

Hillside News

DATES TO
REMEMBER



Parent Consultations

Tuesday 21st October

Wednesday 22nd October

Book your
appointment [here](#)

Hillside First School

where
children
are at
the **heart** of
everything we do



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



Headteacher Update Friday 17th October 2025

We kicked off this week with an assembly focusing on one of our school values - **RESPECT**. I always tell the children: treat others how you would like to be treated (or, if you have a pet, how you treat your pet). Respecting each other, ourselves and our bodies matters.

Tuesday was a busy day. A big thank you to Miss Zachariades for organising our visit to Ferndown Upper School, where some of our Year 4 children trained to be play leaders - please see the report below. On the same day, Willow and Indiana (Year 4), Mrs Tarrant and I visited Forest FM to talk to DJ Richard about life at Hillside. They were brilliant ambassadors for the school, shared what they love about learning here, and helped promote our remaining Open Day events.

Thank you to Steve, Richard and everyone at Forest FM for this fantastic opportunity.

Please listen to the recording [here](#) from 2:18 onwards.

When I visited Reception this week they were having great fun making clay hedgehogs - lovely to see! Year 1 and Year 2 have been continuing with their writing and focusing on handwriting. Year 3 and Year 4 have enjoyed further ukulele lessons.

We also held our Open Evening on Wednesday for prospective families considering joining us next academic year.

Looking ahead to next week: Year 3 and Year 4 will be visiting Fishbourne Roman Palace on Monday, and we have Parents' Evenings after school on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Have a great weekend.

Kind regards,

Mr Graves



WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Little Owls 1	98%
Little Owls 2	92%
Tawny Owls 1	92%
Tawny Owls 2	99%
Tawny Owls 3	96%
Snowy Owls 1	98%
Snowy Owls 2	99%
Snowy Owls 3	96%

Whole School 96%

Target



The school day begins
at 08:40

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

Half term
w.c. 20th October



INSET DAY
Monday 3rd
November (school
closed for
children)

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

Star
of the
WEEK

Little
Owls 1
Flora

Little
Owls 2
Daniel

Tawny
Owls 1
Amarra

Tawny
Owls 2
Lyra

Tawny
Owls 3
Eira

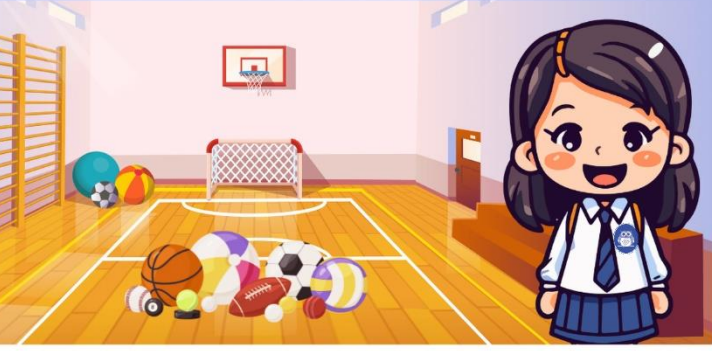
Snowy
Owls 1
Isaac

Snowy
Owls 2
Violet

Snowy
Owls 3
Darcie



Sports Leaders Academy



What a brilliant day for our Year 4 Sports Leaders!

On Monday, they headed to Ferndown Upper School for five action-packed workshops that challenged their teamwork, boosted their confidence, and inspired them to be great role models in sport.



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.

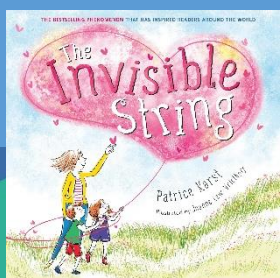
Each week we will feature a resource that offers expert guidance and practical parenting tips. We hope you find these suggestions helpful and supportive.

This week's focus: "Separation Anxiety"

Some children experience difficulty with separation and may feel anxious when away from their parents or carers. If your child finds goodbyes or separations challenging, you can watch the helpful video linked [here](#) for guidance and support.

If your child is reluctant to go to school, explore these practical strategies [here](#) that can make mornings smoother and help ease their worries.

You might also share [The Invisible String](#), a beautiful tale that reassures children they are always connected to their loved ones, even when apart. This story can bring comfort, reduce anxiety, and help children feel more secure as they learn to manage separation.



Click the logo to visit the website



All of the Mental Health Matters features can be found on our website [here](#).

EVENTS

Hillside First Take away Coffee Morning



Friday 24th October
8.15 to 8.45am



"Sip for Support - Only £1! 🌍

Bring your own mug or grab a takeaway cup.
Every drink you buy helps raise
funds for our school!"



Coffee
Tea
Hot Chocolate

Oak milk available



POOLE FOREST SCHOOL

Book online www.pooleforestschool.com

Ofsted registered

Oct Half Term Holiday Club

Get off those screens
and into nature!

- ★ Learn to use tools and build dens
- ★ Broomstick Making
- ★ Fun with Pumpkins
- ★ Whittle a Magic Wand
- ★ Delicious Campfire Cooking
- ★ Autumn Leaf Art
and more outdoor fun!!

27th-
31st Oct



Verwood Rotary Christmas Shoebox Scheme

There is still time to take part in the Christmas Shoebox Scheme. If you would like to take part please collect a shoebox from the school office. Please note that ordinary shoe boxes can also be used if you have one at home.

Christmas Shoeboxes are to be returned to the office by **Thursday 23rd October** as they are being collected on Friday morning.

Thank you for your support.



YOUTH RIDERS



Could you donate a gift
for a child aged
between 5-18yrs?

Please pick up a gift and drop it
off at 'Emmas Bakery' Station
Road Verwood before Friday
12th December for our Elves to
deliver locally for Christmas

Elf Riders Christmas Gift
Request form [here](#)



 **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

 **SCAN ME!**

 **Hillside Pre-School**
Celebrating 35 Years
Verwood
Established 1990



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

You're invited to Let's Talk SEND Week 2025!



Let's TalkSEND Week is back this October, offering a series of events designed to create open, honest conversations between children, families, and the professionals who support them.

This collection of events is organised in partnership with:

- **Dorset Council**
- **NHS Dorset**
- **Dorset Parent Carer Council (DPCC)**
- **SENDIASS**

Whether you're looking for advice, information, or simply a chance to connect with others, **Let's Talk SEND Week** is here to support you.

For more information and details about the SEND drop in session, please follow the link [here](#).



Meet our heroes



Charlie and Louie recently competed in six challenges as part of the Junior Golf Challenge at Sturminster Golf Club, after qualifying in their age category.



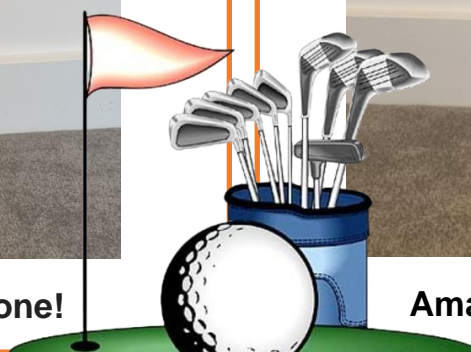
Fantastic Charlie, well done!

The event was hosted by Dorset Golf and Mike Dodd's Golf Academy.

Well done boys, you smashed it!



Amazing Louie, 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



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



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



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