

Hillside News

DATES TO REMEMBER



Parent consultations are taking place next week.

There are still a few spaces if you haven't booked a slot yet.



Hillside First School

where children are at the heart of everything we do



www.hillsidefirstschool.org ~ 01202 822737 ~ office@hillsidefirstschool.org



Headteacher Update Friday 27th February 2026

I hope you all had a lovely half term!

On our training day, we focused on helping children become confident speakers and listeners. We agreed a consistent approach to teaching oracy skills across the school.

A key focus was vocabulary. The words children know make a huge difference to their confidence and success in learning. We looked at how we introduce new, ambitious words and make sure all children understand and use them regularly. By hearing, practising and revisiting new vocabulary over time, we help children build strong language foundations for every subject.

This week also saw the publication of the government's landmark Schools White Paper, Every Child Achieving and Thriving, published on Monday 23rd February. The proposals set out a plan to halve the attainment gap between disadvantaged children and their peers and to reform parts of the SEND system. If you would like to read the parent leaflet summarising the reforms, you can find it here: [link](#)

We have also opened the new play zone for Year 1 and Year 2. It has been really popular and it has been brilliant to watch the children enjoying imaginative, creative play and making the most of the new space.

Reception had a fantastic start to their new topic, "Teddy Bears". The children brought their teddies into school and there was lots of excitement. The staff got involved too and I popped in with my teddy for a visit. I wonder how many of you still have a teddy from when you were little?

Looking ahead, next week will be another busy one with Parent Consultations and World Book Day on Thursday. Please find further details below. We cannot wait!

Have a great weekend.

Mr Graves

WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Little Owls 1	99%
Little Owls 2	92%
Tawny Owls 1	97%
Tawny Owls 2	93%
Tawny Owls 3	90%
Snowy Owls 1	100%
Snowy Owls 2	98%
Snowy Owls 3	99%

Whole School 96%

Target



The school day begins at 08:40

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



WORLD BOOK DAY

5 MARCH 2026

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



HAPPY WORLD BOOK DAY

5th
March
2026



Thursday 5th March 2026

The children are invited to come to school dressed as a character from their favourite book.



**AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR VISIT:
LYNDA STEWART**

**Tuesday 3rd and Thursday 5th March
(1.00pm – 3.30pm)**



Lynda will read her children's stories of the adventures of Buttercup and Cookie to the Reception and KS1 children, in the afternoon.

Signed copies of her books will be available to buy, outside under the shelter, at the end of the day. Books cost £4.99 or £5.99 and both cash and card are accepted.

Ideal for special, personalised birthday gifts and to celebrate World Book Day! Please look at the website for more details:

www.dorsetdaisybookpublishing.co.uk



To celebrate World Book Day, there will be a book fair on:



**Thursday 5th March
3.00pm in The Roost**

The children will have the opportunity to visit the book fair during the school day and create a wish list of books they like.

Families are invited to visit and see these books after school.

World Book Day tokens can be used.

If you cannot attend in person, you can order online via the QR code below:



<https://usborne.com/gb/partner/happilyreading>

The shop will be open from
5th - 8th March

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

"My child says no"

Children often say "no" when they're seeking control, worried, or overwhelmed, so stepping back to understand the reason can prevent battles. Naming the situation, offering choices, keeping clear routines, and helping them build empathy all reduce conflict. With patience and positive attention, cooperation becomes easier.

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

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 "Arguments" and "My child says no".**

"Arguments"

Arguments are normal, but noticing when tensions rise, acknowledging your child's feelings, and modelling calm responses can stop conflicts from escalating. After things cool down, apologise if needed, reset together, and focus on positive interactions. Clear boundaries, choosing your battles, and shared enjoyable moments help prevent arguments from defining your relationship.

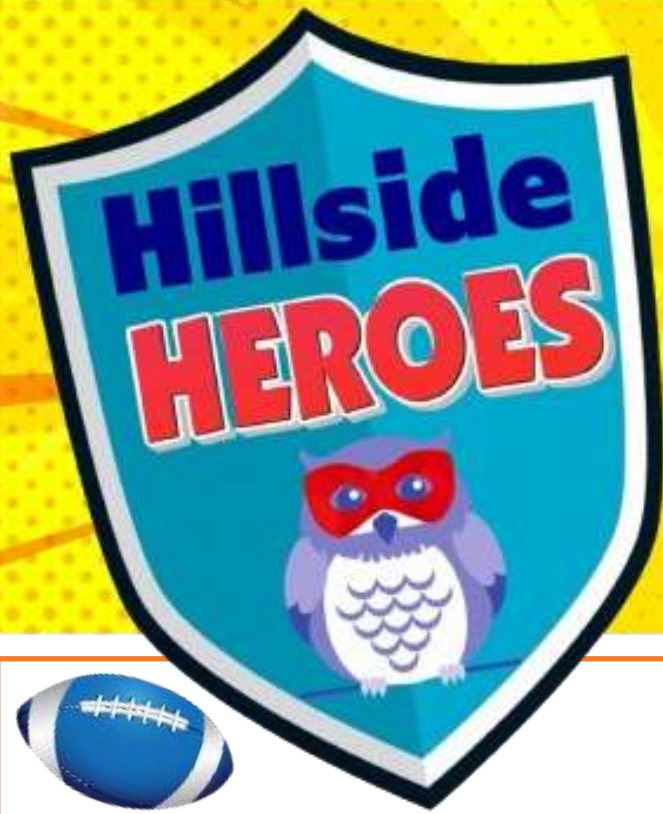
Information and video can be found [here](#).

Place
2Be

Click the
logo to visit
the website



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



Meet our heroes



Harry tried really hard at rugby tots this weekend and got player of the week. We are very proud of him.



Amazing Harry, well done!

Jude's very proud of himself learning to ride a bike without stabilisers. It was a wobbly start but in no time at all he was off with great determination.



Brilliant achievement Jude, we're so excited and pleased for you. Now for a bigger bike!!



Fantastic Jude, 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



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



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



BARTLETTS SCHOOLWEAR

Primary School Uniform

10%
OFF

2-8 March | Online Only

Use Code: **MARCHOFFER** >>

- ✓ Quality uniform
- ✓ School logos included
- ✓ Delivered to your door

Shop Now at
bartlettsofwimborne.co.uk



Terms & Conditions - 10% Off Primary School Uniform Promotion - The promotion offers 10% off selected primary school uniform garments featuring the official school logo. This offer is valid online only and cannot be redemmed in-store. To receive the discount customers must enter the promotional code MARCHOFFER at checkout. The offer is valid from Monday 2nd March until Sunday 8th March inclusive. The discount applies to full-priced items only. The promotion applies to selected garments only and excludes non-logo items and any products specifically included in the offer. The offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other promotion, discount, or offer. The discount has no cash alternative and is non-transferable. We reserve the right to withdraw or amend the promotion at any time without prior notice.

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.**



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