

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 25th to
Friday 29th May

Headteacher Update Friday 22nd May 2026

Well, that's the end of another half term! It has absolutely flown by and there have been so many highlights along the way. Thank you, as always, for all of your continued support.

There have been lots of wonderful moments across the school, including school visits, the residential trip, exciting new learning topics, and children taking on their roles as Librarians, Eco Warriors, Play Leaders and School Parliament members. We also enjoyed celebrating Sir David Attenborough's 100th birthday, alongside so much fantastic learning taking place every day.

We already have lots of exciting things planned for next half term too, including Sports Morning, Transfer Day, the Summer Fayre, Ice Cream Friday, more school visits and Break the Rules Day, to name just a few.

We had a great turnout across the school for our Celebration of Achievement afternoon. I'm sorry I wasn't able to come around and speak to more of you, as I was covering in one of the classes, but thank you very much for your support.

We always strive for educational excellence for our children, and it has been wonderful to see examples of this reflected in recent sporting achievements. The England Women's Rugby team winning the Grand Slam and extending their unbeaten run to 38 games, Jannik Sinner winning 29 consecutive tennis matches, and Arsenal finally winning the Premier League again after finishing second for the previous three seasons are all great examples of respect, ambition and perseverance in action.

Finally, thank you to our families, the Local School Committee, our volunteers, the PTA, our dedicated staff and, of course, our wonderful children. Your continued support and commitment help our school thrive.

Have a great half term!

Healthy Regards

Mr Graves

WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Little Owls 1	93%
Little Owls 2	96%
Tawny Owls 1	92%
Tawny Owls 2	96%
Tawny Owls 3	95%
Snowy Owls 1	94%
Snowy Owls 2	95%
Snowy Owls 3	97%

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**:





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 20th June 2026.**

Please ensure the plants are child safe.

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

20th JUNE!



Meet our heroes

Luna has recently learnt how to ride her bike without stabilisers and we are so proud of her.



Fantastic Luna, well done!

Harry took part in a 5k fun run recently with West Moors FC.



He had great fun running with his own personal dinosaur, axolotl and his Daddy and big Sister Lilly.



Amazing Harry, 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.



“Support when someone dies”

Support your child's grieving by being honest, available, and patient, letting them express a range of emotions at their own pace. Maintain routines, provide reassurance, and use age-appropriate activities to help them process the loss. Show it's okay to be upset and seek support from school or bereavement services when needed.

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

“Support after a traumatic event”

After a traumatic event, support your child by creating safety and calm, maintaining routines, and allowing them to ask questions while listening and acknowledging their feelings. Stay connected to loved ones, provide hope for the future, and ensure you also take care of your own wellbeing to better support your child.

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

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

Joining the Summer Reading Challenge

Children sign up through their local library and receive a sticker booklet and free mini Storytime magazine. They set a reading goal and borrow books of their choice during the summer or join in with library events, collecting special stickers as they go. Children who complete the Challenge are presented with a medal when they have collected 6 stickers, and a certificate is sent to school in the Autumn term.

To inspire children, we are hosting two online launch events for schools:



Reception and Key Stage 1 event with Annemarie Anang Thursday 2 July 1:30 to 2:10 pm

Join Annemarie Anang for a fantastic online interactive author session which features music and dance based on her celebrated books *I Am Nefertiti* and *Dance Just Like So!* Annemarie delivers a highly engaging, joy-filled online sessions.

Event sponsored by the Friends of Weymouth Library.

[Book now KS1 event with Annemarie Anang](#)



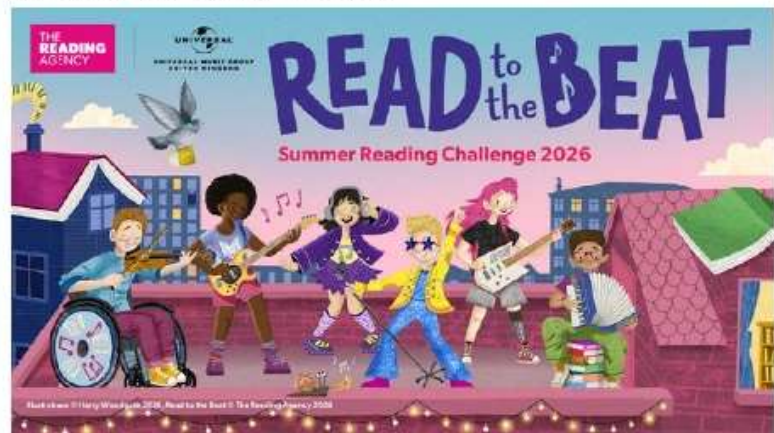
Key Stage 2 event with Steve Cole Thursday 9 July 1:30 to 2:15 pm

This lively, interactive session will invite young readers to meet Steve Cole from their classroom, hear about his books and get inspired to read for fun over the summer. Known for popular series including *Astrosaurus* and *Cows in Action*, Steve will share how music, rhythm and sound can spark ideas for stories, linking perfectly with the challenge's lively Read to the Beat theme.

Event sponsored by the Friends of Wimborne Library.

[Book now KS2 event with Steve Cole](#)

2026 Summer Reading Challenge: Read to the Beat



The 2026 Summer Reading Challenge - Read to the Beat, celebrates the joy of reading through music, rhythm and performance.

Through vibrant illustrations, fun rewards and free library activities inspired by music and sound, Read to the Beat invites children to discover how stories and music connect, while enjoying their local library and sharing the experience with family and friends.

Read to the Beat is a free holiday activity for children, and a key moment in the National Year of Reading.

Read to the Beat starts Saturday 4 July.

We value your support in helping Dorset libraries promote the Summer Reading Challenge and therefore we will be pleased to:

- attend an assembly to talk about the Summer Reading Challenge
- provide an electronic promotional flyer and newsletter content for emailing to parents and carers

To ensure all children hear about Read to the Beat, library teams would be delighted to visit an assembly to talk to children about how they can take part in Read to the Beat.

Assembly visits are available between 15 June and 16 July

[Book your assembly visit](#)



The Summer Reading Challenge 2026: Read to the Beat. Delivered by The Reading Agency in partnership with public libraries and powered by Universal Music UK.



Proud to support
The National Year
of Reading 2026.

**GO
ALL
IN.**

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
 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>

SKATEJAM!

AT POTTERNE PARK, VERWOOD

BIKE STUNT SHOW
SCOOTER COMPETITION
PRO SCOOTER COACHING
JUDGING PANEL
LIVE DJ • FOOD • GOOD VIBES

Youth Riders

SATURDAY 23RD MAY
11AM - 4PM
DON'T MISS IT!

Event sponsored by Verwood Solar Farm

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, 8.30-6.30pm at The Hells 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, you have three great opportunities to shine 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 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	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
WEDNESDAY	Discover Your Imagination 15:00-16:15 (Year 1-2)	Book here
THURSDAY	Forest School 15:00-16:00	Book here
	Discover Your Imagination 15:00-16:15 (Year 3-4)	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