

Hillside News

DATES TO
REMEMBER



Hillside First School

where
children
are at
the heart of
everything we do



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



INSET DAY

INSET
DAY

Friday 4th July
School closed for
children

Headteacher Update Friday 27th June 2025

What an incredible week we've had at Hillside! Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Sports Morning on Tuesday! We were so impressed by our children's enthusiasm and perseverance—it was wonderful to see them throw themselves into every activity on offer. A special shout-out to the PTA for keeping us refreshed, to the EMS sports leaders, our volunteers and Miss Zachariades for organising such a fantastic event... and of course, well done to Sonic for making a surprise appearance in the parent race! Congratulations to Team Black for being this year's winning house.

On Wednesday we saw the exciting finale of Hillside's Got Talent. Each class was represented by an act chosen by the School Parliament, and our talented children showcased a wide range of skills and creativity in front of the whole school. We hope you enjoy this short video capturing some of the most memorable performances.

Today, children spent Transfer Day in their new classes, meeting their future teachers and classmates with a mix of nerves and excitement. Our Year 4 children visited their middle schools, and we are confident they'll rise to the occasion and shine in this next step of their educational journey.

You might have heard about the newly released Nintendo Switch 2, please find further details below.

With summer upon us, our attention turns to some sporting traditions. Wimbledon begins next Monday, the cricket season is in full swing, and for me, the highlight is the British & Irish Lions rugby tour in Australia. Their first tour match is tomorrow, marking a career pinnacle that embodies the values of respect, ambition, and perseverance - qualities we celebrate and encourage at Hillside.

Have a great weekend.

Mr Graves

WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Little Owls 1	94%
Little Owls 2	90%
Tawny Owls 1	92%
Tawny Owls 2	95%
Tawny Owls 3	94%
Snowy Owls 1	94%
Snowy Owls 2	95%
Snowy Owls 3	94%

Whole School 93%

Target



The school day begins
at 08:40

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

**Celebration of
Achievement
afternoon**



**Tuesday 15th
July**

**Straight after
school**

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



No Celebration Assembly this week due to Transfer Day.

Local School Committee

Our Local School Committee is made up of dedicated volunteers—parents, staff and community members—who work tirelessly behind the scenes to support our school. They meet four times a year, offering valuable insight, challenge and contribution to our ongoing development.

Yesterday marked Mr Eddie Moule's final meeting as Chair, as his term of office came to an end. We'd like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Eddie for his service, support, hard work, dedication and friendship.

We are now seeking new committee members to start in September. If you're interested or would like more information, please email the school office.

Congratulations, Mrs Monger!

Huge congratulations on achieving your Qualified Teacher Status this week—so thoroughly deserved and a true testament to your dedication, hard work, and commitment!



Congratulations, Hillside Pre-School!



Congratulations to Hillside Pre-School on reaching your **35th anniversary!** What an incredible milestone.

With warmest wishes from your friends at Hillside First School.

We were delighted to welcome Sonic the Hedgehog to our school on Tuesday for our Sports Morning...



Hillside's Got Talent



Congratulations to all our talent show finalists and a big thank you to everyone who took part! Watch the highlights of our finalists in action [here](#).

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about NINTENDO SWITCH 2

Nintendo launched its Switch 2 games console in early June 2025 – its first new console in eight years. While it builds on the original's success by remaining compatible with certain existing games, it also adds powerful hardware and new features like GameChat and a USB-C camera. As more children look to upgrade, it's important to understand how this new console might affect their play and safety.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EASIER TO ACCESS MATURE CONTENT

18

CENSORED

Despite Nintendo's reputation for family-friendly titles, mature games like *Cyberpunk 2077* and *Hitman* have been released onto the platform. With the Switch 2's improved performance, developers will be able to port even more mature-rated games. These may appeal to children due to their popularity, but they contain content that is highly unsuitable for young audiences.

IN-APP & GAME STORE PURCHASES

The Nintendo eShop enables purchases with just a few taps. If payment details are saved and PIN protection is disabled, children may unknowingly make costly purchases – including game add-ons, cosmetic items or entire new releases – without parental approval.

UNRESTRICTED ONLINE PLAY IN SOME GAMES

While GameChat is one feature, Switch 2 also connects to the broader Nintendo Switch Online service. Many free-to-play titles like *Fortnite* or *Splatoon 3* allow voice or text chat with strangers unless chat settings are adjusted, meaning children could encounter inappropriate language or unwanted contact.

GAMECHAT & REAL-TIME VOICE COMMUNICATION

GameChat enables live chatting with up to 12 people, even across different games, with optional video and screen-sharing. Though children under 16 are restricted to chatting only with approved friends, the sheer interactivity could raise privacy concerns or create pressure to remain online longer.

CAMERA COMPATIBILITY & PRIVACY CONCERNS

The optional USB-C camera supports video calling and facial overlays in games; however, this also raises the risk of cyberbullying or the unwanted sharing of personal images. The camera can be disabled, removed or covered, and parental controls are essential to manage how and when it is used.

POWERFUL PULL OF FAMILIAR CHARACTERS

Nintendo's mascot, Mario – along with Pikachu, Donkey Kong and others – remains hugely appealing to younger audiences, especially after the success of the recent film, *'The Super Mario Bros. Movie'* (2023). These beloved icons are central to Nintendo's branding and often feature in merchandising, adverts and in-game promotions, creating strong emotional attachments in children and a sense of urgency to keep up with their peers.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CHECK RATINGS & USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Every Switch and Switch 2 game comes with a PEGI age rating. Before buying one, ensure the content matches your child's age. Use the Nintendo Parental Controls app to monitor gameplay, set screen-time limits and manage friend requests.

REVIEW FRIEND LISTS AND CHAT PERMISSIONS

Child profiles are restricted to chatting with approved friends only, but it's good practice to regularly check their friend list and communication settings. Use the Parental Controls app to switch off voice or video chat if necessary.

REMOVE OR RESTRICT PAYMENT METHODS

Avoid accidental spending by unlinking credit cards from the device. Instead, consider adding funds via prepaid eShop cards or requiring a PIN for purchases. Some banking apps can also be set to approve transactions manually.

ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Teach children how to block, report and capture any behaviour or content that makes them uncomfortable. The console's built-in tools allow them to create screenshots and video clips, which can aid in reporting any issues. Keeping an open dialogue helps children feel supported and safe.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Games Editor of Daily Star and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published on sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.

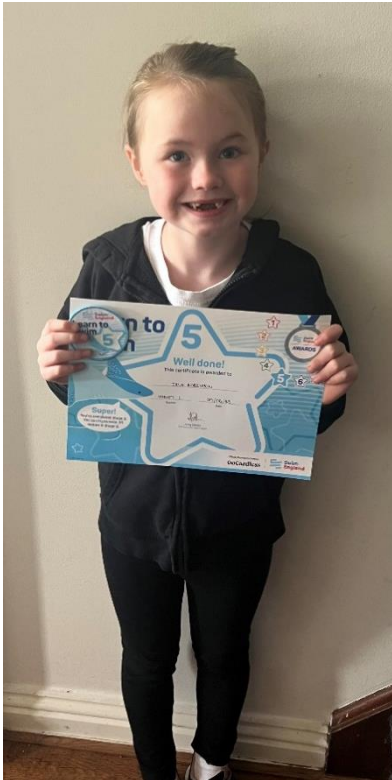


#WakeUpWednesday

The National College



Meet our heroes



Isla successfully completed Level 5 in swimming and has completed 27% of Level 6 after one lesson.

Isla works hard at swimming & loves jumping in the deep end. Her favourite swimming strokes are front crawl & dolphin.

Well done Isla keep up the good work.

Isla also received a certificate from Trinity College London for Music performance in bands, for her keyboard skills in rock steady, Isla loves music.



Well done Isla!



Eira proudly earned her latest swimming badge after swimming 10 meters all by herself. Eira's parents are very proud of her achievement.



Amazing Eira, well done!

Summer term

UPCOMING EVENTS



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



**Monday 26th to
Friday 30th May**

Half Term



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



Tuesday 24th
Sports Day



Thursday 26th

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



Friday 27th

Transfer Day



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



Monday 21st

Year 4 Leavers Assembly 14:00

Wednesday 23rd

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.

BREAK the RULES DAY

Here's how it works

Rules to be broken include:

- No nail varnish
- No trainers
- No crazy hair
- No different glasses
- No temporary tatoos
- No unhealthy snacks
- No juice drinks
- No teddies
- No make-up or face paint
- No hats

When?
Thursday
3rd July
2024

For one day only you can choose how many rules you want to break.
50p PER RULE
Can be pre booked and paid for on Arbor.
GO NUTS BREAK THEM ALL.

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)



COME & JOIN US FOR A FUN PACKED SUMMER!

SUMMER HOLIDAY CAMP 2025

WEEK #1	WEEK #2	WEEK #3
Monday 28 th July - Thursday 31 st July 9am - 3pm Location: Hillside First School, Verwood, BH31 7HE Age: 5 - 12 years	Monday 4 th August - Thursday 7 th August 9am - 3pm Location: St James First School, Wimborne, BH21 4JN Age: 5 - 12 years	Monday 11 th August - Thursday 14 th August 9am - 3pm Location: Hillside First School, Verwood, BH31 7HE Age: 5 - 12 years
WEEK #4	WEEK #5	BOOK NOW Please bring with you: • A packed lunch • Appropriate clothing for outside football Plenty of drinks are included.
Monday 18 th August - Thursday 21 st August 9am - 3pm Location: St James First School, Wimborne, BH21 4JN Age: 5 - 12 years	Monday 25 th August - Thursday 28 th August 9am - 3pm Location: Hillside First School, Verwood, BH31 7HE Age: 5 - 12 years	

For more info contact us on 07501688972 or email info@brscoachingacademy.co.uk

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

Girls in School Years 3-6, come and try Rugby

A free introduction to Rugby

Where - Ellingham & Ringwood Rugby Club

Saturday 28th June, 10-12

Contact girls@errfc.com to register

feeling free

rugby

TRY RUGBY WITH US!

Visit findrugby.com

Proudly supported by

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

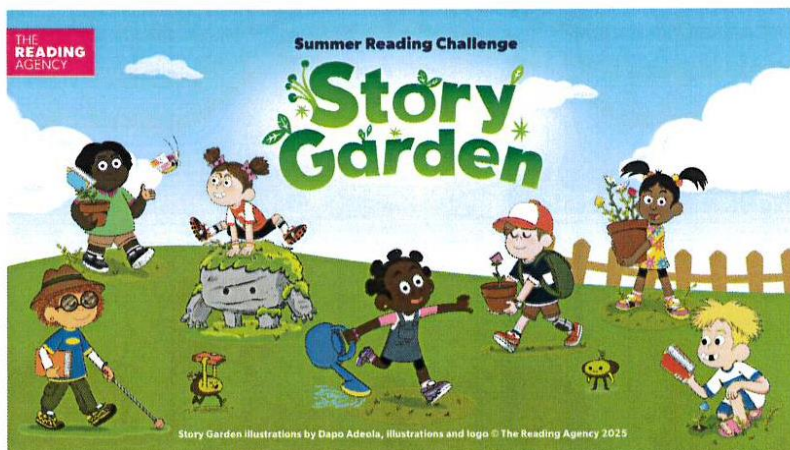
Thursday 3 July 9.15 - 9.45 am



[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
MONDAY	Creative Dance 15:00-16:00 (Year R-2) 16:00–17:00 (Year 3-4)	Book here for Year R-2 Book here for Year 3-4 Password: Hillside2025!!
TUESDAY	BRS Sports & Fitness Breakfast Club 08:00-08:30 (Year R-4)	Book via Arbor app
	BRS Sports & Fitness Lunch Club 12:00-12:30 (Year R-4)	Book via Arbor app
	BRS After School Football Club 15:00-16:00 (Year 1-4)	Book via Arbor app
WEDNESDAY	Computer Xplorers 15:00-16:00 (Year 3-4) 16:00-17:00 (Year 1-2)	Book here
THURSDAY	Forest School 15:00-16:00	Book here
FRIDAY	Rocksteady Music School Lessons take place in school	Book here
	Dodgeball 15:00-16:00 (Year 1-4)	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