

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 20th November 2026

It has been absolutely fantastic returning to Hillside! I received such a lovely welcome from the children, and it was wonderful to see everyone. I popped into school on Friday afternoon last week to catch up with staff, children and families at pick-up time, and have now been in school every day this week, apart from Tuesday, when I had a follow-up appointment and X-ray with my surgeon. I'm delighted to report that everything has gone to plan and my recovery is progressing really well. It has certainly been a period of patience, determination and taking things one step at a time!

A huge thank you to everyone who has kept things running so smoothly during my absence. In particular, I want to recognise Mrs Palmer and the whole team for their hard work, commitment and support. It has been lovely to see the school continuing to thrive.

This week has absolutely flown by! I've spent lots of time visiting classrooms, reconnecting with the children and seeing some of the fantastic learning taking place across the school.

We are placing a real emphasis on developing writing this academic year, and I've already seen some incredible progress in the children's books. The effort, care and ambition they are showing in their writing is fantastic. There is so much to celebrate, and I look forward to seeing how this continues to develop over the coming months.

The children were, as ever, wonderfully inquisitive about where I had been and what I had been doing during my absence! This gave me the perfect opportunity to talk to them about my operation and recovery during Monday's assembly. We talked about perseverance and how achieving something important doesn't always happen quickly or easily. Sometimes, progress comes through lots of little steps, patience and determination. I also spoke about how much I have appreciated the people who have supported me along the way.

The experience has given me an even greater appreciation of those who use crutches, wheelchairs and other mobility aids every single day. Something that we might take for granted, such as simply walking from one place to another, can be a real challenge for others.

It was a lovely opportunity to reflect on our school values of Respect, Ambition and Perseverance, and how important it is to recognise that everyone faces different challenges. We should always celebrate the little steps forward, encourage one another and never underestimate what can be achieved through determination.

This week, we have been recognising Anti-Bullying and Friendship Week, which began with our colourful Odd Socks Day. Thank you to everyone who supported this and helped the children get involved. Odd Socks Day is a wonderful reminder that we are all different, that our differences should be celebrated and that everyone deserves to feel safe, valued and included at Hillside.

We've also enjoyed our recent movie night, which was a lovely opportunity for the children to come together and have some fun. A special thank you to our fantastic PTA for organising this and for their continued support. We really do appreciate everything they do for our school community. It's been a really lovely week, and I want to finish by saying another huge thank you for all the kind messages, support and warm welcomes I've received. It means a great deal, and I'm looking forward to the weeks ahead as we head towards Christmas.

Have a wonderful weekend, everyone!
Mr Graves

WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Little Owls 1	93%
Little Owls 2	87%
Barn Owls 1	99%
Barn Owls 2	96%
Tawny Owls	97%
Snowy Owls	96%
Eagle Owls 1	97%
Eagle Owls 2	97%

Whole School 95%

Target



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



Children in Need

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our Children in Need fundraising.

We raised an amazing £118

School News

Christmas is coming to Hillside!

I know, I know… I've mentioned the C-word! Christmas is definitely beginning to make an appearance at Hillside, and there is plenty to look forward to over the coming weeks. Our Christmas Fayre takes place next week, and we hope as many of you as possible will be able to join us. The children have also started practising their Christmas songs in preparation for our much-loved Nativity performances. I have already heard a few little snippets, and they sound wonderful!

We also have something rather special to share this year. Hillside is part of an exciting Christmas music project called Christmas at Our Place, which has officially been released this week! The song brings together lots of voices, including our very own children, in support of the wonderful charity Amelia's Rainbow, which supports seriously ill children and their families.



You can listen to the song on Apple Music, iTunes and Amazon Alexa, and watch the official music video on YouTube. Please do give it a watch, share it with friends and family and help spread the Christmas spirit! If you are able to make a donation, even £1 would be hugely appreciated.

Watch the official music video:
https://youtu.be/YqrswS6rv3M

Donate to Amelia's Rainbow:
https://www.justgiving.com/page/vocalize-xmasatourplace

It is lovely for our children to be involved in a project that brings our school community together while also helping to make a difference to the lives of others.





Anti-Bullying & Friendship Week

Our children proudly celebrated Anti-Bullying Week by wearing their odd socks!
A fun way to celebrate what makes us all unique and remind everyone that being different is something to be celebrated.

Congratulations to the following children for being our latest

Stars of the Week

Little Owls 1
Maisie

Little Owls 2
Rowan

Barn Owls 1
Harry

Barn Owls 2
Luna

Tawny Owls
Levi

Snowy Owls
Hannah

Eagle Owls 1
Jack

Eagle Owls 2
Edward



A book we love



Mrs Tarrant – 'Kuwi's Rowdy Crowd'

I really enjoyed reading *Kuwi's Rowdy Crowd* – perhaps because I could relate to Kuwi's wish for just five minutes of peace and a hot cup of tea!

Kuwi the Kiwi is hoping for a quiet afternoon, but her noisy native friends have other ideas. From karate kicking kokako birds to buzzing beetles, her peaceful afternoon soon turns into a rather chaotic one!

As Kuwi tries to quieten her visitors, she discovers that perhaps a little noise and chaos isn't such a bad thing when it comes from being surrounded by friends. This is a fun, light hearted story with a lovely gentle reminder to appreciate what we have and find happiness in the company of friends – even when life gets a little noisy!



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

Fundraising Christmas Events









Save The Date



Christmas Performances

Our Christmas performances will take place on these dates:

Friday 11th December
09:15 - Eagle Owls 2 & Snowy Owls
14:00 - Little Owls

Monday 14th December
09:15 - Eagle Owls 1 & Tawny Owls
14:00 - Barn Owls

Tuesday 15th December
09:15 - Barn Owls
14:00 - Eagle Owls 2 & Snowy Owls

Wednesday 16th December
09:15 - Little Owls
14:00 -Eagle Owls 1 & Tawny Owls



Tickets are free of charge. Due to the capacity in the hall, these are limited to 2 per family. Reserve your tickets in the shop on Arbor from **Monday 16th November at 18:00**

Alderholt CHRISTMAS TREES

07500 925487
07787 123479

9:30am until 4:30pm

from 20th Nov



Saturday 5th December

10:30 am - 12 noon

Verwood Methodist Church

Join Nick The Vic, Suzannah & the fab TREE HOUSE team for a morning full of fun Christmas craft activities. Make some great decorations for the church tree - and some for your own. Expect cool craft, Christmas music, drinks & biscuits - and all for FREE! To register a place please visit: **www.nickthevic.co.uk** and click on 'Crafty Christmas'

Hope to see you there!

Verwood Methodist Church
Vicarage Road
Verwood BH31 6DR

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

Friday 13th
Children in Need

Monday 16th - Friday 20th
Anti Bullying (Friendship Week)

Monday 16th
Odd Socks Day

Tuesday 17th
PTA Event
Movie Night
Year 2, 3 and 4

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
and Chartwells Christmas Lunch
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