



DATES TO REMEMBER



Celebration Assembly

Our Celebration Assembly now take place on Friday morning.



WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Little Owls 1	93%
Little Owls 2	93%
Barn Owls 1	98%
Barn Owls 2	98%
Tawny Owls	98%
Snowy Owls	98%
Eagle Owls 1	96%
Eagle Owls 2	98%

Whole School **97%**

Target



The school day begins at 08:40

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



Parent Consultations

These take place on Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st October.

Just a reminder to book your appointment on Arbor by Sunday 18th October

Headteacher Update Friday 9th October 2026

We started the week with a wonderful celebration of Harvest Festival! It was so lovely to hear the children singing their Harvest songs with such enthusiasm; they certainly helped get us all into the Harvest spirit!

We learnt lots of interesting facts about Harvest and had great fun retelling the story of 'The Enormous Turnip'. The children joined in chorally, with some wonderful budding actors helping to bring the story to life.

A huge thank you to all our wonderful families for your incredibly generous donations. We were absolutely blown away by your kindness. A special thank you must also go to some very helpful children who came to the rescue and helped pack away all the donations. There was certainly plenty to collect and all donations will be given to the Ringwood Food Bank to help support local families in our community. Thank you, as always, for helping us to make our Harvest celebration so special.

It's been wonderful to see our pupils engaged, curious and enthusiastic in their learning, with lots of exciting activities and opportunities taking place throughout the week. This week, Little Owls have enjoyed spending time in our forest area and went on a lovely nature walk in the sunshine, exploring and learning about our wonderful world as part of RE. They've also had lots of fun exploring water and sea creatures, inspired by the book of the week, 'Billy's Bucket'. The children have been exploring maps and even blasted off into space to look at Hillside and Verwood from an aerial view! To finish off a fantastic week, they created some very cute little hedgehogs out of clay. What a prickly but creative success!

Year 1 have been busy exploring their local town this week! On Thursday, they headed out on a walk around Verwood to discover what makes a town a town. Using the binoculars they made in school, they spotted key places and features and recorded their findings on their 'I Spy' sheets. Back in the classroom, they became map makers and created their own messy maps of Verwood, showing all the interesting places and features they discovered along the way. It has been fantastic to see the children developing their understanding of their local area through such hands-on learning.

Year two have been exploring our five senses, which culminated in a delicious (and surprising!) taste-test experiment. The children had a wonderful time trying to guess different flavours, with salted crisps and sweet sugar proving to be firm favourites! In maths, the children have been strengthening their counting skills by mastering the 2s, 5s and 10s. The children are now stepping up to a new challenge as we begin counting in 3s!

Years 3 and 4 have been developing their storytelling skills. In Science, they have been learning all about animal skeletons and exploring how skeletons help animals to move and survive. They have also been busy in French, practising their numbers and developing their confidence in counting all the way to 20! Well done to everyone for another fantastic week!

We are excited to begin our democratic process of finding our school's new Parliament! We have been encouraging the children to think carefully about why they want to represent their class and they will be able to explain why their friends should vote for them. Next week, we will begin our voting process, giving everyone the opportunity to have their say. This academic year, the successful Year 4 representatives will become Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister. A Parliament member from each class in the remaining year groups will then be elected to form our new school Parliament. We wish all of our candidates the very best of luck and look forward to seeing our new Parliament take shape!

We have recently had an increasing number of online safeguarding concerns brought to our attention, relating to children's use of devices and online platforms at home. As children spend more time online, it is important that we continue to work together to support them in making safe, positive and responsible choices when using the internet.

Over the next couple of weeks, we will be delivering some age appropriate online safety sessions, reminding children how to stay safe online, recognising when something doesn't feel right, knowing who they can talk to, and understanding the importance of being kind and respectful online. We would encourage all parents and carers to take some time to talk with their children about their online experiences and, where appropriate, check the devices, apps and platforms they are using. Please take a look at the advice and guidance for some helpful tips on supporting young people to stay safe online.

Best wishes,
Mrs Palmer

Congratulations
to the following children
for being our latest



Stars of the Week

Little Owls 1
Freya-Rose

Little Owls 2
Nevaeh

Barn Owls 1
Elsie

Barn Owls 2
Rowan

Tawny Owls
Norah

Snowy Owls
Erika

Eagle Owls 1
Logan

Eagle Owls 2
Violet



Hillside Harvest



A huge thank you to all of our Hillside First School and Pre-School families for your incredibly kind and generous donations to the Ringwood Foodbank.



Your generosity and support will make a real difference to local families and individuals who may be struggling at this time. We are so grateful for the kindness shown by our Hillside community and for helping us to support those in need within our local area.

Thank you for helping us to make a difference!



 **Ringwood Foodbank**
Together with Tesco!

Ringwood Foodbank would like to thank...

Hillside First School

for the very generous donation of food from your harvest collection.

146.05 kg of food was collected

This will feed...

15 people

3 meals a day

For 3 days

Thank you!

The Foodbank Team

www.ringwoodfoodbank.org.uk
© 2011 Ringwood Foodbank Ltd. 12040201 20g 40g 80g 160g 320g 640g 1280g 2560g 5120g 10240g 20480g 40960g 81920g 163840g 327680g 655360g 1310720g 2621440g 5242880g 10485760g 20971520g 41943040g 83886080g 167772160g 335544320g 671088640g 1342177280g 2684354560g 5368709120g 10737418240g 21474836480g 42949672960g 85899345920g 171798691840g 343597383680g 687194767360g 1374389534720g 2748779069440g 5497558138880g 10995116277760g 21990232555520g 43980465111040g 87960930222080g 175921860444160g 351843720888320g 703687441776640g 1407374883553280g 2814749767106560g 5629499534213120g 11258999068426240g 22517998136852480g 45035996273704960g 90071992547409920g 180143985094819840g 360287970189639680g 720575940379279360g 1441151880758558720g 2882303761517117440g 5764607523034234880g 11529215046068469760g 23058430092136939520g 46116860184273879040g 92233720368547758080g 184467440737095516160g 368934881474191032320g 737869762948382064640g 1475739525896764129280g 2951479051793528258560g 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‘Wear it Yellow’ Mufti Day

Friday 9th October

Today, the staff and children have come together to raise awareness of the important work undertaken by the charity Young Minds. The national campaign, led by the charity, encourages everyone to wear a splash of yellow to raise awareness of young people’s mental health & show support for one another.

In school, we have spent some time thinking about our emotional well-being and mental health and considered how important it is to talk to people about how we are feeling.

It was lovely to see everyone getting involved and helping to spread the important message that our mental health matters.



A huge thank you to everyone who kindly donated.

Together, we raised an amazing **£113**, which will be donated to **MIND**, helping to support mental health and wellbeing.



BRS FOOTBALL CAMP

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
- Football Boots & Trainers
- Outdoor Football Clothes
- Shin Pads
- Raincoat



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



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

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

Supporting young people online

Information and advice
for parents
and carers



The internet – an inspiring and positive place

The internet is an amazing resource which enables children and young people to connect, communicate and be creative in a number of different ways, on a range of devices. However, the internet is always changing, and being able to keep up to date with your children's use of technology can be a challenge. You may sometimes feel that your child has better technical skills than you do, however children and young people still need advice and protection when it comes to managing their lives online. Issues that your child may encounter on the internet will vary depending on their age and online activities. We have grouped potential online risks into these 4 categories.

Conduct: Children need to be aware of the impact that their online activity can have on both themselves and other people, and the digital footprint that they create on the internet. It's easy to feel anonymous online and it's important that children are aware of who is able to view, and potentially share, the information that they may have posted. When using the internet, it's important to keep personal information safe and not share it with strangers. Encourage your child to be respectful and responsible when communicating with others online, and to consider how what they share may reflect on them. Discuss with your child the importance of reporting inappropriate conversations, messages, images and behaviours and how this can be done.

Content: Some online content is not suitable for children and may be hurtful or harmful. This is true for content accessed and viewed via social networks, online games, blogs and websites. It's important for children to consider the reliability of online material and be aware that it might not be true or written with a bias. Children may need your help as they begin to assess content in this way. There can be legal consequences for using or downloading copyrighted content, without seeking the author's permission.

Contact: It is important for children to realise that new friends made online may not be who they say they are and that once a friend is added to an online account, you may be sharing your personal information with them. Regularly reviewing friends lists and removing unwanted contacts is a useful step. Privacy settings online may also allow you to customise the information that each friend is able to access. If you have concerns that your child is, or has been, the subject of inappropriate sexual contact or approach by another person, it's vital that you report it to the police via the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (www.ceop.police.uk). If your child is bullied online, this can also be reported online and offline. Reinforce with your child the importance of telling a trusted adult straight away if someone is bullying them or making them feel uncomfortable, or if one of their friends is being bullied online.

Commercialism: Young people's privacy and enjoyment online can sometimes be affected by advertising and marketing schemes, which can also mean inadvertently spending money online, for example within apps. Encourage your child to keep their personal information private, learn how to block both pop ups and spam emails, turn off in-app purchasing on devices where possible, and use a family email address when filling in online forms. Make your child aware of scams that may seek to gain access to their accounts, and advise them to be wary in following links or opening attachments in emails that appear to be from organisations such as banks and service providers.

There are real advantages in maintaining an open dialogue with your child about their internet use. Not sure where to begin? These conversation starter suggestions can help.

1 Ask your children to tell you about the sites they like to visit and what they enjoy doing online.

2 Ask them about how they stay safe online. What tips do they have for you, and where did they learn them? What is OK and not OK to share?

3 Ask them if they know where to go for help, where to find the safety advice, privacy settings and how to report or block on the services they use.

4 Encourage them to help someone! Perhaps they can show you how to do something better online or they might have a friend who would benefit from their help and support.

5 Think about how you each use the internet. What more could you do to use the internet together? Are there activities that you could enjoy as a family?

What can I do right now?

- ☐ Maintain an open dialogue with your child and encourage them to talk to you about their internet use: for example who they're talking to, services they're using, and any issues they may be experiencing.
- ☐ Create a family agreement to establish your children's boundaries, and your expectations, when on the internet. A template agreement can be found at www.childnet.com/have-a-conversation
- ☐ Give your child strategies to deal with any online content that they are not comfortable with – such as turning off the screen, telling an adult they trust and using online reporting facilities.
- ☐ Consider using filtering software to block unwanted content. In addition to filtering, remember that discussion with your child, and involvement in their internet use, are both effective ways to educate them about the internet.
- ☐ Encourage your child to 'think before you post.' Online actions can impact not only yourself but the lives of others. Content posted privately online can be publicly shared by others, and may remain online forever.
- ☐ Understand the law. Some online behaviour may break the law, for example when downloading or sharing content with others. Be able to recommend legal services.
- ☐ Familiarise yourself with the privacy settings and reporting features available on popular sites, services and apps.
- ☐ If your child is being bullied online, save all available evidence and know where to report the incident, for example to the school, service provider, or the police if the law has been broken.
- ☐ Familiarise yourself with the age ratings for games and apps which can help to indicate the level and suitability of the content. Also see if online reviews are available from other parents as these may be helpful.
- ☐ Set up a family email address that your children can use when signing up to new games and websites online.
- ☐ Encourage your child to use nicknames (where possible) instead of their full name online, to protect their personal information, and create strong passwords for every account.

Sign up to our Childnet newsletter at www.childnet.com.

Help make sure that your children know how to stay safe online, by using our SMART Rules for primary aged children, or 6 Tips for Teens.

SMART Rules for primary aged children:

- S Safe:** Keep your personal information safe. When chatting or posting online don't give away things like your full name, password or home address. Remember personal information can be seen in images and videos you share too.
- M Meet:** Do not meet up with someone you only know online, even a friend of a friend, as they are still a stranger. If someone you only know online ever asks you to meet up, for personal information or for photos/ videos of you then tell an adult straight away and report them together on www.thinkuknow.co.uk
- A Accepting:** Think carefully before you click on or open something online (e.g. links, adverts, friend requests, photos) and do not accept something if you are unsure who the person is or what they've sent you.
- R Reliable:** You cannot trust everything you see online as some things can be out of date, inaccurate or not entirely true. Always compare 3 websites, check in books and talk to someone about what you find online.
- T Tell:** Tell a trusted adult if something or someone ever makes you feel upset, worried or confused. You could talk to a teacher, parent, carer or a helpline like **Childline 0800 11 11**.
- Heart:** Remember to always be smart with a heart by being kind and respectful to others online. Make the internet a better place by helping your friends if they are worried or upset by anything that happens online.

6 Tips for Teens:

- 1 Protect your online reputation:** use the tools provided by online services to manage your digital footprints and 'think before you post.' Content posted online can last forever and could be shared publicly by anyone.
- 2 Know where to find help:** understand how to report to service providers and use blocking and deleting tools. If something happens that upsets you online, it's never too late to tell someone.
- 3 Don't give in to pressure:** if you lose your inhibitions you've lost control; once you've pressed send you can't take it back.
- 4 Respect the law:** use reliable services and know how to legally access the music, film and TV you want.
- 5 Acknowledge your sources:** use trustworthy content and remember to give credit when using other people's work/ ideas.
- 6 Be a critical thinker:** not everything or everyone is trustworthy; think carefully about what you see and experience on sites, social media and apps.



Co-financed by the European Union
Connecting Europe Facility

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



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

Friday 13th

Mufti Day in exchange for tombola
donations for our
Christmas Fayre

Monday 16th - Friday 20th

Anti Bullying (Friendship Week)

Tuesday 17th

PTA Event
Movie Night
Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4

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