

Hillside News

DATES TO REMEMBER



Parent Consultations

Tuesday 21st October

Wednesday 22nd October

Booking opens [here](#)
at 18:30 on
1st October

Hillside First School

where children are at the heart of everything we do



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



Headteacher Update Friday 26th September 2025

It's been another great week at Hillside - lots going on as usual and the children working hard. We began the week with an assembly about our value of perseverance, where I told the story *Giraffes Can't Dance*. It was a lovely reminder that with a goal, some self-belief and perseverance, anything is possible. We talked last week about ambition, and being able to keep going when things don't go to plan is a key life skill.

A big thank you to everyone who came to the PTA meeting on Wednesday evening. It was wonderful to see familiar faces back for another year and to meet some new ones. Your ongoing support and dedication to our school is hugely appreciated.

Looking ahead, we're excited to welcome prospective families to our first Open Morning on Wednesday 1st October - a fantastic opportunity to showcase our lovely school. And of course, we have our school discos on Friday!

Last night we held our first Local School Committee meeting of the academic year and it was very positive. We'll meet again in late November and I will send an update after that meeting. Thank you to the committee members for their hard work and commitment to Hillside.

Best of luck to the England women's rugby team in the World Cup final! They take on Canada in what should be an exciting match - fingers crossed for a victory for the Red Roses!

Finally, you really couldn't make up some of the things that happen in school - every day is different, unique and special. A quick story from Wednesday: I was visiting our youngest children in Reception and sat at the table while some of them had their milk and snack. One child leaned forward, looked me straight in the eye and said, "Hi Mr Graves — I need to tell you something. I'm not a child." "Oh?" I replied, "Then what are you?" "Mr Graves," they said, "I'm a superhero!" "Which one?" I asked. "Superman — got to go, it's playtime!" That made me smile.

Have a great weekend.

Kind regards,
Mr Graves

WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Little Owls 1	95%
Little Owls 2	91%
Tawny Owls 1	98%
Tawny Owls 2	99%
Tawny Owls 3	97%
Snowy Owls 1	94%
Snowy Owls 2	94%
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

Just a reminder that we are a nut free school.



To help keep all our children safe, especially those with severe nut allergies, we kindly ask that you avoid sending any nuts or nut-based products (like Nutella) with your child.

Thanks so much for your support!

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



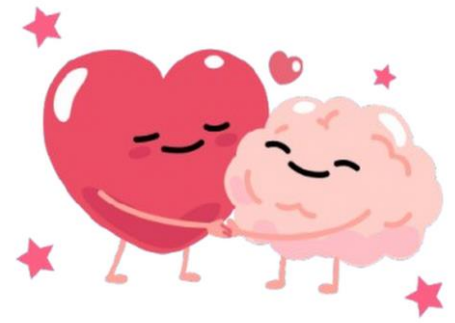
Little Owls will be joining us next week.



To help families who need closer access, please leave the disabled parking bays for Blue Badge holders only. We really appreciate your help in keeping these spaces available — thank you!



Mental Health Matters



At Hillside First School, we believe that looking after our mental wellbeing is just as important as looking after our physical health. For children (and adults too!), feeling calm, happy, and supported helps us all to learn and grow.

To help families nurture positive mental health at home, we have created a dedicated [Wellbeing](#) section on our school website. This space is filled with practical ideas, helpful tips, and links to trusted resources to support children's emotional development and overall wellbeing.

Each week we will feature a resource that offers expert guidance and practical parenting tips. We hope you find these suggestions helpful and supportive.



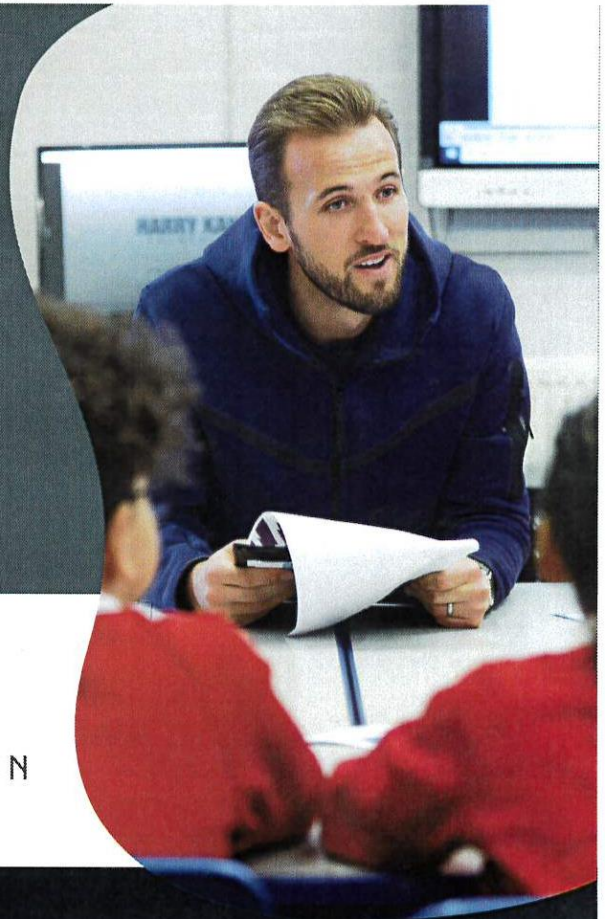
This week's focus: "My child is anxious"

If your child seems anxious – for instance, they're not their usual self. Take time to understand what's going on. You'll then be in a better place to help them.

Information and video can be found [here](#).



EMPOWERING PARENTS TO HELP CHILDREN THRIVE



Bounce Forward, in collaboration with the Harry Kane Foundation, are gifting a series of six online sessions that equip parents with the knowledge and tools to foster mental resilience and emotional wellbeing for themselves and their children.

What we'll cover

- How the brain works, the link between thoughts, feelings and behaviour
- Nurturing optimism and thinking flexibly to overcome adversity
- Helping children gain more control over how they feel and behave
- Developing empathy
- How to connect meaningfully
- Enabling a growth mindset and focusing on strengths

17,000+ parents highly rate this programme

"It was so amazing, I looked forward to the sessions each week, learnt a lot of mind blowing information, that I have applied to my life and have seen improvements! Wish there was more sessions, so sad that it has ended! I have loved learning about my strengths, the ABCs, process praise, the growth mind set, being aware of my gremlins, it has been wonderful learning, and these sessions have been apart of my self care! Thank you ever so much!"

REGISTER HERE

EVENTS

We are excited to announce that we will be hosting a special Harvest Festival for the children on **Monday 6th October**. In the spirit of giving and community, we would appreciate any food donations you can kindly spare which we will take to a local Food Bank.

If you are able to help, we kindly request donations of the following items by Friday 3rd October:

- Canned goods
- Pasta sauce
- Long-life milk
- Long-life juice
- Cereal
- Biscuits
- Tea bags

Thanks in advance for your generosity and support.



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](https://www.instagram.com/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 First School

'Where children are at the heart of everything we do'

FOR CHILDREN STARTING SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2026

Open Days

Wednesday 1st October - 09:00

Wednesday 15th October - 17:00

Tuesday 11th November - 09:00

Scan the QR code below to book your place or complete the booking form on our website.



We are very proud of our school. We would love to show you around and let you see what we do and how we learn.

There will be a presentation at 09:00 and 17:00 by our Headteacher, Mr Graves followed by a school tour.

www.hillsidefirstschool.org ~ 01202 822737



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.



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



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



Meet our heroes



Well done Indiana, for winning 'player of the match' in the first game of the season for Verwood Town Lions.



Here is Indiana looking proud with his trophy, accompanied by his young pup, Acer.

Amazing Indiana, well done!



Grace successfully swam 10 metres and earned her swimming certificate.



Fantastic Grace, well done!



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