

# 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 7<sup>th</sup> July  
09:00 – 11:30am

## Headteacher Update Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2026

As many of you will have noticed, it has certainly been much cooler this week compared to last. However, the forecast is suggesting that the warmer weather will be returning next week. Please remember to send children in with a named sun hat, ensure sunscreen is applied before school, and make sure they have a filled water bottle each day.

We are still planning to go ahead with our Sports Morning on Tuesday – hopefully second time lucky! We will, of course, keep a close eye on the weather and make sure the children have plenty of water and opportunities to cool down if needed.

This week we started with an assembly looking at El Niño – the weather phenomenon where a small rise in sea temperature in the Pacific can have a big impact on weather patterns across the world. We talked about the different types of weather, what our favourites are, and then asked the question: would weather ever stop us doing the things we enjoy? It was great to hear the children reflecting on how much they've enjoyed Forest School throughout the year, in all sorts of weather conditions!

We also had our final Stay and Play session for children joining us in Reception in September. It has been lovely to see them growing in confidence each time they've visited, and we're really looking forward to welcoming them properly next term.

Looking ahead, our Year 4 children will be visiting Wimborne Minster for a Leavers' Service with other Initio Trust schools. It's always a special occasion and a lovely way for them to come together as they move towards the end of their time with us.

Many of you may be following the Men's Football World Cup, with England still progressing in the tournament. Their next match is on Monday at 1.00am against Mexico, and we'll share some of the highlights in class on Monday.

I also came across an interesting statistic about Germany. They had scored 17 of their last 18 World Cup penalties and had won every penalty shootout they'd ever been involved in at the World Cup. Yet this week they missed three penalties against Paraguay and were knocked out. It just shows that even the very best can have setbacks. What really matters is the hard work, perseverance and resilience over time – something we talk about a lot in school and try to live out through our values every day.

Have a great weekend, and thank you as always for your continued support.

Mr Graves

## WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

|               |     |
|---------------|-----|
| Little Owls 1 | 94% |
| Little Owls 2 | 99% |
| Tawny Owls 1  | 97% |
| Tawny Owls 2  | 99% |
| Tawny Owls 3  | 94% |
| Snowy Owls 1  | 92% |
| Snowy Owls 2  | 97% |
| Snowy Owls 3  | 96% |

Whole School 96%

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**:



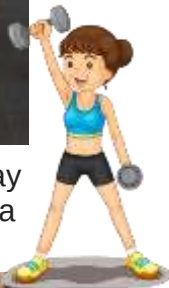




# Meet our heroes



Ava attends Luna gym every Saturday morning with the brother Rohan, for a children's CrossFit session.



Fantastic Ava, well done!



We are really proud of Jesse, who recently earned his first swimming certificate and is gaining confidence in the water.



Amazing Jesse, 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 "Healthy habits for parenting" and "Building secure relationships with children".**



## "Healthy habits for parenting"

Practicing healthy habits and self-care helps parents stay emotionally strong, model positive behaviours for their children, and have enough energy to support them effectively. Even small, manageable routines can boost mental health and improve family wellbeing.

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

## "Building secure relationships"

Building secure relationships helps children feel safe, develop trust, and gain confidence to explore the world. Meeting their physical and emotional needs consistently strengthens attachment, supports brain development, and fosters emotional regulation throughout 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 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](#)

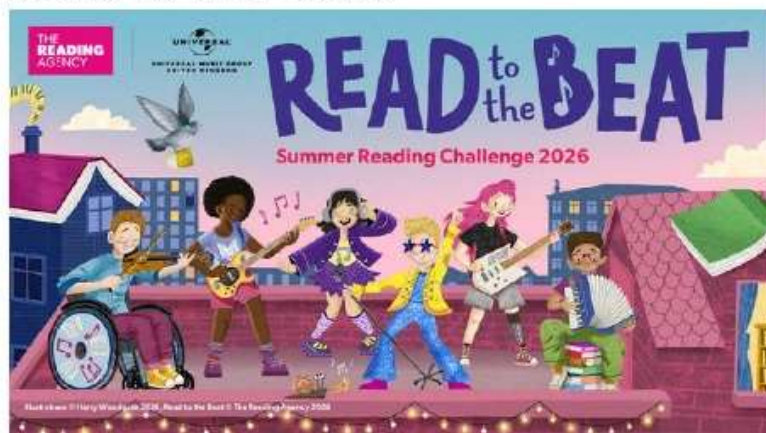


### Key Stage 2 event with Steve Cole Thursday 9 July 1:30 to 2:15 pm

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







At the end of this academic year, we will be saying a fond farewell to Elaine Ford, who is retiring after more than 30 years at Hillside Pre-School.

We thank Elaine for her incredible dedication and the positive impact she has had on so many children and families over the years, and wish her a long and happy retirement.

We are delighted that Melanie Pitcher, who has been part of the pre-school team for over 20 years, will be taking over and leading Hillside Pre-School into its next chapter. We wish Melanie every success in her new role.




**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)



**GO MTB kids**

**We provide progressive rider lead coaching at Moors Valley Country Park**

**Pre-Riders Course (Parent + Child) : 1 Hour**  
**Taster Session / Skills Assessments : 2 Hours**  
**Core Skills Course : 6 x 2 Hours**  
**Intermediate Course : 6 x 3 Hours**  
**Intro to Watchmoor Bike Park : 4 Hours**  
**Holiday Fun Sessions: 4 Hours**




**COMETS**  
**FOR BOYS & GIRLS AGED 5-11**

**A SAFE SPACE**  
 FOR DISABLED CHILDREN  
 AGED 5-11 TO KICKSTART  
 THEIR FOOTBALL JOURNEY.

-  **INCLUSIVE & SUPPORTIVE**
-  **FUN, FRIENDLY & SKILL-BUILDING**
-  **BUILD CONFIDENCE, MAKE FRIENDS, LOVE FOOTBALL**

 **INTERESTED? CONTACT DAN** **07506 552289**

**PLAY BELONG SHINE** ★





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><br>15:00-16:00 (Year R-2)<br>16:00-17:00 (Year 3-4) | Book <a href="#">here</a> for Year R-2<br>Book <a href="#">here</a> for Year 3-4<br>Password: <b>Hillside2026</b> |
|           | <b>Computer Xplorers</b><br>15:00-16:00 (Year 1-4)                        | Book <a href="#">here</a>                                                                                         |
| TUESDAY   | <b>BRS Sports &amp; Fitness Breakfast Club</b><br>08:00-08:30 (Year R-4)  | Book via Arbor app                                                                                                |
|           | <b>BRS Sports &amp; Fitness Lunch Club</b><br>12:00-12:30 (Year R-4)      | Book via Arbor app                                                                                                |
|           | <b>BRS After School Football Club</b><br>15:00-16:00 (Year 1-4)           | Book via Arbor app                                                                                                |
| WEDNESDAY | <b>Discover Your Imagination</b><br>15:00-16:15 (Year 1-2)                | Book <a href="#">here</a>                                                                                         |
| THURSDAY  | <b>Forest School</b><br>15:00-16:00                                       | Book <a href="#">here</a>                                                                                         |
|           | <b>Discover Your Imagination</b><br>15:00-16:15 (Year 3-4)                | Book <a href="#">here</a>                                                                                         |
| FRIDAY    | <b>Rocksteady Music School</b><br>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)