

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 Art Competition



Entries by 11th December please

WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

| | |
|---------------|-----|
| Little Owls 1 | 89% |
| Little Owls 2 | 84% |
| Tawny Owls 1 | 97% |
| Tawny Owls 2 | 96% |
| Tawny Owls 3 | 93% |
| Snowy Owls 1 | 93% |
| Snowy Owls 2 | 97% |
| Snowy Owls 3 | 98% |

Whole School 93%

Target



The school day begins at 08:40

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

Headteacher Update Friday 5th December 2025

With 20 days until Christmas Day and just 1 week until our first Christmas performances, the school is buzzing with Christmas songs, sparkle and festive writing. The children have been working hard on Christmas stories across the school!

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas Fayre: for the generous raffle and tombola donations, buying tickets, helping set up and tidying away, to our wonderful PTA, and to everyone who attended. We raised nearly £3,000 which is absolutely amazing!

Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1BupsjZpGv/>

Congratulations to our Year 3 and Year 4 children for a fantastic ukulele concert on Wednesday. They have been learning throughout the term with expert tuition from Mr Arthur at Dorset Music Service, who even said they were one of the best groups he has ever worked with. The children performed confidently to an audience in school and were brilliant. We are incredibly proud of them all.

Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1WDZHKqHRP/>

Thank you to Cllr Simon Gibson, who came in to help some of our Year 3 and Year 4 children make Christmas cards. The cards will be given to guests at the community Christmas lunch who may not receive many cards. They look fantastic, thank you!

Some of our Year 4 children also visited Verwood Care Home to sing Christmas songs and spend time with the residents. It was a lovely opportunity for the children to bring some Christmas cheer to the home. Thank you for having us!

This is a very busy and magical time of year, so please check the dates below in case you miss anything. Don't forget Celebration of Achievement Afternoon next Wednesday straight after school, and entries for our Christmas Art Competition are now open.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Best wishes

Mr Graves

Celebration of Achievement Afternoon



Wednesday 10th December

Straight after school

Cllr Simon Gibson with some of our Year 4 children



Snowy Owls 1 during their Ukulele Concert!



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: "Supporting children with their homework"

Supporting homework works best when you guide rather than take over, helping your child think things through while keeping clear boundaries. Creating calm routines—like a regular time, a distraction-free space, and starting when they're fed and rested—reduces stress for everyone. Encourage mistakes, stay patient when emotions rise, and remember that homework is a chance to build confidence and resilience. 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



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



Last day of term:
Thursday 18th December

Return to school:
Tuesday 6th January 2026



Christmas Party

Wednesday 17th December
FREE MUFTI

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



Christmas Jumper Day Friday 12th December



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

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





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



Spot the Elves for a chance to win!

The Elf in the Window competition invites Verwood residents to hunt for 28 hidden elves in local shop windows, creating a festive trail through the town.



Participants who submit correct entries will enter a prize draw for Amazon vouchers, with the competition closing on 1 January 2026 and winners announced after 6 January.

Submit your entry online [here](#) or collect a paper copy from the Council Offices, Monday to Friday 9.00am-1.00pm.

Happy Hunting!



**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



We are super proud of Edward who has been enjoying scooting to drop his sister at school before scooting up a 30m hill to Hillside each day!

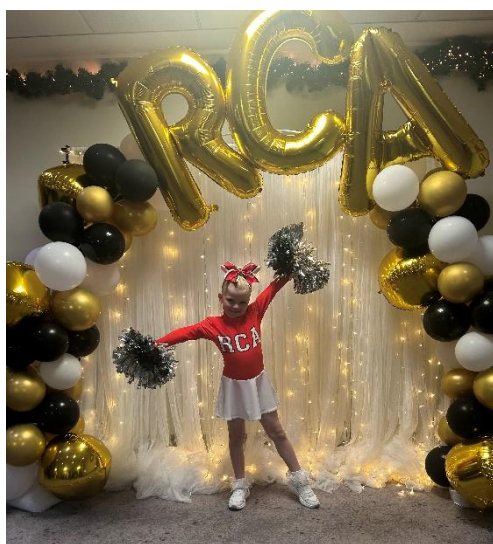


Today, he has achieved his 100km of scooting! He is determined to keep going and scoot many more km. His current aim is 500km!



Fantastic Edward, well done!

Millie completed her first Medal Test on Saturday, for Revolution Cheer Academy (RCA).



She passed with Honours earning herself her first Medal.



We are very proud of her!



Amazing Millie, 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