

# 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

## Headteacher Update Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2026

What a week, it has absolutely flown by. We began with an unexpected hurdle due to the roadworks, but these were quickly resolved. Thank you for your patience.

On Monday I had the pleasure of showing two members of our Local School Committee around the school. They review standards across the school and hold me to account for delivering our School Improvement Plan. They were impressed by the children's engagement and the high quality of teaching they observed. Yesterday morning I also showed three prospective families around the school. While they were waiting, the children were finishing their singing assembly led by Mrs Pain. It is always wonderful to hear the school singing and these moments are very special. I was extremely proud to show the school to our visitors and to see the children working hard in their learning.

Later this term we will be running a series of short workshops and information sessions for parents about how we teach reading and maths. You will already be familiar with our knowledge organisers, which outline the key learning covered each term. These sessions will focus more on the teaching approaches and strategies, including ways you can support learning at home. Further details will be shared soon.

The Department for Education has designated 2026 as the National Year of Reading, a nationwide campaign to encourage more people to read for pleasure. As a school we will be thinking about how we can continue to promote reading across the year through author visits, reading challenges, reading buddies and parent workshops, and we will share ways you can get involved.

On Monday I also met with our School Parliament, who shared their ideas and plans for the term ahead. Their first priority is Hillside's Got Talent 3, which will take place after half term. They will share further details with the children over the coming weeks for anyone who would like to take part. Monday also saw some of our Year 4 pupils take part in a Bikeability session run by Nicola Hindmarch through Dorset Council. A huge thank you to Nicola for running this session for the children.

Have a great weekend!

Kind regards, Mr Graves

### WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

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

Whole School 97%

Target



The school day begins at 08:40

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



THANK YOU National Thank-you Month



- 3<sup>rd</sup> - J R R Tolkien
- 4<sup>th</sup> - Isaac Newton
- 8<sup>th</sup> - Elvis Presley
- 15<sup>th</sup> - Martin Luther King Jr
- 27<sup>th</sup> - Wolf Gang A Mozart

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

**Star**  
of the  
**WEEK**

Little  
Owls 1  
**Harry**

Little  
Owls 2  
**Myla**

Tawny  
Owls 1  
**Alfie**

Tawny  
Owls 2  
**Evren**

Tawny  
Owls 3  
**Harley**

Snowy  
Owls 1  
**Riley**

Snowy  
Owls 2  
**Vinnie**

Snowy  
Owls 3  
**Luca**



# COME AS YOURSELF DAY

## FRIDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY

Let's celebrate what makes you, you!

To support Mental Health Week, children are invited to come to school dressed in anything that helps them feel confident and comfortable - cosy clothes, favourite colours or something uniquely them.



Donations are very welcome and can be made via the shop on Arbor.



All money raised will be used to create a wellbeing area in each classroom.



Check out the Mental Health section of our website [here](#).

DORSET CREATIVE DANCE



HILLSIDE FIRST SCHOOL

# DANCE CLUB



AFTER SCHOOL

Creative dance that builds confident, expressive children for pupils attending Hillside First School  
Password for booking: Hillside2026

**Mondays 3pm**  
Reception,  
Years 1 & 2

e: [info@dorsetcreativedance.co.uk](mailto:info@dorsetcreativedance.co.uk)  
t: 07759 949 478

[www.dorsetcreativedance.co.uk](http://www.dorsetcreativedance.co.uk)

**Mondays 4pm**  
Years 3 & 4

Bookings now open through our website!

## Free community session: 'An Introduction to Autism'



### What is the session about?

The session was co-developed with parents of autistic children, a SENCo, Dorset Parent Carer Council and Specialist Teachers and Educational Psychologists from Dorset Council.

### It will help you to:

- Understand what autism is and how it may impact young people and families
- Learn some practical strategies to support an autistic child/young person

Please note, this is a general information session, so we won't be able to discuss individual children or schools.

### Who can attend?

Anyone from the community, this could include people:

- with an autistic child
- with a child undergoing an assessment for autism
- who are interested in learning more about autism

### Where and when?

Leigh Park Family Hub and Community Centre, Gordon Road, Wimborne, Dorset, BH21 2AP - Tuesday 3rd March 2026 at 10:00am until 11:30am

### Event Registration

Scan the QR code or use the link below to register:



Registration Link: [Click here to book](#)

The session will be delivered by either an Educational Psychologist or a Specialist Teacher from Dorset Council

# DISCO NIGHT

30th January  
3pm to 4.30pm - Yr R/1  
5pm to 6.30pm - Yr2/3/4  
Tickets £3.50

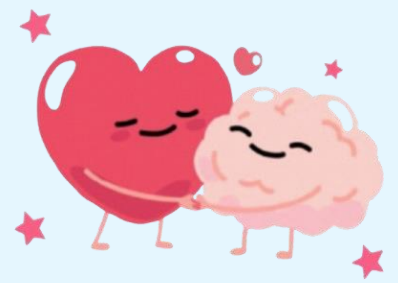


Water is available and sweets will be handed out at the end of the Disco

Please arrange the collection of your child from the School Hall Please do not send your children in with Sweets for H&S reasons

To run this event we do need volunteers, please email the pta email address if you can help.

# 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: "Trouble Sleeping"

Children often struggle with sleep, but a calm, consistent bedtime routine and practical steps like reducing screens, avoiding sugary foods, ensuring daytime exercise, and creating a soothing environment can help. Check for emotional factors that may affect sleep and gently guide your child back to bed when needed. Progress can be slow, so keep going and be kind to yourself.

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](#).

# 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

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup>**

NSPCC Number Day



**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> - Friday 13<sup>th</sup>**

Children's Mental Health Week



**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>**

Safer Internet Day

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

'Come as Yourself' Day  
Donations 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.



**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> - Friday 20<sup>th</sup>**

Half Term



## 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>**

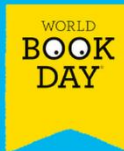
Parent Consultations  
(15:30-17:30)



**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



# Easter

## April

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

Easter  
Holidays



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

INSET Day

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> - Friday 17<sup>th</sup>**

Year 4 Residential Trip  
to Hooke Court



**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
MONDAY	<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>Hillside2026</b>
	<b>Computer Xplorers</b> 15:00-16:00 (Year 1-4)	Book <a href="#">here</a>
TUESDAY	<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
THURSDAY	<b>Forest School</b> 15:00-16:00	Book <a href="#">here</a>
FRIDAY	<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)