

# Hillside News

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



**DATES TO  
REMEMBER**



**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>  
December  
Last Day of  
term –  
children finish  
school at the  
usual time.**

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

## Headteacher Update Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2025

### Christmas is in full swing here at Hillside First School!

The children loved our Festive Writing Challenge last week. They planned and wrote their Christmas stories with real care. I always think it is important that children's writing has a purpose, and this year our stories have been shared beyond the school.

On Wednesday morning I delivered laminated copies in a folder to the teaching team at Poole Hospital. Unfortunately, hospital restrictions meant we could not take children with us, but the team were very grateful. Poole Hospital has a small classroom run by a team of three where children aged 4 to 16 can visit while in hospital. Depending on how they are feeling, they can pop into the classroom to work, and sometimes older children support younger ones. The hospital is planning to write back to say thank you.

Then, on Wednesday afternoon, sixteen children representing Reception to Year 4 visited Verwood Care Home and took it in turns to read their stories to residents. It was a lovely opportunity for both the children and the community. Next week, the stories will be scanned and emailed to Great Ormond Street Hospital so some young patients there can enjoy them. I also saw a couple of children on the ward smile when they spotted an elf, so dressing up was definitely worth it.

A huge thank you to Mrs Davis for organising the second-hand uniform shop, and to our Eco Warrior helpers who sorted and sold the items.

It was wonderful to see so many families at our Celebration of Achievement afternoon on Wednesday after school. Thank you for coming along.

It was great to see so many Christmas jumpers today. Thank you for your support. It made the school feel extra festive. It is always special to work at Hillside, especially at Christmas.

Today we had our first round of Christmas performances. Reception performed this morning, followed by Years 1 and 2 this afternoon. The children have worked so hard preparing. I loved both shows and was incredibly proud of everyone. Thank you for your help with costumes, learning lines, singing and for coming to watch.

Have a great weekend.

Mr Graves

### WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Little Owls 1	95%
Little Owls 2	87%
Tawny Owls 1	90%
Tawny Owls 2	94%
Tawny Owls 3	94%
Snowy Owls 1	95%
Snowy Owls 2	97%
Snowy Owls 3	97%

**Whole School 94%**

**Target**



**The school day begins  
at 08:40**

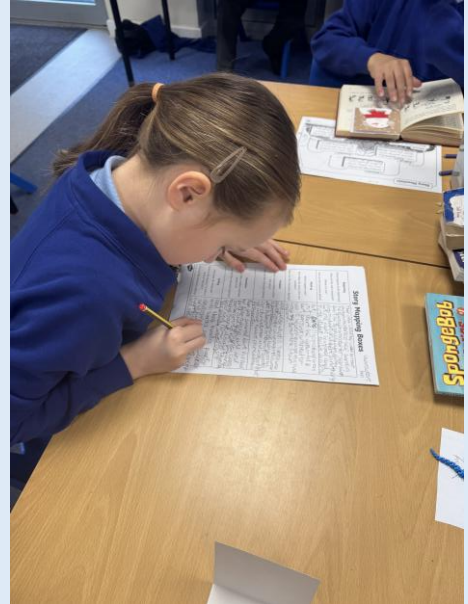
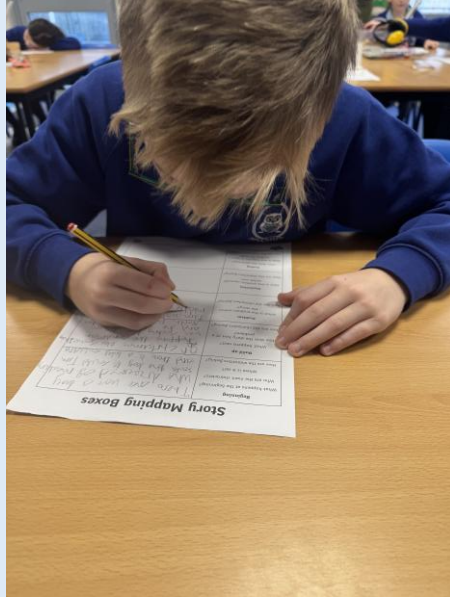
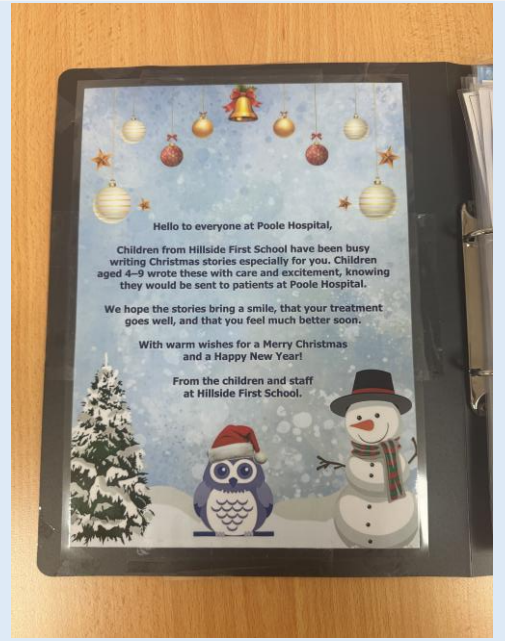
**Gates open at 08:30  
School finishes at 15:00**

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup>  
January 2026**

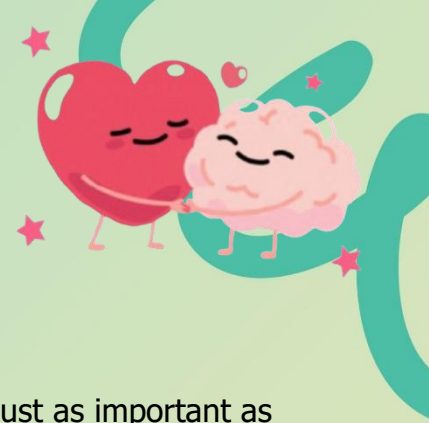


**Children return to  
school.**

# Christmas Story Writing, Poole Hospital and Verwood Care Home Visit



# 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 says, I hate you"

When a child says "I hate you," it often means they're overwhelmed and need connection, not punishment.

Staying calm, acknowledging their feelings, and revisiting the situation later helps them learn to manage big emotions.

Showing empathy and apologising if needed builds trust and supports healthier communication.

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

Place  
2Be



Click the  
logo to visit  
the website

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

# Christmas at Hillside



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

Last day of term:  
**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December**

Return to school:  
**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

A small illustration of Santa Claus in a red suit holding a white sign that says 'HAPPY HOLIDAYS!'. To the right is a snowman wearing a red hat and scarf, standing in a snowy landscape with evergreen trees.

## Christmas Party

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December

**FREE MUFTI**

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





# Meet our heroes

Daisy got her Water skills level 2 badge in swimming this week.

Well done Daisy very proud.



Fantastic Daisy, well done!



Alba has successfully completed Stage 6 in gymnastics after a year of hard work.



She is discovering her abilities and really enjoying reaching new goals and learning new skills. We are very proud of her.



Amazing Alba, well done!



# Autumn term

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## 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



## 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



## 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



## 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



# Spring term



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## January

HAPPY ★ NEW ★ YEAR

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup>**  
INSET Day



**Friday 30<sup>th</sup>**  
PTA Event

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



## February

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> - Friday 13<sup>th</sup>**  
Children's Mental  
Health Week

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup>**  
NSPCC Number Day

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>**  
Safer Internet Day

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup>**  
PTA Event  
Crazy Hair Day / Mufti  
£1.00 donation via Arbor

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup>**  
PTA Event  
Someone Special Shop  
Purchase a gift for a special  
person on Mother's Day  
Closing date to purchase on Arbor.



## March

**Week Commencing  
Monday 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
World Book Day  
week of celebrations

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
Parent Consultations  
(15:30-19:00)

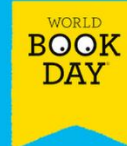
**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>**  
Parent Consultations  
(15:30-17:30)

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>**  
World Book Day  
Dress up as a character  
from one of your favourite books

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup>**  
Sponsored Bounce

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup>**  
Comic Relief

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup>**  
PTA Event  
Someone Special Shop  
Gifts Delivered Today



## April

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March to  
Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April**  
Easter  
Holidays

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup>**  
INSET Day

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
PTA Event  
The Hillside Gallery  
School / PTA Art Show

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup>**  
Class and Year 4  
leavers photographs





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