

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 19th September 2025

What a great week! Reception had their first full week with us this week - check out the video Mrs Davis has put together of what they've been up to since starting - awesome! Please take a moment to watch it: [[Watch Mrs Davis's video](#)].

In class this week Years 1 and 2 enjoyed hands-on science experiments, and Years 3 and 4 have begun researching the Roman Empire with lots of curiosity and brilliant questions. We kicked the week off by thinking about one of our school values, ambition, using the story *Salt in His Shoes* (about Michael Jordan) to show that determination and drive often matter more than physical advantage. The children then talked about things they'd like to get better at - from times tables to gymnastic routines.

A quick reminder: the annual PTA meeting is on Monday at 6:00pm here at school - we'd love to see some new faces and hear fresh ideas. A letter with details of parent consultations will be sent home next week, so please look out for that. We're also holding our Harvest Festival on Monday 6th October; I'll write next week to request donations, but for now the children have already started learning the songs (if you hear "Big Red Combine Harvester" around the house, that's where it's come from - it's very catchy!).

This is a busy half term with the school disco, Harvest Festival, school photos, World Mental Health Day, parent consultations and, of course, all the great learning happening in class. I'll send more updates next week.

Please log in to your child's Google Classroom page today to see their home learning. The teaching team have also put together welcome videos for each class which can be found here: [[Welcome videos link](#)] - please try to watch them if you can.

We're very proud of all our children and especially pleased with how well our Reception children have settled in. Thanks for your continued support and have a great weekend.

Kind regards,

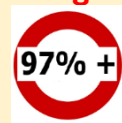
Mr Graves

WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Little Owls 1	97%
Little Owls 2	96%
Tawny Owls 1	95%
Tawny Owls 2	99%
Tawny Owls 3	98%
Snowy Owls 1	97%
Snowy Owls 2	98%
Snowy Owls 3	98%

Whole School 97%

Target



The school day begins
at 08:40

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

We are on
Facebook



<https://www.facebook.com/HillsideFirstSchool>

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



Little Owls will be joining us soon.



Thank you
Thank you to Tracy Pearson for creating the wonderful display on the fence by the back entrance. It brightens our school and is much appreciated.



Keep your eyes peeled, Verwood Local Community - some of our owls are on the loose! 🦉
We've dropped flyers and owl mascots (with QR codes) in local shops and businesses and around the area to spread the word about our open events.
Big thanks for supporting our school! 🙏



Forest School Fun for Snowy Owls 1

This week Snowy Owls 1 enjoyed an autumn-themed Forest School session with Cara from Poole Forest School. The children explored signs of autumn and had lots of outdoor fun — finishing with a seasonal treat of toasted jam sandwiches.





Meet our heroes



Just a reminder to send in your child's achievement for inclusion in the 'Hillside Heroes' feature of our newsletter.

If you would like to share a photo and a short explanation of something your child is proud of whether it's earning a swimming badge, creating artwork, learning to ride a bike, or mastering a times table—please send it to office@hillsidefirstschool.org for consideration.

We'll post the submissions in the order they're received.

This will be limited to one submission per academic year, per child.

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?



Dorset Residents Apply Now

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



WE ARE NOW TAKING BOOKINGS FOR CHILDREN STARTING SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2026 & 2027



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





School Nursing Team

0-19 CYP Public Health Service

Parent drop-in

NHS
Dorset HealthCare University
NHS Foundation Trust

Your school nursing team can provide non-judgemental and confidential support and advice about:

Your next drop-in will be on:
Monday 6th October

08:45 – 09:45

Hillside First School

Please contact the school office on 01202 822737 to book a 15 minute appointment

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

Follow us on social media:



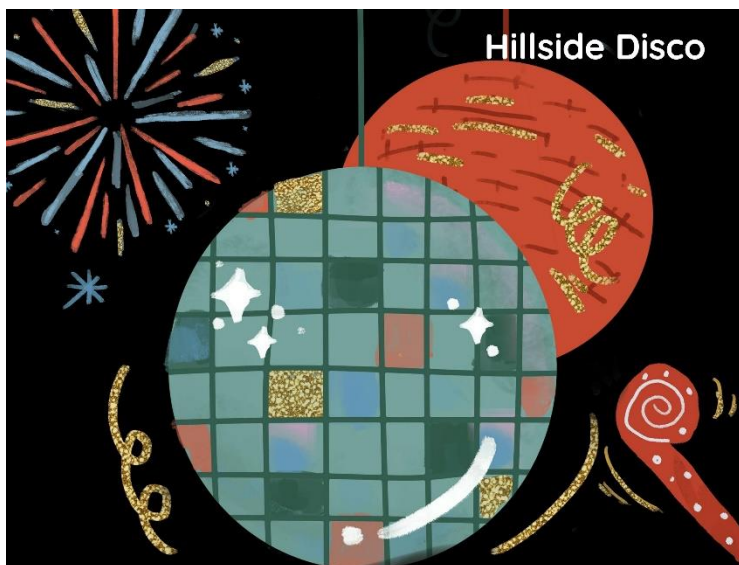
DorsetHealthCare School Nursing



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.



Hillside Disco

3rd October
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 to collect your child from the School Hall.

For health and safety reasons, please do not send children in with sweets.

To make this event possible, we do need volunteers. If you are able to help, please tick the box to confirm.

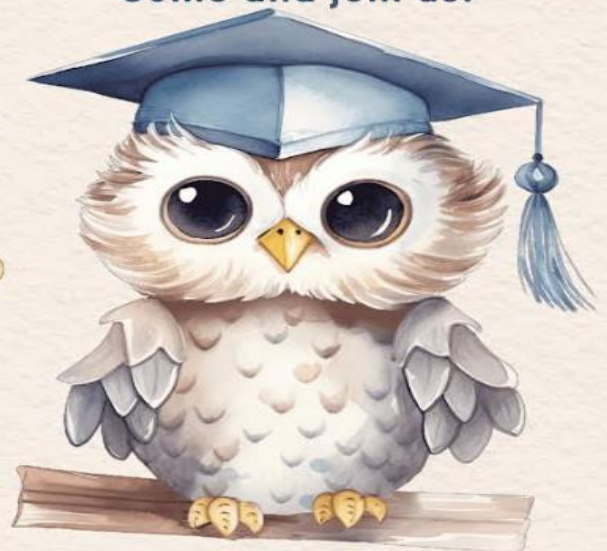
Volunteers are asked to meet in the Main Hall 15 minutes before the disco starts.



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

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!!
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 1-4)	Book here
THURSDAY	Forest School 15:00-16:00	Book here
FRIDAY	Rocksteady Music School Lessons take place in school	Book here

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