

Hillside News

DATES TO REMEMBER



Hillside First School

where children are at the heart of everything we do



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

Christmas Fayre



Friday 28th November
17:00 – 19:30

Headteacher Update Friday 14th November 2025

It has certainly been a busy week at Hillside First School!

We kicked things off with Odd Socks Day on Monday to mark the start of Friendship (Anti-Bullying) Week. The children have taken part in lessons throughout the week focusing on kindness, respect, and celebrating difference.

On Tuesday, we paid our respects as part of our Remembrance events by observing a two-minute silence. It was wonderful to see so many of our children proudly wearing their Rainbows, Beavers, Cubs, and Brownies uniforms. Tuesday also saw us hold our final Open Event for prospective families for September 2026. As always, it was with great pride that I was able to show off our wonderful school.

On Wednesday morning, we held the voting for our new School Parliament members. We have never had so many children put themselves forward to take part, which is fantastic and links perfectly with our value of Ambition. The children cast their votes, and the elected members will be announced on Monday. Please see some photos below.

Today, we supported Children in Need by wearing spots! It's a very worthy cause, and I'd like to thank everyone for their generous donations to this important charity.

Finally, I would encourage you all to read Logan's story below. Logan lives with Type 1 diabetes, and his story is truly inspiring. We also had a nurse from Poole Hospital visit our Year 3 and 4 children this week to talk about diabetes and raise awareness. This ties in perfectly with World Diabetes Day today.

Have a wonderful weekend.

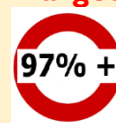
Best wishes, Mr Graves

WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

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

Whole School 98%

Target



The school day begins at 08:40

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

Year 2, 3 and 4

Movie Night



Wednesday
19th
November

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

Star
of the
WEEK

Little
Owls 1
George

Little
Owls 2
Josiah

Tawny
Owls 1
Levi

Tawny
Owls 2
Charlie

Tawny
Owls 3
Hugo

Snowy
Owls 1
Bertie

Snowy
Owls 2
Edward

Snowy
Owls 3
Romeo



World Diabetes Day

Friday 14th November

Logan's Story

in his own words

Hi I'm Logan I'm eight years old and I was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes when I was just 2.



Type 1 diabetes means my body doesn't make its own insulin, and you need insulin to survive.

Lucky for me and lots of other type ones - a clever doctor made insulin that we can inject into our body.

I don't have to inject much anymore because I have a pump. My pump is on all the time and gives me insulin every three minutes! Its still a needle but it's not so bad. I have a Dexcom on my arm, and this reads my blood sugars and tells us whether it's high or low.

If I have a high blood sugar reading that means I need more insulin, and if I have a low blood sugar reading that means I need sugar I always have some jelly babies with me just in case I go low.



When I am low it makes me feel dizzy and like I'm about to faint... it feels like I'm in space, like I'm floating!

My diabetes doesn't stop me doing anything though, I play football for Verwood Town under 9s,

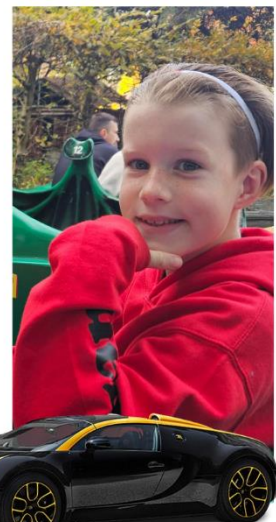
I love riding my bike and anything to do with being outside. I walk my dogs and play with my friends.

I can eat anything I want as long as I have insulin - My favourite food is steak and my favourite pudding is ice cream!! Especially a Mr Whippy when the van comes to my house.

I support Arsenal, and I know that some Premiership footballers have diabetes too!

I know my diabetes won't ever go away and sometimes this makes me feel sad and disappointed. But I know it won't stop me living my absolute best life, I want to grow up to be a footballer, and buy a Bugatti Veyron!

Logan
Snowy Owls



Remembrance

On Friday last week, we joined Hillside Preschool to mark Remembrance ahead of the parade on Sunday.

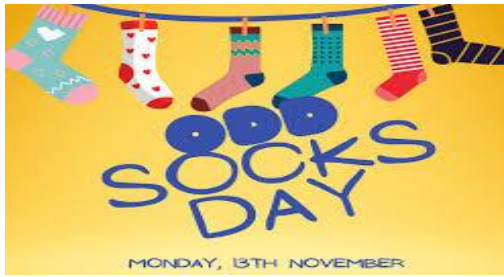
Every child made their own poppy, which we planted next to the town's memorial site.

Several of our children read poems and messages before we laid a wreath at the memorial and observed a moment of silence to pay our respects.

On Tuesday, we recognised Armistice Day with a two-minute silence across the school at 11:00. The children were very respectful throughout. We also invited children who are part of Rainbows, Brownies, Beavers and Cubs to wear their uniforms. They did so with great pride

Lest we forget





On Monday, we took part in **Odd Socks Day** as part of **Friendship (Anti-Bullying) Week**, celebrating friendship, kindness and what makes each of us unique. ❤️



Voting for School Parliament

On Wednesday, the children took part in voting for our new School Parliament members. Every child had the chance to cast their vote, and the results have now been counted. Our new Members of Parliament (MPs) will be announced on Monday, followed by their very first meeting!





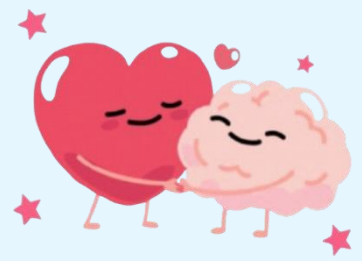
BBC

Children in Need

Today, we showed our support for Children in Need by coming together and wearing spots! It was wonderful to see everyone get involved. Thank you to all who contributed to this fantastic cause.



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 has Friendship Issues"

If your child is facing friendship issues, pause and listen before stepping in, and reassure them that it's normal to have ups and downs with friends. Help them name and express their feelings so they can move past upset and start problem-solving. Support them by guiding them to build healthy, positive friendship skills.

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



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



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 11th November.**





*A Magical Visit from
Father Christmas & His Reindeer*

AT VERWOOD HOUSE

Join us for a magical festive afternoon with real reindeer and Father Christmas!
 ♥ Free entry - optional donations welcome
 ♦ Raffle to win a festive hamper

All proceeds go to University Hospitals Dorset NHS Charity supporting Royal Bournemouth Hospital.

Monday 8th December
 ⌚ 2pm - 4pm

Bring your family and festive spirit - we can't wait to see you!

Please speak to our friendly team below for more information.
 Verwood.rec@hamberleycarehomes.co.uk
 01202 812 250

📍 **Verwood House Care Home**
 42-44 Ringwood Road Verwood Dorset BH31 7AH



**It's time for
Crafty Christmas!**

festive fun for 5-11s

Saturday 6th 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 and click on 'Crafty Christmas'
Hope to see you there!

Verwood Methodist Church
 Vicarage Road
 Verwood BH31 6DR



PTA Christmas Events



Let it snow!



please join us for our annual

HILLSIDE CHRISTMAS SHOP

This is where the children can purchase gifts for parents, carers, and grandparents. It's a maximum of 2 gifts per child. Price is £2.50 for each gift. This will run on the 11th/12th of December. Please purchase through Arbor.



Hillside Christmas Raffle

Tickets are **£1 each**. Friends and family can purchase them either using the **raffle booklet** or through your **Arbor account**.

1st Prize: £175 Amazon Voucher

2nd Prize: Yoto Device

3rd Prize: Jubilee Campsite Voucher

🌟 **And that's not all!**

There are **20+ more great prizes to be won!** Every penny raised helps support our school.



MUFTI DAY 21ST NOVEMBER

THE CHILDREN ARE INVITED TO WEAR MUFTI IN EXCHANGE FOR ITEMS FOR CHRISTMAS FAYRE EACH CLASS HAS A SET THEME

LITTLE OWLS 1 AND 2: SWEETS AND CHOCOLATES

TAWNY OWLS 1, 2 AND 3: NEW TOYS

SNOWY OWLS 1, 2, AND 3: ALCOHOL

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND DONATIONS TO HELP SUPPORT THE CHRISTMAS FAYRE

IF YOU HAVE ANY NEW UNWANTED NEW STATIONARY WE WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR THE DONATIONS

Hillside First School Christmas Fayre

All Welcome
£1 entry Children free

28th November 5pm to 7.30pm.

Enjoy a magical day with:
Santa Storytelling
Elf Crafts
Tree Trail
Mrs. Claus' Baking
Games & Tombolas
Food, Drinks & Sweet Treats
Festive Stalls
...and much more! 🌟





Meet our heroes



Dexter had a Gymnastics competition at the weekend and placed 1st on rings, 1st on Vault and 2nd on Floor.



Fantastic Dexter, well done!

Honey has demonstrated excellent focus and commitment in her boxing training this week.



She has also shown great determination in her running, achieving a new personal best for the second week in a row at the junior Parkrun!



Amazing Honey, 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



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



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



**Monday 27th -
Friday 1st
Half Term**

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





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