



DATES TO REMEMBER



**Monday 21st
September**

Individual and sibling
photographs.

Please come to school
in full uniform.



Headteacher Update Friday 18th September 2026

It has been another busy week at Hillside First School!

We had a visit from Nick the Vic on Wednesday, who led a lovely assembly linked to kindness. On Thursday, we held our first Celebration Achievement Assembly of the year. This morning, Vocalise joined us to share news of an exciting project that we will be taking part in with other local schools in the run-up to Christmas. Further details will follow very soon!

Our Reception children will also be joining us for assembly for the first time on Monday next week, which we are all very much looking forward to.

It has been an absolute treat walking around school this week and seeing how well our Reception children are settling into their new school. Every time I go into Reception, I seem to leave with another collection of drawings that the children have created especially for me! They have certainly been keeping me well supplied!

Year 1 have been busy starting their learning about Verwood and have been working hard on one more and one less in maths, as well as developing their pencil grip and handwriting.

Year 2 have been learning about the seasons and linking this learning to their writing.

Year 3 and 4 have been learning about the Stone Age. They have particularly enjoyed the story of Stone Age Boy and have now made a start on Stig of the Dump. In Science, they have also been learning about the skeletal system. One child was very keen to share their knowledge with me, telling me, "Mr Graves, an adult has 206 bones, but children usually have more because they haven't fused at this point!" I love the facts that our children pick up and, more importantly, their enthusiasm for sharing them!

We would also like to take the opportunity to say a huge thank you to Tracy Pearson for her continued contribution to Hillside. Tracy is continuing in her role as Chair of the PTA and, over the summer, she has worked incredibly hard to improve our shared area outside the Year 2, 3 and 4 classrooms. With help from members of her family at times, she has painted the area and also put together all of the new furniture. We really do appreciate the time, effort and care she continues to give to our school. Thank you, Tracy!

We would also like to say a big thank you to Verwood House Care Home for their very kind gift of a coffee machine for our staffroom. I am sure it will be very well used!

Finally, just a reminder that we have our school photographs on Monday, so please ensure that children come to school in their school uniform. We also have our African Drumming Workshop taking place on Friday, which promises to be a great experience for the children.

Have a great weekend!

Mr Graves
Headteacher

WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Little Owls 1	90%
Little Owls 2	97%
Barn Owls 1	98%
Barn Owls 2	96%
Tawny Owls	95%
Snowy Owls	98%
Eagle Owls 1	94%
Eagle Owls 2	99%

Whole School 96%

Target



**The school day begins
at 08:40**

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



Congratulations
to the following children
for being our latest



Stars of the Week

Little Owls 1
Joining in
October

Little Owls 2
Joining in
October

Barn Owls 1
Edward

Barn Owls 2
Blossom

Tawny Owls
Maeve

Snowy Owls
Oscar

Eagle Owls 1
Lola

Eagle Owls 2
Luca





Max played in a Lynx Tour golf tournament at Sturminster Marshall and came first in his Under 7's group. He also played in a team event there during the summer holidays, and his team came first too.



We are so proud of all the hard work and dedication Max has put in to practicing his golf this year. Well done, Max.



Over the summer, Josiah did the Verwood Horticultural society scavenger hunt to collect lots of items from nature and summer days out. He also worked really hard to decorate the bag.



Josiah won the prize for the best decorated bag for his age group!



A huge thank you to **Tracy from our PTA** for painting the Year 2–4 shared area and giving our ELSA room a lovely makeover. We really appreciate all your hard work!

A big thank you to our **PTA** for providing our lovely new bookshelves. They are a fantastic addition to school and will help us to keep our books organised and easily accessible for the children to enjoy.

A special thank you to **Verwood House Care Home** for kindly donating a coffee machine for our staff. Thank you for thinking of us!



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 - PE TIMETABLE

CLASS

PE DAY 1

PE DAY 2

Little Owls 1



Friday

Little Owls 2



Friday

Barn Owls 1



Wednesday

Barn Owls 2



Wednesday

Tawny Owls



Monday

Snowy Owls



Monday

Eagle Owls 1



Tuesday

Eagle Owls 2



Tuesday

Thursday

Thursday

Tuesday

Tuesday

Thursday

Thursday

HAVE FUN & STAY ACTIVE!



**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



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

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



DORSET PARENT CARER COUNCIL BIG EVENT

Join us for a relaxed **FREE** information event for families with children with special education need and disabilities (SEND).

There will be lots of organisations attending that support children with SEND. such as:

- education & schools
- health support
- SEND support groups
- activities for children with SEND
- impartial advice and guidance
- and much more

We will also have a special stall at this event where you can learn more about the Governments proposed **SEND Reforms** and share your thoughts!



Kingston Maurward
House, DT2 8PY
10am - 1pm



Free tea, coffee and
relaxed spaces for a
chat.

Meet & talk with local
organisations. Hear their news
and ask them questions



Meet with other
parents and carers



**Dorset
Council**

**Dorset
SENDIASS**

**NHS
Dorset**

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

Clubs starting at 3.00pm

The children will go directly to the club from the classroom and leave by the school's main entrance. If you have any questions, please contact the relevant club provider directly.

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

