

Hillside News

DATES TO
REMEMBER



**Tuesday 23rd
September**

Fraser Portraits
will be in school to
take individual and
sibling
photographs

Hillside First School

where
children
are at
the heart of
everything we do



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



Headteacher Update Friday 12th September 2025

Welcome back! I hope you all had a wonderful summer and are looking forward to the new academic year. The children have returned brilliantly and are already settling into their learning - it's been a joy walking around school and seeing them working hard with smiles on their faces. A huge thank you to the staff team for everything they did to get the school looking fantastic and for settling the children so well.

There has already been lots of exciting learning taking place: sounds and experiments in science, place value in maths, and history lessons about the Roman Empire. Next week we will share our welcome videos and our first knowledge organisers, which link to the children's topic work and set out what they will be learning in maths. Staff have also been working hard to establish clear routines and expectations, and the children have responded very well.

Our INSET sessions last week were productive. We completed our annual safeguarding training and then focused on teaching and learning, with particular attention to writing (following the government's new writing framework) and the importance of oracy. As we often say, "If children can say it, they can often write it." We will continue to build speaking and listening opportunities across the school to support this.

This is now my fourth year as Headteacher of our wonderful school and I couldn't be prouder - Hillside is such a special place and we continue to put children at the heart of everything we do. We began the term with an assembly to recap our three simple rules - Ready, Respectful, Engaged - and to remind everyone of our values: Respect, Ambition, Perseverance.

A very special welcome to our Reception children who had their first day (half day) this week; there were lots of smiles and excitement as each class spent either the morning or the afternoon in school. It was a lovely start to school life for them.

Over the summer we improved the pedestrian walkway in the overflow car park to make drop-off and collection safer. Please see the information below for further details and a reminder about parking and pedestrian routes.

We received a lovely email from Ethan's (Year 3) grandparents at the start of term and they asked me to share their message and photos in this newsletter - please find their contribution below.

Our annual Parent Teacher Association meeting is on Monday 22nd September at 6:00 pm in the school hall. The PTA work tirelessly behind the scenes organising events and raising money that goes straight back into the school for the benefit of the children. If you'd like to get involved, you don't need to make a regular commitment or attend every event - please come along to find out more and see how you can help.

What an incredible summer of sport! Congratulations to the England Women's Football Team on becoming European Champions for the second time in a row - an outstanding achievement. We also send our best wishes to the England Women's Rugby Team as they continue their journey in the Rugby World Cup with a match against Scotland on Sunday!

That's all for this week. Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,
Mr Graves

WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Tawny Owls 1	93%
Tawny Owls 2	99%
Tawny Owls 3	97%
Snowy Owls 1	99%
Snowy Owls 2	98%
Snowy Owls 3	99%

Whole School 98%

Target



**The school day begins
at 08:40**

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

Uniform Reminder: Earrings, Bracelets, and Necklaces

The children are looking very smart in their school uniforms as they return to school!

For those with pierced ears, please ensure that only small, discreet stud earrings are worn, avoiding any trendy or fashion-forward styles. For safety reasons, please either cover them up or remove them on P.E. days.

Additionally, I'd like to gently remind everyone that, for safety and security reasons, children should refrain from wearing necklaces or bracelets while at school. This policy also helps prevent the potential loss of valuable items.

Thank you for your support and cooperation in this matter.

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am really excited to be joining the team as Deputy Head Teacher and would like to take this opportunity to tell you a little about myself. My name is Lauren Palmer and with 19 years teaching experience, I have a deep commitment to fostering a vibrant & inclusive learning environment where every child feels inspired, supported, and empowered to reach their full potential. As a busy mum of three lively children, I understand the importance of providing a safe and happy learning environment. I am really excited to get to know your children and support their growth as they learn and flourish.

Part of my role will involve leading on teaching and learning and the curriculum, across both Hillside First School and Verwood C or E First School & Nursery. My passion lies in leading professional development in this area, and I am looking forward to working with the talented staff at Hillside. As I step into this role, I am eager to discover what makes Hillside First School special to you and your children and collaborate with you all to build upon the strong foundations that are already in place.

I am truly excited to embark on this journey with you all.

Warm regards,
Lauren Palmer



A creative start for two of our children in Reception...they have already been showing their imagination and problem-solving skills. Using loose parts, they set to work building a swing for their zoo animals - a wonderful example of creative play and teamwork!



Reminder for our
Year 4 families...

Do you need to apply for your child's new school place?

Is your child due to leave their current school in July 2026
and transfer to the next school in September 2026?



Secondary applications - Closing date 31 October 2025

- Primary - Secondary School
- Middle - Upper School

Primary applications - Closing date 15 January 2026

- Starting School
- Infant - Junior School
- First - Middle School



Dorset residents apply online at:
dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/apply-school-place
or call 01305 221060



Scan here





THANK YOU!

For your support in
purchasing the Hillside

25/26 CALENDAR

We raised

£126.00

HILLSIDE PTA

Thank you

Thank you to Mrs. Sampson for the beautiful flower pot now proudly on display outside Snowy Owls 3. It has really brightened up the area and is much appreciated.



A Grandparents' Day Out: Ethan visits Pudding Lane

We're delighted to share this contribution from Ethan's grandparents, Tony and Trish (Aga) Reynolds, who recently took Ethan to Pudding Lane in London after learning about the Great Fire of London in class. They kindly sent photos from the visit — see captions below.

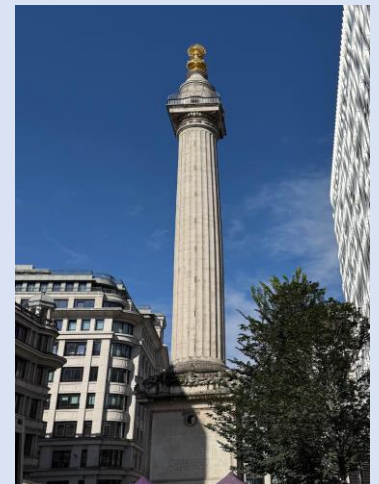
During Ethan's time at Hillside he has really enjoyed the history topics he's been introduced to — and as his grandparents discovered, those lessons have clearly sparked a love of learning. One of Ethan's favourite topics was the Great Fire of London, and he was determined to visit Pudding Lane where the fire began.

On his first visit to London, the family headed straight to Pudding Lane and the nearby Monument to the Great Fire. The Monument has 311 spiral steps up to a viewing platform with fantastic views across to the site of St Paul's Cathedral and the area affected by the fire. Ethan was keen to climb — Aga preferred to stay on the ground — so Tony bravely volunteered to "take one for the team" and climbed with him. The view from the top was well worth it, and they enjoyed the experience (and the street-food stalls nearby) afterwards.

Tony and Trish wanted to say two things: first, thank you to the Hillside teaching team for bringing history to life — Ethan talks about these events as if they'd happened yesterday, not centuries ago. Second, they hope their visit and photos encourage other families to explore London's many free and interesting historical sites. They travelled from Ringwood by National Express coach to Victoria and then took the Circle Line to Monument tube station (no changes).

A big shout-out to all the Hillside team — you do a fantastic job, and the proof is in the 'pudding'!

Best wishes,
Tony and Trish (Aga) — Ethan's grandparents



Improved Pedestrian Route in the Overflow Car Park

During the summer holidays we made improvements to the overflow car park to create a safe pedestrian walkway. Many of you will have already noticed and are using it — thank you. Please continue to use the walkway and take care when driving on site.



**Hillside First School
PTA Meeting
Come and join us!**



22nd September 6pm

Find out more about how Hillside PTA works and the different ways you can get involved. We're a friendly group of volunteers who give a little of our time to organise events that raise valuable funds for the school.

You don't need to attend every meeting or event—just an hour of your time can make a real difference and help us keep these events running!

Meeting Held at Hillside First School, in the Hall



Medical Information



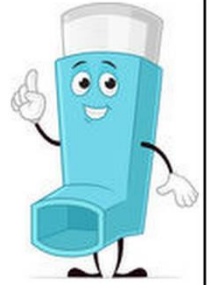
Administering Medicines

If you wish school staff to administer medication to your child, parents **must** complete the consent form which can be obtained from the school office.

Staff can only administer medicines prescribed by a doctor and only antibiotics when a child needs to take **4 doses** in a day. All medicines must be in their original box or container and include the instruction for administration.



Inhalers



If your child uses an inhaler, can you please ensure that we have a spare one in school. All inhalers are kept in class with your child for easy access.

All medication needs to be in date with the prescription label attached.

A medicine/asthma form for your child needs to be completed. Please speak to the school office. If you are unable to pop in, please let us know and we will send a form home with your child.

Allergies in School

Can we remind parents that we are a nut free school.

We have a number of children in school with allergies and ask for your support by not sending nuts or nut-based products in your child's lunch box, such as Nutella.



Thank you

Keep us updated!



Please make sure your child's details are up to date, including address, telephone number, emergency contacts and any medical information. You can update this directly through your Arbor portal.

Thank you



Diarrhoea and vomiting?

There's no specific cure for stomach bugs such as Norovirus

Going to your GP puts others at risk of infection. Treat symptoms at home



stay hydrated



take paracetamol



prevent spread



stay at home for two days after symptoms clear

Autumn *term*

UPCOMING EVENTS



September

Wednesday 3rd

Inset Day

Thursday 4th

Inset Day

Friday 5th

Inset Day

Thursday 18th

PTA AGM - new members welcome
18:00 at Hillside First School

Tuesday 23rd

Individual & Sibling Photographs



October

Wednesday 1st

New Parents Open Morning
09:00 - 11:00



Friday 3rd
PTA Event

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

Monday 6th

Harvest Assembly



Friday 10th

World Mental Health Day

Wednesday 15th

New Parents Open Evening
17:00 - 19:00

Monday 20th

Year 3/ 4 trip to Fishbourne
Roman Palace

Tuesday 21st

Parent Consultations



Wednesday 22nd

Parent Consultations

**Monday 27th -
Friday 1st
Half Term**



November

Monday 3rd

Inset Day

Wednesday 5th

PTA Event
Movie Night
Year R and Year 1

Monday 10th

Remembrance Assembly

Monday 10th - Friday 14th

Anti Bullying (Friendship Week)

Tuesday 11th

New Parents Open Morning
09:00 - 11:00

Friday 14th

Children in Need

Wednesday 19th

PTA Event
Movie Night
Year 2, Year 3 & Year 4



Friday 21st

Mufti Day in exchange for tombola
donations for our
Christmas Fayre

Friday 28th

PTA Event
Christmas Fayre



December

**Thursday 11th &
Friday 12th**
PTA Christmas Shop



Friday 12th

Christmas Jumper Day
Children can wear a
Christmas jumper along
with non-school uniform



Friday 12th

Christmas Performances

Monday 15th

Christmas Performances

Tuesday 16th

Christmas Performances

Wednesday 17th

Christmas Party Day & Chartwells
Christmas Lunch
FREE Mufti day
Children invited
to wear party
Clothes.

Thursday 18th

Last day
of term





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!!
	BRS Sports & Fitness Breakfast Club 08:00-08:30 (Year R-4)	Book via Arbor app
TUESDAY	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 1-4)	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