

# Hillside News

DATES TO REMEMBER



Class and Year 4 Leavers Photos will take place on **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April.** Children to be in full school uniform on this day, even if it is their scheduled PE day.



## WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

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

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 continue to take place on Thursdays during the summer 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 17<sup>th</sup> April 2026

I hope you all had a really lovely Easter break and were able to enjoy some special time together as families. It has been wonderful to welcome the children back this week and see their enthusiasm as we begin the Summer Term. We have lots to look forward to, including our Summer Fayre, school photos, Sports Morning, end-of-year reports, new learning topics, Year 4 leavers' activities, Transition Day and much more.

Our training day on Monday focused on writing, with a particular emphasis on the importance of modelling and the strategies that support children in developing their extended writing. The session was led by Mrs Palmer, our Deputy Headteacher, and was linked to the latest research. It was a really positive and purposeful start to the term for staff.

This week has also been a big moment for many families, with children finding out their school places for September. We are very much looking forward to welcoming those joining us for the first time, and at the same time supporting our Year 4 children as they prepare for their next step. It really does feel like this stage of the year comes around very quickly!

I am writing this week's newsletter from Hooke Court, Beaminster, where I am currently with some of our Year 4 children on their three-day, two-night residential. It is always such a special experience, and already it has been fantastic to see the children embracing new opportunities and challenges. I am sure there will be many happy memories made. A big thank you to Mrs Andrews for organising everything so carefully, and to Mrs Jones and Mrs Pearson for supporting the visit. The children have been great ambassadors and an absolute credit to the school.

A quick reminder that school photos will take place on Monday 27th April, including a special Year 4 leavers' photograph. Please ensure children come to school in full uniform, even if it is their PE day.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Mr Graves

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





# HOOKE COURT

RESIDENTIAL EDUCATIONAL  
OUTDOOR ACTIVITY CENTRE





# 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:**

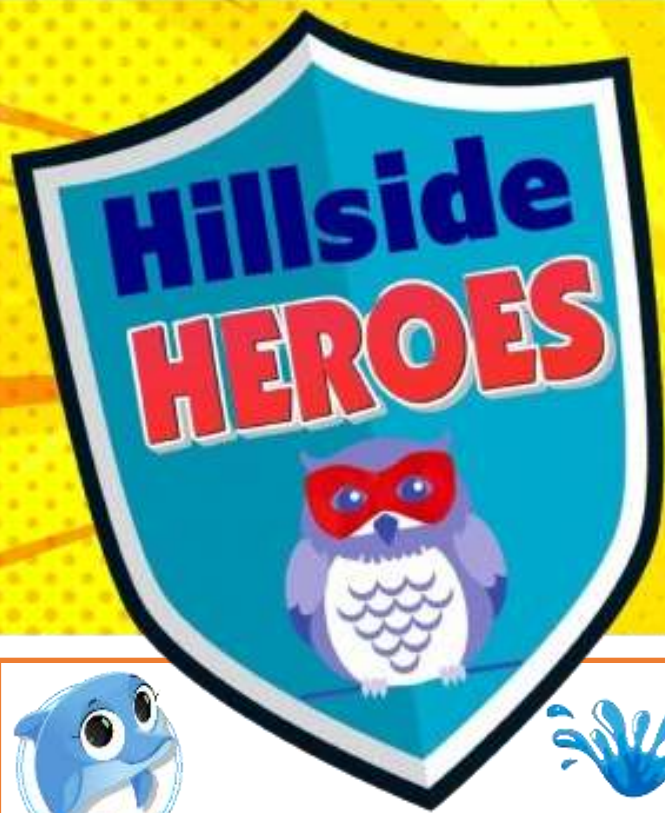
- Create a display at home and bring it in for judging as part of a school competition. This will also contribute to our entry in the Verwood in Bloom competition. **Entries to be in by 20<sup>th</sup> June 2026.**

*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

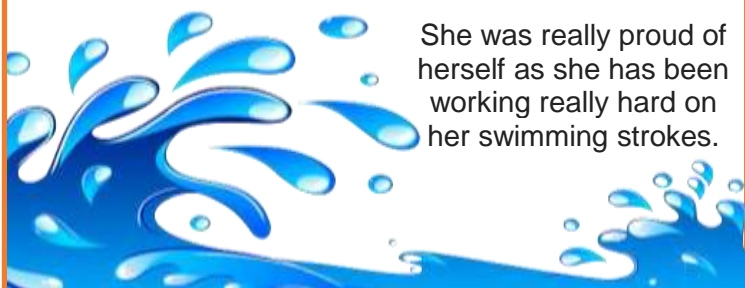


Millie recently completed Stage 6 in swimming.



**Amazing Millie, well done!**

She was really proud of herself as she has been working really hard on her swimming strokes.



Kenzie has made such a great effort in building up her confidence in doing Ballet lessons.



She recently took part in a show in front of family members and received a medal for doing this.



This is a massive step for her and as parents we are so very proud of what she has achieved.

**Fantastic Kenzie, well done!**

# 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 **Creating Routines, Family Rules and Limits and Consequences**.

## "Creating Routines"

Routines and family rituals create predictability, stability, and a sense of safety, helping children handle daily changes and build confidence over time. Consistent habits support healthy behaviours, reduce stress, and improve cooperation by making expectations clear. This structure helps children feel more in control, lowering power struggles and strengthening family connection.

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



## "Family Rules"

Creating family rules together helps children understand expectations, practise voicing opinions, and encourages cooperation. Clear, positive rules with agreed consequences, focused on a few key behaviours at a time, make it easier for children to follow them and for parents to be consistent. Recognising and praising adherence reinforces good behaviour.

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

## "Limits & Consequences"

Limits and consequences help children understand expectations, stay safe, and learn to make responsible choices. Clear boundaries reduce power struggles and guide children toward independence by showing them the outcomes of their actions.

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



# Summer term



## 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

# UPCOMING EVENTS



## 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



# CLUBS & EVENTS

Stay up to date with all our latest activities, clubs, and special events.

**VERWOODIANS**  
♻️ **WASTE**

REDUCE | REUSE | INSPIRE

## THE BIG CLOTHES SWAP

1 pm - 2.30 pm 25th April 2026

St Michael's Parish Rooms, Manor Road,  
Verwood BH31 6DZ

Bring along your unwanted clothes 10-11.45am and earn points  
Return at 1pm to swap your points for a new wardrobe. All free  
No points? No problem! come at 2pm and take what is left.

For more eco-friendly tips, join  
**Verwoodians on Waste Facebook Group**  
or visit [www.vowverwood.com](http://www.vowverwood.com)

**VOW**

**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.

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

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



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
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)