

# Hillside News

DATES TO  
REMEMBER



Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June  
MUFTI and School Discos



Year R and 1:  
15:00 – 16:30

Year 2, 3 and 4:  
17:00 – 18:30

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 6<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Welcome back! We've hit the ground running 🏃 and I hope you all had a wonderful break. As we move into the final half term of the academic year, we have lots of exciting events coming up—Transfer Day, Sports Morning, end-of-year reports, school discos, visits and workshops, as well as the Year 4 leavers' party and performance 🎭. Time really does fly (especially the older you get!), and while we're looking forward to all these celebrations and activities, some of our families are will be preparing to say goodbye at the end of the term 💔. On Wednesday evening, we welcomed our new families and outlined our approach for their children starting Reception. It was a pleasure to meet you, and I know our current families will remember how quickly those early school days go by.

Next week, we'll be administering statutory national assessments: The Year 4 Multiplication Times Table Check and the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check 📖✍️. We always keep these as low-key as possible—the children have been practising in school—so there's no need for stress at home. The results will help inform our end-of-year judgments, and we will share them with you as part of the children's reports. We've also had a brand-new interactive screen installed in the hall, which has been very exciting for the children (and adults!) 🖥️. It's fully interactive and will enhance lesson delivery and assemblies!

This week, we were delighted to welcome Simon Hoare MP (North Dorset) to our school. The children asked lots of thoughtful questions and enjoyed learning about his role in Parliament and community issues 🇬🇧🤝. It's always inspiring for them to meet someone who represents our area in government.

Our Reception children kicked off their Transport topic with a fantastic "Wheels Day" 🚲. They brought in their own bikes and scooters to ride safely around the playground, and it was a wheely good time (sorry—I couldn't resist!) 😊. Seeing them zoom around with big smiles was a highlight of the week.

You might notice a large number of emojis throughout this newsletter 😊. Below, you'll find a poster sharing some information and tips about emojis. I still use this emoji 🙄, which I've now learned is mainly used by "Boomers" (a person born between 1946 and 1964)—I was born after that, honest! 🙄. Emojis can add personality and tone to our messages, and I hope you find the poster's insights on them useful.

Have a great weekend, and thank you for your continued support.  
Mr. Graves

## WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Little Owls 1	91%
Little Owls 2	94%
Tawny Owls 1	94%
Tawny Owls 2	91%
Tawny Owls 3	89%
Snowy Owls 1	91%
Snowy Owls 2	90%
Snowy Owls 3	92%

Whole School 91%

Target



The school day begins  
at 08:40

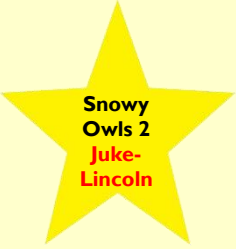
Gates open at 08:30  
School finishes at 15:00

## Sports Day Morning



Tuesday  
24<sup>th</sup> June

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



Yesterday we welcomed Simon Hoare MP for North Dorset, who met with Mr Graves, delivered an assembly about his role and took questions, met our School Parliament, joined a maths lesson, and praised our children's excellent behaviour.  
Thank you for visiting!



# WHEELS DAY



Little Owls had a great 'Wheels' day on Monday as the launch of our transport topic.



We all had a turn at wheeling around the playground, using the role play car wash and filling station and even washed our wheels to make them shine.

Lots of fun was had by all.



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about EMOJIS

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Emojis are more than playful expressions – they form a fast-evolving digital language that many adults struggle to decode. For young people, this ‘secret code’ is central to how they communicate identity, humour and emotions. With over 5 billion emojis sent daily on Facebook Messenger alone, understanding these symbols is key to engaging meaningfully with digital youth.

### GENERATIONAL MISCOMMUNICATION

An emoji like 👍 (thumbs up emoji) might seem friendly to adults, but teens often interpret it as sarcastic or passive-aggressive. These differing interpretations can create confusion or unintended tension in cross-generational conversations.

### SHIELDING BULLYING OR PEER PRESSURE

When embedded in emojis, mean-spirited jokes or exclusionary language can fly under the radar. Terms like ‘mid’ or ‘delulu’ may seem harmless, but they can be used to undermine peers in subtle ways.

### RAPIDLY SHIFTING MEANINGS

Emoji meanings can change overnight. A person standing emoji (👤) once signified awkwardness but might now be repurposed for something entirely different. This ever-changing lexicon can leave adults in the dark and young people vulnerable to misunderstanding or misuse.

### MASKING DISTRESS OR HARM

Some emojis are used to discreetly signal troubling behaviours. For instance, 🍂 (falling leaves emoji) or 💊 (pill emoji) might suggest drug use, while 🌵 (wilted flower emoji) could hint at emotional struggles. Such usage can obscure serious issues, making them harder for trusted adults to detect.

### NORMALISING RISKY BEHAVIOURS

Emojis can make harmful actions seem light-hearted or fashionable. Strings like 🔥👀 (fire + ‘woozy’ face + pill emojis) may appear humorous but can reference partying, intoxication or dangerous challenges, which might otherwise raise red flags.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### LEARN THE LINGO

Stay updated with emoji trends and definitions using resources like [emojipedia.org](http://emojipedia.org) or Urban Dictionary. Knowing current meanings builds confidence when engaging with young people and helps spot potential concerns early.



### CREATE SAFE SPACES FOR DISCUSSION

Encourage casual chats about emojis, online slang, memes, or social media trends. Showing interest without judgement reassures young people that they can talk about their digital world openly and safely.



### ASK, DON'T ASSUME

Approach unfamiliar emojis with curiosity rather than suspicion. A light-hearted “What does 🍷 (juice box emoji) mean these days?” can open conversation and show that you respect their knowledge.



### PRIORITISE TRUST OVER SURVEILLANCE

While parental controls and monitoring tools can be useful, emotional safety matters most. Be someone children and young people feel they can come to – not just someone who’s watching them.



## EMOJI CHEAT SHEET - The following slang terms and emojis are some common examples – please be aware this isn't an exhaustive list.

### COMMON EMOJIS:

- 😂 (Clown face) Foolishness or clowning around
- 😏 (Pleading face) Over-affectionate or ‘simping’
- 😎 (Cold face) Cool, stylish or ruthless
- 👁️ (Eyes) Watching drama unfold
- 😍 (Hot face) Intense attraction or excitement
- 🐐 (Goat) Greatest of all time (G.O.A.T.)
- 😐 (Moai) Stone-faced, unbothered
- 💅 (Nails) Confidence, sassiness, or indifference
- 👑 (Crown) ‘Slaying’, as in doing great
- 🚩 (Triangular flag) Red flag; a warning sign about someone’s behaviour

### POTENTIALLY CONCERNING EMOJIS

- 🍷 (Ear of corn) Slang for pornography (avoids censorship algorithms)
- 🌵 (Wilted flower) Often used to convey emotional struggle or sadness
- ❄️ (Snowflake, snowman, snow cloud) Can symbolise cocaine
- 🐍 (Snake) Can represent betrayal or being ‘two-faced’
- 🗝️ (Key, lying face) Related to cocaine use
- 🔫 (Water pistol) Sometimes used to reference violence or self-harm
- 🍃 (Falling leaves, herb, maple leaf) Can symbolise cannabis
- ⚠️ (Warning) Used to emphasise drama, threats or emotional turmoil
- 💊 (Pill) May reference drug use or prescription misuse
- 🍜 (Steaming bowl) Refers to nudes (‘noods’ is an abbreviation of noodles)

### Meet Our Expert

Keith Broni is a globally renowned emoji expert and the Editor in Chief of [emojipedia.org](http://emojipedia.org), the world’s number one emoji resource. He has an MSc in Business Psychology from University College London and an MBA from Quantic School of Business and Technology.





# Meet our heroes



Lilianna plays football for Verwood Town FC Diamonds (girls u8).

She won the young player of the year award having made 10 goal contributions throughout the season.



Romeo and Connor played in the Stars football tournament at the weekend and won, despite their team having no substitutes.

They then played at St Mary's stadium in the Southampton Cup, they played on the pitch against 16 teams from all over the South and won that tournament too!



Lilianna's team travelled to Gosport to play in their very first tournament and won 1st place!

Lilianna is the youngest player on the team and she scored a brilliant goal on the way to victory - a fantastic achievement. It's a proud and well-deserved moment for all the girls, who have worked incredibly hard throughout the entire season.

◆ Go Diamonds! ◆

Amazing Lilianna, well done!



They and their team, the Aces, played so well and worked so well a team. We're very proud.



Well done  
Romeo and Connor!

# 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*



**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup>**  
Sports Day



**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*



**Monday 21<sup>st</sup>**

Year 4 Leavers Assembly 14:00

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

Last day of term



**Hillside  
Ice Cream  
Fridays**

**£1 per treat**

Week 1 - 6th June - Fruit Splits  
 Week 2 - 13th June - Rainbow Lollies  
 Week 3 - 20th June - Bubblegum Swirl  
 Week 4 - 26th June - Fab  
 Week 5 - 3rd July - Cola Bottles  
 Week 6 - 11th July - Rockets  
 Week 7 - 18th July - Strawberry Cone

We will be selling one type of lolly each week.  
 Pre Orders only on Arbor plus note the deadline date is the Sunday before the sell each week.

**DISCO NIGHT**

13th June  
 3pm to 4.30pm - Yr R/1  
 5pm to 6.30pm - Yr2/3/4  
 Tickets £3.50

Water is available and sweets will be handed out at the end of the Disco

Please arrange the collection of your child from the School Hall Please do not send your children in with Sweets for H&S reasons

To run this event we do need volunteers, please tick the box if you can help.

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)

The PTA will be serving  
 Hot and Cold drinks  
 on 24th June for Sports Day

We will be open from 8.45 am  
 to 9.05 am  
 and also during the break.

All Drinks £1



**School Nursing Team**

0-19 CYP Public Health Service

# Parent drop-in



**Dorset HealthCare University**  
NHS Foundation Trust

Your next drop-in will be on:

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June**

**2.00pm-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.

Join Nick The Vic & the TREE HOUSE Team at Verwood Methodist Church for some fun in the sun in the Summer Holidays ...



**TREE HOUSE FUN GAMES MORNING**

**SATURDAY 16<sup>th</sup> AUGUST**  
**10:30 AM - 12:00 PM**

Games in the garden for children at school aged 5-12 years



Parachute Games!



Water Games!



Ice Cream!

If your child would like to come then please email Suzannah ([treehouse@nickthevic.co.uk](mailto:treehouse@nickthevic.co.uk)) by Friday 1st August to register a place. There is no charge for this event.

Parents will sign their children in and out but will not be able to stay for the duration of the event. TREE HOUSE is a part of the children and youth ministry of Verwood Methodist Church. All our team are Safeguarding-trained and DBS-verified in accordance with the Safeguarding Policy of the Methodist Church.

For more info please contact Suzannah or check out the website below.



Verwood Methodist Church, Vicarage Road, BH31 6DR

[www.nickthevic.co.uk/treehouse](http://www.nickthevic.co.uk/treehouse)



**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



## Joining the Summer Reading Challenge

Children sign up through their local library and receive a sticker booklet. They set a reading goal and borrow books of their choice during the summer, collecting special stickers. Children who complete the Challenge are presented with a medal when they have read 6 books, and a certificate is sent to school in the Autumn term.

## The Challenge starts on Saturday 5 July



### How the Summer Reading Challenge benefits children:

- significantly improves reading confidence and independence
- ensures students are ready for their return to school, preventing the summer reading 'dip'
- aids the successful transition between year groups and key stages

## Schools online author event with Gareth P. Jones to launch Story Garden

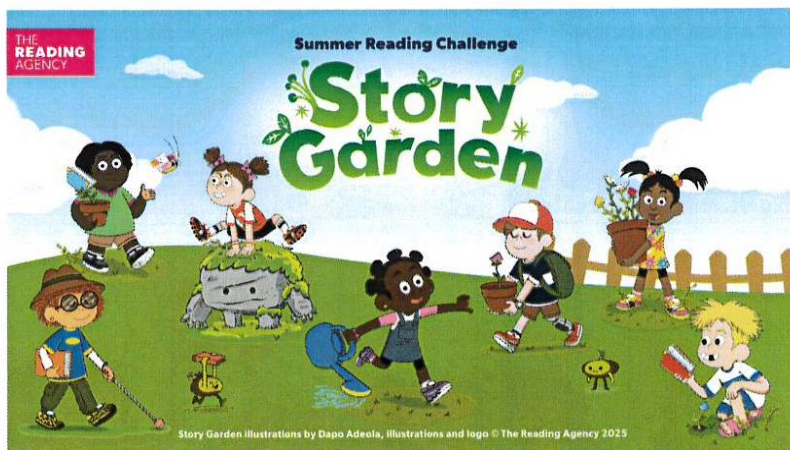
Thursday 3 July 9.15 - 9.45 am



## [Book your place for our online launch event](#)

### What next

- display posters in your school
- send a newsletter to parents and carers with information about the Challenge
- talk to students about Story Garden during assembly time
- visit the Summer Reading Challenge School Zone for more information and free resources



## 2025 Summer Reading Challenge, Story Garden - Adventures in nature and the great outdoors

This year's exciting theme will inspire children to tap into a world of imagination through reading, exploring the magical connection between storytelling and nature.

The Summer Reading Challenge is a FREE holiday activity for children. It's all about reading for fun, aiming to improve children's reading skills and confidence.



We value your support in helping us to promote the Summer Reading Challenge and therefore we will be pleased to:

- attend an assembly to talk about the Summer Reading Challenge
- provide an electronic promotional flyer for emailing to parents and carers
- provide a PowerPoint presentation to explain the Summer Reading Challenge to children in an assembly or classroom situation. We will notify you when it is available

To ensure all children hear about Story Garden, library staff would be delighted to visit an assembly to talk to children about the Summer Reading Challenge.

Assembly visits are available between 23 June and 16 July

## [Book your assembly visit](#)



The Summer Reading Challenge is developed by The Reading Agency and delivered in partnership with public libraries.



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)