

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 7th July
09:00 – 11:30am

Headteacher Update Friday 26th June 2026

Well, it has certainly been a hot and humid week!

Thank you again for all your support in helping us to keep our children safe. I also want to say a huge thank you to our amazing staff team, who have worked incredibly hard this week in challenging conditions to keep the children safe, happy and supported. Their teamwork and flexibility has been fantastic, and I really appreciate everything they have done.

The children were absolutely brilliant from Monday to Wednesday, adapting really well to the changes we made around keeping cool and staying safe in the heat.

Things obviously changed quickly, which resulted in us closing yesterday and needing to reschedule a number of events. I can now confirm the following new dates:

- Sports Morning – Tuesday 7th July
- Year 3 and 4 Marwell Trip – Friday 17th July
- Rocksteady Performance for Parents (for children involved) – Tuesday 21st July at 2pm

We started the week talking about Sun Safety and some of the changes we were making to help keep everyone safe. The children listened brilliantly and took the changes in their stride.

We also had some conversations about the new Toy Story 5 movie, which was released last weekend. I still remember the first one being released back in 1995! I have always enjoyed those films, and this latest one has an important message around screen time — something we are always encouraging children to think about as we try to find a healthy balance.

Transfer Day was also a great success and was a lovely opportunity for children to meet their new teacher and spend some time in their new classes ahead of the new academic year. There is still lots to fit in between now and the end of term, which is exciting!

Please continue to stay safe and look after yourselves in this heat. I would also encourage you to take a moment to share the following water safety information with your child at home: <https://firstaidforlife.org.uk/staying-safe-water/>

Thank you again for your continued support.

Have a lovely weekend!

Mr Graves

WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Little Owls 1	90%
Little Owls 2	89%
Tawny Owls 1	87%
Tawny Owls 2	96%
Tawny Owls 3	90%
Snowy Owls 1	86%
Snowy Owls 2	98%
Snowy Owls 3	91%

Whole School 91%

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



Recently, Lilianna attended trials for AFC Bournemouth Girls Academy and was delighted to be offered a place in the Emerging Talent Centre (ETC) programme, starting in September.



She is incredibly excited about this opportunity, and it is a wonderful reward for all her hard work, dedication and commitment to football.

We are very proud of her achievement and look forward to seeing her continue to develop and enjoy the game she loves.



Fantastic Lilianna, well done!



Daisy achieved her "Drowning Prevention" certificate this week.



Amazing Daisy, 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 [here](#) for some useful resources.

This week's focus is "Starting or changing primary school"

Support your child starting or changing primary school by talking openly about the transition, exploring the new school together, and reassuring them that adjusting takes time.

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 Annmarie 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 Annmarie Anang](#)

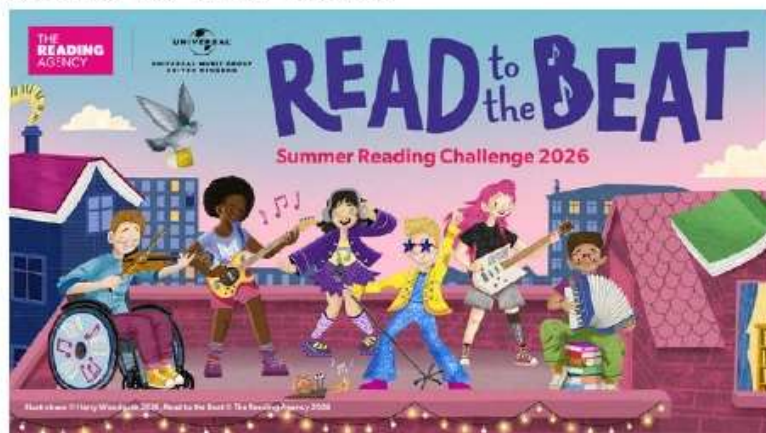


Key Stage 2 event with Steve Cole Thursday 9 July 1:30 to 2:15 pm

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](#)



Proud to support
The National Year
of Reading 2026.

**GO
ALL
IN.**

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.

Summer term



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

Friday 26th

Transfer Day

Friday 26th

PTA Event - Ice-Cream Sale
To be purchased in advance in Arbor

UPCOMING EVENTS



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

**DON'T BREAK
THE RULES**

Tuesday 7th

Sports Day

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

Year 3/4



School Trip to Marwell Zoo

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



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 Magnum**

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!



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

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



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
or visit: 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	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