

Hillside News

Merry
Christmas



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

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

DATES TO
REMEMBER



**Tuesday 6th
January 2026**

**Children return
to school.**

Headteacher Update Thursday 18th December 2025

Well, that's a wrap and what an incredible week we've had!

We have finished our Christmas performances, enjoyed party day, shared a festive lunch, welcomed a brilliant party entertainer (huge thanks to the PTA for organising that), and even had a visit from Father Christmas himself. We also announced the winners of our Christmas Art Competition and everyone that entered received a certificate.

I've been so proud watching the shows. Our youngest children, many of whom only started this term and are just four and five, stood confidently on stage in front of a large audience, clearly reading lines they had carefully practised and singing their hearts out. Our older children fully embraced the festive spirit too, sharing limericks and jokes and really getting into the festive spirit, and performing with real confidence and joy. For our Year 4 children, this was their final Christmas performance at Hillside First School. Time really does fly. Blink and you will miss it.

The children had a fantastic time on party day. The hall was full of singing, dancing and laughter, and our festive lunch was a lovely community moment. Thanks to Jamie Jigsaw for kicking the day off and to the PTA for organising this treat. This morning, the children received gifts from Father Christmas.

Finally, a HUGE thanks to:

- our families for your continued support
- the local community
- our wonderful volunteers
- members of the local school committee
- the PTA
- our incredible staff team, who go above and beyond every day
- and most importantly, our brilliant children, who are at the heart of everything we do

This is why we do what we do.

Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year from all the children, staff and me.

Have a wonderful festive period!

Mr Graves

WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Little Owls 1	96%
Little Owls 2	91%
Tawny Owls 1	90%
Tawny Owls 2	99%
Tawny Owls 3	96%
Snowy Owls 1	98%
Snowy Owls 2	93%
Snowy Owls 3	97%

Whole School 95%

Target



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

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

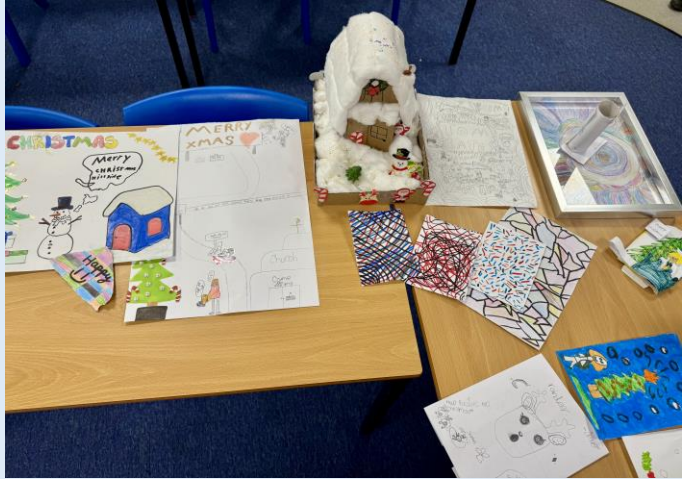
DID YOU KNOW?

Santa Claus has worn Blue and White and Green in the past, his traditional Red Suit came from a 1930s Ad By Coca Cola.



A merry Christmas

ART Competition entries



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: "Playing with my child"

Play comes in many forms—from physical and expressive to pretend and organised—and helps children explore feelings, solve problems, and understand their world. It builds emotional, social, and physical skills while strengthening your connection with them. Playing together shows children they are valued and gives them positive attention.

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



Click the
logo to visit
the website



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



Meet our heroes

We are very proud of James who completed his 25m swimming badge at the weekend, he was very happy to achieve this milestone after lots of practice.



Fantastic James, well done!



Lilianna set a New Year goal to earn her green stripe belt in karate by the end of the year and she smashed it!



With dedication and hard work, she passed her belt test last week. We are so incredibly proud of her!



Amazing Lilianna, well done!

WHAT'S ON



**POOLE FOREST
SCHOOL**

**CHRISTMAS
HOLIDAY CLUB**

22ND & 23RD DECEMBER
9AM - 1PM

- Make natural decorations
- Cook festive treats on the campfire

Fresh air and Forest School fun

BOOK ONLINE
WWW.POOLEFORESTSCHOOL.COM

UNDER 18'S YOUTH DARTS

Alderney West Community Centre
Bedford Road South
Poole BH12 4PR

Most Saturday mornings from 09:30 until 12:30,
please check before attending.

£2 per week. Refreshments available.

Players must be able to throw from the standard
throwing distance of 7ft 9¾in and be able to retrieve
their own darts from the board (stool may be used).

Please contact:
Kevin: 07841 406067
Donna: 07887 685790
for more information.



Christmas Opening Hours

Saturday 20 December	9:20 - 16:30
Monday 22 December	CLOSED
until New Years Day	
Friday 2 January 2026	9:20 - 16:30

www.bartlettsofwimborne.co.uk

Spring term



UPCOMING EVENTS

January

HAPPY ★ NEW ★ YEAR

Monday 5th
INSET Day



Friday 30th
PTA Event

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



February

Friday 6th
NSPCC Number Day



Monday 9th - Friday 13th
Children's Mental
Health Week

Tuesday 10th
Safer Internet Day

Friday 13th
'Come as Yourself' Day
Donations via Arbor.

Friday 13th
PTA Event

Someone Special Shop
Purchase a gift for a special
person on Mother's Day
Closing date to purchase on Arbor.

Monday 16th - Friday 20th
Half Term

March

Week Commencing
Monday 2nd
World Book Day
week of celebrations

Tuesday 3rd
Parent Consultations
(15:30-19:00)

Wednesday 4th
Parent Consultations
(15:30-17:30)

Thursday 5th
World Book Day
Dress up as a character
from one of your favourite books

Friday 13th
Sponsored Bounce

Friday 13th
Comic Relief

Friday 13th
PTA Event
Someone Special Shop
Gifts Delivered Today



April

Monday 30th March to
Friday 10th April
Easter
Holidays

Monday 13th
INSET Day

Wednesday 15th - Friday 17th
Year 4 Residential Trip
to Hooke Court



Wednesday 22nd
PTA Event
The Hillside Gallery
School / PTA Art Show

Monday 27th
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.

From January 2026, Computer Xplorers club will take place on Mondays.

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!!
	Computer Xplorers 15:00-16:00 (Year 1-4)	Book here
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
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