

# Hillside News

**DATES TO  
REMEMBER**



**Friendship (Anti-Bullying)  
Week**

w.c. 13<sup>th</sup> November

**Odd Socks Day**  
Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November

**Children in Need**  
Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November  
*Children can wear spots and  
non-school uniform*

Lest we forget...



## Headteacher Update 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023

I hope this newsletter finds you well. It has been yet another great week here at school, and I have been impressed by the children's dedication and hard work towards their learning, coupled with their good manners and smiles whenever I drop by their classrooms for a visit.

To kickstart the week, we held our own Remembrance assembly (more details provided below). Today, the children showcased their creativity by fashioning poppies from the rocks, stones, and pebbles they brought in, which they then painted. The results are very impressive:



Thank you to Neeve, Lucas and Grace for helping hand out poppies for the last two weeks.

In addition, I thought you might appreciate a glimpse of how the poppy symbol has evolved over the years:



This Sunday, I will have the honour of representing the school at the Remembrance Parade, where I will lay a poppy wreath.

Below, you'll find a festive program of Christmas-themed dates (a special thanks to Mrs. Tarrant for her imaginative touch in putting this together). We would like to provide you with ample notice for upcoming events and have also included our Spring Term dates.

Wishing you a wonderful weekend ahead.

Healthy regards,  
Mr Graves

## WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Little Owls 1	88%
Little Owls 2	70%
Tawny Owls 1	96%
Tawny Owls 2	98%
Tawny Owls 3	96%
Snowy Owls 1	98%
Snowy Owls 2	96%
Snowy Owls 3	95%

**Whole School 93%**

**Target**



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

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November**



Children can wear odd  
socks with the rest of  
their school uniform as  
part of Friendship (Anti-  
Bullying) week.

[Website Link](#)

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



**Hot chocolate time!**





On Monday we held our Remembrance Day assembly, providing our children with a deeper understanding of the significance and symbolism behind this day. Olivia, from Year 4, read John McCrae's poignant poem, "In Flanders Fields," capturing the attention of all in attendance. Together, we observed a two-minute silence, paying our respects to the courageous soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

Some of the children proudly wore their respective Rainbow, Brownie, Beavers, or Cubs uniforms, representing the various organisations that also hold this day in high regard.

Later this week, the children will be crafting a poppy shape using painted rocks or pebbles and on Sunday we will be laying a poppy wreath to pay our respects at the Verwood Remembrance Parade.



### **Running Club**

We had our first club meeting on Tuesday and will be continuing every Tuesday until the end of term. Please feel free to turn up whenever convenient, if you are interested.

07:55: Meet at the school to drop off bags, etc.

08:00: Begin our run along the roads near the school, eventually leading to the heath.

08:25: Return to school, collect belongings, and head to class.

Each child must be accompanied by an adult who will run alongside them and take sole responsibility for their child throughout the session.

Hopefully, see you on Tuesday.



## **School Parliament**

The votes are in and have been counted and checked. We will be announcing the new School Parliament members to the children next week.





# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MICROTRANSACTIONS

Microtransactions (often abbreviated as "MTX") are digital purchases made within an app or game to unlock extra features or additional content such as new levels. A popular sub-set of these are loot boxes, which contain a selection (usually random) of virtual items: from character skins to game-changing equipment like better weapons. Microtransactions (and loot boxes in particular) are now widespread in apps and games, but concerns persist that they normalise gambling and can foster addictive behaviours – especially among younger players.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### GATEWAY TO GAMBLING?

Microtransactions have been criticised for promoting gambling-adjacent behaviour in children. Research has also suggested that exposure to the loot box system could affect the likelihood of a young person suffering gambling harms later in life: children who purchased or used loot boxes in the last 12 months were found to be more likely to have gambled during the same period, as well.

### ADDICTIVE NATURE

Microtransactions (and loot boxes especially) could lead to young people displaying compulsive behaviours. Loot boxes are designed to be addictive, and the sought-after prizes they contain are dispensed at random. This means that young gamers might not get what they want straight away, causing them to spend more money as well as additional time gaming.

### PAYING TO WIN

In many popular games (the FIFA series being a notable example), microtransactions make it far easier to succeed – which is a concern because children can often find it difficult to keep track of their spending. Once a child starts making in-game purchases, they may continue buying to keep up with their friends and other players – sometimes without recognising the mounting real-world cost.

## EXCLUSIVE CONTENT

### DATA COLLECTION

To allow a young person to complete microtransactions, many app and game developers collect personal data such as their name, address, email, geolocation information, photos, payment details and so on. Even if this data remains secure (which is by no means guaranteed), there's always the chance that it will be used – and possibly sold on to third parties – for marketing purposes.

### AFFECTING DAILY ROUTINE

Online games tend to revolve around repeated loops of activity that can affect purchasing decisions and potentially influence children's spending patterns. This could lead to your child not only handing over more money but also adjusting their daily routine to match the game's schedule – potentially impacting more important elements of their day, such as homework and family time.

### SATELLITE SPENDING

If you've linked a payment method like a debit card or a PayPal account to your child's game or app, it's wise to keep a close eye on their microtransactions to ensure they aren't racking up a large bill. Letting a child have access to your card (if they're still too young to have their own) or other means of payment could also lead to them spending beyond the apps and games they normally use.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### DO YOUR RESEARCH

It's important to have a serviceable idea of whether the games your child plays use the loot box system (even if it goes by a different name) or include the option of buying items, equipment and so forth. If so, it's crucial to help your child understand that this costs actual money, and that they shouldn't feel pressured into making any purchases.

### CHAT ABOUT 'CHANCE'

It may help to explain to your child that many microtransactions involve an element of chance: they could pay money and still not get what they want in return. Emphasise that – while not usually costing much individually – these in-app and in-game purchases can soon add up. Talk to your child about how spending their money in a game or app means they have less to use in the real world.

### (GIFT) CARDS ON THE TABLE

Investing in an in-game currency gift card can be a useful way of helping your child get to grips with budgeting. If you buy, say, a £10 V-bucks Fortnite gift card, monitor how long it takes them to spend it. When they come to you asking for more, you could make it the starting point for a conversation about how quickly that money went and how they could earn their next gift card.

### STOP SPENDING AT SOURCE

You might decide that the wisest strategy is to remove the potential for spending money on microtransactions. If so, most games, apps and devices have options in their settings to help you manage what your child can spend – or to disable that function altogether, preventing them from buying additional items for their games or boosted functionality for certain apps.

### WATCH FOR THE SIGNS

If you're worried that your child's passion for a particular game or app may tempt them into habitual spending on microtransactions, it's important to remember the indicators of addictive behaviour. Irritability, a lack of concentration and prioritising recreational screen time ahead of homework or mealtimes could all be signs that you need to have a conversation about a more balanced routine.

## Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



**NOS** National Online Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday



# Christmas at Hillside



**Christmas Shop**  
Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December

Buy Christmas gifts for parents,  
carers, grandparents at £2.50 each.  
Limited to 2 per child. Available to  
purchase in the shop on Parentmail

Hillside First School  
Christmas Fayre  
*All Welcome*

50p Entry  
Children free  
8<sup>th</sup> December 5pm to 7.30pm

With lots to do including  
Santa Storytelling  
Elfs Crafts  
Mrs. Claus Baking  
Games Tombolas  
Cake sale  
Food and Drink  
Stalls  
and lots more



**Christmas Party**

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December  
FREE MUFT

Children can wear  
their Christmas  
party outfits



**Christmas  
Holidays**

Last day of term:  
**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December**

Children return to school on:  
**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024**



**Christmas Jumper Day**  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December



Children can  
wear a Christmas  
jumper to school with  
non-school uniform

**Christmas Lunch**  
Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December



Book your festive  
lunch with  
Chartwells by  
Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>  
November

## Christmas Performances

Our Christmas performances will be held  
on the following dates in December:

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December**

09:15 - Year 3/4 Christmas Concert  
13:45 - Year 1/2 Nativity & Carols

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December**

09:15 - Year 1/2 Nativity & Carols  
13:45 - Little Owls Nativity

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December**

09:15 - Little Owls Nativity  
13:45 - Year 3/4 Christmas Concert

Tickets are free of charge and are limited to 2 per  
family due to the capacity of the hall. Tickets will be  
available to reserve via the shop on ParentMail from  
**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November.**





# Spring term

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## January

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
INSET Day

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
National Handwriting Day



## February

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
NSPCC Number Day

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup>**  
Parent Consultations

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup>**  
Safer Internet Day

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup>**  
Parent Consultations

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> - Friday 16<sup>th</sup>**  
Half Term

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup>**  
INSET day

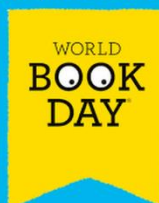
**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
PTA Event - School Disco



## March

**Week Commencing Monday 4<sup>th</sup>**  
World Book Day  
week of celebrations

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>**  
**World Book Day**  
Dress up as a character  
from one of your favourite books



**Friday 15<sup>th</sup>**  
Comic Relief



**Friday 15<sup>th</sup>**  
Sponsored Bounce

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
PTA Event - Craft Friday

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup>**  
Inset Day



## April



**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April**  
Easter  
Holidays

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup>**  
Children return to school

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup>**  
PTA Event  
break the rules day



**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup>**

  
Class and Year 4  
leavers photographs



# 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](mailto:info@dorsetcreativedance.co.uk) t: 07759 949 478  
www.dorsetcreativedance.co.uk

**RIPPA RUGBY**

TO BOOK YOUR SPACE  
VISIT [RIPPARUGBY.CO.UK](http://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](http://RIPPARUGBY.CO.UK)  
EMAIL [STUART@RIPPARUGBY.CO.UK](mailto: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

Department for Education

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 R-2)  
16:00-17:00 – Creative Dance (Year 3-4)

## Tuesday

07:55 – 08:25 – Running club  
08:00-08:30 – Sports & Fitness Breakfast Club  
12:00-12:30 – Sports & Fitness Lunch Club  
15:00-15:50 – After School Football Club

## Thursday

15:00-16:00 – Rugby (Year R-4)  
15:00-16:00 – Forest School (Year 1-4).  
Starting after half term.

## Friday

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

Poole Forest School After School Club at Hillside

Thursday 2nd November- Thursday 7th December

Tools, shelter building, bushcraft, natural crafts, campfire cooking and much more. Ofsted registered for ages 5-11. Accept childcare vouchers.

est. 2019

**FOREST SCHOOL**

POOLE

BOOK ONLINE

<https://forms.gle/o2kopN9sqFkATPWw5>

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