

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

Place2Be's

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

9-15 FEB 2026

WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Little Owls 1	97%
Little Owls 2	95%
Tawny Owls 1	98%
Tawny Owls 2	99%
Tawny Owls 3	97%
Snowy Owls 1	99%
Snowy Owls 2	97%
Snowy Owls 3	98%

Whole School 97%

Target

97% +

The school day begins at 08:40

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

Headteacher Update Friday 9th January 2026

Happy New Year and Welcome Back!

I hope you all had a lovely break and are feeling refreshed and recharged for the year ahead. It has been wonderful to welcome the children back this week and I've said before, it's always strange being in school without them!

We kicked off with a welcome-back assembly where we recapped our three rules of Ready, Respect, Engagement and our values of Respect, Ambition and Perseverance. We linked these to New Year's resolutions and the children shared some great ones, from mastering their breaststroke in swimming to learning more times-tables. Personally, I've set myself the goal of being a bit healthier and losing 10kg!

The children have settled in well, are working hard and are busy with their learning. Please log into Google Classroom to see their knowledge organisers for the current topics.

We have another busy term of events coming up, kindly organised by our PTA. Please check the schedule below. The first event is the school discos on Friday 30th January.

On 23rd December I attended the Christmas lunch at Crane Valley Golf Club, organised by Cllr Simon Gibson. It was a lovely opportunity to meet the residents who received the Christmas cards made by our children in Year 3 and 4. Tracy Pearson (PTA Chair) joined me and kindly gifted each guest a Hillside Christmas tree ornament. The cards were extremely well received and we've had several thank-you messages and cards dropped into school. I have included some of these below.

Finally, with the cold, wet weather we're experiencing, please ensure children come to school with the appropriate clothing e.g. coat, hat, scarf and gloves and that everything is clearly named.

Wishing you all the very best for the year ahead.

Kind regards,

Mr Graves



National Thank-you Month



3rd - J R R Tolkien

4th - Isaac Newton

8th - Elvis Presley

15th - Martin Luther King Jr

27th - Wolf Gang A Mozart

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

Star
of the
WEEK

Little
Owls 1
Carter

Little
Owls 2
Alexander

Tawny
Owls 1
Dom

Tawny
Owls 2
Lily

Tawny
Owls 3
Cohen

Snowy
Owls 1
Logan

Snowy
Owls 2
Freya

Snowy
Owls 3
Emelia



Some of the thank you notes that we received...

To all the children,

I would love to thank all the children who made such lovely cards for all our seniors at the Christmas lunch at Crane Valley.

It was such a kind thought and much appreciated and brought an extra smile to us all.

Thank you again, and especially for Estella who sent me such a cheerful card.

Wishing you all a safe, healthy and happy 2026!

And thank you to the thoughtful teachers.

A merry and Happy New Year to you all, and a very Big

Thank you for our Christmas card and present. It was a lovely surprise.

We have moved from Kent near London which was a very busy and noisy place. We like it here in Verwood as it is so quiet and we are nearer our son.

Our other son lives in Derbyshire, so it is a long way to go and see them all.

But they did come and see us at Christmas. They gave us a lovely jigsaw 2 puzzles of 100 pieces. We cannot leave them alone and on the second one now.

A Happy New Year to you all and a very Big Thank You

Dear Sir

I was so touched by the beautifully drawn and coloured Christmas card I received from Ava and therefore wish to convey my thanks. Please can you pass on the thank you card enclosed.

The community lunch was most enjoyable.

Wishing you and your staff a Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely



Meet our heroes



At the weekend, Honey completed her first boxing grading.



She did brilliantly and successfully earned her *Bronze Level 1 medal.*

Fantastic Honey, well done!



Sophia took part in her first gymnastics competition this weekend at Bournemouth University and did exceptionally well.



Sophia achieved 2nd place in the floor routine, 3rd place overall, and 6th place in vault.



Amazing Sophia, well done!



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)

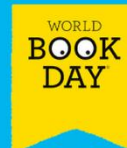
Wednesday 4th
Parent Consultations
(15:30-17:30)

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.

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