

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

Last Day of Term
Wednesday 23rd
July

**END OF
TERM**

School finishes at
the usual time of
15:00

WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Little Owls 1	95%
Little Owls 2	91%
Tawny Owls 1	94%
Tawny Owls 2	94%
Tawny Owls 3	99%
Snowy Owls 1	99%
Snowy Owls 2	92%
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 Friday 11th July 2025

We have enjoyed another hot week at school, full of excitement and preparations for our Year 4 end-of-year celebrations. Today, our Year 4 pupils joined children from our Trust's first schools for the annual Leavers' Service at Wimborne Minster—a lovely tradition that marks the start of their end-of-year festivities. Next week they will enjoy a fun-filled leavers' party, and during their final week they'll take part in a special assembly celebration.

You should have received your child's end-of-year report electronically. This is our first year issuing digital versions, and we appreciate your patience as we refine the process. We've noted your feedback about the font size and will explore options to make it more reader-friendly next year. If you have any questions about your child's report, please contact their class teacher.

Please join us next Tuesday after school for our final Celebration of Achievement. Head to your child's classroom to view their work and speak with the teacher—we'd love to see you there.

This week we were thrilled to welcome a police dog handler and two K9 officers to our school! The children enjoyed watching the dogs demonstrate their skills and learned about the important work they do. Photos will follow soon.

Our Year 2 designers and builders have put the finishing touches on their model trains, and the results are truly impressive. We'll share photos of their creativity and craftsmanship shortly.

Yesterday I attended an Inclusion Conference at Q.E. School, where I presented our pupil-voice initiatives—School Parliament, Eco Warriors, Librarians, and Play Leaders—to a group of educational leaders. Inclusion is at the heart of everything we do: every child matters and deserves the opportunity to succeed. Our recent Inclusion Review brought very positive feedback, and I was proud to share our journey with fellow educators. While grades and certificates are important markers of academic achievement, true success often shows itself in other ways—when a child overcomes anxieties, learns to manage emotions, shows empathy and kindness, and brightens everyone's day with their humour. These qualities transform our school community and create a culture of belonging and respect. Walking around our school and seeing the children's smiles and enthusiasm for learning is both a pleasure and a privilege. We know that strong partnerships between home and school are key—thank you for all you do to support your children.

Don't forget that Happy Circus will be visiting us on Sunday! We'd love to see you there, and tickets are still available at [TicketSource](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk).

As we approach the end of term, let's celebrate every achievement—big or small. Your continued partnership makes our school community strong and purposeful. Enjoy the sunshine, and we look forward to seeing you soon!

Warm wishes,
Mr Graves

**Celebration of
Achievement
afternoon**



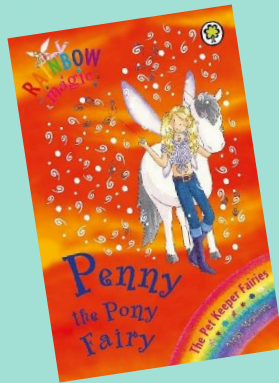
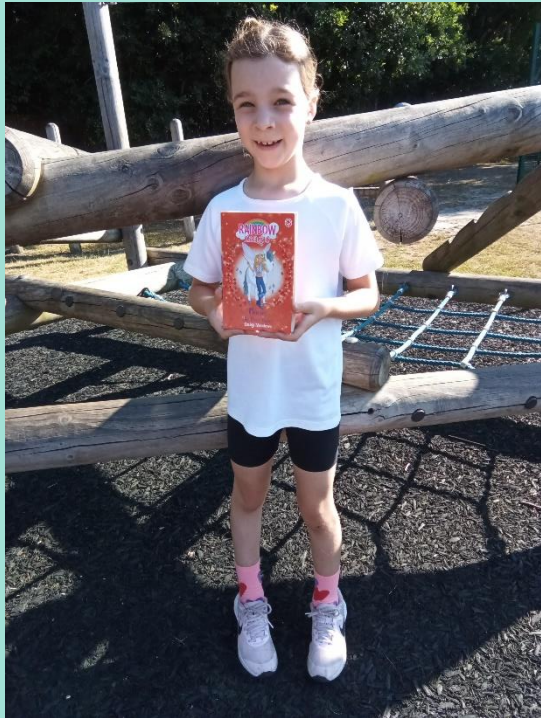
**Tuesday 15th
July**

**Straight after
school**

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



The Book Nook



Isla loves the book Penny the Pony Fairy. Isla enjoys this series of books but especially likes this one as she loves ponies. In the story two people are trying to get magical pets for the fairies, but the goblins are trying to steal them!

Isla loves reading as is often found with her head buried deep in a book!



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
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	<p>Please bring with you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A packed lunch • Appropriate clothing for outside football <p>Plenty of drinks are included</p>

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

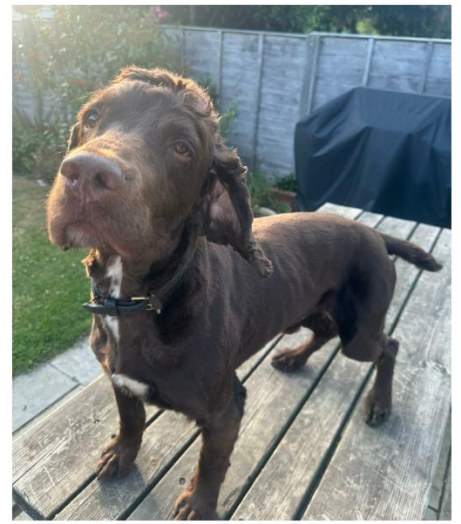
Hillside Pre-School is open term time, Monday - Friday and accepts children with both 15 and 30 hour funding. We have a Breakfast Club running from 7:45am, and After School Club running from 3pm, for both Hillside First and Pre-School children.

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

Police dogs visit Little Owls

Little Owls had an exciting visit from PC Davis, PD Rocky and PD Wilson on Wednesday.



We very much enjoyed seeing the dogs and listening to PC Davis explain what they do.

We also got to say hello to the control room over the radio and try on some police equipment. Luckily PC Davis had the handcuff key with him!



PD Wilson is actually retired now but was Police Animal of the year for Hampshire in 2024 so is a celebrity!





Year 2 Create Rolling Steam Trains

Over the past couple of weeks, the Year 2 children have been busy learning about steam trains and designing their very own models. As part of the project, each child had the opportunity to safely use a saw to cut wood for the frames and axles of their trains — a great chance to build both skills and confidence.



The exciting culmination of their hard work took place on Tuesday afternoon, when the children assembled their trains and took them outside for a special test run. With great anticipation, they watched their creations roll smoothly down the hill — every single one a success!

It was a wonderful way to celebrate their learning, and the children were justifiably proud of what they had achieved.



THANK YOU

Volunteers



Jean



Sarah



Carol



June



Lesley



Nancy



Mary



Sue



Judith

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



**FUNDRAISING
EVENT**

**SELLING
FAST**

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)



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

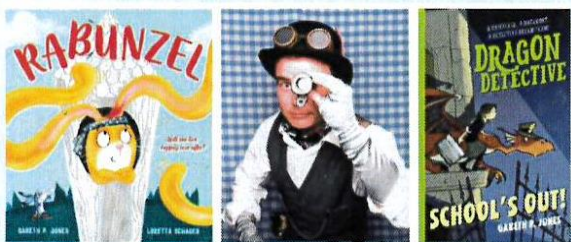


How the Summer Reading Challenge benefits children:

- 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

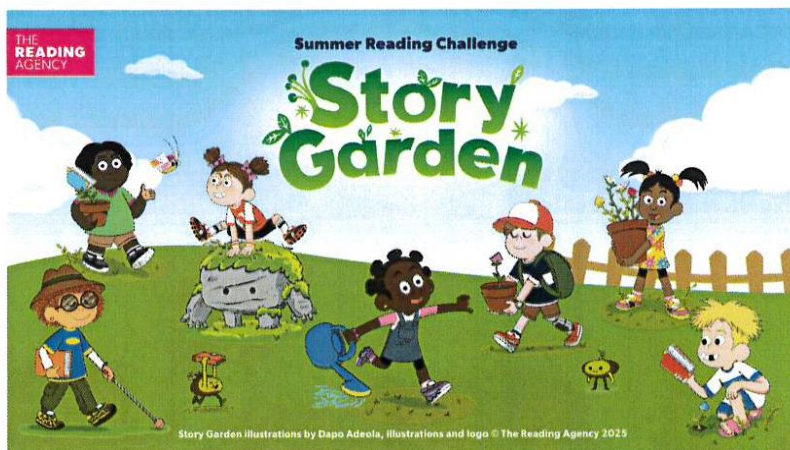
Thursday 3 July 9.15 - 9.45 am



[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