

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



Headteacher Update Friday 30th January 2026

What a wet week! We were visited by Storm Chandra, the third named storm to affect the UK this month after Goretta and Ingrid, and it caused a fair amount of disruption across the county. A number of schools were forced to close and travel proved tricky at times. The Wimborne–Cranborne road was particularly treacherous on Tuesday morning and I found myself stuck in a flooded stretch, the worst I've seen recently, but thankfully I managed to get through. I hope you were all safe on your journeys.

In Monday's assembly we focused on our rule of respect, which is one of our core school values, as well as a Trust and British value, making it an especially important one. We looked at the work the Football Association is doing to promote respect in the game, including how positive behaviour helps ensure football matches are safe, fair and enjoyable for everyone, including fans, players and referees. We also discussed practical examples of respectful behaviour that we can all show both in and out of school.

On 27th January it was International Holocaust Remembrance Day. While we did not mark this formally in school, it is still a moment to reflect on its significance. If we held a minute's silence for every Jewish victim of the Holocaust, we would be silent for at least 11 years. Our children are too young to learn about this history in detail, but it reminds us of the importance of kindness, compassion and understanding.

Finally, a quick update on the cleared area next to the Year 1 and Year 2 playground. We are aiming to have this space ready to open after half term. Our School Parliament have been gathering ideas and suggestions from their peers, and we are hopeful that some brighter weather will allow us to get everything ready.

Have a great weekend.

Mr Graves

WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Little Owls 1	83%
Little Owls 2	88%
Tawny Owls 1	96%
Tawny Owls 2	99%
Tawny Owls 3	97%
Snowy Owls 1	96%
Snowy Owls 2	97%
Snowy Owls 3	92%

Whole School 93%

Target



The school day begins at 08:40

Gates open at 08:30

School finishes at 15:00

Our 3 school rules:



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



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

[Book here](#)

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

Limited Places	4-day Package	Single Day
20 Junior Mad Scientists per camp	£120	£36

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



Parenting Support and advice to help manage challenging behaviours

We offer **evidence-based parenting programmes and advice** to support parents and carers of children aged **3-11 years** to help you understand your child's behaviours and support their development, using positive, practical strategies.

What we offer:

- Weekly parenting programmes (8-15 weeks)
- Group or 1-to-1 support
- Face-to-face and some virtual sessions

- 📅 Programmes from **January 2026**
- 📅 Information sessions **March & April 2026**
- 👉 Find out more and book online [here](#).

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.

Mental Health Matters

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.

"My child keeps getting angry"

It's common for children to express anger through outbursts or aggression, but staying calm, helping them recognise their feelings early, and teaching coping strategies can make a big difference.

Role-modelling healthy anger management and supporting activities that build confidence also help reduce frustration.

With guidance and practice, children can learn to manage anger in safer, calmer ways.

Supporting information can be found [here](#)

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: Anger and De-escalation".



Click the logo to visit the website

"De-escalation techniques"

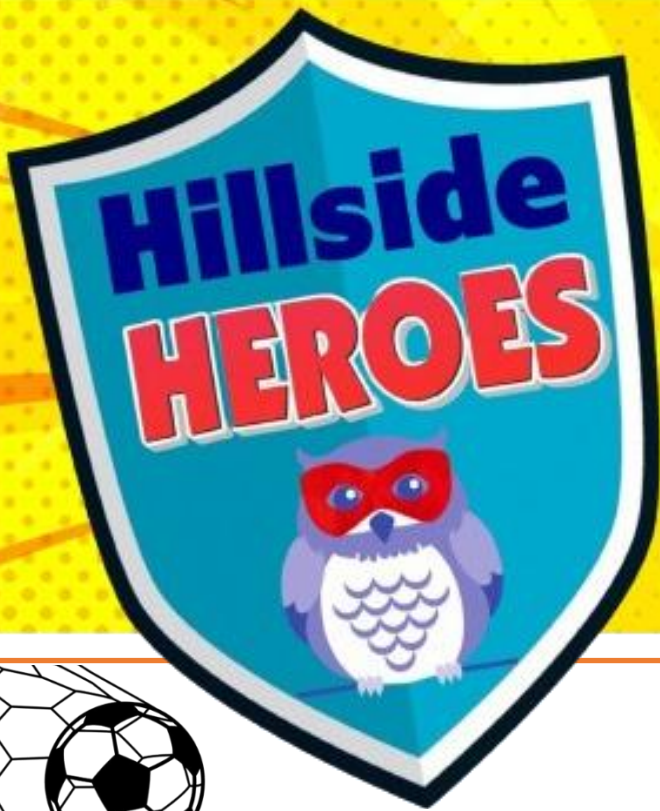
De-escalation with children involves recognising the six stages of the escalation cycle and responding with calm, supportive actions at each phase.

By staying regulated ourselves, we can guide children through big emotions, prevent behaviours from intensifying, and repair effectively afterward.

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



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



Meet our heroes



Ethan has settled really well into his new football team, Verwood Comets. He is a fantastic team player who is really supportive of his team mates.



Because of his supportive nature and exemplary behaviour during training sessions he was chosen to be Captain for their first ever match. The Comets have played 2 matches to date, winning them both 10-0 and 5-0 respectively.

Well done Ethan we are super proud of you!!!



Fantastic Ethan, well done!



Celebrate your child's success

Just a reminder to send in your child's achievement for inclusion in our '**Hillside Heroes**' feature of the school newsletter.

We would love to celebrate something your child is proud of! This could be earning a swimming badge, creating a piece of artwork, learning to ride a bike, mastering a times table, or any other personal achievement.

Please email a photo along with a short description to office@hillsidefirstschool.org for consideration.

Submissions will be feature in the order they are received.

Please note, that we can accept **one submission per child, per academic year.**





Hillside First school Preloved clothing sale



Uniform being outgrown?

REDUCE, REUSE AND RECYCLE

Come and check out our bargains!

Wednesday 11th February 2026

Straight after school at the back of the TLC by Little Owls 1 door.

Pick up a bargain!

If you cannot make it; please fill out the google form and let us know what you need and we will see what we can find for you.

We will send out a note to your class teacher if we have found something suitable. It will be available to collect from Mrs Davis in Little Owls 2 on the 12, 13 th February straight after school.

<https://forms.gle/9aASRbKMdtDky5BT7>



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



WORLD
BOOK
DAY



RED
NOSE
DAY



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