

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 21st November 2025

Monday's assembly looked at how quickly technology is developing and the impact it can have on our everyday lives. We watched a short clip about Nike's new powered shoe, Project Amplify, which uses small motors to support walking and running. It's designed to reduce tiredness and help people stay active, independent and mobile. If you'd like to see the video yourself, here is the link we used in assembly:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gI0YVPTYqHk>

We also reflected on wider advancements in technology, including how it supports medicine, learning, travel, communication and everyday tasks. The children shared some brilliant thoughts about how technology can support us, include us and help us reach our goals, but also how too much help can sometimes change what a challenge means.

It has certainly felt colder this week and the children have come in wrapped up in coats, hats and scarves. Please could I ask that everything is named, as it makes it much easier to return anything that gets dropped or misplaced.

We are really looking forward to our first Celebration of Achievement event of the year. This will take place on Wednesday 10th December straight after school. Please wait for your child's class teacher to dismiss the class, and then feel free to pop in, have a look at the work in the classroom and take a wander around the school to see what the children have been doing.

A huge thank you to our PTA for organising the Year 2, 3 and 4 Movie Night this Wednesday. The film was K Pop Demon Hunters, which has become one of Netflix's most watched animated films. Interestingly, there were two very different news stories about it this week. One school asked children not to sing any of the songs due to concerns around certain words, while another school fully embraced the excitement and even posted a video of their pupils singing, which has already reached over 103,000 views. A real contrast and interesting to see how differently schools choose to respond.

And yes, it's time to mention the Christmas word. You may have noticed the music starting on the radio, the adverts on TV and lights going up around town. In school, the children have started learning some of their Christmas songs. Our Christmas Fayre is on Friday 28th November from 5pm. Thank you so much for all the raffle tickets purchased so far and for the generous prize donations from families and local businesses. Please also take a look at the exciting event being held by Verwood House Care Home on Monday 8th December from 2pm to 4pm.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Best wishes,

Mr Graves

WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Little Owls 1	89%
Little Owls 2	92%
Tawny Owls 1	96%
Tawny Owls 2	98%
Tawny Owls 3	96%
Snowy Owls 1	98%
Snowy Owls 2	98%
Snowy Owls 3	99%

Whole School 96%

Target



The school day begins at 08:40

Gates open at 08:30

School finishes at 15:00

Celebration of Achievement Afternoon



Wednesday 10th December

Straight after school

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

Star
of the
WEEK

Little
Owls 1
Franklin

Little
Owls 2
Bella

Tawny
Owls 1
Torie

Tawny
Owls 2
Arthur

Tawny
Owls 3
Molly

Snowy
Owls 1
Ava

Snowy
Owls 2
Brigitte

Snowy
Owls 3
Taylor



Panathlon Victory

Congratulations to our Year 3 and Year 4 children who took part in the Panathlon alongside seven other schools. The event was organised by Dorset School Games (Katrina Cole) with resources kindly provided by the Panathlon charity, and supported by play leaders from Emmanuel Middle School. I'm delighted to announce that we finished 1st overall with the highest total score, every event was scored, and our children performed brilliantly. More importantly, the children had the chance to represent the school, work as a team, follow instructions, collaborate and enjoy a range of new activities.

A huge thank you to Miss Zachariades for arranging everything and to Emmanuel Middle School for their support. Well done to everyone involved!



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: "Praise and Reward"

Using praise and rewards helps build children's confidence and motivates them to repeat positive behaviour.

By noticing and encouraging their efforts, children feel supported to learn, try new things, and keep improving.

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





Merry Christmas!



December 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)

Decreasing Depression	1 DEC 10am
Raising Self Esteem	1 DEC 7pm
Understanding the Teenage Brain	2 DEC 10am
Supporting Healthy Sleep	2 DEC 7pm
Autism - Improving Communication	8 DEC 10am
Improving Family Communication	8 DEC 7pm
Supporting A Child with ADHD	9 DEC 10am
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	9 DEC 7pm
Anxiety Based School Avoidance	15 DEC 10am
Understanding Anger	15 DEC 7pm
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	16 DEC 10am
Facing Defiance	16 DEC 7pm

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.



POOLE FOREST SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAMILY DAY

IN SUPPORT OF KIDNEY RESEARCH UK
29TH NOVEMBER • 1PM – 3PM

- 🌿 Woodland Christmas decorations
- 🔥 Campfire treats and warm drinks
- 🎵 Woodland choir singalong
- 🌟 Seasonal cheer and memory-making

📍 Poole Forest School
Beacon Hill, Lytchett, BH21 3RZ

🎁 **FREE ENTRY**

💖 Suggested donation: £10 per family member

💖 All proceeds go to Kidney Research UK

Book here: www.bookwhen.com/pooleforestschool

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! ✨

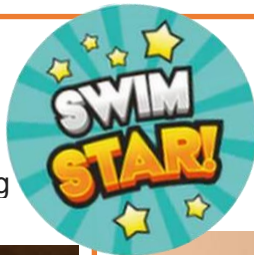




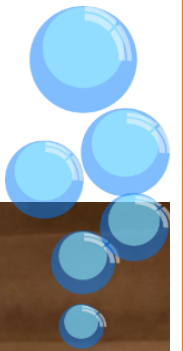
Meet our heroes



Congratulations Jude on completing stage 2 orange hat at swimming.



Congratulations Bertie on completing stage 4 green hat at swimming.



Jude started his new lesson, stage 3 in the big pool recently with great confidence and determination.



Fantastic Jude, well done!



Bertie's confidence has grown so much over the summer and he smashed your first lesson in stage 5 with the brilliant butterfly.



Amazing Bertie, 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



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