

Hillside News

DATES TO REMEMBER



Easter Holidays
Monday 30th March to
Friday 10th April

Inset day
Monday 13th April

WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Little Owls 1	92%
Little Owls 2	94%
Tawny Owls 1	95%
Tawny Owls 2	99%
Tawny Owls 3	96%
Snowy Owls 1	96%
Snowy Owls 2	96%
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



Celebration Assembly

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

Hillside First School

where children are at the heart of everything we do



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

Headteacher Update Friday 20th March 2026

It has been another action-packed week at Hillside First School, and I have been incredibly proud of how hard both the children and staff have worked.

Mrs Davis started the week with an Eco Warrior-themed assembly and introduced our Sir David Attenborough scarecrow, which the children and she have been working on. If you are able to, please pop along on Saturday to vote for our entry. Further details are below.

Thank you again for your support with the sponsor bounce. It was another great success, and we have raised valuable funds for our school. There were 16,503 bounces completed!

Today, we celebrated Red Nose Day and Comic Relief across the school, and thank you for your support. We enjoyed a mufti day, with children wearing red. We also recognised World Down Syndrome Day, and we are fortunate to have the wonderful Alfie, who has this condition. Please read the report below.

Over the last two weeks, I have been lucky enough to attend every class's Hillside's Got Talent auditions. There has been an array of talent on show. Alongside the School Parliament members, we judged the acts and selected one child from each class to represent them in a showcase assembly next week.

This week, our Little Owls children had their first ever school visit. There was lots of excitement before departure, and they did themselves proud on their visit to Blashford Lakes. They were also incredibly lucky with the weather and had a fantastic time. Please see the report below.

It was also lovely on Wednesday after school to meet with our Year 4 parents ahead of their residential visit to Hooke Court in Beaminster. I have always placed great value on educational visits, but with the rising cost of coaches and travel, they are becoming increasingly expensive.

Looking ahead to next week, we have a Hillside first, with some of our Year 4 children visiting the House of Parliament. A huge thank you to Mrs Andrews for arranging this wonderful opportunity for our children.

Mr Graves

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



Thanks to the beautiful weather, the children enjoyed their hot chocolate outside today.





Little Owls at Blashford



Little Owls had their first school trip on Wednesday. We were very excited on the coach and enjoyed being up high so we could see all around us. We arrived at Blashford lakes and had a talk from Catherine the education officer. We then split into our groups and went off to the activities. They were so much fun! We looked at the moth trap and saw some huge moths and some tiny ones. We went for a walk and visited Badger Wood for some mini beast hunting. We also held some interesting skeletons of various creatures and even saw an adder skin. The bird hide was exciting when we used the binoculars and we saw several different types of birds. We had a go at pond dipping and even caught a newt or two!

Hillside First School
presents

Sir David Attenborough



Come along to vote for your favourite
scarecrow at the Verwood Spring show
21st March 2026

1.30pm to 4.00pm -

**Verwood Memorial Hall, Ringwood Road,
Verwood, BH31 7AA**

**Vote
for Us**





Meet our heroes



Last weekend and for her second attempt, Erika achieved her STA 25 metre Front Crawl.

Harry has recently got his Stage 2 swimming badge and also 5m certificate.



Amazing effort and great perseverance Erika :-)



Amazing Harry, well done!



Fantastic Erika, well done!



Written by Alfie's parents



On the 21st of March, it is World Down Syndrome Day, which helps raise awareness of Down syndrome. It is always held on the 21st to represent the three copies of the 21st chromosome.

This is Alfie. He is 6 years old and in Tawny Owls. He has Down syndrome, but that never stops him from trying everything and being cheeky!

Alfie loves listening to all his favourite books being read to him and playing his favourite game - ball!



Alfie faces daily challenges with speech, understanding, and joining in with his peers, but that has never stopped him from trying his best.



He also loves going to school and seeing Dee Dee (Mrs Davis), along with all the teachers and his friends.

Alfie has come so far since joining Hillside.



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: "Raising a resilient child"

Resilience helps children cope with stress, setbacks, and difficult emotions while still recovering and moving forward. It develops through a mix of temperament, experiences, and supportive relationships, and although it's hard to watch children struggle, facing age-appropriate challenges helps them build confidence, persistence, and healthy coping skills.

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

[Coping cards](#) for children are small, practical tools that provide immediate reminders and simple strategies for managing stress, anxiety, and other difficult emotions.



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



The Government's Education White Paper and SEND Reform Consultation

The Government has recently published its Education White Paper, **Every Child Achieving and Thriving**. It's important that anyone who may be affected by these proposals or who has an interest in education and SEND, can find clear information and have an opportunity to share their views.

A key focus of the proposed White Paper is setting out three tiers of support for children and young people who need additional help:

- **Targeted Support** – support provided directly by schools.
- **Targeted Plus Support** – enhanced support involving input from education and health professionals.
- **Specialist Support** – for children with the most complex needs, delivered through an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

The Department for Education has produced a series of easy read documents explaining these proposed changes. You can read them here: [Every child achieving and thriving and SEND consultation supporting information – GOV.UK.](#)

You can respond to the consultation and share your [thoughts on the White Paper Online](#), or by emailing SENDreform.CONSULTATION@education.gov.uk

More details and useful links are available on the Dorset Council website: [Every Child Achieving and Thriving – Schools 'White Paper' – Dorset Council](#)

We have also published a news article outlining our response [to the Government's Education White Paper and the SEND Reform consultation.](#)

We encourage anyone interested to join the next [Let's Talk SEND online sessions on 24th March](#), where senior leaders will discuss the proposed reforms and answer as many of your questions as possible during the Q&A section.

EDUCATION WHITE PAPER AND SEND REFORM CONSULTATION

To ensure as many people can join us for this conversation we will be running two sessions.

Afternoon session

Tuesday March 24th - 1pm - 2pm

[Sign up here](#)

Evening session

Tuesday March 24th - 6:30pm - 7:30pm

[Sign up here](#)

To help us get through as many questions as possible, we suggest you pre-submit your questions using our [online form](#)

[Subscribe to SEND Local Offer Newsletter](#)

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





Schedule & Location

📅 30th MARCH - 2nd APRIL

🕒 09:00am - 03:00pm

📍 HILLSIDE FIRST SCHOOL, BH31 7HE

Schedule & Location

📅 7th APRIL - 10th 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

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!

**Easter Holiday Club
Poole Forest School**

Book online www.pooleforestschool.com

Ofsted registered

**Screen free
time!!**



**Learn to use tools!
Seasonal crafts,
Den building,
Campfire treats
mud play and more
outdoor fun!!**

**30th March - 10th
April 9-1pm**





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