

# 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



**Easter Holidays**  
Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March to  
Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April

**Inset day**  
Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April

### Headteacher Update Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026

I honestly cannot quite believe I am saying this, but that is a wrap on another term at Hillside First School!

We have packed so many exciting experiences into this term, and the children have gone from strength to strength. This week began with an assembly all about Pokémon, which has just celebrated its 30th anniversary. We discussed how the game has developed and why it has remained so popular over the years. Monday also saw some of our Year 4 children visit the Houses of Parliament for the very first time as a school. Thank you to Mrs Andrews for arranging everything.

We also celebrated Hillside's Got Talent with our special celebration assembly. The acts chosen by School Parliament represented their classes in front of the whole school and some of their family members. Nearly half of the school auditioned, and we saw an amazing range of talent during the auditions, including gymnastics, dancing, jokes, singing, football skills, magic and much more.

I was lucky enough to watch every audition, and the children were incredible. Well done to everyone who took part. I was very proud of you all.

We are thrilled to share that the results are in and we have won a £50 prize and a certificate for the school in the scarecrow competition as part of the Verwood Spring Show. Thank you so much for all your support, it really means a lot.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to our supportive community, our dedicated staff, the local school committee, our PTA, all our volunteers, and our incredible children.

Wishing you all a wonderful Easter break and look forward to welcoming everyone back on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April.

Happy Easter!

Mr Graves

### WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Little Owls 1	93%
Little Owls 2	98%
Tawny Owls 1	95%
Tawny Owls 2	99%
Tawny Owls 3	99%
Snowy Owls 1	97%
Snowy Owls 2	97%
Snowy Owls 3	89%

**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 continue to take place on Thursdays during the summer term.

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



Little  
Owls 1  
**Wade**

Little  
Owls 2  
**Luna**

Tawny  
Owls 1  
**Louie**

Tawny  
Owls 2  
**Jesse**

Tawny  
Owls 3  
**Cam**

Snowy  
Owls 1  
**Noah**

Snowy  
Owls 2  
**Bailey-  
Adam**

Snowy  
Owls 3  
**Willow**



# Hillside's Got Talent Winners



# Tawny Owls 1 Super Masks



Year 4 had an incredible visit to the Houses of Parliament.

They went behind the scenes, watched live debates in both the Commons and Lords, took part in a workshop, and even met their local MP, Simon Hoare.

We were also featured in the Bournemouth Daily Echo yesterday 📰

Read more: <https://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/topics/houses-of-parliament/>







# Hillside First School



# Verwood in Bloom



Celebrating the community's creativity and love of gardening

The theme for this year's competition is Upcycling, encouraging everyone to find inventive and sustainable ways to reuse and repurpose materials in their garden designs.

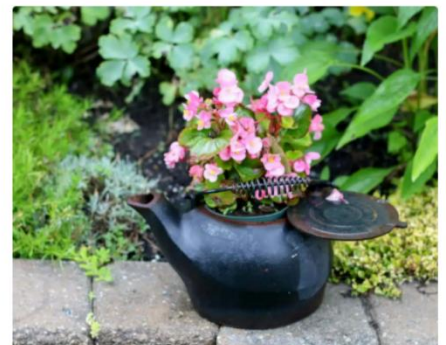
**We have some exciting competitions we would like you to get involved with:**

- Create a display at home and bring it in for judging as part of a school competition. This will also contribute to our entry in the Verwood in Bloom competition. **Entries to be in by 20<sup>th</sup> June 2026.**

*Please ensure the plants are child safe.*

[www.rhs.org.uk/garden-inspiration/design/child-friendly-plants](http://www.rhs.org.uk/garden-inspiration/design/child-friendly-plants)

- An after school club in late spring, to design and create flower displays for the school grounds. Details to follow...
- Inter class competition to grow the best marigolds in an upcycled pot.





# Meet our heroes



Everley went litter picking Monday after school for two hours, filling two bags!



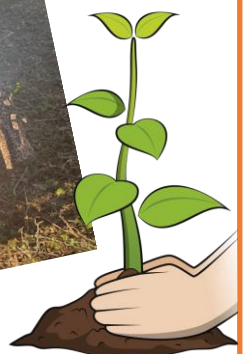
She wanted to go again so we went tonight with her brother Ryley and litter picked for another 2hrs! Even visiting Hillside to check the surrounding roads were clear of rubbish!

**Amazing Everley, well done!**



Alicia and her step-sister e-mailed Dorset Council to ask for permission to plant trees in the local area.

They were able to plant two saplings of the native species: Blackthorne and Hawthorne.



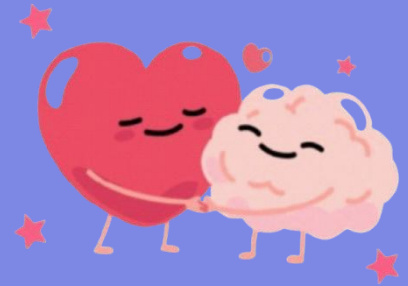
The Council marked spaces for us and provided some supplies as well which was really helpful. I am so proud of both girls for making this happen.

**Fantastic Alicia, well done!**

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



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: "Understanding shyness in children"

Shyness is feeling anxious around others, especially strangers, and is different from being quiet or introverted. While normal in many children, it can become problematic if it stops them joining activities, making friends, or asking for help. Shyness can stem from biology, experiences, or social challenges, and persistent difficulty may indicate social anxiety.

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



Click the logo to visit the website



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



## 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

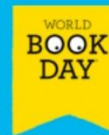


**Tuesday 3rd**  
Parent Consultations  
(15:30-19:00)



**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



**Monday 27th**  
Class and Year 4  
leavers photographs



# Summer term



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## May

**Friday 1st**  
Mufti Day in exchange for tombola donations for our Summer Fayre

**Monday 4th**  
May Day Bank Holiday

**Wednesday 13th**  
Year 1 & Year 2 School Trip  
(New Forest Wildlife Park)



**Friday 22nd**  
**PTA Event**  
Someone Special Shop  
Purchase a gift for a special person on Father's Day.  
Closing date to purchase on Arbor



## June

**Friday 5th**  
Summer Fayre  
17:00 - 19:30

**Friday 5th**  
PTA Event - Ice-Cream Sale  
To be purchased in advance in Arbor

**Friday 12th**  
PTA Event - Ice-Cream Sale  
To be purchased in advance in Arbor

**Friday 19th**  
PTA Event  
Mufti Day & School Disco Reception - Year 1 15:00-16:30  
Year 2 - Year 4 17:00-18:30

**Friday 19th**  
**PTA Event**  
Someone Special Shop Gifts Delivered Today

**Friday 19th**  
PTA Event - Ice-Cream Sale  
To be purchased in advance in Arbor

**Tuesday 23rd**  
Sports Day

**Thursday 25th**  
PTA Event - Ice-Cream Sale  
To be purchased in advance in Arbor

**Friday 26th**  
Transfer Day



## July



**Friday 3rd**  
PTA Event - Ice-Cream Sale  
To be purchased in advance in Arbor

**Friday 3rd**  
**PTA Event**  
Break the Rules Day  
50p per rule purchased in advance on Arbor



**Friday 10th**  
PTA Event - Ice-Cream Sale  
To be purchased in advance in Arbor

**DATE TBC**  
Year 4 Leavers Party



**Friday 17th**  
PTA Event - Ice-Cream Sale  
To be purchased in advance in Arbor

**Monday 20th**  
Year 4 Leavers Assembly  
14:00

**Wednesday 22nd**  
Last day of term






**BRS  
EASTER CAMP  
2026**

**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

Hop on over for

**EASTER**  
on the farm

Join us on  
**Good Friday 11am -5pm**  
for some egg-citing fun!

Food and bar open all day  
Easter Trail, Tractor rides,  
crafts and animals

Tickets £7.50 per child  
to be purchased on the day

Jubilee Campsite, Browns Lane, Damerham Fordingbridge SP63HD

# Discover Your Imagination

at Innavibe's

## Afterschool Arts, Crafts & Mindfulness Club!

Hillside First School

Year 1 & Year 2: Wednesdays, 3:00-4:15pm

Year 3 & Year 4: Thursdays, 3:00-4:15pm

£5 per session, booked in termly blocks  
To reserve your child's place, please visit:

<https://bookwhen.com/innavibe>



Join us to create, relax, and have fun!

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.

The session will be delivered by either an Educational Psychologist or a Specialist Teacher from Dorset Council

### 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 12<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 9:30am until 11:30pm.

To book a place, please scan this QR code or click on this link

Wimborne - An Introduction to Autism - Community Training Session - Summer Term



## Easter Holiday Club

## Poole Forest School

Book online [www.pooleforestschool.com](http://www.pooleforestschool.com)

Ofsted registered

Screen free time!!



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

30<sup>th</sup> March - 10<sup>th</sup>  
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	<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>
WEDNESDAY	<b>Discover Your Imagination</b> 15:00-16:15 (Year 1-2)	Book <a href="#">here</a>
THURSDAY	<b>Forest School</b> 15:00-16:00	Book <a href="#">here</a>
	<b>Discover Your Imagination</b> 15:00-16:15 (Year 3-4)	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)