence. We will not discuss your personal information with anyone else without your permission. This includes parents and teachers. We would only pass on your information in order to protect you or someone else from serious harm. Whenever possible we would discuss this with you first.

## Instrument Hire to Young People



- Did you know Dorset Music Service directly hire a wide range of instruments to children and young people at a low cost? .
- Prices start from as little as £63 per year, dependant on the instrument.
- Funding support is available to cover up to 100% of the cost for eligible pupils
- You can collect/return by appointment from our Blandford office.
- All instruments are in top condition as our specialist technician ensures they are well maintained.
- Hire is on an annual basis from the month of hire.
- For questions email [dorsetmusicservice@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:dorsetmusicservice@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)
- You can request an instrument online via our website;

[www.dorsetandsomersetmusichub.org.uk](http://www.dorsetandsomersetmusichub.org.uk)

Navigate to Parents and Carers/Instrumental Learning

Viola	French Horn	Alto Saxophone
Violin	Tenor Horn	Clarinet
Classical Guitar	Trombone	Flute
Electric Guitar	Trumpet	Euphonium
Bass Guitar	Baritone Horn	Oboe
Cello	Tuba	Piccolo
Double Bass	Bass Trombone	Specialist Clarinet
	Cornet	Bassoon
		Specialist Saxophone



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)





Hillside First School offers a wide range of after-school clubs to enrich children’s learning and creativity beyond the classroom. From sports and dance to music and computing, there’s something for every child’s interest and development.

Day	Club	Booking Information
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>Creative Dance</b> 15:00-16:00 (Year R-2) 16:00-17:00 (Year3-4)	Book <a href="#">here</a> for Year R-2 Book <a href="#">here</a> for Year 3-4 Password: <b>Hillside2025!!</b>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>BRS Sports &amp; Fitness Breakfast Club</b> 08:00-08:30 (Year R-4)	Book via Arbor app
	<b>BRS Sports &amp; Fitness Lunch Club</b> 12:00-12:30 (Year R-4)	Book via Arbor app
	<b>BRS After School Football Club</b> 15:00-16:00 (Year 1-4)	Book via Arbor app
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>Computer Xplorers</b> 15:00-16:00 (Year3-4) 16:00-17:00 (Year1-2)	Book <a href="#">here</a>
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>Forest School</b> 15:00-16:00	Book <a href="#">here</a>
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>Rocksteady Music School</b> Lessons take place in school	Book <a href="#">here</a>
	<b>Dodgeball</b> 15:00-16:00 (Year1-4)	Book via Arbor app



## Hillside Pre-School Breakfast & After School Club

Hillside Pre-School also offers a **Breakfast Club** and **After School Club** for children attending Hillside First School and Hillside Pre-School.

- Breakfast Club runs daily from 07:45
- After School Club is available:
  - ☐ Monday to Thursday: 15:00-18:00
  - ☐ Friday: 15:00-17:00



For more information, please contact Hillside Pre-School on 01202 820679 or visit [www.hillsidepreschool.org](http://www.hillsidepreschool.org)

## 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

# FOSTERING A SENSE OF BELONGING

Feeling a genuine sense of belonging is essential for the emotional and social development of children and young people. Belonging significantly boosts self-esteem, resilience, and mental wellbeing, reducing feelings of isolation and anxiety. This guide provides practical strategies to help parents and educators cultivate inclusive environments, enhancing both academic outcomes and overall happiness among young people.

### 1 CELEBRATE INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES

Acknowledge and celebrate the uniqueness of every child. Promoting diversity and inclusion creates an environment where differences are valued rather than stigmatised. This acceptance empowers children to confidently express their identities and feel genuinely included, fostering a robust sense of belonging within both school and home settings.

### 2 CONSISTENT COMMUNICATION

Regularly communicate and actively listen to children, showing genuine interest in their thoughts and experiences. Creating open communication channels helps young people feel heard and valued. This approach not only builds trust but also reinforces children's perception of themselves as a vital part of their family, school and community.

### 3 MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION

Give children opportunities to actively participate and contribute, whether in classrooms, at home, or in community activities. Meaningful participation helps children feel their input matters, reinforcing a sense of purpose and value. Including them in decisions and responsibilities enhances their self-worth, promoting a deeper sense of belonging and inclusion.

### 4 FOSTER STRONG RELATIONSHIPS

Support and encourage positive relationships between peers, educators, and families. Strong, healthy relationships significantly impact a child's sense of belonging, providing emotional support and reducing feelings of loneliness. Facilitate social interactions through group activities, teamwork, and collaborative learning to strengthen these vital connections.

### 5 CREATE INCLUSIVE SPACES

Design environments that reflect diversity and are welcoming for everyone. Inclusive spaces where all children see themselves represented can dramatically improve their feelings of safety and acceptance. Consider classroom displays, books, and resources that celebrate various cultures, abilities, and backgrounds to visibly reinforce inclusivity and belonging.

### 6 MODEL POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

Adults play a crucial role by demonstrating inclusive, empathetic, and respectful behaviours. Modelling positive interactions and attitudes sets a clear standard for children to follow. Children are likely to replicate inclusive behaviour, creating a supportive community atmosphere where everyone feels accepted and valued for who they are.

### 7 BUILD EMOTIONAL LITERACY

Teach and encourage emotional expression and understanding among children. Developing emotional literacy enables young people to articulate their feelings and empathise with others. An emotionally intelligent environment cultivates mutual respect and compassion, fostering a deeper sense of belonging and interpersonal connection within groups.

### 8 SUPPORT PEER MENTORSHIP

Encourage peer mentorship or buddy systems within educational settings. Peer support enhances feelings of connectedness and security, reducing feelings of isolation. When children support one another, they naturally build community bonds, nurturing a supportive culture where belonging and friendship thrive.

### 9 RECOGNISE EFFORTS REGULARLY

Consistently acknowledge children's contributions and achievements, however small. Recognition reinforces a child's understanding that their presence and efforts are important. Celebrating individual and collective successes helps cultivate a positive environment where children feel acknowledged, motivated, and deeply connected to peers and adults around them.

### 10 ADDRESS BULLYING PROMPTLY

Quickly address any incidents of bullying. Promptly intervening demonstrates a clear commitment to an inclusive and safe environment. Creating a culture where incidents are swiftly and effectively addressed reinforces trust, security, and a sense of belonging for everyone involved.

## Meet Our Expert

Anna Bateman is Director of Halcyon Education Ltd and Director for Wellbeing and Family Services at Leigh Trust. With extensive experience in systemic mental health in schools, she supports educational leaders across the UK to develop inclusive, resilient, and supportive learning environments. Anna is also the lead expert for mental health at The National College.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: [nationalcollege.com/guides/fostering-a-sense-of-belonging](https://nationalcollege.com/guides/fostering-a-sense-of-belonging)