

# 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 23<sup>rd</sup> June  
09:00 – 11:30am

## Headteacher Update Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2026

This week has whizzed by! Thank you again for all your help and support with the Summer Fayre (please see below). We have raised nearly £2,100 – amazing!

We kicked the week off by welcoming Stephen Gillham back to Hillside. He captured the children's interest and attention as he spoke about forgiveness, perseverance and never giving up, and how these qualities can help us both at school and in everyday life.

Children have been busy across the school. Our Reception children have been super creative during Let's Explore – I've seen some very impressive trains, zoos and drawings, many of which were kindly gifted to me! Year 1 have been completing their phonics assessment, Year 2 have been extending their sentences using expanded noun phrases and adverbs, and Years 3 and 4 have been learning about electrical circuits, conductors and insulators in Science. Our Year 4 children also completed their Multiplication Tables Check this week. The Year 1 phonics and Year 4 MTC results will be shared in children's end-of-year reports later this term. They have all done brilliantly and we are very proud of them.

Looking ahead to next week, we have our information sessions for the new academic year. I will share a copy of the presentation and a letter with everyone afterwards, so please don't worry if you are unable to attend in person. We will also be having a Sports Morning run-through on Wednesday. Children do not need to wear their P.E. kit unless it is their usual P.E. day.

You might have heard that the Men's Football World Cup starts tonight! It is set to be the biggest World Cup ever in terms of the number of teams involved. I always find it fascinating how sport can capture the attention of a nation and, at times, bring people together through a shared interest. For some countries, it can even help unite people and provide a sense of togetherness despite the differences and challenges that may exist away from the pitch.

Have a great weekend.

Mr Graves

## WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Little Owls 1	98%
Little Owls 2	99%
Tawny Owls 1	99%
Tawny Owls 2	97%
Tawny Owls 3	97%
Snowy Owls 1	95%
Snowy Owls 2	96%
Snowy Owls 3	98%

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.

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



Our assembly this week on forgiveness, perseverance and never giving up,

# Summer Fayre

A huge thank you to everyone who came along and supported our Summer Fayre on Friday. We were very lucky that the weather held out and helped make it such a fantastic event.



Special thanks to our amazing PTA for organising the event and for all their hard work before, during and after the fayre. Thank you also to our staff team, volunteers, helpers, stall holders, prize donors and everyone who gave up their time to support our school.



We would also like to thank the Mayor, Cllr Simon Gibson, and the Mayoress, Sarah Gibson, for joining us and helping to serve refreshments.

We're currently working out how much we raised and will share the total soon. Thank you again for your wonderful support.





# 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 ♥

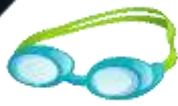
**GET PLANTING**

in an upcycled container  
ready for the

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



# Meet our heroes



We are really proud of Lillie's dedication and determination she has shown this half term to practicing her swimming skills at home!



**Fantastic Lillie, well done!**



Romeo played at Stamford Bridge in a tournament with his JPL football team



Romeo played in a position he doesn't usually play in and was team captain. His team won the tournament!

**Amazing Romeo, 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 "Listening"**.



## "Building listening skills for parents"

Listening carefully to your child helps them feel valued, supports emotional understanding, and builds self-esteem while teaching them to listen to others. Although it can be challenging, especially with strong emotions, attentive listening strengthens your connection and helps manage behaviour more effectively.

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

## "How can I get my child to listen?"

To get your child to listen, give clear, simple instructions - one task at a time - and match them to your child's ability. Avoid overloading them, phrasing demands as optional, or expecting consistency beyond their capacity, which reduces frustration and improves compliance.

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](#)



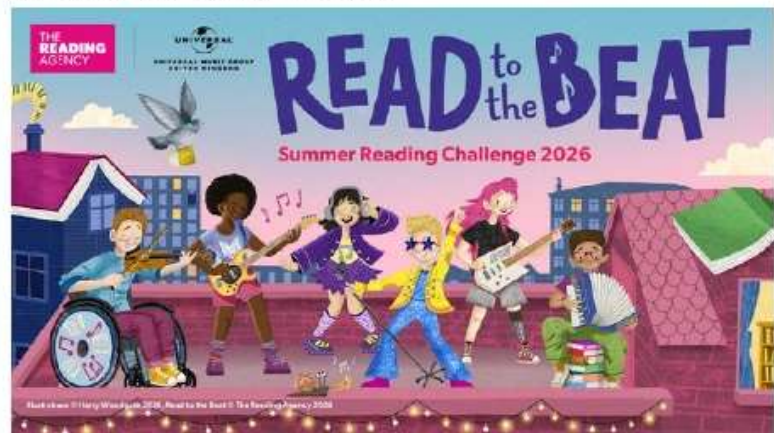
### Key Stage 2 event with Steve Cole Thursday 9 July 1:30 to 2:15 pm

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 15:00-16:15 / 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 - 5<sup>th</sup> June **Fabs**
- Week 2 - 12<sup>th</sup> June **Strawberry Cones**
- Week 3 - 19<sup>th</sup> June **Twin Pops**
- Week 4 - 26<sup>th</sup> June **Fruit Splits**
- Week 5 - 3<sup>rd</sup> July **Bubble Gum Rockets**
- Week 6 - 10<sup>th</sup> July **Fake Chocolate Magnon**
- Week 7 - 17<sup>th</sup> 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.**

Hillside Pre-School

**Celebrating 35 Years**  
Verwood  
Established 1990

**WE ARE NOW TAKING BOOKINGS FOR CHILDREN STARTING SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2027 & 2028**

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 us on:  
**01202 820 679**

Email: [office@hillsidepreschool.org](mailto:office@hillsidepreschool.org)  
or visit: [www.hillsidepreschool.org](http://www.hillsidepreschool.org)



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)