

Hillside News

**DATES TO
REMEMBER**



**Monday 18th
September**

Fraser Portraits will be in school to take individual and sibling photographs

**Thursday 28th
September**

KS2 visit to the Solar Farm (further details to follow closer to the time)

Hillside First School

where
children
are at
the heart of
everything we do



www.hillsidefirstschool.org ~ 01202 822737 ~ office@hillsidefirstschool.org



Headteacher Update

We have had a great week with lots of positives. We started the week focusing on our value of ambition and I shared the story Dream Big: Michael Jordan and the Pursuit of Excellent, written by Deloris Jordan. The goal was to instil in the children the belief that with hard work and a dream, they can achieve anything.

It has been great to have the Reception children joining us full time and they have done brilliantly settling into school and I have enjoyed spending time with them in the base this week. Year 1 have been working hard with their maths learning about place value. Year 2 have enjoyed enhancing their geographical skills and Year 3 and 4 have embarked on a fascinating journey into Roman history.

Yesterday, we had our first Celebration Assembly with our Stars of the Week from Year 1-4 (Year R will be joining us soon), followed by Hot Chocolate Friday (Thursday this week!). This will usually take place on a Friday but I am at a central Trust meeting today so we decided to move to Thursday this week. This is one of my favourite parts of the week, celebrating the children's efforts, hard work and achievements and then having a chance to speak to them in a small group.

You will hopefully have seen the letter from Mrs Pain detailing our approach to home learning. If you need any support with getting set up on any systems then please do not hesitate to speak to member of the team or via the school office.

I was pleasantly surprised with the England Men's Rugby team win in their first match at the World Cup. The timing was perfect, with Rippa Rugby providing some enticing taster sessions to the children, and some even choosing to play rugby during playtimes. I do value the impact sport can have on people, especially children. I had a productive meeting with our local School Games organiser talking through ideas for the months ahead for our children to get involved with sporting activities. We will continue to promote P.E. and healthy lifestyles throughout the academic year.

That is all for this week, have a great weekend.

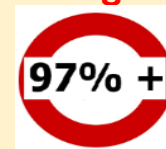
Healthy regards,
Mr Graves

WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Little Owls 1	100%
Little Owls 2	95%
Tawny Owls 1	96.4%
Tawny Owls 2	97.8%
Tawny Owls 3	96.8%
Snowy Owls 1	96.3%
Snowy Owls 2	92.7%
Snowy Owls 3	95.8%

Whole School 96.2%

Target



**The school day begins
at 08:40**

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

**We are on
Facebook**



<https://www.facebook.com/HillsideFirstSchool>

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



Hot chocolate time!



Little Owls Class Photos



Top Tips for SETTING BOUNDARIES AROUND GAMING

If your child loves video games, then you'll probably be aware that how long they spend gaming – and what they're actually playing – can occasionally become a source of concern or conflict. The UK's trade body for interactive entertainment, Ukie, has recently launched a campaign to promote safer and more responsible gaming among young people – with parents and carers helping by setting sensible and fair boundaries. Our guide has tips on key areas where you could agree some healthy ground rules for your child's gaming activity.

PROMOTE SAFER GAME CHOICES

Deciding which online games are OK – and which should be avoided – is tricky. Some titles allow children to cooperate or compete with strangers, which creates potential risks. Watching your child play online for a while could provide more insight into a particular game, while the parental controls on most consoles allow you to limit who can chat to your child or send them friend requests. Remind your child of the hazards around strangers online when you discuss this boundary with them.

ENCOURAGE REGULAR BREAKS

Help your child understand the need to take regular breaks, playing in shorter bursts rather than marathon sessions. Bear in mind that some games (such as role-playing games) require time investment from the player, while others (online team games, for example) can't be stopped or paused at a moment's notice. A quick break every hour or so is good practice, and you could suggest some things to do in these breaks, such as having a drink of water or getting some fresh air.

AGREE SPENDING LIMITS

There's no doubt that gaming can be expensive, and younger players often don't realise how much paying for digital items and subscriptions can add up to. Many young gamers love to buy new skins or upgrades for their character, so you could settle on a fixed amount that your child is allowed to spend on in-game items each week or month. This sort of boundary will not only help your child to manage their expectations but will also make you more aware of the price of these items.

DISCUSS AGE RATINGS

Children often ignore the age ratings on games – or are unaware they even exist. If you're happy with your child playing a particular game even though it's rated above their age, then establish that as a boundary: emphasise that you've made an exception, and talk about what age ratings mean and why they're important. You could add context to this boundary by browsing games' boxes together while shopping, discussing why some games might have earned certain age ratings.

FACTOR IN FRIENDS

If your child is a keen video gamer, the chances are that they'll have other gamers among their social circle, too. When friends visit, do they instantly dash to their console or computer? You could put boundaries in place before their guests arrive by agreeing on a length of gaming time. Bear in mind, though, that they may try to extend this once they're together. Try coming up with activities or challenges for them during screen breaks – if they join in, they earn a little extra time on their game.

ENJOY GAMING TOGETHER

Setting time aside to play video games together can be an enjoyable bonding exercise. Undeniably, some young gamers may be less enthusiastic about a parent or carer joining in, but it can be a productive way of encouraging them to share their hobby with you. Setting goals or tasks might be useful: if they love Minecraft, choose something to build together; if Fortnite's their favourite, ask to try out some of the fun game modes, like Prop Hunt, which don't require high skill levels.

TALK ABOUT EMOTIONS

Help your child to monitor their emotions as they play. Discuss what is (and isn't) an acceptable level of competitiveness to show while gaming. Are they allowed to trash talk other players, for example? Can they notice when they get angry if they lose? Do they think these emotions are healthy? Some games can provoke anger, but others can bring joy, humour and the thrill of overcoming a challenge. Try to steer your child towards games that tend to produce these more positive feelings.

BE PREPARED FOR TROLLS

A frequent problem when gaming online is other players who are deliberately troublesome. Make sure your child knows how to report and block someone who makes their experience a negative one. Between you, decide if or how they should deal with these online trolls. Talk about where your child's boundaries are in terms of what they think is acceptable: what behaviour by other users is merely frustrating, and what crosses the line to become upsetting or abusive.

Meet Our Expert

Daniel Lipscombe is a writer specialising in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and Web3. He has also written 15 guidebooks for children, covering games such as Fortnite, Apex Legends, Valorant, Roblox and Minecraft. With work published by the likes of PC Gamer, Kotaku, Pocket Gamer and VG247, he has reviewed more than 50 games and products over the past year.



Source: <https://hipoapp/about/privacy.html>

NOS National
Online
Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

Please make a note of these upcoming events in your diary

Autumn term

UPCOMING EVENTS

September

Friday 1st
Inset Day

Monday 4th
Inset Day



Monday 18th
Individual & Sibling Photographs

Wednesday 27th
New Parents Open Morning
09:30 - 11:30

Thursday 28th
KS2 classes - Solar Farm Visit

October

Tuesday 3rd
New Parents Open Morning
09:30 - 11:30

Monday 9th
Harvest Assembly



Tuesday 10th
World Mental Health Day

Friday 13th
PTA Event - School Disco

Monday 16th
Parent Consultations



Wednesday 18th
Parent Consultations

Friday 20th
PTA Event - Craft Friday

Monday 23rd - Friday 27th
Half Term

Monday 30th
Inset Day



November

Monday 6th
Remembrance Assembly

Wednesday 8th
New Parents Open Evening
17:00 - 19:00

Monday 13th
New Parents Open Morning
09:30 - 11:30

Tuesday 14th
Friendship Week Assembly

Thursday 16th
Flu Immunisation

Friday 17th
Children in Need

Friday 17th
Reception, Year 1 and 2 Movie Night

Thursday 23rd
PTA Event
Mufti day in exchange for tombola prizes for the Christmas Fayre



Friday 24th
Year 3 and 4 Movie Night

December

Monday 4th
& Tuesday 5th
PTA Christmas Shop



Friday 8
Christmas Fayre

Friday 8th
Christmas Jumper Day
Children can wear a
Christmas jumper along
with non-school uniform

Monday 11th
Christmas Performances

Tuesday 12th
Christmas Performances

Wednesday 13th
Christmas Performances

Thursday 14th
Christmas Party
FREE Mufti day
Children invited to
wear party clothes

Thursday 14th
Last day
of term



After School Clubs



DORSET CREATIVE DANCE HILLSIDE FIRST SCHOOL AFTER SCHOOL DANCE CLUB

Fun and creative dance classes for children attending Hillside First School
Password for booking: Hillside2023!

Booking opening soon through our website!

Monday 3pm - 4pm Reception, Years 1 & 2
Monday 4pm - 5pm Years 3 & 4

e: info@dorsetcreativedance.co.uk t: 07759 949 478
www.dorsetcreativedance.co.uk

RIPPA RUGBY TO BOOK YOUR SPACE VISIT RIPPARUGBY.CO.UK

TAG, TOUCH & CONTACT RUGBY COACHING & GAMES ONLY £5 PER CHILD*

DESIGNED TO DEVELOP CORE RFU VALUES OF SPORTSMANSHIP, TEAMWORK, RESPECT, DISCIPLINE AND ENJOYMENT.
For children ages 4-13 years old.

*School subsidy may apply.

TO BOOK YOUR SPACE VISIT RIPPARUGBY.CO.UK
EMAIL STUART@RIPPARUGBY.CO.UK
CALL STUART ON 07899 268265

CODING | GAME DESIGN | ANIMATION

AFTER SCHOOL TECH CLUB Computer Xplorers

15:00-16:00
MONDAY Y3-4
FRIDAY Y1-2

£8 per session
10% OFF for siblings

CLICK OR TAP HERE TO BOOK NOW

HILLSIDE FIRST SCHOOL

Hillside First School are pleased to offer the following clubs:

Monday

15:00-16:00 – Computer Explorers (Year 3-4)
15:00-16:00 – Creative Dance (Year 1-2)
16:00-17:00 – Creative Dance (Year 3-4)

Tuesday

08:00-08:30 – Sports & Fitness Breakfast Club
12:00-12:30 – Sports & Fitness Lunch Club
15:00-16:00 – After School Football Club
15:00-16:00 – Tennis (Year 2-4)

Thursday

15:00-16:00 – Rugby (Year R-4)

Friday

Lessons in school – Rocksteady
15:00-16:00 – Handball
15:00-16:00 – Computer Explorers (Year 1-2)

For more information, please refer to the letter sent out on ParentMail recently.

DORSET TENNIS ACADEMY



Manager/Head Coach:
Neil Darragh
19 Station Road
Sturminster Marshall
Dorset
BH21 4AW

Tel: 07788-973259
ndarraghtennis@gmail.com

Autumn Term 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian,

MINI TENNIS AFTER SCHOOL CLUB FOR YEAR 2 TO YEAR 4

I would like to invite your child to take part in a Mini Tennis after-school club for Year 2 to Year 4 to be held on Tuesdays straight after school. The club will start on the second Tuesday back after the summer holidays, which is Tuesday 12th September and will run through the Autumn Term for 13 weeks. The details are as follows:-

Day/Time: Tuesdays 3-4pm
Venue: School Playground
What to wear: School uniform from waist upwards (school polo shirt and sweatshirt) along with shorts or jogging bottoms and trainers (so children only need to change from waist downwards!)
What to bring: A racket if you have one (one will be provided if you don't)
Cost: £65.00 for a 13 week course
Payment method: Online to 'Dorset Tennis Academy', account number 03561585, sort code 09-01-50 / cash (in marked envelope with reply slip to school secretary).
Coach: Neil Darragh – LTA Level 4 Qualified and Accredited Senior Performance Coach
Dates: 12th, 19th, 26th September; 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th October; 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th November; 5th, 12th December.

During the 13 week course, your child will be taught all the basic strokes as well as how to rally and score. They will also be introduced to the basic tactics of the game, as well as working on their agility, balance and co-ordination. All of this is taught in a game based session, with the main emphasis being on enjoyment. *I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity by completing the reply slip below, and returning it to your school secretary along with payment (unless paying online) by FRIDAY 8th SEPTEMBER. Places are limited and will be offered on a 'first come first served basis'. Please assume that your child has been accepted onto the course unless you hear from us.*

For more information about the club, please contact me on 07788-973259 or e-mail me at ndarraghtennis@gmail.com

Yours sincerely,

Neil Darragh

Neil Darragh
Head Coach – Dorset Tennis Academy

Ref: ASC HFS Au 23

Hillside School Routines



School Times

Before 08:30 - Children and parents should not be on the school premises.

08:30 - The school gates are opened.

08:40 - The school gates are closed.

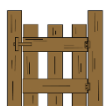
08:40 - School begins with registration.

If you arrive at school after 08:45, please report to the office to sign in.



Office Hours

The office is open from **08:30 - 16:00**. There is a telephone answer phone service available outside these times and messages are dealt with daily. If you need to speak to the Headteacher about an issue that cannot be dealt with by the class teacher, please make an appointment with the office staff.



Gates

The front entrance gates are always kept closed. All other gates are locked all day from 08:40 - 14.55 approx. Thank you for securing these gates as you leave the premises.



Visitors

All visitors to the school, including parents, must report to the main office.



Safe Parking

We would like to remind parents about the importance of parking safely around the school.

- We try to encourage a **one way system** around the school between 08:30 and 15:00. Where possible, please travel **up** Hillside Road and return **down** through School Close and St. Stephen's Lane.
- When parking around the school **DO NOT PARK or STOP on the YELLOW ZIG ZAG LINES, ON THE ZEBRA CROSSING OR THE DROP OFF ZONE IN THE MORNING.**
- We are fortunate to have a drop off zone. Try to use this rather than parking in the locality which can become congested. Why not park a little bit further away from the school and enjoy the walk to school?
- Please park with consideration to other members of our neighbourhood.

Please walk those extra steps and support our children's safety when parking and driving.



Collection at the end of school

15:00 – School ends and parents should be ready to collect the children at this time. At the end of the school day children may take a few minutes to collect their things from the cloakrooms and classrooms.

Parents should collect their children from their classrooms.



No child should leave the school premises until they have been met by the appropriate adult unless prior arrangement has been made with the school.

If someone else is collecting your child, please let the school know. Teachers cannot hand children over to another adult without parental permission.



Avoid taking your children on holiday in term time

Sometimes parents/carers are surprised to receive a penalty notice. As the new term begins, Dorset Council is reminding parents and carers that taking children out of school during term time, without permission from the headteacher, could result in prosecution.

The council may issue a penalty notice of £60 for unauthorised absence, which if not paid within 21 days, will double to £120. If this remains unpaid, parents will be prosecuted in the magistrates' court.

The law regarding school attendance was clarified in a case when the Supreme Court ruled in favour of the Isle of Wight Council in prosecuting a father for taking his daughter out of school without permission. It ruled that parents must ensure their children attend school regularly, and that 'regularly' means 'in accordance with the rules prescribed by the school'.

There is clear evidence that missing school can lead to lower academic achievement. Taking a child on holiday in term time can also interrupt the learning of the whole class, with teachers having to spend time helping children catch up when they return.

Find out about school attendance on dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Lateness

When your child arrives late at school, he/she misses the teacher's instructions and the introduction to the lesson.

Your child may also feel embarrassed at having to enter the classroom late. Punctuality is important for children to start the day off well.

If your child arrives at school after registration, please report to the school office, where they will be asked to sign in.

The school monitors lateness.



Hillside First School Absence Procedure

Reporting Absence

If your child is too ill to attend school, please report this on ParentMail or contact us by telephone on 01202 822737 **before 09:30**. Office hours are 08:30 - 16:00. An answer phone facility is available outside these hours. Failure to do so can result in an unauthorised absence.

Please do this for each day your child is away (unless you have informed us that s/he has been signed off by the doctor for an extended period of time.)

Holidays

Following the changes to the Attendance Regulations, schools are no longer able to grant leave of absence during term time unless there are 'exceptional circumstances'. Under these regulations, holidays are not considered exceptional circumstances.

Exceptional circumstances are:

- Bereavement. Up to 3 days for a close family bereavement. (Close family is the child's great grandparents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, sibling (brother/sister), cousins, mother, father, carer and guardians.)
- Any major incident in the lives of the parents or carers of the child, causing practical difficulties for a child getting to school, will be given up to 3 days leave of absence.
- Any family crisis. Up to 3 days.
- Close family wedding. Up to 2 days per year.

All other exceptional circumstances need to be discussed with the Headteacher. All applications for leave of absence during term time must be made by letter to the Headteacher.



Medical Information



Administering Medicines

If you wish school staff to administer medication to your child, parents **must** complete the consent form which can be obtained from the school office.

Staff can only administer medicines prescribed by a doctor and only antibiotics when a child needs to take **4 doses** in a day. All medicines must be in their original box or container and include the instruction for administration.



Inhalers

If your child uses an inhaler, can you please ensure that we have a spare one in school. All inhalers are kept in class with your child for easy access.

Can you also ensure that medication is in date with the prescription label attached.

You must complete a medicine/asthma form for your child. Please speak to the school office. If you are unable to pop in, please let the office know and we will send a form home in book bags for completion.



Allergies in School

Can we remind parents that we are a nut free school.

We have a number of children in school with allergies and ask for your support by not sending nuts or nut-based products in your child's lunch box, such as Nutella.

Thank you



Keep us updated!



Please let the school office know if there are any changes to personal details such as address and telephone number, emergency contacts and medical needs.

Thank you

Diarrhoea and vomiting?

There's no specific cure for stomach bugs such as Norovirus

Going to your GP puts others at risk of infection. Treat symptoms at home



stay hydrated



take paracetamol



prevent spread



stay at home for two days after symptoms clear