

Headteacher Update Friday 16th October 2026

What an action-packed week of learning we have had across the school!

In Little Owls, our youngest learners have been busy building their mathematical foundations by working with 1, 2, and 3, exploring the science of floating and sinking in the outdoor area, and letting their creativity shine on our new music and dance stage. Bringing our story of the week, The Three Billy Goats Gruff, to life, the children constructed fantastic bridges throughout continuous provision and even designed imaginative new characters to live underneath, now that the troll has run away for good!

In Year 1, the children have been putting their senses to work to write descriptive poems. Drawing on observations from their walk around Verwood, they have also created fantastic maps of our local area! In maths, they have stepped into addition, using Part-Whole models to support them in writing and understanding number sentences.

In Year 2, the children have had a busy week! In English, they have started writing seasonal poems, using their five senses to describe their chosen season. In maths, they have been working hard on adding across tens, applying their number bonds to 10 to solve bigger problems. Meanwhile in art, they have begun painting trees surrounded by the four seasons, exploring how colours change throughout the year.

In Years 3 and 4, we would like to send a massive thank you to Mr and Mrs Tolley for leading a wonderful flag assembly. The children thoroughly enjoyed testing their geography knowledge in a pre-assembly quiz before exploring Mr Tolley's brilliant collection of Commonwealth flags and discovering the fascinating meanings behind their designs. We are so grateful for their time and for kindly gifting the school a flag game for the children to enjoy!

Across the whole school, our assembly introduced our focus for Black History Month, celebrating the remarkable achievements and contributions of Black individuals throughout history. To launch the month, we read Look Up! by Nathan Bryon, sharing the story of Rocket and her inspiration, Mae Jemison, the first Black woman in space. The children reflected on how Mae and Rocket demonstrate ambition, perseverance, and respect, showing us how powerful these values are when reaching for the stars!

Talk at Home: What is a big dream or goal you have for the future, and what values (like perseverance or ambition) will help you reach it?

Best wishes,
Mrs Palmer

DATES TO REMEMBER

Celebration of Learning Event

Wednesday 9th December, 3.00pm

A lovely opportunity to share in your child's learning and celebrate their hard work and progress.

WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Little Owls 1	87%
Little Owls 2	93%
Barn Owls 1	94%
Barn Owls 2	91%
Tawny Owls	95%
Snowy Owls	96%
Eagle Owls 1	97%
Eagle Owls 2	98%

Whole School 94%

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

Congratulations to the following children for being our latest Stars of the Week

Little Owls 1
Casey

Little Owls 2
Raegan

Barn Owls 1
Carter

Barn Owls 2
Jaxon

Tawny Owls
Reggie

Snowy Owls
Ellie

Eagle Owls 1
Sophia

Eagle Owls 2
Lilly



School News



Play Leaders Event

On Tuesday, six of our Year 4 children visited Ferndown Upper School to take part in a Play Leaders training event. They were trained by the school's sports leaders and took part in three exciting workshops: dance, playground games and personal challenges.

Throughout the day, the children developed their teamwork, leadership and communication skills, learning how to take responsibility, support others and lead activities with confidence.

They also gained new ideas and activities that they can bring back to Hillside and share with their peers, helping to create fun, inclusive play opportunities for everyone.

Our children represented Hillside brilliantly, showing enthusiasm, cooperation and great potential as young leaders. They had a fantastic, fun-filled day, and we look forward to seeing them put their new leadership skills into practice!





Verwood Rotary Christmas Shoebox Scheme

There is still time to take part in the Christmas Shoebox Scheme. If you would like to take part please collect a shoebox from the school office. Please note that ordinary shoe boxes can also be used if you have one at home.

Christmas Shoeboxes are to be returned to the office by **Wednesday 4th November** as they are being collected on Thursday morning.

Thank you for your support.



A book we love

Mrs Palmer's Book Recommendation: *The Wild Robot* by Peter Brown



My absolute favourite book to recommend is *The Wild Robot* by Peter Brown. It holds a very special place in my heart because it was one of the very first chapter books I read aloud to my little boys at home, and we were all completely hooked from the very first page!

It tells the moving story of Roz, a robot learning to survive in the wilderness with the help of the island's forest creatures. It's packed with action, unexpected friendships, and big themes of love and belonging. Perfect for young adventurers!

Keep an eye out in next week's newsletter to see who is sharing their all-time favourite story.

Talk at Home: Where is your favourite place to read and why?



Hillside PTA

will be running a

Refreshment Shop

at Parents Consultations Evening

Tuesday the 20th and 21st October



Drinks £1



Crisps 50p



Chocolate 50p

Please come along and support our school!

OCTOBER HOLIDAY CLUB AT POOLE FOREST SCHOOL IS BACK!

OCTOBER 26TH -30TH

Old Wareham Rd, Corfe Mullen, Wimborne BH21 3RZ

Bring your waterproofs, warm layers and adventurous spirit!

Book through our website - Limited spots available!

www.pooleforestschool.com

@pooleforestschool

Hillside Pre-School

Celebrating 35 Years

Verwood

Established 1990





WE ARE NOW TAKINGBOOKINGS 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

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



Elsie has learnt to ride her bike over the summer holidays.







Her family are very proud of her and now enjoys bike rides with her family.

Well done, Elsie





Celebrate
your child's success

Just a reminder to send in your child's achievement for inclusion in our ***'Hillside Heroes'*** feature of the school newsletter.

We would love to celebrate something your child is proud of! This could be earning a swimming badge, creating a piece of artwork, learning to ride a bike, mastering a times table, or any other personal achievement.

Please email a photo along with a short description to office@hillsidefirstschool.org for consideration.

Submissions will be feature in the order they are received.

Please note, that we can accept **one submission per child, per academic year**.







Autumn term

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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

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

December

Friday 4th
PTA Event
Christmas Shop

Friday 4th
Rocksteady Concert - 14:00

Wednesday 9th
Celebration of Learning Event - 15:00

Thursday 10th
Christmas Jumper Day
Wear a Christmas jumper along with non-school uniform

Friday 11th
Christmas Performances

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
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