



DATES TO REMEMBER



Monday 21st September

Individual and sibling photographs.

Please come to school in full uniform.



Headteacher Update Friday 11th September 2026

Welcome back to the new academic year. It's great to be back!

It always feels a little strange during the INSET days when the children aren't in school, so it has been lovely to welcome everyone back this week. It has also been a particularly exciting week for our Reception children, who have had their first days at school. What a special moment! We are really looking forward to getting to know them and watching them settle into life at Hillside.

This week, we have had an assembly recapping our three school rules, Ready, Respectful and Engaged, as well as our three school values of Respect, Ambition and Perseverance. During Monday's assembly, we linked the values of Ambition and Perseverance to the story Dream Big, written by Deloris Jordan, Michael Jordan's mum, which tells the story of his dreams and determination to succeed.

Across the school, we have also been working hard to establish our high expectations, routines and behaviours for learning. The children have responded really well, and it has been fantastic to see everyone getting back into the routines of school.

Hopefully, you will have had the opportunity to read the Home Learning letter that was sent home earlier this week. There is also an opportunity to attend our Parent Reading Workshop, led by Mrs Palmer. I would really encourage you to attend if you are able to. We will also make sure the slides are uploaded to the website following the session for those who are unable to attend.

A quick reminder about morning drop off

Could I please ask for your support with our morning drop off routine? I know it is the first week back and we have had some particularly wet weather, but we have received some feedback from parents about the long queues of traffic along Hillside Road.

This appears to be happening when cars are parking in the drop off zones rather than dropping children off and moving on. If you would like to walk your child into school, please park in a designated bay if one is available, or safely on the road, rather than using the drop off zone.

The drop off zones are intended for a quick drop off at the start of the school day, which helps to keep traffic moving and makes things easier for everyone.

Thank you, as always, for your support and cooperation with this.

We're on Instagram!

We are now also on Instagram! If you would like to keep up to date with some of the exciting things happening at Hillside, please follow us using the link on the side of the newsletter.

We are looking forward to an exciting term, with lots of great learning opportunities and activities planned for the children.

Hopefully, you're all finding your groove again and getting back into the old routines! Thank you, as always, for your continued support of the school.

Have a great weekend.

Mr Graves
Headteacher

WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Little Owls 1	91%
Little Owls 2	100%
Barn Owls 1	99%
Barn Owls 2	98%
Tawny Owls	98%
Snowy Owls	97%
Eagle Owls 1	96%
Eagle Owls 2	99%

Whole School 98%

Target



The school day begins at 08:40

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





Hillside First School

★ A SKY FULL OF STARS ★

Small steps
at home make
a big difference!



Reading WORKSHOP

Supporting your child's
reading journey ♥

All parents
and carers
welcome!

Read
Explore
Imagine
Belong
Achieve



We are delighted to invite you to our Reading Workshop, designed to support you in helping your child become a confident, fluent and enthusiastic reader.



What we'll cover:

- A brief overview of our **phonics programme** – how we teach children to recognise sounds, blend them together to read words and develop accuracy and fluency.
- How **phonics** links to the books your child brings home and how you can reinforce these skills through everyday reading practice.
- Modelling effective **1:1 reading strategies**, showing you how to make the most of your child's reading time at home.



We will also:

- Share practical strategies for overcoming common challenges and supporting reluctant readers.
- Explore ways to keep expectations manageable, build positive reading habits and encourage your child without making reading feel like a chore.

★ Our aim

For you to leave feeling informed, reassured and confident about supporting your child at home – with a clear understanding of how to help them when they are successful, when they make mistakes and when they need a little extra encouragement.

Together
we make
brighter futures



Thursday 15th October
5.30 – 6.30pm

We look forward to welcoming you
and working together to support your child's
reading journey.

Hillside First School
A Sky Full of Stars



Medical Information



Administering Medicines

If you wish school staff to administer medication to your child, parents **must** complete the consent form which can be obtained from the school office.

Staff can only administer medicines prescribed by a doctor and only when a child needs to take **4 doses** in a day. All medicines must be in their original box or container and include the instruction for administration.



Inhalers



If your child uses an inhaler, can you please ensure that we have a spare one in school. All inhalers are kept in class with your child for easy access.

All medication needs to be in date with the prescription label attached.

An asthma form for your child needs to be completed. Please speak to the school office. If you are unable to pop in, please let us know and we will send a form home with your child.

Allergies in School

Can we remind parents that we are a nut free school.

We have a number of children in school with allergies and ask for your support by not sending nuts or nut-based products in your child's lunch box, such as Nutella.



Keep us updated!



Please make sure your child's details are up to date, including address, telephone number, emergency contacts and any medical information. You can update this directly through your Arbor portal.



Diarrhoea and vomiting?

There's no specific cure for stomach bugs such as Norovirus

Going to your GP puts others at risk of infection. Treat symptoms at home



stay hydrated



take paracetamol



prevent spread



stay at home for two days after symptoms clear



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

SCAN ME!

Do you need to apply for your child's new school place?

Is your child due to leave their current school in July 2027 and transfer to the next school in September 2027?

Dorset Residents Apply Now

Secondary applications - Closing date 31 October 2026

- Primary - Secondary School
- Middle - Upper School

Primary applications - Closing date 15 January 2027

- Starting School
- Infant - Junior School
- First - Middle School

Dorset residents apply online at: dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/apply-school-place or call 01305 221060

Scan here

HILLSIDE FIRST SCHOOL - PE TIMETABLE		
CLASS	PE DAY 1	PE DAY 2
Little Owls 1	Friday	
Little Owls 2	Friday	
Barn Owls 1	Wednesday	Thursday
Barn Owls 2	Wednesday	Thursday
Tawny Owls	Monday	Tuesday
Snowy Owls	Monday	Tuesday
Eagle Owls 1	Tuesday	Thursday
Eagle Owls 2	Tuesday	Thursday

HAVE FUN & STAY ACTIVE!

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

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



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





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)	Coming Soon
TUESDAY	BRS Football Club 15:00-16:00	Book here
	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)	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

