

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 13th February 2026

Well, the wet weather just won't leave us alone, but it certainly hasn't dampened spirits. It has been an action-packed week!

To kick things off, we welcomed Stephen Gilham to lead a whole-school assembly and tell the story of the Good Samaritan. On Tuesday we marked Safer Internet Day with age-appropriate activities across the school. On Monday our School Parliament members visited the Mayor, please see the report below. We have also been celebrating the very important topic of mental health all week and finished with our Come As Yourself Day, recognising that everyone is individual and awesome in their own way.

Over the years I have been pleased to see mental health talked about and recognised much more. Not so long ago the message was "get on with it", which was not right. Sharing thoughts, feelings, worries and concerns is massively important. We aim to provide these opportunities through our PSHE curriculum and informally in a variety of stage-appropriate ways.

For Safer Internet Day, children across the school took part in lessons designed to help them stay safe online. Our youngest children explored the story of Smartie the Penguin and learned what to do if they see something that makes them feel uncomfortable. Year 1 and 2 discussed how to respond to frightening content, pop-ups and managing screen time, while Year 3 and 4 engaged with BBC online lessons and explored the safe use of AI, including why it is important not to rely on it.

As part of Children's Mental Health Week, pupils focused on understanding emotions, building resilience and recognising their own strengths. The children discussed mistakes and perseverance, identified strategies to help them feel calm, and talked about the importance of speaking to trusted adults if they are worried or upset. Older pupils also reflected on the theme "Know yourself, grow yourself" and completed activities celebrating what makes them unique. Just sharing this link as well, which I hope might be of use to parents: <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/>

With a great start from the England rugby team in the Six Nations and some heroic performances at the Winter Olympics, sport has not stopped at school! Alongside high-energy BenchBall games and dance lessons, some of our Year 4 children took part in the Rippa Rugby Festival at Chapel Gate. A huge thank you to Miss Zachariades for organising everything and taking the children, and also to Mrs Day and Coach Elliott for attending and supporting on the day.

Wishing you all a great half term as we reach the halfway point of the academic year already. We have lots of fun activities planned for the children when they return. Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support, and to our hard-working and dedicated staff team, volunteers, PTA, Local School Committee, everyone else involved with the school, and of course our wonderful children.

Have a lovely weekend and a restful half term. Mr Graves

WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Little Owls 1	91%
Little Owls 2	92%
Tawny Owls 1	96%
Tawny Owls 2	97%
Tawny Owls 3	93%
Snowy Owls 1	96%
Snowy Owls 2	99%
Snowy Owls 3	96%

Whole School 95%

Target



The school day begins at 08:40

Gates open at 08:30

School finishes at 15:00

INSET DAY

Monday 23rd February



Children return on Tuesday 24th February

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



Hillside's School Parliament Members visit the Mayor!

On Monday, our School Parliament visited Mayor Cllr. Spencer Flower and Town Clerk Carrie Lloyd. The children asked thoughtful questions and were praised for being so well prepared.

To their delight, the Town Council has generously donated £250! Our children voted to spend it on new P.E. equipment.

What a brilliant experience for everyone. A huge thank you to Cllr. Spencer Flower, Carrie Lloyd and the Town Council for their support!



Hillside's Rugby Team

Yesterday some of our Year 4 pupils represented Hillside First School at a Rugby Festival held at Chapel Gate. They played a number of other schools and consistently demonstrated rugby's core values of teamwork, respect and resilience.



A huge thank you to Sam Knapp and Time 2 Display for sponsoring our brilliant new rugby kit. The players looked fantastic.



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



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 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 enquiries@wessex.madscience.org

Due to the nature of the Mad Science Club, places will be awarded to those that complete a booking form and attend to the club in the school and at Mad Science. Any child who does not attend will be added to some Mad Science Clubs and will not be eligible to re-join.

wessex.madscience.org **01980 611807**

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](#).



Meet our heroes

Just before Christmas Myla earned 6 swimming badges!



We are very proud of her as before summer she wouldn't even put her head in the water and now she's swimming confidently on her own.



Amazing Myla,
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.



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

Monday 23rd
INSET day

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



Wednesday 18th
Little Owls School Trip



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