

Hillside News

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



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

DATES TO
REMEMBER



Monday 5th February

Wednesday 7th
February

Parent Consultations

Headteacher Update 26th January 2024

I hope this week's newsletter finds you safe and well. We have certainly had a shift in the weather from the cold of last week to wet and windy this week.

Our week began with an interesting assembly focused on the topic of **self-drive cars**. Recent news suggests that self-drive cars could become a reality on the roads of England, Wales, and Scotland by the end of 2026. During the assembly, we explored the various modes of transportation available, as well as considering the responsibilities of car drivers – from deciphering road signs to ensuring safe steering. We looked at how these principles might apply to self-drive cars, connecting the discussion to our **British Values** character, **Reggie the Rule of Law Rodent** and that there are rules and laws that people must follow when driving cars and these keep everyone safe. To gauge the views of our children, we conducted a vote on whether they felt self-drive cars were beneficial. Interestingly, the majority of children expressed reservations, citing concerns about their safety!

This week, you will hopefully have read the letter from Mr. West regarding **Times Tables Rockstars** and **Numbots**. These are both excellent applications and will be used both in school and available at home. We will be launching this with the children during Monday's assembly, which should prove a little exciting for them...I will explain more next week!

Continuing with the maths theme, we are thrilled to announce our participation in the **NSPCC Number Day 2024** on Friday 2nd February. Children will have the opportunity to participate in a number competition during their maths lesson on Friday, and we'll also discover some of the favourite numbers of our Hillside staff members, along with the reasons behind their choices.

On another note, we are delighted to introduce our **Hillside Heroes** initiative, featuring outstanding achievements of our children with this week's highlights being Mason and Grace. To have your child featured, kindly email their news to the school office at office@hillsidefirstschool.org, including a brief description of the achievement and attaching a photo before the end of the school day every Thursday.

Wishing you a wonderful weekend ahead!

Healthy regards

Mr Graves

WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Little Owls 1	95%
Little Owls 2	83%
Tawny Owls 1	92%
Tawny Owls 2	98%
Tawny Owls 3	95%
Snowy Owls 1	94%
Snowy Owls 2	94%
Snowy Owls 3	98%

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

Celebration of Achievement Afternoon



Thursday 1st
February
straight after school

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





Meet our heroes



Mason at his recent football tournament. The Verwood Town Eagles came second in The Ringwood Town Tournament on New Year's Eve.



Grace had her first football match for Verwood Town recently. She was brilliant and scored her first goal.





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.

Spring term



UPCOMING EVENTS

January

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Tuesday 2nd

INSET Day

Tuesday 23rd

National Handwriting Day

February

Friday 2nd

NSPCC Number Day

Monday 5th

Parent Consultations

Tuesday 6th

Safer Internet Day

Wednesday 7th

Parent Consultations

Monday 5th - Friday 9th

Children's Mental Health Week

Monday 12th - Friday 16th

Half Term

Monday 19th

INSET day

Friday 23rd

PTA Event - School Disco

Monday 26th

Tawny Owls 3 School Trip
(Museum of East Dorset)

Tuesday 27th

Tawny Owls 1 School Trip
(Museum of East Dorset)

Wednesday 28th

Tawny Owls 2 School Trip
(Museum of East Dorset)



March

Week Commencing

Monday 4th

World Book Day
week of celebrations

Thursday 7th

World Book Day

Dress up as a character
from one of your favourite books

**WORLD
BOOK
DAY**

Friday 15th

Comic Relief

**RED
NOSE
DAY**

Friday 15th

Sponsored Bounce

Friday 22nd

PTA Event - Craft Friday

Monday 25th

Snowy Owls School Trip (Marwell Zoo)

Thursday 28th

Inset Day



April



Friday 29th March to

Friday 12th April

Easter
Holidays

Monday 15th

Children return to school

Friday 19th

PTA Event
break the rules day



Monday 22nd



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)

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.



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

CODING | GAME DESIGN | ANIMATION

AFTER SCHOOL
TECH CLUB

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

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