

# 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 13<sup>h</sup> March 2026

What a great week!

We started the week with some brilliant news from Lizzie, who ran the Usborne Book Sale on World Book Day. Thanks to your support, £110 worth of books will be reinvested back into the school. We are looking forward to receiving them before the Easter holidays.

We are also delighted that our Play Leaders have started again this term. Our fantastic group of children are helping to organise games and activities at lunchtime so that everyone can join in and have fun.

A huge thank you to Stephen Dowse who delivered a captivating assembly to our Year 3 and 4 children about his adventures in Botswana and some of the animals he has photographed.

Year 3 and 4 also took part in an NHS Careers Day organised by Mrs Andrews. She shared the following about the day:

*Years 3 and 4 took part in the 'Step into the NHS Careers Day' today. It was an opportunity to explore the vast range of job and career opportunities within the NHS. Did you know there are over 350 different roles in the NHS? We took part in a 'guess the role' activity where we had to work out what job someone did from the description of their duties. We heard from a Play Therapist, a Physiotherapist, a Mental Health Nurse and a student Speech and Language Therapist throughout the day. They all gave us an insight into what they do and what their day is like. Hopefully some of the children are now inspired to pursue a career in the NHS.*

We also hosted our Stay and Play session for families with children starting school in September. This was a chance for them to spend some time playing and start to feel familiar with the environment ahead of September. During the session, children were able to explore a range of play materials, stories and activity areas at their own pace, helping them build confidence and feel at ease in their new setting. It was also a lovely opportunity for parents and carers to have a relaxed chat with our Reception team.

Finally, a special mention for Dennis the Menace. Something big is happening in Beanotown. On Tuesday 17th March Dennis turns 10 for the 75th time. Since 1951 he has sparked mischief, laughter and a love of reading for fun in every generation. I am showing my age now, but I still fondly remember receiving my copy of the The Beano each week through the post and reading about the goings on in Beanotown.

Have a great weekend.

Mr Graves

## WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Little Owls 1	99%
Little Owls 2	94%
Tawny Owls 1	97%
Tawny Owls 2	99%
Tawny Owls 3	98%
Snowy Owls 1	99%
Snowy Owls 2	96%
Snowy Owls 3	96%

Whole School 97%

Target



The school day begins at 08:40

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



## Celebration Assembly

Celebration Assembly will take place on Thursdays until the end of term.

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



**No Celebration Assembly**  
**and Hot Chocolate this week**  
due to the

**PTA Sponsored Bounce!**





# Play Leaders Are Back!

We are delighted to share that our Play Leaders have started again this term. Our fantastic group of children are helping to organise games and activities at lunchtime so that everyone can join in and have fun.





Daniel went down the big ramp at the skatepark the first time he visited. He persevered with his scooting and was very brave. Well done, Daniel!



**Amazing Daniel,  
well done!**



A gentle reminder that children should not bring personal belongings to school such as teddies, notebooks, pencil cases or fidget toys, unless this has been previously agreed with Mrs Corrie, our Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator.

We have found that these items can sometimes distract children from their learning and the exciting activities taking place in the classroom. They can also occasionally get misplaced, which can understandably cause upset for the children.

By keeping personal belongings at home, it helps us ensure that children stay focused, engaged and able to make the most of their time at school.

Thank you for your understanding and support.



We would kindly like to remind everyone that disabled parking spaces are reserved for drivers who display a valid Blue Badge.

Recently, there have been occasions when these spaces have been used by vehicles without a badge, which may prevent access for those who rely on them.

We appreciate your understanding and co-operation in helping to keep these spaces available for those who need them.

# 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 is "My child thinks they need to be perfect"

Perfectionism in children can lead to fear of failure, self-criticism, and anxiety. Encourage effort over achievement, help them set realistic goals, model perseverance, and praise specific tasks rather than labelling them as "perfect." Supportive guidance and, if needed, professional help can prevent perfectionism from affecting their wellbeing.

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



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

# 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





**Julia's House**  
Nursery & Primary Care Home

**HAMBERLEY**

## 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](#).



# HALF TERM CAMP

**Schedule & Location**

**30<sup>TH</sup> MARCH - 2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL**  
09:00am - 03:00pm  
HILLSIDE FIRST SCHOOL, BH31 7HE

**Schedule & Location**

**7<sup>TH</sup> APRIL - 10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL**  
09:00am - 03:00pm  
ST JAMES SCHOOL, BH21 4JN

**UNDER 6 - UNDER 14**

- WHAT TO BRING
- PACKED LUNCH & WATER BOTTLE
- FOOTBALL BOOTS
- SHIN PADS
- OUTDOOR FOOTBALL CLOTHING

FOR MORE INFO & REGISTRATION  
CALL OR WHATSAPP:  
07 501 688972  
EMAIL:  
ELLIOTT@BRSCOACHINGACADEMY.CO.UK



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	<b>Creative Dance</b> 15:00-16:00 (Year R-2) 16:00–17:00 (Year 3-4)	Book <a href="#">here</a> for Year R-2 Book <a href="#">here</a> for Year 3-4 Password: <b>Hillside2026</b>
	<b>Computer Xplorers</b> 15:00-16:00 (Year 1-4)	Book <a href="#">here</a>
TUESDAY	<b>BRS Sports &amp; Fitness Breakfast Club</b> 08:00-08:30 (Year R-4)	Book via Arbor app
	<b>BRS Sports &amp; Fitness Lunch Club</b> 12:00-12:30 (Year R-4)	Book via Arbor app
	<b>BRS After School Football Club</b> 15:00-16:00 (Year 1-4)	Book via Arbor app
	<b>Mad Science</b> 15:00-16:00 (Year 1-4)	Book <a href="#">here</a>
THURSDAY	<b>Forest School</b> 15:00-16:00	Book <a href="#">here</a>
FRIDAY	<b>Rocksteady Music School</b> Lessons take place in school	Book <a href="#">here</a>

## 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](http://www.hillsidepreschool.org)