

Hillside News

DATES TO
REMEMBER



Children in Year 1 – 4
return to school on
**Thursday 3rd
September.**



Hillside First School

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



www.hillsidefirstschool.org ~ 01202 822737 ~ office@hillsidefirstschool.org



Headteacher Update Friday 17th July 2026

As we come to the end of our final full week of the academic year, with just three school days remaining before we break up on Wednesday 23rd July, it feels like the perfect opportunity to reflect on what has been another fantastic year at Hillside.

It has been a year filled with learning, laughter, new opportunities and memorable experiences. Whether in the classroom, on educational visits, through sporting competitions, performances, clubs, fundraising events or the many everyday moments that make school life so special, our children have continued to impress us with their enthusiasm, resilience and kindness. They remain, as always, at the heart of everything we do, and I couldn't be prouder of all they have achieved.

Next week promises to be a memorable one as we celebrate our wonderful Year 4 children before they move on to their middle schools. Saying goodbye is always bittersweet. It has been a privilege to watch them grow in confidence, develop their talents and become fantastic role models for our younger children. We wish every one of them the very best for the future and know they will go on to achieve great things.

A huge thank you also goes to our Year 4 parents and carers who organised such a fantastic Leavers' Party last night. It was a wonderful evening that gave the children the opportunity to celebrate together and create memories that will stay with them for years to come.

Congratulations to Black Team for winning this year's Sports Morning. The competition was incredibly close across all four teams, with every child demonstrating excellent teamwork, determination and positive attitudes throughout the morning. Well done to everyone who took part.

We were also delighted to continue the tradition of the Sam Challis Celebration Trophy during this year's Sports Morning. The trophy holds a very special place in our school community and is awarded each year to the team that best demonstrates the values that Sam himself represented so strongly: teamwork, perseverance and kindness.

Although Sam left us many years ago, his memory continues to inspire our children and reminds us that sport is about so much more than winning. It is about encouraging others, showing respect, supporting your team and giving your very best. We are grateful to Sam's family for allowing us to continue this wonderful tradition and for helping us celebrate the qualities that make Hillside such a special place.

WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Little Owls 1	97%
Little Owls 2	95%
Tawny Owls 1	94%
Tawny Owls 2	90%
Tawny Owls 3	98%
Snowy Owls 1	94%
Snowy Owls 2	98%
Snowy Owls 3	96%

Whole School 95%

Target



The school day begins
at 08:40

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

**Wednesday
22nd July**



**Children finish
at 3pm as usual**

Headteacher Update Friday 17th July 2026

Like many of you, I was disappointed to see England's Men's Football World Cup journey come to an end. Sport has a wonderful way of bringing people together, and it has been fantastic to see communities across the country getting behind the team. While disappointment is part of both sport and life, these moments often teach us valuable lessons about resilience, perseverance and looking forward to the next opportunity—qualities we encourage in our children every day.

As another successful year draws to a close, I would like to thank everyone who helps make Hillside such a special place.

To our incredible staff, thank you for your unwavering commitment, care and dedication to every child.

To our Local School Committee, thank you for your continued challenge, support and encouragement throughout the year.

To our wonderful volunteers who generously give their time to hear children read and support school life, thank you—you make a genuine difference.

To our remarkable PTA, thank you for your tireless fundraising and for organising so many enjoyable events that enrich the experiences of our children.

To all our families, thank you for your continued support, encouragement and partnership. We simply couldn't do what we do without you.

To those families moving on this summer, thank you for everything you have contributed to our Hillside community. We wish you every happiness and success for the future. To those returning in September, we look forward to welcoming you back for another exciting year. And to the families joining Hillside for the very first time, a very warm welcome, we can't wait to meet you and begin your journey with us.

Finally, and most importantly, thank you to our incredible children. They continue to amaze us every single day with their curiosity, kindness, determination and enthusiasm. They are the reason we all come to work each morning and the reason Hillside is such a happy and successful school.

We are looking forward to making the most of our final three days together next week, including our Year 4 Leavers' Performance, our final Assembly and the many special moments that always accompany the end of another school year.

On behalf of everyone at Hillside First School, thank you for your continued support throughout the year. I hope you all have a wonderful, restful and well-deserved summer break, and I look forward to writing to you again at the start of the new academic year.

With best wishes,

Mr Graves



Monday 20th July
14:00
Year 4 Leavers
Assembly





Well done to everyone who took part in this year's Sports Morning!

Here are the final team results. Congratulations to all our teams for giving it their very best!



As another school year comes to an end, we would like to say a fond farewell to our fantastic Year 4 children as they prepare for the exciting next step in their education. We are incredibly proud of everything they have achieved during their time at Hillside and know they will continue to shine in their new schools. We wish each and every one of them the very best of luck for September and the adventures that lie ahead.

We also say goodbye to three valued members of our Hillside family. After an incredible 25 years of dedicated service, **Mrs Pain** is retiring. We also bid farewell to **Mr West**, who has been part of our school for 7 years, and **Mrs Buckley**, who has given 12 years of dedicated service. We thank them all for their commitment, care and the positive difference they have made to the lives of so many children and families.

From everyone at Hillside, we wish our Year 4 pupils, Mrs Pain, Mr West and Mrs Buckley every happiness and success for the future. You will always be a special part of the Hillside family.



Meet our heroes



Lola received her Bronze Award at Brownies recently.



We are so proud of her for persevering to achieve this.

Fantastic Lola, well done!



We are so proud of Luna, she did her first park run on Sunday and really enjoyed it.



Amazing Luna, well done!

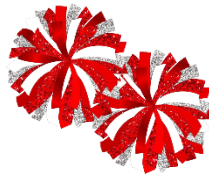


Meet our heroes



Cheerfest Success!

Jessica, Hannah, Amarra and Millie represented their cheerleading club at Cheerfest last weekend. The girls performed in front of hundreds of people across both Saturday and Sunday, showing great confidence, teamwork and dedication. Special congratulations also goes to Millie, who received an award during the event.



Millie's Special Award

At her first Cheerfest with RCA Cheer, Millie received the **Junior 1 Award**, a special award chosen by her coaches.

Millie attends cheer alongside fellow Hillside pupils Hannah, Jessica and Amarra, who have all worked incredibly hard and achieved fantastic success in cheerleading.



This award recognises not only Millie's cheerleading ability, but also her kindness, enthusiasm, hard work, positive attitude and excellent team spirit. Her coaches said, *"Everyone knows who Millie is before they even meet her,"* highlighting the positive energy and encouragement she brings to those around her.

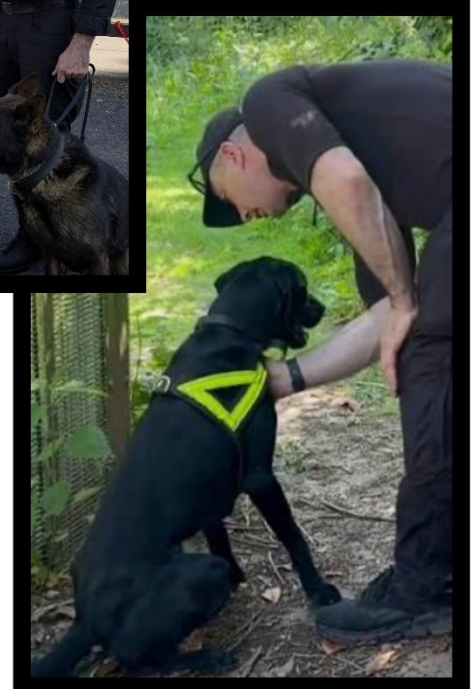
We are incredibly proud of Millie and her friends for their dedication, teamwork and wonderful achievements!

Very well done to Millie, Hannah, Jessica & Amarra.





Little Owls Police Dog visit



As part of our transport topic, Little Owls had a big surprise from a Police dog handler and two very special visitors on Tuesday. PD Diesel and newly qualified PD Harry visited Little Owls and the Preschool. They were very well behaved (if a little noisy!) and we learnt what they do as a job.

Verwood in Bloom

Overall school competition



Verwood in Bloom

Class competition



Verwood in Bloom

Please enjoy our wonderful planters



Verwood in Bloom

Please enjoy our wonderful planters



We have had some busy bees visit us too.





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.



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.

This week's focus: "Helping your child develop talents"

Every child has unique talents, which can be innate or developed through learning and practice. Supporting their interests without forcing them allows talents to grow, boosts confidence, resilience, and creativity, and strengthens parent-child relationships.

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



THANK YOU

Volunteers



Jean



Katie



Carol



June



Loretta



Lesley



Nancy



Charlotte



Judith

Autumn *term*

UPCOMING EVENTS

September

Tuesday 1st
Inset Day

Wednesday 2nd
Inset Day

Thursday 3rd
First Day of Term

Monday 21st
Individual & Sibling Photographs

Wednesday 23rd
PTA AGM - new members welcome
18:00 at Hillside First School

Friday 25th
African Drumming Workshop



November

Monday 2nd
Inset Day

Monday 9th
Remembrance Assembly

Tuesday 10th
New Parents Open Morning
09:00

Tuesday 10th
PTA Event
Movie Night - Year R and Year 1

Wednesday 11th
PTA Event
Movie Night
Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4

Friday 13th
Mufti Day in exchange for tombola
donations for our
Christmas Fayre

Monday 16th - Friday 20th
Anti Bullying (Friendship Week)

Friday 20th
Children in Need

Friday 27th
PTA Event
Christmas Fayre

**Monday 26th -
Friday 30th**
Half Term

December

Friday 4th
PTA Event
Christmas Shop



Thursday 10th
Christmas Jumper Day
Children can wear a
Christmas jumper along
with non-school uniform

Monday 14th
Christmas Performances

Tuesday 15th
Christmas Performances

Wednesday 16th
Christmas Performances

Thursday 17th
Christmas Entertainment

Friday 18th
Christmas Party Day

FREE Mufti day
Children invited
to wear party
Clothes.

Friday 18th
Last day
of term

October

Monday 5th
Harvest Assembly

Tuesday 6th
New Parents Open Morning
09:00

Friday 9th
World Mental Health Day

Wednesday 14th
New Parents Open Evening
17:00

Tuesday 20th
Parent Consultations

Wednesday 21st
Parent Consultations



Hillside First School offers a wide range of after-school clubs to enrich children's learning and creativity beyond the classroom. From 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
	Computer Xplorers 15:00-16:00 (Year1-4)	Book here
TUESDAY	Mad Science 15:00-16:00 (Year 1-4)	Book here
WEDNESDAY	Lego Creators 15:00-16:00 (Year 2-4)	Book here
THURSDAY	Arts, Crafts & Mindfulness 15:00-16:00 (Year1-4)	Book here
	Gymnastics 15:00-16:00 (Year 3-4) 16:00-17:00 (Year R-2)	To register, email 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





Innavibe

Afterschool Arts, Crafts & Mindfulness Club

Hillside First School

Years 1, 2, 3 & 4

Thursdays • 3pm ~ 4pm

£5 per session

Booked in termly blocks

Join us to create, unwind, and have fun!

A welcoming space to explore art, crafts & mindfulness through colour, creativity & calm.



To book your place, visit: [Bookwhen.com/innavibe](https://bookwhen.com/innavibe)



INNAVIBE presents...

HILLSIDE MASTER LEGO CREATORS

= Build • Create • Imagine =



Every Wednesday After School!

For children in Years 2, 3 and 4

£5 per session

Payable in Block Sessions per Term

Limited Numbers - Book Early!

Hosted by **Innavibe**

Inspiring Imagination & Fun!

To reserve your place, visit: [Bookwhen.com/innavibe](https://bookwhen.com/innavibe)

HEAD OVER HEELS GYMNASTICS AT HILLSIDE FIRST SCHOOL



EVERY THURSDAY AFTER SCHOOL

HILLSIDE FIRST SCHOOL GYMNASTICS CLUB

3.00 - 4.00PM YEARS 3&4

4.00 - 5.00PM RECEPTION, YEARS 1&2

(TERM-TIME ONLY)

QUALIFIED & INSURED COACHES £8 PER SESSION

BUILD CONFIDENCE, STRENGTH & COORDINATION THROUGH GYMNASTICS IN A FUN, SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT.

GYMNASTICS GAMES, LEARNING STRETCHES, STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING, USING GYM APPARATUS AND AIR EQUIPMENT.

OPEN TO ALL SKILL LEVELS, FROM BEGINNERS TO ADVANCED.

OPEN TO CHILDREN IN RECEPTION AND YEARS 1-4.

LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE, EMAIL TO JOIN THE CLASS.

TO REGISTER, PLEASE FOLLOW THIS LINK:
[HTTPS://HEAD-OVER-HEELS-GYMNASTICS-S.CLASSFORKIDS.IO](https://head-over-heels-gymnastics-s.classforkids.io)

 Hillside First School, 10 Hillside rd, Verwood, BH31 7HE

 07594 799787 (WhatsApp) - Daisy Collins

Email: @officeheadoverheelsgymnastics.co.uk




AFTERNOON SCHOOL CLUB



Hands-on Science!

TUESDAYS 3:00pm - 4:00pm

6 x 1hr sessions

Cost: £54 per child

Dates: 15th September - 20th October 2026

AUTUMN TERM 2026

[Book here](#)

Limited Places

PLEASE REGISTER BY 10th SEP TO SECURE YOUR SPOT!

Hillside First School Afternoon School Club, | MadScienceWessex | Powered by ClassForKids

Please note: Successful online registration with full payment secures your child's place on our Afternoon school club programme unless you are otherwise contacted!

For any further information please contact us:
info@madsciencewessex.co.uk

Due to the nature of our afternoon school club, all students will be expected to behave to an appropriate manner and adhere to the rules of Mad Science. Any child who consistently does not behave will be asked to leave and will not be entitled to a refund.