

Hillside News

DATES TO
REMEMBER



Wednesday 5th
November

PTA Event

Movie Night for Year
R and I



Hillside First School

where
children
are at
the heart of
everything we do



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



Headteacher Update Friday 24th October 2025

It has been an action-packed final week of the first half-term and I'm very proud of everything that has been achieved so far. Our children have made a fantastic start to the school year.

This week our Snowy Owls classes visited Fishbourne Roman Palace and had a wonderful, educational day. I value these experiences hugely - school visits create memories and bring learning to life. I'm sure many of you can remember a special trip from your own school days. Please see the report and photos below.

Thank you to everyone who attended parents' evening on Tuesday and Wednesday. We had an excellent turn-out and it is always rewarding to meet with you, discuss how your child is settling in and look through their work together.

Outdoor play is hugely important for children's development. When children play outside they build physical confidence, develop social and communication skills, practise problem-solving and teamwork, and stretch their creativity. Time outdoors also helps children manage risk safely, build resilience, and often improves focus back in the classroom. Yesterday I spent time outside with some Year 3 and 4 children and was really impressed by their engagement and imagination. I've included a few photos below. Thank you also for the donations we received following my letter earlier this week; these will allow us to add more options and variety at playtimes - exciting for the children!

Thanks as well for your support with the PTA's pop-up coffee shop this morning. It was a new initiative and the PTA did a fantastic job trialling it. I hope you enjoyed it.

Finally, a fresh and heartfelt thank you to everyone who helps make Hillside such a special place. To our dedicated staff - thank you for your energy and professionalism every day. To the Local School Committee - your careful work behind the scenes matters. To our brilliant PTA and volunteers, your time and fundraising make a real difference. And to you, our parents, carers, grandparents and friends of the school - thank you for your ongoing support. Above all, thank you to our incredible children, they are the heartbeat of Hillside.

Have a lovely half-term!

Mr Graves

WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Little Owls 1	98%
Little Owls 2	92%
Tawny Owls 1	91%
Tawny Owls 2	99%
Tawny Owls 3	98%
Snowy Owls 1	97%
Snowy Owls 2	95%
Snowy Owls 3	98%

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. 27th 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
Maisie

Little
Owls 2
Edward

Tawny
Owls 1
Honey

Tawny
Owls 2
Ellie

Tawny
Owls 3
Sophia

Snowy
Owls 1
Sultan

Snowy
Owls 2
Lilly

Snowy
Owls 3
Alicia



Snowy Owls 1 Visit Fishbourne Roman Palace

Snowy Owls visited Fishbourne Roman Palace in Chichester to bring their Roman topic to life 🏛️. The children took part in a range of Roman-themed activities and explored the archaeological site. The workshop leader told Mr Graves they were impressed by the children's enthusiasm and excellent behaviour 🌟. Despite the wet weather, the children shone and had a fantastic time. Huge thanks to the team at Fishbourne Roman Palace, our parent volunteers and the staff who organised the visit — photos below 📷.



Creative Playtime with Year 3 and 4!



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: "Meltdowns"

If your child experiences meltdowns from time to time. The video [here](#) provides helpful tips and calming strategies.



Click the logo to visit the website



All of the **Mental Health Matters** features can be found on our website **here**.

Resources for Parents/carers

- [5 tips to support the afterschool meltdown](#)
- [Breathing Techniques](#)
- [How am I feeling?](#)



HALF TERM

**HALF - TERM
OPENING HOURS**

MONDAY : 09.30 - 16.30
 TUESDAY : 09.30 - 16.30
 WEDNESDAY : 09.30 - 16.30
 THURSDAY : 09.30 - 16.30
 FRIDAY : 09.30 - 16.30
 SATURDAY : 09.00 - 16.30
 SUNDAY : CLOSED

APPOINTMENTS NOT REQUIRED

WIN · WIN · WIN

Visit us any time this October Half Term and take a peek at our Skeleton Jar!

Can you guess how many scary sweets are hiding inside?
 The closest guess wins a Spooky Mini Craft Hamper
 AND all the creepy candies in the jar!

Do you dare to take the challenge?

Visit us at Bartlett's Schoolwear, 52 King Street, Wimborne.
 Visit between Saturday 25 October & Friday 31 October to submit your guess.
 FREE ENTRY / Winner will be announced Saturday 01 November

JOIN US AT HILLSIDE CINEMA!

for Year R AND 1

WEDNESDAY 5th November AT 3PM TO 4.30

Film: Spookley and the Christmas Kitten

MUFTI PJ's DAY FOR YEAR R AND 1

Movie party

POPCORN, SWEETS AND DRINK, WILL BE SERVED DURING THE FILM PRICE £3.50. PLEASE DO NOT SEND IN EXTRA SWEETS DUE TO HEALTH AND SAFETY. THIS IS A PG FILM SO BY PURCHASING A TICKET YOU GIVE PERMISSION FOR YOUR CHILD TO WATCH.
 IF YOUR CHILD HAS ANY DIETARY NEEDS, PLEASE LET US KNOW.

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

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](#)

EVENTS



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






 **November Timetable**
All sessions delivered live online via zoom. 90 minutes long
£24 each or FREE with School Membership
Book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk
Recordings available for 48 hours (excluding Free Talk)

Raising Self Esteem	3 Nov 10am
Decreasing Depression	3 Nov 7pm
Supporting Healthy Sleep	4 Nov 10am
Understanding the Teenage Brain	4 Nov 7pm
Improving Family Communication	10 Nov 10am
Autism - Improving Communication	10 Nov 7pm
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	11 Nov 10am
Supporting A Child with ADHD	11 Nov 7pm
FREE ADHD Kids & Homework	13 Nov 6-7pm
Understanding Anger	17 Nov 10am
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	17 Nov 7pm
Facing Defiance	18 Nov 10am
Anxiety Based School Avoidance	18 Nov 7pm
Cannabis and Ketamine Awareness	24 Nov 10am
Anxiety Explained	24 Nov 7pm

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

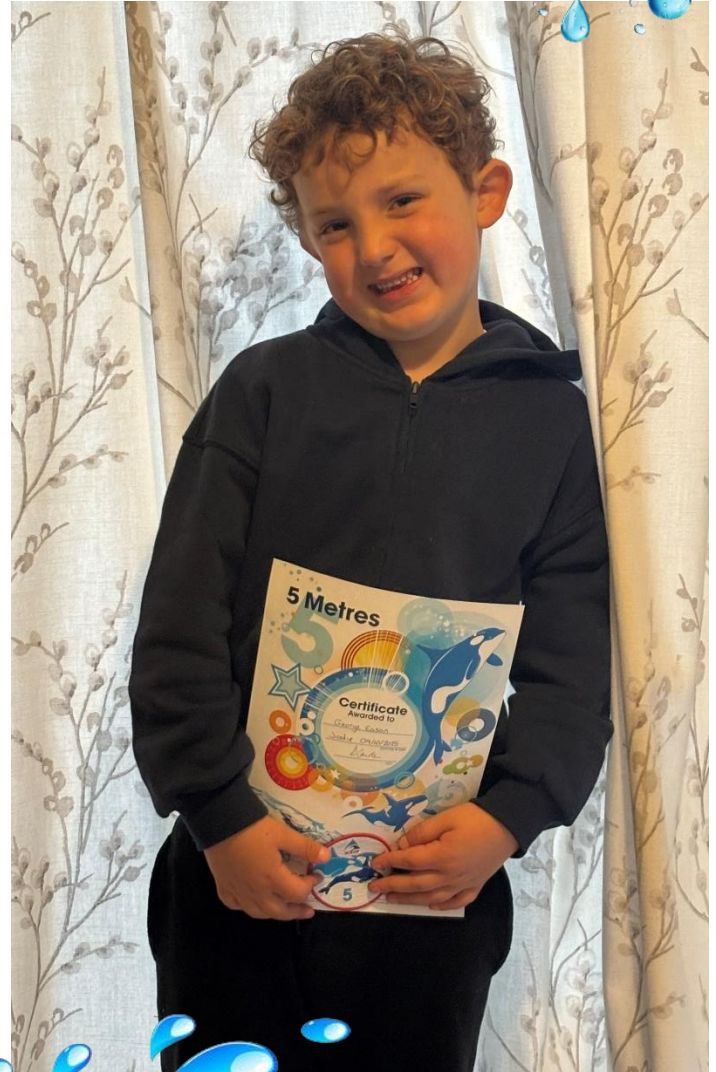


Bailey is an avid swimmer and loves all the water sports like body boarding and paddle boarding which he's done plenty over the summer in both the Dorset and Portuguese coasts.



Fantastic Bailey, well done!

George recently achieved his 5 meters at swimming.



Amazing George, 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



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