

# Hillside News

*'Where children are at the heart of everything we do'*



DATES TO  
REMEMBER



Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February

Parent Consultations

Please see letter sent out on  
15<sup>th</sup> January with further details  
on how to book a time.

[www.hillsidefirstschool.org](http://www.hillsidefirstschool.org) ~ 01202 882737 ~ [office@hillsidefirstschool.org](mailto:office@hillsidefirstschool.org)

## Headteacher Update 19<sup>th</sup> January 2024

This week's weather certainly brought a chill, but our resilient children seemed unfazed, carrying on without even mentioning the cold. To kick off the week, we delved into reading during our assembly. A study from a university in Spain caught our attention, shedding light on how children learn to read. The research compared reading from traditional books to screens like tablets, phones, and computers, revealing that children grasp and absorb information better when holding a physical book. Reflecting on my own reading habits, I know they have changed over the years and it is now a lot more screen time than traditional books.

We went on to look at some of the examples of various reading materials children can use, including leaflets, game instructions, signs, menus, books, recipes, letters, and even cereal boxes. The assembly finished with the exciting launch of our Play Leaders initiative by Miss Zachariades. Our Year 3 and 4 Play Leader have started supporting their peers with engaging games during playtimes, and we're thrilled to announce the highest-ever number of children volunteering for this role! Thanks to Miss Zachariades for her hard work and to our exemplary Play Leaders!

This week also marked our Trust 'Peer Review Day,' where headteachers from within our Trust visited our school with a focus on our school-wide approach to mathematics. We welcomed Rob Christopher, Headteacher from Emmanuel Middle School, Michelle Prince, Headteacher from St John's First School, Andrew Lovett, our Trust school improvement partner, and an HMI school inspector. The collaboration was invaluable, earning us positive feedback and recognition for our continued progress since the last visit in October 2022.

Rob Christopher commented,

***"It was an absolute pleasure to visit Hillside. It is fantastic to see how excited pupils are about learning and watching teachers skilfully guide them through their curriculum. I will visit again soon as the experience was so valuable when I reflect on the learning journey of Verwood pupils."***

Michelle Prince added,

***"I enjoyed visiting the classrooms and talking to the children to find out about maths at Hillside. I was especially impressed with the way that the children were all so engaged with their learning. The children were confident to talk about maths and used a range of mathematical vocabulary to explain their ideas."***

As we look forward to the remainder of this half term, we're brimming with excitement for the upcoming learning adventures and our participation in national initiatives such as the **NSPCC Number Day** (2nd February), **Safer Internet Day** (6th February), and **Children's Mental Health Week** (5th – 11th February).

Wishing you a wonderful weekend ahead.

Healthy regards,  
Mr. Graves

## WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Little Owls 1	93%
Little Owls 2	85%
Tawny Owls 1	97%
Tawny Owls 2	93%
Tawny Owls 3	92%
Snowy Owls 1	97%
Snowy Owls 2	93%
Snowy Owls 3	97%

Whole School 94%

Target



Gates open at 08:30

Gates close at 08:40

The school day begins  
at 08:40

School finishes at 15:00

## Reading Around the World Challenge

Please continue to  
support your child  
with their reading  
challenge.



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





## Around the school this week...



Chloe and Arabella worked hard during Creative Club this week and enjoyed using our Light Mat, which was purchased by the PTA.



The 'Camping Crew' have been making the most of our outdoor space this week and have been enjoying building dens at playtimes.



Some of our Year 3 and 4 Play Leaders supporting children from Little Owls during lunchtime play this week.



## Attendance

From the first day of term to the last, the small moments in a school day make a real difference to your child.

**#AttendanceCounts**



**"THIS MORNING, HE HAD A RUNNY NOSE... BUT LOOK AT HIM NOW!"**

**MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.**

 **HM Government**

Head to the NHS website to find out more.





**“Talk to us if you're worried about getting your child to school.”**

**In this together**

**School Attendance**

 **Dorset Council**

Struggling to get your child to school?  
Help is available – find out more:  
**[dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/school-attendance](https://dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/school-attendance)**





# 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 5<sup>th</sup> - Friday 9<sup>th</sup>  
Children's Mental Health Week

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

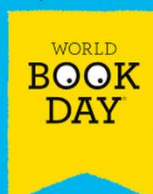


## March

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

RED  
NOSE  
DAY

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

**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

07:55-08:20 – Running club

08:00-08:30 – Sports & Fitness Breakfast Club

12:00-12:30 – Sports & Fitness Lunch Club

15:00-16:00 – After School Football Club

## Wednesday

15:00 – 16:00 – Creative Club

## Thursday

15:00-16:00 – Forest School (Year R-4).

## Friday

Lessons in school – Rocksteady

15:00-16:00 – Computer Explorers (Year 1-2)

**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

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

## Running Club on Tuesday mornings before school

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.



Poole Forest School After School Club at Hillside  
Thursday 11th January - Thursday 21st March

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/VRb1265DTXSvk8y5>  
www.pooleforestschool.com  
marina@pooleforestschool.com