

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 19th June 2026

It has been another busy week across the school!

On Monday, we held a practice run-through for our Sports Morning next week. We also welcomed some of our new families who will be joining us in September for a Stay and Play session, held information events ahead of Transfer Day and the new academic year, and finished the week with our popular Someone Special Shop and school discos. There has certainly been plenty going on!

With some very warm weather forecast for next week, we will be keeping a close eye on conditions ahead of Sports Morning. The current forecast, which seems to change daily, suggests a slightly cooler start to the day, with the highest temperatures expected after the event is due to finish.

We are considering a range of measures to ensure everyone remains safe and comfortable, including shortening the children's rotations, building in additional drink breaks and, if necessary, adapting or removing the running races. Please ensure that your child has sun cream applied before arriving at school and brings a hat to help protect them from the sun.

I am also happy for children in the Black Team to wear a lighter-coloured T-shirt if they wish, with "Black Team" written clearly on it (if possible). We will continue to monitor the forecast and keep families updated.

It was a great start for England's men's football team at the FIFA World Cup on Wednesday. I only watched the first half before heading to bed and then checked the result the following morning! Some of the stadiums being used for the tournament are incredible. The singing of the Scottish fans during the national anthem, at the weekend, was particularly impressive. It was reported that a sound level of 125 decibels was recorded during the anthem, apparently the loudest noise ever recorded at a World Cup match!

This got me thinking about something we have been discussing with our Year 4 children as they prepare to leave us at the end of the academic year. We have been asking them what they would like to be when they grow up, and the range of answers has been fantastic: vet, doctor, professional footballer, gamer, accountant, professional mountain biker, teacher and many more. I wonder if any of the players currently competing at the World Cup would have said "professional footballer" when they were sitting in their first school classrooms. I remember saying that I wanted to be a professional rugby player, although at the time that would have had to be rugby league, as rugby union wasn't yet a professional sport!

I also heard one class this week discussing the people who inspire them, and it was fascinating to listen to their responses. With Father's Day approaching this weekend, many of us may think of our own dads, grandads, stepdads or father figures as our heroes. It might be worth reflecting on the qualities they have and how they made, or continue to make, us feel that makes them so special.

Whatever you have planned, I hope you have a wonderful weekend and enjoy spending time with those who matter most.

Take care, Mr Graves

WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Little Owls 1	99%
Little Owls 2	100%
Tawny Owls 1	94%
Tawny Owls 2	99%
Tawny Owls 3	99%
Snowy Owls 1	98%
Snowy Owls 2	97%
Snowy Owls 3	94%

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**:





Meet our heroes



A huge shout out to Zack, who has been an absolute superstar at the Verwood Tournament recently. From helping carry crates and set up on Friday after school, to working from 6.30am to 5.00pm on both Saturday and Sunday, he has been a massive help throughout.



Whether it was serving on the kiosk, taking money, litter picking or restocking drinks, he was always willing to help wherever needed.

With his own football session cancelled this weekend, Zack could have enjoyed some time off, but instead he chose to give up his weekend to support the club and tournament.

Thank you, Zachary. Your hard work, positive attitude and commitment have been amazing. You are a real credit to yourself and the club.



**Fantastic Zack,
well done!**

Oliver spends some weekends going to different steam shows with his Grandad and Uncle.



This weekend we were at Moors Valley, and he was very excited to be able to drive his Grandad's steam engine all by himself.



Amazing Oliver, 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.



Click the logo to visit the website



This week's focus is "changes & endings"

Help your child cope with changes and endings by acknowledging their feelings, preparing them in advance when possible, and creating space for reflection and rituals. Sharing your own coping strategies and celebrating memories can support resilience and understanding that endings are a normal part of life.

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](#)



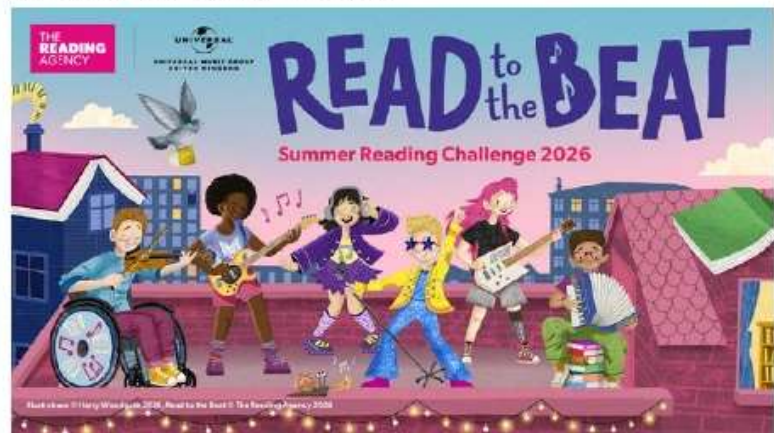
Key Stage 2 event with Steve Cole Thursday 9 July 1:30 to 2:15 pm

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 15:00-16:15 / 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



A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR SUMMER FAYRE SPONSORS!

We are incredibly grateful for the generosity and support shown by our amazing local businesses. Your contributions helped make our Summer Fayre a fantastic success for our children and community!

Our Wonderful Sponsors

Smart Home Technical ★ Jubilee Campsite ★ Nothe Fort ★ Rock Reef
 Morrisons ★ South Coast ★ Wimborne Model Town ★ Moors Valley
 Ferndown Leisure Centre ★ Ringwood Leisure Centre ★ Manor House
 The Hub ★ The Castle Pass ★ Swanage Railway ★ Red Spider
 Knoll Gardens ★ Army Flying Museum ★ AW Andrews Butchers
 Verwood Nails ★ Sturminster Newton Mill ★ Seafood Fish & Chips
 ★ Aroma ★ The Monmouth Ash ★ ★ ★ RSPCA
 ★ Sampson Percheron Horses

Thank you for supporting our school and community!
 Your kindness helps create unforgettable memories for our children.

SEND Reforms: Update so far

Let's Talk SEND
 Wednesday July 1st
 11am - 12pm

Come and join us for an online conversation. During this session, the panel will share the latest updates and information on the Government's proposed SEND White Paper. The sessions always include plenty of time for questions and answers.

Sign up using the code below



dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/let-s-talk-send



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
 or visit: www.hillsidepreschool.org



EVENTS and ACTIVITIES

Icons: Calendar, Megaphone, Soccer Ball, Paint Palette, Musical Notes

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 Magnun**
- 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

Here's how it works

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

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.

MAD SCIENCE

SUMMER CAMP

Hands-on Science!

9:30am - 3pm

27th, 28th, 29th & 30th July 2026

Hillside First School,
VERWOOD, BH31 7PG

[Book here](#)

SUMMER STEM FUN!(5-11yrs)at VERWOOD-Hillside First School, Verwood, | MadScienceWessex | Powered by ClassForKids

Limited Places

20 Junior Mad Scientists per camp

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT

Prices from.. **£29 per day** until 28th June!

Contact us on info@madsciencewessex.co.uk

Inspiring Scientists of the Future



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