

Hillside News

Hillside First School

where
children
are at
the heart of
everything we do



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



DATES TO
REMEMBER



Christmas Art
Competition



Entries by 11th
December
please

Headteacher Update Friday 28th November 2025

What a lovely week we've had at Hillside. On Monday morning we were delighted to welcome Stephen Gillham, who delivered an inspiring assembly linking the message of Christmas with the importance of being thankful.

A huge thank you to Goadsby for delivering our real Christmas tree again this year. It's now up in the entrance area and looking fantastic, helping us all feel even more festive. Rehearsals for our Christmas performances are now in full flow and we can't wait to share them with you soon!

Don't forget to enter our Christmas Art Competition, with entries due shortly. The children have also been learning about UK Parliament Week in class and have enjoyed exploring how Parliament works.

Mrs Davis has been busy running an after-school club as part of the VerwoodiansOnWaste Eco Christmas Tree Festival at St Michael's Church. The children created decorations from recycled yoghurt pots collected at lunchtimes, and yesterday they visited the church to decorate a tree we have purchased. This tree will be donated to a family in need. The children did a brilliant job and represented the school beautifully. Photos can be found below.

We are very much looking forward to the Christmas Fayre this evening (5:00–7:30pm). A massive thank you for all the donations, raffle ticket purchases and to everyone working tirelessly behind the scenes to make the event happen. Do pop in even if you arrive a little late, there will still be plenty to enjoy.

On Monday, some of our children received their flu vaccinations. A huge thank you to the nursing team who came in to administer them. They commented on how polite and well behaved the children were throughout, which was wonderful to hear.

I also spent some time with Emilia in Year 3 this week, who showed me how she is crocheting a snood - wow! I was very impressed with the dexterity on show; I was struggling to keep up.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Best wishes

Mr Graves

WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Little Owls 1	95%
Little Owls 2	87%
Tawny Owls 1	95%
Tawny Owls 2	97%
Tawny Owls 3	87%
Snowy Owls 1	98%
Snowy Owls 2	98%
Snowy Owls 3	94%

Whole School 94%

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
Martha

Little
Owls 2
Evelina

Tawny
Owls 1
Maisie

Tawny
Owls 2
Hannah

Tawny
Owls 3
Thomas

Snowy
Owls 1
Poppy

Snowy
Owls 2
Isla

Snowy
Owls 3
Isla



Our Christmas Tree – donated by Goadsby



Verwoodians on Waste – Christmas Eco Tree Entry



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: "Family mealtimes are turning into a battleground"

Family mealtimes can feel like a battleground, but staying calm, avoiding pressure, and talking about hunger rather than using rewards can ease the stress. Giving children choices, involving them in meals, and keeping routines helps them feel more in control.

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

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



Christmas at Hillside



Christmas Jumper Day Friday 12th December



Children can wear a Christmas jumper to school. This is a non-school uniform day.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



Last day of term: **Thursday 18th December**
Return to school: **Tuesday 6th January 2026**

Christmas Shop Thursday 11th December Friday 12th December

Buy Christmas gifts for parents, carers, grandparents at £2.50 each. Limited to 2 per child. Available to purchase in the shop on Arbor.

Christmas Party

Wednesday 17th December

FREE MUFTI

Children are invited to wear Christmas party outfits on this day.



Please order your Christmas lunch
by Sunday 30th November

Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 17th Dec 2025

Main
Roast Turkey
or
Roasted Quorn

Sides
Roast Potatoes
Pigs in Blankets / Quorn Sausages
Stuffing & Gravy
Broccoli, Peas and Carrots

Dessert
Festive Chocolate Brownie
Squash and Party Hat included

*Menus may be subject to change

Chartwells

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.**





Local Events




HAMBERLEY
CARE HOMES
VERWOOD HOUSE

*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




FOREST
SCHOOL
POOLE

**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



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

**Join our next
Let's Talk SEND
session!**

8th December at 12:30pm (online)

Join us for a conversation with the key players of SEND in Dorset, we will be taking a look back over the last year and then be glancing forward at the year ahead.

The focus of this session will be hearing from you all **during the Q&A**, so bring your questions! To help us cover as many as possible, we encourage you to **pre-submit your questions in advance**. This allows us to group similar topics and ensure we address the key issues that matter most to you.

Register now: [Event Link](#)
Pre-submit your questions here: [Submit Questions](#)

We look forward to seeing you there



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



Meet our heroes



Bailey actively took place and commemorated alongside all the Cubs, Scouts, and others, at the Remembrance Parade recently, proudly leading and representing the Sea Beavers he is part of.



Fantastic Bailey, well done!



Luna had her first ever stage performance recently for Babyballet Bournemouth.

Luna performed Ballet in a routine called "Dancing Swans" and danced Tap in an energetic group number to "I Wanna Be Like You" from the Jungle Book.



Luna did incredibly and smiled the whole way through! We are so proud of her.

Amazing Luna, 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

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

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

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