

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.

Headteacher Update Friday 23rd October 2026

What a busy and exciting half term it has been, filled with lots of learning, memorable moments and wonderful achievements!

It has been a magical week in Little Owls, centered around Julia Donaldson's Room on the Broom. The children have had great fun creating their own muddy monsters, imagining potion ingredients in Drawing Club, and keeping with the enchanted theme by listening to The Sorcerer's Apprentice in music. In maths, traditional tales like The Gingerbread Man and The Enormous Turnip helped illustrate the concept of 'adding one more'. The class also explored colour mixing with primary shades to paint hedgehog pictures and decorate clay hedgehogs, while learning about hibernation and seasonal changes in trees. Alongside all these autumn activities, daily work on letter formation and phonics continues, and it has been wonderful to see so many children making great strides with their reading!

Year 1 has had a fantastic week filled with learning and creativity! In phonics, they have been exploring their new Phase 5 sounds and have been writing sentences about what they can see in the jungle. In maths, they have been learning how to write addition number sentences. The children have also enjoyed getting creative with some fun Halloween arts and crafts!

Year 2 had a lovely art morning, completing their seasonal tree paintings and applying the knowledge and skills they had previously been taught. In Maths, they have been learning to find 10 more and 10 less than a given number and In English, the children have completed and published their seasonal poems, showcasing their creativity and developing writing skills.

It has been a wonderfully creative week in Years 3 and 4 too! The children have now finished writing their stories and have turned their focus toward crafting some atmospheric Halloween and seasonal poetry. In science, they launched their new topic exploring food groups and healthy eating, looking at what makes up a balanced diet. To top it all off, they enjoyed a hands-on art morning where the classes stepped back in time to construct their own Stone Age caves, complete with detailed cave paintings on the walls.

We wish all our families a well-deserved, restful and safe half term break, and look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for another fantastic half term.

Mrs Palmer

WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Little Owls 1	90%
Little Owls 2	96%
Barn Owls 1	97%
Barn Owls 2	95%
Tawny Owls	91%
Snowy Owls	91%
Eagle Owls 1	96%
Eagle Owls 2	96%

Whole School 94%

Target



The school day begins at 08:40
Gates open at 08:30
School finishes at 15:00



Poppy Appeal 2026

Poppies are on sale in school from 3rd – 6th November



Congratulations

to the following children for being our latest

Stars of the Week

Little Owls 1
Betsy

Little Owls 2
Amaia

Barn Owls 1
Myla

Barn Owls 2
Aria

Tawny Owls
Louise

Snowy Owls
Elijah

Eagle Owls 1
Oscar

Eagle Owls 2
Ethan



School News



Hillside School Parliament

We are thrilled to introduce our new School Parliament for this academic year! Our enthusiastic parliament members were elected by their peers through a secret ballot, with classmates casting their votes using a ballot box to ensure a fair and democratic process.

We officially introduced our newly elected parliament in assembly this week, linking our launch to our Black History Month theme. We explored the inspiring leadership qualities of Marcus Rashford, reflecting on how he uses his voice to stand up for others, champion important causes and make a positive difference in the lives of young people.

Our newly elected representatives are ready to share ideas and make a real difference to our school community. They will be the voices of their classmates, working together to champion new ideas, tackle challenges and make our school an even better place for everyone. We can't wait to see the positive changes, brilliant ideas and fantastic teamwork this year will bring.

School Nursing Team
0-19 CYP Public Health Service

Parent drop-in

NHS Dorset HealthCare University NHS Foundation Trust

Your next drop-in will be on:

Thursday 12th November

08:50 – 09:15

Hillside First School

Please book your 5 minute appointment with the school nurse on Arbor (Consultations).
Booking opens 6.00pm on Friday 23rd October

Your school nursing team can provide non-judgemental and confidential support and advice about:

- Sleep advice
- Healthy lifestyle advice
- Signposting to various services
- Emotional health and well-being support
- Parenting advice
- Bedwetting and toileting
- Behaviour support
- Nutrition and growth



You can contact us via

- School nursing admin hub on 01929 557 558
- Parentline advice 5-19 texting service on 07312263131
- Website at www.dorsethealthcare.nhs.uk/school-nursing

Follow us on social media:

DorsetHealthCare School Nursing

dorsethealthcare_schoolnursing

We provide a confidential service. This means that you can discuss personal information in confidence. We will not discuss your personal information with anyone else without your permission. This includes parents and teachers. We would only pass on your information in order to protect you or someone else from serious harm. Whenever possible we would discuss this with you first.

A book we love

Mrs DeCecco Book Recommendation:
The Bumblebear by Nadia Shireen

The story follows Norman, a honey-obsessed bear, who sneaks into "Bee School" dressed in a giant bee onesie. I like this book because of the funny words (What the jiggins? and 'waggly bee dance'), the interesting illustrations (especially in the background) and the themes of belonging, acceptance and forgiveness throughout Norman's journey.





Can you think of another book where the pictures helped you understand the story or made you laugh? Which do you enjoy more when reading a book, the words or the pictures, and why?





SPOOKY HALF TERM SAVINGS!

20% OFF SELECTED SCHOOL ITEMS



Save 20% on sweatshirts, cardigans & fleece tops

OFFER ENDS NOVEMBER 1ST!

Use code **SPOOKYSAVING** online to receive 20% off

Available in store or online

HALLOWEEN IN-STORE COMPETITION!



GUESS HOW MANY EYES OUR SPOOKY SKELETON IS HIDING!

- Write down your guess on the entry form in store during half term.
- Closest or exact guess wins!
- If multiple children guess the correct answer, the winner will be pulled at random from the winning answers.

WIN A HALLOWEEN THEMED CHOCOLATE SURPRISE BUNDLE!

RUNNING IN STORE ONLY DURING HALF TERM

WINNER WILL BE ANNOUNCED BY WEDNESDAY 4TH NOVEMBER

Bartletts of Wimborne Schoolwear

Bartletts.schoolwear@hotmail.co.uk

www.bartlettsofwimborne.co.uk

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



Harry has just completed his Stage 3 swimming certificate.



Well done Harry!





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