

# Hillside News

DATES TO REMEMBER



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)



**INSET DAY**

OOOO  
**INSET DAY**

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July**  
School closed for children

## WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Little Owls 1	96%
Little Owls 2	95%
Tawny Owls 1	97%
Tawny Owls 2	94%
Tawny Owls 3	94%
Snowy Owls 1	94%
Snowy Owls 2	97%
Snowy Owls 3	94%

**Whole School 95%**

Target



The school day begins at 08:40

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

## Headteacher Update Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2025

Welcome to this week's newsletter—slightly earlier than usual, as our INSET day takes place tomorrow.

**Year 2 Visit to Upton Country Park** On Tuesday, our Year 2 children enjoyed an educational trip to Upton Country Park, exploring “Bugs & Ponds” with nets and magnifiers, embarking on a “Bird Safari” with binoculars, and creating beautiful art in “Tremendous Trees”, learning how trees grow. It was wonderful to see them enjoying their learning outside.

**Outstanding Data Protection Audit** Yesterday, we welcomed our Trust's Data Protection Officer for a routine review. We are delighted to share that we achieved the Gold Standard! This success is thanks to our whole team, and special congratulations to Mrs Tarrant, whose exceptional behind-the-scenes work was highly commended.

**Transition Session & Break the Rules Day** Today's extra transition session gave children another chance to visit their new classrooms, to as they looked ahead to the next academic year. It was also our annual Break the Rules Day - big thanks to our PTA for organising such a fun event, which the children absolutely loved.

**Poole Forest School Partnership** We are thrilled to continue our partnership with Poole Forest School for the 2025–26 academic year. Bookings for the Autumn Term are now open! Book here: [Poole Forest School Autumn 2025 Booking Form](#) or visit their website at [pooleforestschool.com](http://pooleforestschool.com).

**Happy Circus at Hillside** Join us on **Sunday 13th July** for Happy Circus in our school grounds! This family-friendly event is open to everyone in the local community and beyond. Watch our promotional video here:

[2025 - Personalised Promo Video - Hillside Community First School - 23.031.mp4](#)

If you haven't already, please purchase your tickets and help us spread the word.

Thank you for your continued support and have a great weekend.

Mr Graves

**Celebration of Achievement afternoon**



**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July**

**Straight after school**

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



**Star of the week will  
return on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July**

# The Book Nook



**Caitlyn recommends Zoe's Rescue Zoo - The Sleepy Snowy Owl**

I like that it shows that you can be responsible for animals who are stranded and that you should be kind to animals. This book really shows you how to do that. It's about this little owl called Ollie who is stranded and a girl called Zoe who can talk to animals! Nobody knows that...not even Uncle Horace! I think other people should read it so they can help animals too. It's a very exciting read and I always want to know what will happen in the next chapter.

# Year 2's visit to Upton Country Park





Our friends at Hillside Pre-School had a great time celebrating their 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary!

Congratulations again on this milestone and thank you for your continued support.



I was incredibly impressed by the Black Belt Academy's karate classes during my recent visit.

From the professional set-up and expert instruction to the clear emphasis on respect, confidence and discipline, every aspect shone through. Our children, who attend, have flourished under the guidance of Chief Instructor Simon Bushby and his team - their coordination, self-belief and teamwork skills have all grown markedly. Your approach not only imparts valuable martial arts techniques but also nurtures character development in every child. Keep up the outstanding work!  
Mr Graves



**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 ➔



# BREAK THE RULES DAY



Our children are having a blast for "Break the Rules Day" today! From wacky hair and make-up to painted nails and cuddly toys, it's been non-stop fun and creativity. A huge thank-you to our PTA for organising this fantastic event—and to all of you who joined in the fun and supported us by participating. We couldn't do it without you!



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about APPLE IPADS

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Tablets remain a staple of children's digital lives – and Apple's iPad is by far the most popular model. According to Ofcom, over half of younger children regularly use a tablet to play games, watch online content or access apps. With their broad functionality, iPads can be helpful tools, but without supervision, they may expose children to risks ranging from inappropriate content to screen overuse.

### COSTLY TO REPAIR

Unlike some child-friendly tablets, the iPad is not built for rough handling. Its slim design and high cost mean that a drop or spill can result in a costly repair. If a child is using the device regularly, a sturdy case and screen protector are strongly recommended to help prevent accidental damage.

### DATA PRIVACY

While Apple is known for strong privacy protections, a recent study found that many iOS apps aimed at children still share personal data. Over 40% of the tested apps sent at least one piece of user information to third parties, raising concerns about advertising and analytics being targeted at underage users.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

The App Store and Safari browser provide almost unrestricted access to online material. Children may stumble upon age-inappropriate content, whether through apps, advertisements or online searches. Even recommended content algorithms can surface unsuitable material.

### BYPASSING RESTRICTIONS

Siri – Apple's voice assistant – can potentially override restrictions, especially with the newer text-based commands introduced through Apple Intelligence. Without safeguards in place, children may inadvertently access inappropriate topics simply by asking a question, bypassing certain filters previously set by adults.

### SCREEN ADDICTION

iPads can be highly immersive, and excessive screen time may affect a child's emotional and behavioural development. Signs of overuse might include mood swings, irritability, and difficulty focusing on non-digital activities.

### REDUCED ATTENTION & COGNITIVE IMPACT

Prolonged use of tablets has been linked with reduced memory, slower processing speeds and difficulties in concentrating. Research shows that children who spend excessive time gaming or consuming media on tablets may struggle with language development and executive functioning over time.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### ENABLE FAMILY SHARING

Family Sharing allows you to create a dedicated Apple ID for your child and manage their activity. You can approve purchases, control what content they can access, and set time limits – all done remotely from your own device. It's a simple but powerful way to maintain oversight.

### FILTER APPS, WEBSITES & IN-APP PURCHASES

Parental controls in iOS let you block explicit content in Safari, restrict app downloads, and manage in-app purchase permissions. You can also filter websites automatically to prevent access to adult material and disable the installation of certain app types completely.

### USE SCREEN TIME FEATURES EFFECTIVELY

Tools like Downtime and App Limits can reduce device overuse. Downtime allows you to block access during key times – such as before bed or during homework – while App Limits sets daily time caps on specific games or apps. Alerts help children anticipate when their time is almost up.

### PREVENT UNAPPROVED SPENDING

Children can accidentally (or intentionally) make purchases within apps. Activating Ask to Buy under Family Sharing ensures you receive a notification to approve any app or in-app purchase. This stops surprise charges and allows you to discuss purchases together before they're made.

### Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is a seasoned technology journalist with over a decade of experience. Formerly a senior cybersecurity reporter at TechCrunch, Carly now writes for publications including WIRED, Forbes, TechRadar, and Tes. With a deep understanding of online safety, she brings a valuable perspective to parenting in the digital age.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®



# Meet our heroes



Bella recently achieved her 400 metres in her swimming class recently.



She has been attending her swimming lessons for just over a year and has already nearly completed level 5.

Mum and Dad are so proud.

**Fantastic Bella, well done!**



Alfie recently competed in the Cherry Cup Tournament at Ringwood FC and the under 8's won.



He also got parents player of the tournament

**Amazing Alfie, well done!**

# 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.

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 <sup>th</sup> July - Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> July 9am - 3pm Location: Hillside First School, Verwood, BH31 7HE Age: 5 - 12 years	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> August - Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> August 9am - 3pm Location: St James First School, Wimborne, BH21 4JN Age: 5 - 12 years	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> August - Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> August 9am - 3pm Location: Hillside First School, Verwood, BH31 7HE Age: 5 - 12 years
WEEK #4	WEEK #5	<b>BOOK NOW</b>  Please bring with you: • A packed lunch • Appropriate clothing for outside football Plenty of drinks are included
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> August - Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> August 9am - 3pm Location: St James First School, Wimborne, BH21 4JN Age: 5 - 12 years	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> August - Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:info@brscoachingacademy.co.uk)

EMMANUEL MIDDLE SCHOOL PTFA

# SUMMER FAIR

6PM TO 8PM

## Friday 11th July

BBQ CANDY FLOSS PIMMS  
 INFLATABLE ICE CREAMS  
 GAMES RAFFLE TOMBOLAS

With thanks to our sponsors...







## 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

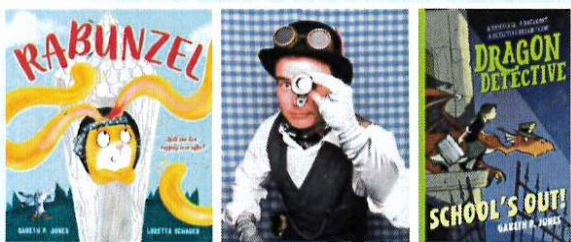


### How the Summer Reading Challenge benefits children:

- 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

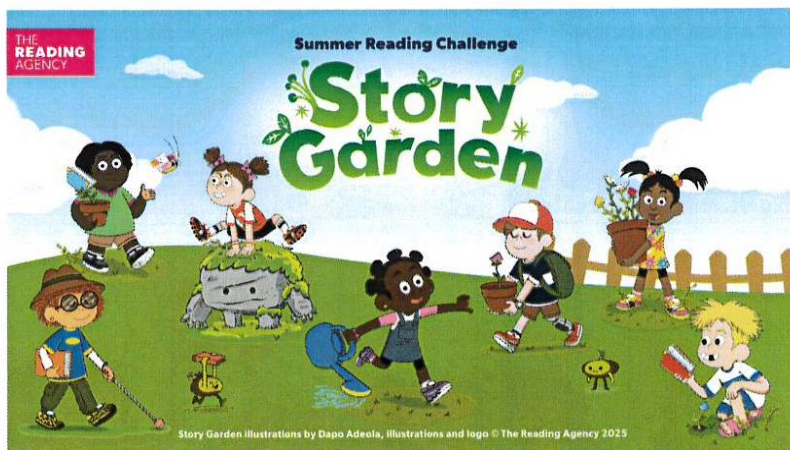
Thursday 3 July 9.15 - 9.45 am



## [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	<b>Creative Dance</b> 15:00-16:00 (Year R-2) 16:00-17:00 (Year 3-4)	Book <a href="#">here</a> for Year R-2 Book <a href="#">here</a> for Year 3-4 Password: <b>Hillside2025!!</b>
	<b>BRS Sports &amp; Fitness Breakfast Club</b> 08:00-08:30 (Year R-4)	Book via Arbor app
TUESDAY	<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
WEDNESDAY	<b>Computer Xplorers</b> 15:00-16:00 (Year 3-4) 16:00-17:00 (Year 1-2)	Book <a href="#">here</a>
	<b>Forest School</b> 15:00-16:00	Book <a href="#">here</a>
FRIDAY	<b>Rocksteady Music School</b> Lessons take place in school	Book <a href="#">here</a>
	<b>Dodgeball</b> 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](http://www.hillsidepreschool.org)