

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 March 2026

I hope you've had a good week. We have certainly enjoyed the brighter weather and made the most of being outside.

This week's assembly focused on school uniform. We heard about a school in Wales that is changing its uniform rules so children must wear either shorts or trousers and skirts will no longer be allowed. The school says this will make the uniform fairer for everyone. We discussed our own school uniform and the sense of belonging it can provide.

We had a great turnout for parents' evenings this week and it was wonderful to see so many of you in school. Working in partnership with home is priceless and brings enormous benefits for the children. Thank you again for your ongoing support.

Yesterday we celebrated World Book Day at Hillside First School. It was fantastic to see the children getting involved and sharing their love of reading, and there were some wonderful costumes on display. The children enjoyed a day focused on reading, including an author information assembly where each class shared facts about the author they had been learning about. The older children also enjoyed book buddy time, reading with the younger pupils. We were delighted to welcome a visiting author from Usborne Reading, along with a range of other reading activities throughout the day.

Just a reminder to please send through your Hillside Heroes requests. This can be anything from baking at home, playing a musical instrument, drawing a picture, making something, swimming, receiving an award outside of school, or helping a grown up. We really value your submissions, so please send these through to the school office.

Sponsored Bounce is back. Our wonderful PTA has organised this for next Friday and it always brings lots of excitement while raising money for our school.

Have a great weekend.

Best wishes

Dave Graves

WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Little Owls 1	97%
Little Owls 2	97%
Tawny Owls 1	99%
Tawny Owls 2	99%
Tawny Owls 3	95%
Snowy Owls 1	99%
Snowy Owls 2	97%
Snowy Owls 3	99%

Whole School **98%**

Target



The school day begins at 08:40

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



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



Jump FOR Joy

ON THE 13TH MARCH 2026

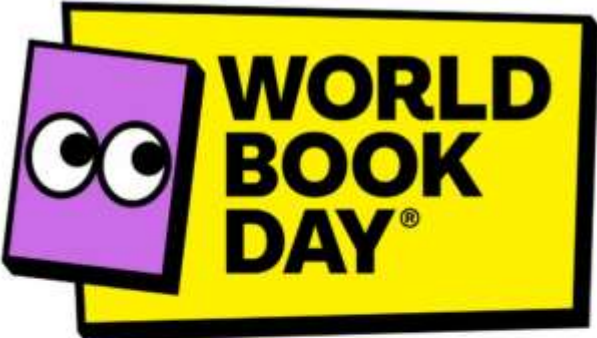


HILLSIDE SPONSORED BOUNCE

PLEASE HELP HILLSIDE RAISE FUNDS
FOR OUR NEW PLAY BRIDGE.

PLEASE SEND THE SPONSORSHIP MONEY IN
A SEALED, NAMED ENVELOPE BY THE
26TH MARCH.

PRIZE TO BE WON FOR MOST
MONEY RAISED AND MOST BOUNCES.



We had a fantastic time celebrating World Book Day at Hillside! Children and staff came dressed as their favourite book characters, shared wonderful stories together, and enjoyed a range of fun reading activities throughout the day.

The excitement continued with our book fair, finishing with a book sale at the end of the school day. What a brilliant celebration of reading!



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: "Reading with your child"

Reading together strengthens your child's love of stories, builds early literacy skills, and creates meaningful bonding time that supports emotional wellbeing. Just ten minutes a day can make a big difference, and there's no "right" way to do it—patience, encouragement, and shared enjoyment matter most.

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

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



Meet our heroes

Gruff went lane swimming with his dad and sister for the first time this week. He was confident swimming on his own and ended up doing 1000m which is incredible! Well done Gruff :)

Amazing Gruff, well done!



BARTLETTS SCHOOLWEAR

Primary School Uniform

2-8 March | Online Only

Use Code: **MARCHOFFER** >>

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

Shop Now at
bartlettsofwimborne.co.uk

**10%
OFF**



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 officially 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.

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



Easter

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 other'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



Friday 13th
PTA Event
Someone Special Shop
Gifts Delivered Today



Wednesday 18th
Little Owls School Trip



Friday 20th
Comic Relief



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





Easter Egg Hunt *At Verwood House*

Hop into the Easter spirit with a Easter egg hunt the whole family will love! Join us for a springtime adventure filled with chocolate, nature, and community cheer.

📅 Saturday 21st March | 🕒 10am - 12pm



Entry is £2 per child, with all proceeds going towards Julia's House. Every child who finds all the eggs will receive a small Easter treat!

42-44 Ringwood Road, Verwood, Dorset, BH31 7AH
01202 812250 | Verwood.Rec@hamberleycarehomes.co.uk

Join us at
**Verwood United
Reformed Church**
for a fun
Easter Event! 🐣
Saturday 28th March
10am to 12noon

Free activities for children
Biscuit decorating 🍪
Easter crafts 🐰
Story corner 📖
Colouring 🖍️

All ages welcome!

The Children's Toothbrushing Guide


has been created to help nurseries and early years settings share clear, trusted advice with families about caring for young children's teeth.

Developed with the early years sector, including the British Society of Paediatric Dentistry and the Oral Health Foundation, the guide promotes good oral health from the earliest years and includes helpful information on:

- When and how to brush young children's teeth
- Practical tips for building toothbrushing into daily home routines
- Other ways to support children's oral health
- Inclusive advice for families of children with SEND

The guide aims to make toothbrushing simple, positive, and part of everyday family life.

The guide can be found on our website [here](#).



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