

Headteacher Update Friday 6th November 2026

It has been a busy week back, with lots of lovely learning taking place across the school!

There has been a real carnival atmosphere in Reception this week! This week's Drawing Club book was Supertato's Carnival Catastro-pea, which inspired the children to use their imaginations to design their very own carnival costumes. The children have also been learning about different celebrations. They enjoyed reading Little Glow and had great fun making sparklers to wave, using glittery fabrics to celebrate Bonfire Night. We have also been learning about Remembrance Day and created our own poppies using tissue paper, pipe cleaners and pom-poms. With Christmas just around the corner, we have started learning some songs for our Nativity performance. There has also been great excitement as several children have successfully blended sounds together for the very first time. So much to celebrate!

Year One began our new topic, Traditional Tales. We explored a range of familiar tales, looking at their similarities, before beginning to delve into our focus story, The Three Little Pigs, using actions and puppets to bring the story to life. We also enjoyed our very first Forest School session! The children explored the outdoor provision and began familiarising themselves with our Forest School mantras, beliefs and mindfulness approaches. Over the coming weeks, we will be exploring celebrations from around the world. We have already made a start, with Bonfire Night and Diwali inspiring lots of wonderful learning opportunities in our provision this week.

Snowy and Tawny Owls have started exploring our new book, The Lonely Beast. The children have been busy discussing the Beast's appearance and personality, as well as thinking about where the story is set. We have also been learning about different sentence types, including commands, questions and exclamations, and identifying how and when to use them.

In Geography, Year Two children have been developing their map skills; they used a map of Hillside to plot different routes to various locations around the school grounds. A lovely opportunity to put their mapping skills into practice!

Year Three & Four have been busy designing their very own imaginary Stone Age animals in preparation for their writing. They have also been developing their French vocabulary, learning some useful classroom commands such as sit down, stand up and listen. Alongside this, we have been putting a real focus on times tables practice, helping to build confidence, fluency and recall.

Another wonderful week of learning, creativity and achievements across the school!

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

Whole School 97%

Target



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



Odd Socks Day

Monday 16th November

Children are invited to wear odd socks with their usual school uniform.

Congratulations to the following children for being our latest

Stars of the Week

Little Owls 1
Mila

Little Owls 2
Logan

Barn Owls 1
Koda

Barn Owls 2
Noah

Tawny Owls
Casey

Snowy Owls
Fen

Eagle Owls 1
Skye

Eagle Owls 2
Chloe





On Wednesday, a group of our pupils had the pleasure of representing the school during a visit to Verwood Memorial Stone, where they met the Mayoress, Sarah Gibson.

During the visit, the children laid a wreath as a mark of respect and remembrance, taking a moment to reflect on and remember all those who have served and sacrificed for our country.



We were incredibly proud of the children. They were absolutely amazing, showing such respect, maturity and impeccable behaviour throughout the visit. They represented our school wonderfully, and we couldn't have asked for more. Well done to everyone involved!

We are looking forward to our school Remembrance Service on Monday. Children who are members of Girlguiding or Scouting (Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs or Scouts) are very welcome to come to school wearing their uniform for the occasion.









A huge congratulations to our fantastic children who represented Hillside First School at the East Dorset Panathlon event at Emmanuel Middle School on Thursday, achieving an incredible **2nd place!** The children took part in a fun-filled circuit of activities, including kurling, bowling, bean bag throw, basketball and parachute popcorn. Throughout the event, they demonstrated fantastic perseverance, determination and teamwork, all whilst having lots of fun!

We are incredibly proud of their achievements and the enthusiasm they showed throughout the day.
Well done, Team Hillside!

















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 Davis Book Recommendation:
Paddington Bear

My favourite book to recommend has to be Paddington Bear! Paddington always seems to find himself in the most unexpected adventures, and his little moments of mischief make him even more lovable. Despite the trouble he sometimes gets himself into, he has the kindest heart, impeccable manners and such an innocent charm. His curiosity and good intentions always shine through, and you simply can't help but fall in love with him!



A timeless character who reminds us that a little kindness, a sense of adventure and a marmalade sandwich can go a long way!

Talk About It at Home!

If you could go on an adventure with Paddington Bear, where would you go, what would you do and what three things would you pack in your suitcase?

Free Parent/ Carer session:

'An Introduction to Autism'



What is the session about?

The session was co-developed with parents of autistic children, a SENCo, Dorset Parent Carer Council and Specialist Teachers and Educational Psychologists from Dorset Council.

It will help you to:

- Understand what autism is and how it may impact young people and families
- Learn some practical strategies to support an autistic child/young person
- Please note, this is a general information session, so we won't be able to discuss individual children or schools

Who can attend?

Anyone from the community, this could include people:

- with an autistic child
- with a child undergoing an assessment for autism
- who are interested in learning more about autism

Where and when?

Via **Teams** - There are two sessions a term and 50 spaces available for each session.

To book a place, please fill in this form and pick the session that suits you best:

Please click on this Link or scan the QR code above:

The session will be delivered by either an Educational Psychologist or a Specialist Teacher from Dorset Council

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

PTA Fundraising Christmas Events

FRIDAY 13TH MUFTI DAY

in exchange for tombola donations for our

CHRISTMAS FAYRE



- Little Owls: New Toys
- Barn Owls: Sweets, Crisps & Chocolates
- Tawny Owls: Stationery
- Snowy Owls: Alcohol
- Eagle Owls: Alcohol

Please place all Tombola items into the bags for life at the gates.



We are also on the look out for donations of:

- Nearly new Books
- Teddies
- Unwanted New Items

If you are able to help us, please hand them into the office.

HILLSIDE FIRST SCHOOL CHRISTMAS SHOP

A chance for children to buy gifts for their Parents, Carers or Grandparents!

Each child can choose Up to 4 Gifts!



Each child can choose Up to 4 Gifts!

£3 per gift

Purchase through Arbor and note who the gifts are for!



Event Date: Friday 4th December

A wonderful way for children to surprise their loved ones!

HILLSIDE FIRST SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAYRE

27th November from 5pm

Pre-book your Santa & Co Visit on Arbor!

Tickets £6 each – Includes:

Storytime with Santa & a Gift! | Cookie Decorating with Mrs Claus! | Magical Crafts with the Elves!



Or Pay on the Night:

£7.50 Full Experience

£2.50 Per Activity



Siblings Welcome! Please book the correct number of tickets!

HILLSIDE FIRST SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Friday 27th November | 5pm - 7.30pm

Join us for an evening of festive fun for all ages!

Hog Roast & Mulled Wine | Raffle, Tombolas & Games



Father Christmas, Mrs Claus & the Training Elves

Music, Laughter and Christmas Magic!!

Everyone is welcome – bring your family and friends for a magical start to the Christmas season!





Sophia took part in a gymnastics competition at Wiltshire School of Gymnastics in Melksham recently and did amazingly well!

She came **1st in her bar routine** and **5th overall.**



Well done Sophia!





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
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