

# 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



Half Term  
Monday 25<sup>th</sup> to  
Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May

## Headteacher Update Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2026

We have had another very busy week at Hillside and, as always, it seems to have flown by with lots of exciting things happening across the school.

On Monday, we held interviews for our new class teachers and I am delighted to share that we successfully appointed two new members of staff to join our team. We are just completing the final checks and will be able to share this exciting news with you very soon.

There was lots of excitement first thing on Wednesday morning as Year 1 and Year 2 headed off on their educational visit to the New Forest Wildlife Park, the first time we have ever visited there! The children had a fantastic day and were a real credit to the school. They enjoyed seeing and learning about lots of different animals, as well as spending time in the brilliant play park. Please see the report and photos below.

Next week, we are looking forward to our Celebration of Achievement afternoon on Wednesday, straight after school. Please pop round behind the Year 3/4 block (next to the TLC modular building) to take a look at our Verwood in Bloom work. The children have worked incredibly hard and we are very proud of what they have achieved!

Yesterday, our School Parliament members met with the Local School Committee at the beginning of their meeting. The children came prepared with some brilliant questions, including: What is the role of the Local School Committee? How do you make a difference to our school? What has been your greatest achievement? Do you have any secret talents? What was your favourite lesson at school?

The School Parliament representatives were then given the task of returning to their classes to find out what the children's favourite thing about Hillside is and, if they could make one change to the school, what it would be. They will then report their findings back to the Local School Committee at a future meeting.

A huge thank you to our School Parliament members for representing the school so well and to our Local School Committee for all of the work they do behind the scenes to support and improve Hillside for all of our children.



Have a great weekend!  
Best wishes, Mr Graves

## WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Little Owls 1	96%
Little Owls 2	99%
Tawny Owls 1	91%
Tawny Owls 2	99%
Tawny Owls 3	94%
Snowy Owls 1	96%
Snowy Owls 2	96%
Snowy Owls 3	92%

Whole School 95%

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**:



# WILDLIFE PARK SCHOOL VISIT



Year 1 and 2 had a fantastic day on their school trip to the New Forest Wildlife Park. The children enjoyed exploring the park and learning about a variety of animals, including otters, wallabies, lynx, owls, mice, deer and David the hedgehog!



They asked lots of thoughtful questions and demonstrated excellent behaviour throughout the day. The children (and adults) also had a lovely time playing in the park. It was a wonderful opportunity to support their learning outside the classroom, and the children returned with many exciting memories to share.





# 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.





Hillside have been

**WORKING HARD**  
in their  
**VERWOOD in BLOOM**  
entry.



Don't forget to

**GET PLANTING**

in an upcycled container  
ready for the

**20<sup>th</sup> JUNE!**



# Meet our heroes



Maisie loves gardening and always helps us grow vegetables at home.



This year she has her own salad trug, which she has planted and sow seeds all on her own!



She waters it daily and it's the first thing she checks after school.

**Fantastic Maisie, well done!**

Carter recently completed his first belt test for Karate and was awarded a red striped belt!



**Amazing Carter, 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: "Problem Solving"

Children often struggle with daily problems and may respond with frustration, withdrawal, or conflict. Guiding them through problem-solving steps with support helps them build confidence, think creatively, manage emotions, and develop resilience for future challenges.

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



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

# 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 15th**  
PTA Event - Book & Bear Sale

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

**Monday 25th to Friday 29th May**  
Half Term



## 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 2-4 17:00-18:30

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

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

**Tuesday 23rd**  
Sports Day 

**Wednesday 24th**  
Year 3/4 School Trip to Marwell Zoo 

**Friday 26th**  
Transfer Day

 **Friday 26th**  
PTA Event - Ice-Cream Sale  
To be purchased in advance in Arbor




## 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

**Thursday 16th**  
Year 4 Leavers Party  
17:00 - 19:30 

 **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



# EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

**May Half Term 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!!

26th May -29th  
 May 9-1pm



# TASTER DAY!

**3rd & 4th June**

Come & Try Innavibe  
 Arts, Crafts & Mindfulness!

**WEDNESDAY**  
 3pm - 4:15pm  
 YEAR 1 & 2

**THURSDAY**  
 3pm - 4:15pm  
 YEAR 3 & 4

**Arts, Crafts & Mindfulness**

**Book £5 a Session**  
 Book in Termly Blocks  
 Location: Hillside First School

Book here: <https://bookwhen.com/innavibe>

*Lenka Pilates* Spring & Summer

# outdoor Pilates

classes near nature reserve

Start your weekend with good energy

Do you want to **tone up** for summer?

Do you want to do **something positive** for yourself?

Do you want to be in **fresh air & exercise**?

If the answer is yes, please join me on **Saturdays** (9.30-10.30am) at the beautiful grounds of Hillside school

**PLUS - Your first class in just £3.00**

**PLUS - On International Pilates Day on 2nd of May classes will be only £1.00**

Drop-in session price just **£6.50**

**Season Pass £49** - This special pass allows you to join in all the Hillside Outdoor Pilates sessions between 2nd May and 12th September 2025 - approximately 13 classes, please contact me for dates.

In case of a rainy morning, the school hall can be used instead.

For more info, questions, please contact me via email [info@lenkapilates.co.uk](mailto:info@lenkapilates.co.uk)

Move. Breathe. Feel good.

Looking forward to meeting/seeing you there!



*Vocalize* **YOUTH** Choir

CALLING ALL 7-17 YEAR OLDS!

Are you a fan of Harry Styles, Dua Lipa or Taylor Swift? Maybe you prefer hits from the World's best musicals like *Wicked* or *The Lion King*? Or is rock and indie music more your vibe? Vocalize Youth has got you covered.

Following on from the success of our adult choir (pictured) for the past 3 years, we bring you VOCALIZE YOUTH, a pop and rock show choir for 7-17 year olds. Our choir isn't about show music and stunning skill, we teach you how to sing harmonies, opportunities for lead parts and fully choreographed numbers that get audiences on their feet. Does that sound like you? Then get in touch today!

Vocalize Youth rehearse every Thursday, 8.30-9.30pm at The Helix Centre, Verwood. Scan the QR code, visit our website or email us to enquire about membership!

**IMPROVE YOUR SINGING**

Songs aren't just one voice—they're layers of different voices coming together to create a powerful sound. This is called HARMONY. We also put moves to every song so you can look and sound like your favourite pop stars! Our professional coaches are fully DBS checked and on hand to guide and mentor you every week!

**MAKE NEW FRIENDS**

Creating music together feels powerful. Choirs are all about teamwork and friendship. You will have the chance to meet other local people of your age range who share their love of music.

**LIVE PERFORMANCES**

Throughout the year, put your hard work into action as you sing under bright lights, on real stages, at theatres and local events. Showcase professional sound and lighting—and become the star of your own show.

[WWW.VOCALIZECHOIRS.CO.UK](http://WWW.VOCALIZECHOIRS.CO.UK)

[VOCALIZEYOUTHCHOIR@GMAIL.COM](mailto:VOCALIZEYOUTHCHOIR@GMAIL.COM)







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)