



## Lest We Forget...



[www.hillsidefirstschool.org](http://www.hillsidefirstschool.org) ~ 01202 822737 ~ [office@hillsidefirstschool.org](mailto:office@hillsidefirstschool.org)

### Christmas Fayre



Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November  
17:00 – 19:30

### Headteacher Update Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2025

I hope you all had a lovely half-term and that the children have returned refreshed and ready for the second half of the term.

We began the week with an assembly reminding everyone about our school rules and values. We also talked about fireworks and their impact on animals, as several animal charities have asked for quieter displays to reduce distress for pets and wildlife. During the assembly we watched a spectacular drone fireworks display from China (watch [here](#)) which was incredible.

We have a busy week ahead as we support two very worthy causes. **Friendship (Anti-Bullying) Week** – remember to wear your odd socks on Monday. **Children in Need** – taking place on Friday, don't forget your spots!

A big thank you to our PTA for organising the first Movie Night of the school year for Year R and I. It was a great success, there was lots of excitement and the children had a brilliant time.

We would also like to thank all our families who donated to the Christmas Shoebox Appeal, organised by Verwood Rotary. We are delighted to share that a total of 131 shoeboxes have now been delivered. The Rotary Club of Verwood would also like to extend their heartfelt thanks to everyone who took part.

Below are some of ground work that was completed during the half-term break. Please take a look.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Best wishes,

Mr Graves

### WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

|               |      |
|---------------|------|
| Little Owls 1 | 95%  |
| Little Owls 2 | 91%  |
| Tawny Owls 1  | 97%  |
| Tawny Owls 2  | 98%  |
| Tawny Owls 3  | 97%  |
| Snowy Owls 1  | 96%  |
| Snowy Owls 2  | 100% |
| Snowy Owls 3  | 94%  |

Whole School 96%

Target



The school day begins  
at 08:40

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

### Friendship (Anti-Bullying) Week

Monday 10<sup>th</sup>  
November is...



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

**Star**  
of the  
**WEEK**

Little  
Owls 1  
**Amaya**

Little  
Owls 2  
**Amber**

Tawny  
Owls 1  
**Grace**

Tawny  
Owls 2  
**Maeve**

Tawny  
Owls 3  
**Wyatt**

Snowy  
Owls 1  
**Jack**

Snowy  
Owls 2  
**Finley**

Snowy  
Owls 3  
**Margot**





## Half term works

During the half-term holiday, we had a mulching machine clear the Woodland Walk area on the side playground. The area is currently closed and cordoned off to allow the mulch and new surface to bed down safely.

A recent review showed the space was becoming overgrown, with exposed roots, low branches and other small hazards. Clearing the area has opened it up and created extra space for creative and outdoor play. Over the coming months, with the support of our PTA, we will be developing the area so the children can make full use of it.



We also had the area under our Dawn Redwood Tree cleared away. This tall tree, was once thought extinct for over 5 million years until it was rediscovered in China in the 1940s! It's one of the few conifers that loses its soft, feathery leaves each autumn, turning a lovely copper colour. A living fossil right here at our school – a reminder of how nature always finds a way 🌱 ✨





# 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: "Bullying"

### My child is being bullied. What can I do?

The video [here](#) may help your child to feel more in control.



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



### My child might have bullied someone

Give them your help and understanding so they can stop. The video [here](#) provides support.





# Christmas Performances

Our Christmas performances will take place on the following dates:

## Friday 12th December

09:15 – Little Owls  
13:45 – Year 1 and 2

## Monday 15th December

09:15 – Year 3 and 4  
13:45 – Little Owls

## Tuesday 16th December

09:15 – Year 1 and 2  
13:45 – Year 3 and 4

Tickets are free of charge. Due to the capacity in the hall, these are limited to 2 per family. Reserve your tickets in the shop on Arbor from **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November.**



## Christmas Donations

Do you have any preloved Christmas nativity costumes or jumpers?

As part of our **REDUCE, REUSE & RECYCLE** initiative, we are collecting clean, lightly used children's nativity costumes (*all sizes*) and Christmas jumpers (*adult and child sizes*).

These will be sold for a small fee at our Christmas Fayre.



Please drop off your items to the school office by Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November



## Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December

10:30 am - 12 noon

Verwood Methodist Church



Join Nick The Vic, Suzannah & the fab **TREE HOUSE** team for a morning full of fun Christmas craft activities. Make some great decorations for the church tree - and some for your own. Expect cool craft, Christmas music, drinks & biscuits - and all for FREE!

To register a place please visit: [www.nickthevic.co.uk](http://www.nickthevic.co.uk)

and click on 'Crafty Christmas'

Hope to see you there!



Verwood Methodist Church  
Vicarage Road  
Verwood BH31 6DR





# EVENTS



## Hillside First School

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

# Open Days

**FOR CHILDREN STARTING SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2026**

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October - 09:00**  
**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October - 17:00**  
**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](mailto:office@hillsidepreschool.org)  
 or visit: [www.hillsidepreschool.org](http://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](http://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          |
| <b>FREE ADHD Kids &amp; Homework</b> | <b>13 Nov 6-7pm</b> |
| 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          |



## West Moors FC Ladies



# BE PART OF THE TEAM!

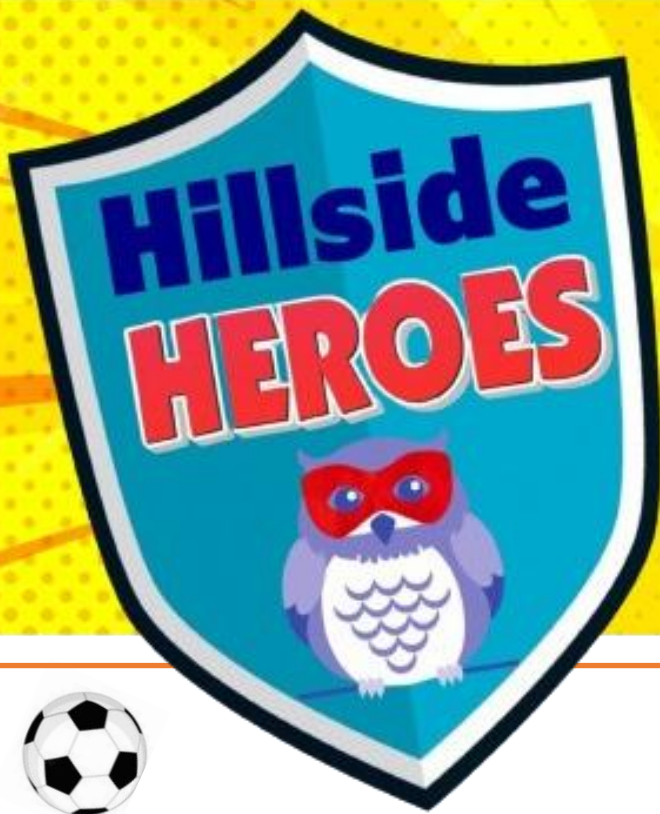


**WEST MOORS LADIES IS RECRUITING FOR NEW PLAYERS 16+**

Girls aged 16+  
 Any ability - All Welcome  
 Friendly, Fun and team-minded  
 Training to start in September  
 Ready to grow and progress into women's league football next season

**IF INTERESTED PLEASE CONTACT SAMMY ON 07807884571**





# Meet our heroes



Despite the absolutely awful weather Logan showed his Hillside values with his perseverance & ambition during their home match to Ridgeway.



Logan was awarded managers player for the game - really well deserved, we are extremely proud of him, always.



**Fantastic Logan, well done!**



Maeve has recently completed her stage 2 swimming, and is really excited that she has started stage 3!



**Amazing Maeve, well done!**



# Autumn *term*



## September

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Inset Day

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>**

Inset Day

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup>**

Inset Day

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>**

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

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Individual & Sibling Photographs



## October

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup>**

New Parents Open Morning  
09:00 - 11:00



**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
**PTA Event**

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

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup>**

Harvest Assembly



**Friday 10<sup>th</sup>**

World Mental Health Day

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>**

New Parents Open Evening  
17:00 - 19:00

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup>**

Year 3/ 4 trip to Fishbourne  
Roman Palace

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup>**

Parent Consultations

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Parent Consultations



## November

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Inset Day

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup>**

PTA Event  
Movie Night  
Year R and Year 1

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup>**

Remembrance Assembly

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> - Friday 14<sup>th</sup>**  
Anti Bullying (Friendship Week)

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup>**

New Parents Open Morning  
09:00 - 11:00

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup>**

Children in Need

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup>**

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



**Friday 21<sup>st</sup>**

Mufti Day in exchange for tombola  
donations for our  
Christmas Fayre

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup>**  
**PTA Event**

Christmas Fayre

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> -  
Friday 1<sup>st</sup>**  
Half Term

## December



**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> &  
Friday 12<sup>th</sup>**  
PTA Christmas Shop



**Friday 12<sup>th</sup>**

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



**Friday 12<sup>th</sup>**

Christmas Performances

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup>**

Christmas Performances

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup>**

Christmas Performances

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>**

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

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>**

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                                                                                                 |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>MONDAY</b>    | <b>Creative Dance</b><br>15:00-16:00 (Year R-2)<br>16:00-17:00 (Year 3-4) | Book <a href="#">here</a> for Year R-2<br>Book <a href="#">here</a> for Year 3-4<br>Password: <b>Hillside2025!!</b> |
| <b>TUESDAY</b>   | <b>BRS Sports &amp; Fitness Breakfast Club</b><br>08:00-08:30 (Year R-4)  | Book via Arbor app                                                                                                  |
|                  | <b>BRS Sports &amp; Fitness Lunch Club</b><br>12:00-12:30 (Year R-4)      | Book via Arbor app                                                                                                  |
|                  | <b>BRS After School Football Club</b><br>15:00-16:00 (Year 1-4)           | Book via Arbor app                                                                                                  |
| <b>WEDNESDAY</b> | <b>Computer Xplorers</b><br>15:00-16:00 (Year 1-4)                        | Book <a href="#">here</a>                                                                                           |
| <b>THURSDAY</b>  | <b>Forest School</b><br>15:00-16:00                                       | Book <a href="#">here</a>                                                                                           |
| <b>FRIDAY</b>    | <b>Rocksteady Music School</b><br>Lessons take place in school            | Book <a href="#">here</a>                                                                                           |

## 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](http://www.hillsidepreschool.org)