

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

SPORTS DAY

Tuesday 23rd June
09:00 – 11:30am

Headteacher Update Friday 5th June 2026

Welcome back. I hope you all had a great half term and were able to enjoy the glorious weather. What a difference a week makes, though, and the weather really hasn't been able to make its mind up!

The children have come back and hit the ground running. We started the week with a whole-school assembly recapping our three rules, Ready, Respect and Engaged, and our three values of Respect, Ambition and Perseverance. Children in Little Owls enjoyed their Wheels Day on Wednesday despite the weather. Children in Year 1 and Year 2 have been busy writing instructions for growing beans, with some awesome handwriting on show, and children in Year 3 and Year 4 have been busy planning and starting to write their Egyptian stories linked to their topic.

Thank you again for your support in the run-up to the Summer Fayre. We are incredibly grateful to all the parents, families and local businesses who have donated prizes for the raffle and supported the event. Thank you also to the PTA for all their hard work behind the scenes in getting everything organised and ready for Friday evening.

This half term we will be finalising our assessments for the children, which we will share in their end-of-year reports.

On Wednesday evening we welcomed some of our new families, as well as current families whose children will be joining us in September. It was very well attended, and Bartletts Uniform Providers, Hillside Pre-School, Chartwells (with their taster menu) and the PTA (serving hot drinks), along with a book donation for every child starting with us, were all in attendance. It was a very positive evening. We have our official transfer day on Friday 26th June, and I will be writing home earlier next week with further details for the next academic year.

Finally, the Children's Commissioner has asked, "What is it like being a child or young person (0-18 years) in England?" Please could I encourage you to help your child complete the survey here: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/TheBigFuture/>

Have a great weekend.

Mr Graves

WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Little Owls 1	95%
Little Owls 2	94%
Tawny Owls 1	97%
Tawny Owls 2	95%
Tawny Owls 3	97%
Snowy Owls 1	96%
Snowy Owls 2	93%
Snowy Owls 3	91%

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**:





Little Owls Wheels day



Little Owls had their 'Wheels Day' on Wednesday. We had lots of fun riding our bikes and scooters around the playground and learning about road signs. We drew our wheels and looked at the parts of a bike and scooter.

It was a 'wheely' good day despite the rain!



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

Layla recently did her first showcase with Big Little Theatre.



We are very proud of her as she was very nervous beforehand but absolutely smashed it when on stage!



They did songs and acting from the Sound of Music, Lost boys and Grease.



Fantastic Layla, well done!

During May half term Aria has completed an intense swimming course, having never done any lessons before she completed the course and got her Key Stage One award!



She'll be carrying on her swimming lessons every Saturday now :)



Amazing Aria, 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: "Race and Discrimination"

Talking about race can feel difficult, but children notice differences from a very young age and can form stereotypes early.

Avoiding the topic leaves them vulnerable to bias, whereas open conversations help them understand experiences, build a positive racial identity, and develop inclusive attitudes.

Parents play a key role in shaping how children view themselves and others.

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](#).

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](#)



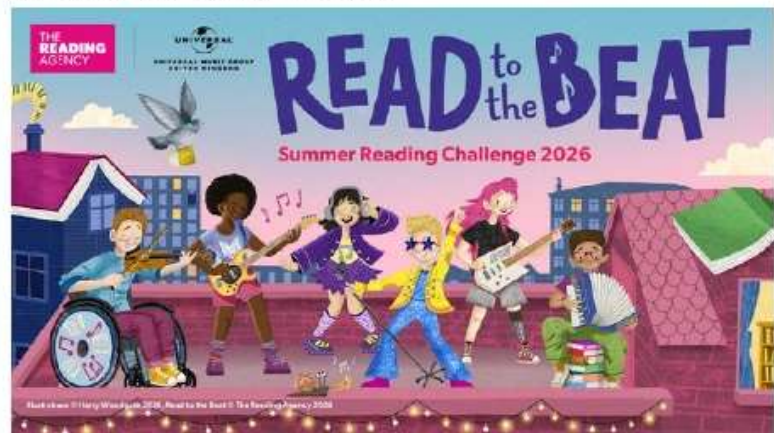
Key Stage 2 event with Steve Cole Thursday 9 July 1:30 to 2:15 pm

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

Hillside First School

ICE CREAM SALES!

To be collected from the **TLC Room**
(Grey classroom by the garden)

- Week 1 - 5th June **Fabs**
- Week 2 - 12th June **Strawberry Cones**
- Week 3 - 19th June **Twin Pops**
- Week 4 - 26th June **Fruit Splits**
- Week 5 - 3rd July **Bubble Gum Rockets**
- Week 6 - 10th July **Fake Chocolate Magnon**
- Week 7 - 17th July **Cola Bottle Lollies**

£1 EACH

Please pre-order by the Sunday before the date!

Remember, you can buy as many as you like for siblings or for yourself as well!

BREAK the RULES DAY

Rules to be broken include:

- No nail varnish
- No trainers
- No hair colour
- No different glasses
- No temporary tatoos
- No unhealthy snacks
- No juice drinks
- No teddies
- No make-up or face paint
- No hats

Here's how it works

When?
Thursday
3rd July
2026

For one day only you can choose how many rules you want to break.
50p PER RULE

Can be pre booked and paid for on Arbor.
GO NUTS - BREAK THEM ALL.

WE ARE NOW TAKING BOOKINGS FOR CHILDREN STARTING SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2026 & 2027

Hillside Pre-School is open term time, Monday - Friday and accepts children with both 15 and 30 hour funding. We have a Breakfast Club running from 7:45am, and After School Club running from 3pm, for both Hillside First and Pre-School children.

To book a tour of our wonderful setting, which opened in April 1990, contact Mrs Ford on:
01202 820 679
Email: office@hillsidepreschool.org
or visit: www.hillsidepreschool.org

Click on the icons for a quick link to our social media pages, website and email



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