

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 23rd January 2026

It has certainly been wet and windy this week, but that hasn't stopped our children from getting on with their learning. There has been a real buzz around school and lots of highlights to celebrate.

We began the week with an assembly where I checked in on the children's New Year's resolutions and we talked about the government's Year of Reading and what that may mean for us. Nick the Vicar also visited, and we rounded the week off with our Celebration Assembly, always a favourite of mine.

Year R have been busy practising their handwriting, printing with vegetables and making houses for Sid from Six Dinner Sid. They have also begun learning about measurement, weighing and comparing. There has been lots of creative learning happening in the classroom.

Years 3 and 4 have been planning their stories linked to the text they are studying, The Wolves of Currumpaw. Years 1 and 2 are planning non-chronological reports about mini-beasts. There have been many opportunities for writing and exploration across the school this week.

Looking ahead to next week, don't forget the school discos on Friday 30th January. Tickets are available via Arbor. This day will also be a whole-school mufti day.

A story in the news this week that caught my eye was the "Every Minute Matters" campaign, which is raising awareness of CPR across the UK. Some football matches in February will start one minute later than usual to remind people how important quick action can be in an emergency. I have first-hand experience of the importance of this and the difference it can make. It's a simple but powerful way to spread life-saving knowledge.

Wishing you a wonderful weekend.
Mr Graves

WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Little Owls 1	96%
Little Owls 2	95%
Tawny Owls 1	97%
Tawny Owls 2	97%
Tawny Owls 3	93%
Snowy Owls 1	97%
Snowy Owls 2	97%
Snowy Owls 3	90%

Whole School 95%

Target



The school day begins at 08:40

Gates open at 08:30

School finishes at 15:00



We would kindly like to remind everyone that disabled parking spaces are reserved for drivers who display a valid Blue Badge.

Recently, there have been occasions when these spaces have been used by vehicles without a badge, which may prevent access for those who rely on them.

We appreciate your understanding and co-operation in helping to keep these spaces available for those who need them.

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

Star
of the
WEEK

Little
Owls 1
Evie

Little
Owls 2
Jaxon

Tawny
Owls 1
Casey

Tawny
Owls 2
Jaxon

Tawny
Owls 3
Bella

Snowy
Owls 1
Oscar

Snowy
Owls 2
Ethan

Snowy
Owls 3
Tessa



Yesterday afternoon Hillside First School was proud to welcome some of our friends from Verwood House Care Home for a heart-warming community visit. A small group of our children joined residents for mindful colouring while singing together, with song requests from ABBA to Taylor Swift.

It was a pleasure to see different generations enjoying time together, sharing stories and smiles. A big thank you to Verwood House and to the children and staff who took part. We hope to do more events like this soon!



COME AS YOURSELF DAY

FRIDAY 13TH 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](#).



HALF TERM CAMP





Hands-on Science!

5-11yrs

9:30am - 3pm

16th, 17th, 18th & 19th February

Hillside First School,
VERWOOD, BH31 7PG

FEBRUARY FUN! (5 - 12yrs) at VERWOOD-Hillside First School, Verwood, Dorset. MadScienceWessex | Powered by ClassForKids

Limited Places

20

Junior Mad Scientists per camp

4-day Package

£120

Single Day

£36

Book here




Contact us on info@madsciencewessex.co.uk

Inspiring Scientists of the Future

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 is "My child pushes my buttons" and "How to ignore irritating behaviours".**



Click the logo to visit the website

"My child pushes my buttons"

Children can trigger strong emotions in parents, but recognising your "buttons" and stepping back before reacting helps reduce conflict. Stay calm, take breaks if needed, apologise if you overreact, and seek support when overwhelmed. Managing your reactions teaches children healthy ways to handle emotions and preserves your authority.

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

"How to ignore irritating behaviours effectively"

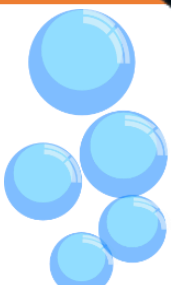
Selective ignoring helps reduce attention-seeking misbehaviour by calmly not reacting to safe but irritating actions, while continuing to give regular positive attention. Be clear about expectations, focus on one behaviour at a time, and praise your child promptly when they display the desired behaviour. This teaches self-control and encourages positive habits.

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

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



Meet our heroes



Bella has progressed to Stage 3 in her swimming and has successfully completed Stage 2.



She is very pleased and is now swimming in the deep end!



Fantastic Bella, well done!



George put in a brilliant game for the Verwood Town U9 Eagles on Sunday.



Scoring a goal during a difficult game, contributing to other opportunities earning him Player of the Match.



Amazing George, 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: Hillside2026
	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