

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 6th February 2026

This week we began with an assembly about the recent floods, learning about some of the world's largest rivers, what a river is, and the impact of climate change. It has also been wonderful to see the children enjoying playtimes outside again.

I have had many visitors to my office this week proudly showing outstanding work, including superb maths, beautiful letter formation, and some incredible art. It is a real pleasure to see their efforts and to award a few Headteacher stickers.

A massive thank you to our wonderful PTA for organising the school disco last Friday. It was probably the busiest we have seen them, and it was fantastic to watch the children enjoying themselves so much.

Today we celebrated NSPCC Number Day. Mr West, our maths leader, led a Number Day assembly, and the children took part in a school number competition. The winners will be announced next week.

Looking ahead, Safer Internet Day will be on Tuesday 10th February, and next week is Children's Mental Health Week. Friday 13th February will be our Come As Yourself Day, when children are invited to wear whatever makes them feel confident and comfortable, including cosy outfits.

Finally, the Men's Six Nations has already started. England's first match against Wales is always a passionate occasion, and we wish the England team the best of luck.

Have a great weekend!

Mr Graves

WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Little Owls 1	84%
Little Owls 2	81%
Tawny Owls 1	89%
Tawny Owls 2	93%
Tawny Owls 3	88%
Snowy Owls 1	94%
Snowy Owls 2	99%
Snowy Owls 3	98%

Whole School 90%

Target



The school day begins at 08:40

Gates open at 08:30

School finishes at 15:00



We kindly remind all parents and carers to switch off their engines while waiting in the drop-off zone, especially before the gates open.

Idling vehicles affect air quality around the school and can make the environment less pleasant for children and families.

A small action like turning off the engine helps us all put our children's wellbeing first.

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

Star
of the
WEEK

Little
Owls 1
Julia

Little
Owls 2
Aria

Tawny
Owls 1
Louise

Tawny
Owls 2
Toby

Tawny
Owls 3
Jayden

Snowy
Owls 1
Layla

Snowy
Owls 2
Gruffydd

Snowy
Owls 3
Alfie



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](#).



NEW
After School
Club starting
after half term

AFTER-SCHOOL CLUB

Complement Your Child's Learning Experience with a Mad Science After-School Club. Our unique approach gives children a solid scientific foundation beyond the classroom, through hands-on activities and spectacular demonstrations.

Sign Up for your course today
Hillside First School

Launch into 2025 with Mad Science. Explore different and varied topics each week.

Day and Time: **Tuesday 3:00pm - 4:00pm**

Dates: **24th February - 24th March**

Programme Duration: **5 x 1hr sessions**

Cost: **£45**

Please register by: **Friday 13th February 2026**

Register **ONLINE**

Visit [Wessex.madscience.org](https://www.wessex.madscience.org) click **REGISTER HERE**

This will take you to the booking page run by Class4kids

If you are unable to access the internet, please call us to register by phone 01980 611807

Registration will be available until **13th February 26**

Please ensure you register by this date to secure your child a place. In the interest of fairness, places are allocated on a first-come first-served basis.

Please note: Successful online registration with full payment secures your child's place on our After-School Club programme unless you are otherwise contacted.

For further information or if you encounter any problems please don't hesitate to contact us: info@madsciencewessex.co.uk

Due to the nature of this After School Club, all students will be expected to behave in an appropriate manner and adhere to the rules of the school and of Mad Science. Any child who consistently does not behave will be asked to leave the After School Club and will not be entitled to a refund.

[wessex.madscience.org](https://www.wessex.madscience.org)

01980 611807

AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

BIRTHDAY PARTIES

CAMPS

SPECIAL EVENTS

WORKSHOPS

Poole Forest School

February Half-Term

HOLIDAY CLUB

16th - 20th Feb, 9am - 1pm

Ofsted registered



Outdoor Fun



Screen-Free



Safe & Experienced



- Learn to use tools, build dens,
- cook on the campfire.

Book online at www.PooleForestSchool.com



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](#).

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: "Feeling sad or low"

Changes in behaviour, like sleep issues, irritability, or withdrawal, can signal that a child is feeling sad or low.

Gently acknowledge what you've noticed, help them name their feelings, and stay calm as you support them. Give them space to feel sad, and when they're ready, encourage comforting or enjoyable activities to help lift their mood.

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

Practical tips for parents and carers

The publication [here](#) gives parents and carers practical tips for making everyday conversations about feelings and mental health easier, including discussing challenges like anxiety or low mood.



Click the logo to visit the website

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



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)

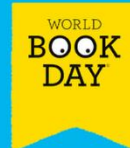
Wednesday 4th
Parent Consultations
(15:30-17:30)

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

Friday 13th
Sponsored Bounce

Friday 20th
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
	Mad Science 15:00-16:00 (Year 1-4)	Book here
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