



Celebration Assembly

From next week onwards, our Celebration Assembly will move from Thursday to Friday.



WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

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



No Dogs on school premises

For health and safety reasons, dogs are not permitted on the school site.

Thank you for your support.

Headteacher Update Friday 2nd October 2026

As we reach the end of another busy week at Hillside First School, I would like to share some of the highlights.

We kicked things off by welcoming Stephen Gillham to lead our assembly, linked to Harvest, kindness and being thankful. It is fantastic that our Reception children are now joining us for every assembly, meaning we really are all together again as one Hillside family!

A huge thank you for all of your generous Harvest donations. We have our Harvest Assembly on Monday, so please continue to send in any last-minute donations. These will then be donated to our local food bank.

There has been a real burst of activity in Little Owls, with lots of great learning taking place. The children have already been working hard on their 'lizard poses' as they practise their letter formation as part of our Kinetic Letters approach to handwriting. It is lovely to see them developing these important early writing skills.

Year 1 have been busy continuing their artwork linked to Kandinsky, with some very impressive displays now appearing in classrooms. Year 2 have continued their work on the seasons and have produced some excellent descriptive sentences, there are some budding authors in Year 2!

Our Year 3 and 4 children also enjoyed a visit from the Solar Farm on Monday. The children took part in a workshop and made their own bug hotels, linking their learning to the natural environment and biodiversity.

Our Year 4 children also enjoyed their multi-sports event at Emmanuel Middle School yesterday. It was great to see them representing Hillside, getting involved and, as always, showing plenty of enthusiasm!

Today was a whole-school mufti day in preparation for our discos after school, which have always been really well attended. A huge thank you, as always, to our fantastic PTA for organising everything. We are looking to hold another PTA event before the end of the year, so please do come along and find out more about how you can get involved if you are interested. We are always grateful for the support of our Hillside families.

Finally, a huge thank you for all of your kind messages and well wishes ahead of my upcoming operation. I am looking forward to getting the surgery completed, working through my recovery and getting back to school as soon as possible!

For now, I will be handing over to Mrs Palmer, who will continue with our weekly newsletter while I am away. I know you will give her the same support you have always given me.

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes,
Mr Graves
Headteacher

Congratulations
to the following children
for being our latest



Stars of the Week

Little Owls 1

Arthur

Little Owls 2

Brody

Barn Owls 1

Archie

Barn Owls 2

Maisie

Tawny Owls

Lara

Snowy Owls

Felicity

Eagle Owls 1

Geoffrey

Eagle Owls 2

Oliver





Charlie and Louie recently took part in the Dorset Junior Golf Challenge Finals which were held at Sturminster Marshall Golf Club.

Charlie came runner up in the under 7's category and Louie came runner up in the under 6's!



They both received a trophy, medal and a golfing goody bag. Well done boys, the hard work and perseverance is paying off.



Lyra did 400m this week and Otis passed his Duckling 4 and has moved up into stage 1.



Well done Lyra and Otis



Organised by BRS Coaching Academy

REGISTER NOW

Ages: 5-13

UEFA QUALIFIED COACHING

October Half Term

October 26th - October 29th, 2026

@ Hillside First School, Dorset

Time: 9am - 3pm

For Info & Register Contact:

Elliott@brscoachingacademy.co.uk

07 501 688972
(Call/WhatsApp)

www.brscoachingacademy.co.uk

Essential Equipment Checklist

- Bring Packed Lunch & Water Bottle
- Outdoor Football Clothes
- Football Boots & Trainers
- Shin Pads
- Raincoat

STEM CAMPS!

26TH - 30TH OCTOBER 2026

FROM £32 PER DAY

Hands-on Spooky Science! Spooky spells, FabOulous fun! Hop on the Hogwarts express & find out what the wanted witches have been up too!

BLANDFORD
BRYANSTON PREP
26TH - 28TH OCTOBER

FERNDOWN
PARLEYFIRSTSCHOOL
29TH - 30TH OCTOBER

9:30AM - 3PM

BOOK NOW

madsciencewessex.co.uk
info@madsciencewessex.co.uk

TEL: 01980 611807



‘Wear it Yellow’ Mufti Day - Friday 9th October

The children are invited to wear something yellow to school for the day. If you would like to make a donation, this can be paid via the shop on Arbor. All money raised will be donated to a mental health charity. Thank you for your support.

PE TIMETABLE

*Be active
Be healthy
Be you!*

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

Small steps = Big goals!

Hillside First School

where children are at the heart of everything we do



Small moments make a **BIG** difference

Reading Volunteers Needed!

At Hillside, we are working hard to foster a lifelong love of reading in our children. One of the most impactful ways we can support them is by giving them the opportunity to read aloud and share books with an adult.



We are looking for...

parent, carer and grandparent volunteers

who can spare a little time to come into school and listen to children read.

You don't need any prior experience, just patience, enthusiasm and a warm smile!



Your support will...

- ★ Help children develop their confidence
- ★ Improve their fluency
- ★ Build a love of reading
- ★ Make a real difference in our school community

You can...

- 📅 Volunteer regularly
- OR
- 🕒 Spare some time occasionally
- 🕒 Every bit of time helps!



Please note:

To ensure the safety of our children, all regular volunteers will need to complete an application form, provide the names and contact details of two character references and complete a DBS/background check.

If you are interested in volunteering in school, please speak to the school office.

Further information and the application form can be found on our website [here](#).



Thank you so much for your continued support of our school community. We would love to welcome you into Hillside and share in our children's reading journey!

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



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



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



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

Friday 2nd
PTA Event
Mufti Day & School Disco
Reception - Year 1 15:00-16:00
Year 2 - Year 4 16:30-17:30

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



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



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



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