

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



Last Day of Term
Wednesday 22nd
July

END OF
TERM

School finishes at
the usual time of
15:00

Headteacher Update Friday 10th July 2026

It has been another fantastic week at Hillside, with lots of exciting events and achievements to celebrate as we approach the end of the academic year.

One of the highlights of the week was Tuesday's Sports Morning. Our children had a fantastic time and truly demonstrated all of our school values of **Respect, Ambition and Perseverance** throughout the event. It was wonderful to see so much enthusiasm, determination and encouragement shown by everyone involved.

A huge thank you to all of the families who came along to cheer the children on, our PTA for serving refreshing cold drinks, and the Year 7 pupils from Emmanuel Middle School who helped to run the events so brilliantly. A special thank you also goes to Miss Zachariades, our PE and Sports Leader, for organising such a successful morning.

I would also like to thank our fantastic staff team for all of their hard work and support in making the event run so smoothly. Most importantly, thank you to our wonderful children, who approached every activity with enthusiasm, resilience and a determination to do their very best. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of you.

The final scores are currently being checked and the winning house will be announced during Monday's assembly.

We are also delighted to share that Hillside has been recognised as a **Centre of Excellence** for **Sparx Reading**, following the successful trial undertaken by our Year 3 and 4 pupils. Sparx Reading will be introduced more fully across Years 3 and 4 from the start of the new academic year. Further details to follow in September!

As part of this recognition, we welcomed colleagues from other Initio Trust schools yesterday to see Sparx Reading in action. Mrs Drummond led the session and showcased an excellent lesson, sharing the work she has been leading throughout the project. Thank you, Mrs Drummond, and a huge well done to the children in Snowy Owls 1, who were exceptional ambassadors for our school.

Today, our Year 4 children travelled to Wimborne Minster to take part in the Initio Trust Year 4 Leavers' Service. It was a lovely occasion and a fitting opportunity for the children to reflect on their time at first school as they prepare for the next stage of their education. As always, they represented Hillside brilliantly, and we were incredibly proud of the way they conducted themselves.

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend, and thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Mr Graves

WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Little Owls 1	94%
Little Owls 2	98%
Tawny Owls 1	90%
Tawny Owls 2	96%
Tawny Owls 3	94%
Snowy Owls 1	96%
Snowy Owls 2	96%
Snowy Owls 3	95%

Whole School 95%

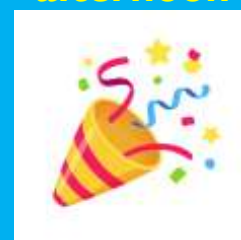
Target



The school day begins
at 08:40

Gates open at 08:30
School finishes at 15:00

Celebration of Achievement afternoon



Tuesday 14th
July

Straight after
school

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



Little
Owls 1
Nethal

Little
Owls 2
Aria

Tawny
Owls 1
Jackson

Tawny
Owls 2
**Paisley &
Max**

Tawny
Owls 3
**Whole
Class**

Snowy
Owls 1
Natalie

Snowy
Owls 2
Isla

Snowy
Owls 3
Evie





Hillside Sports Day

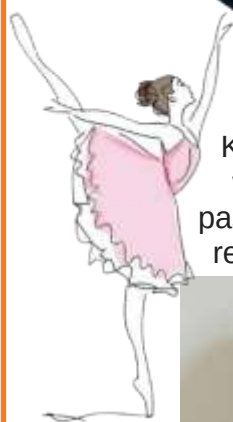
July 2026







Meet our heroes



Kenzie has done so well with her ballet that she passed her first ballet exam recently and got a trophy.



Her confidence has grown so much and we are so proud of her.

Fantastic Kenzie, well done!



Tommy received the 'Player of the Day' medal at football for his excellent listening skills.



He also impressed his coaches by using a new technique he had learnt in training during a recent match.



Amazing Tommy, 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: "Understanding sibling rivalry"

Sibling rivalry is normal and can help children learn to manage conflict. Give each child individual attention, let minor disagreements resolve themselves, and model calm, respectful ways to handle disputes. Step in only when necessary and coach them to express their feelings with words.

Supporting information and video 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](#)

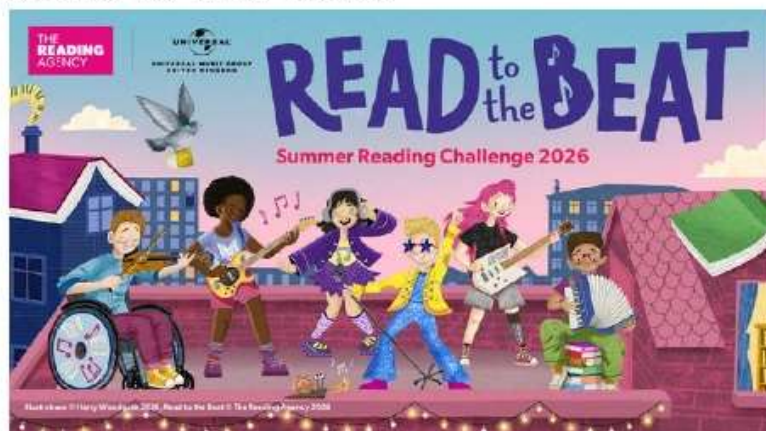


Key Stage 2 event with Steve Cole Thursday 9 July 1:30 to 2:15 pm

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

EVENTS



'Where children are at the heart of everything we do'



Respect

Ambition

Perseverance



**Hillside
First School**

'where children are at the heart of everything we do'

**FOR CHILDREN
STARTING SCHOOL
IN SEPTEMBER 2027**

Open Events

Tuesday 6th October - 09:00

Wednesday 14th October - 17:00

Tuesday 10th November - 09:00

Scan the QR code below to book
your place or complete the booking
form on our website.



We are very proud of our school. We would love to show you around and let you see what we do and how we learn.

There will be a presentation at 09:00 and 17:00 by our Headteacher, Mr Graves followed by a school tour.

www.hillsidefirstschool.org ~ 01202 822737



**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





Visiting children's author - Debs Pharoah Pink



Local children's author, Debs Pharoah Pink, is visiting Verwood Library this summer to share her book, 'A Squirrel's Tale'. She will be doing some craft activities and there will be the opportunity to purchase her book. Booking required by email or in person.

Verwood Library

Monday 27 July
Monday 24 August

11:00am - 12:30pm

For more information and to book your place contact:



verwoodlibrary@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk



01202 822972

Suitable for ages 5-7 years but all ages welcome.

Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult.



Read to the Beat Illustrations by Harry Woodgate, Illustrations and logo © The Reading Agency 2020

Saturday 8th August

10am-12noon

VERWOOD UNITED REFORMED
CHURCH

Free Arts and Crafts activities for children

Refreshments available
All Welcome!

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 ★