



St Catherine's School & College

*Specialists in Speech, Language and
Communication Needs*

St Catherine's
Grove Road
Ventnor
Isle of Wight
PO38 1TT

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Email: general@stcatherines.org.uk

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Issue 162

17th October 2025

Principal's Welcome

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we reach the end of our first half term, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on what has been a wonderful few weeks here at St Catherine's. From the first days of welcoming both new and returning students back into school routines, it has been a joy to see our young people settling in so well, embracing new learning, and supporting one another with such positivity.

Across the school, students have been immersed in a range of exciting topics and activities — from exploring Gulliver's Travels and Superworm in English, to learning about forces, magnets and electricity in Science, and developing teamwork skills through PE and Forest School. Creative learning has been thriving too, with music from around the world, clay modelling, printing, photography, and award-winning artwork from our sixth form students.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award presentations were a particular highlight this term — a celebration of perseverance, adventure, and personal growth. The Grove After School Club has also continued to be a great success, with activities ranging from boat sailing and pizza making to pumpkin carving — and we look forward to seeing even more creativity and laughter next half term.

I wish you all a restful and enjoyable half-term break. We look forward to welcoming residential students back on Sunday 2nd November and day students on Monday 3rd November for what promises to be another exciting half term.

Thank you for your continued support.

With best wishes

Sarah Thompson
Principal

2025-2026 TERM DATES

ST CATHERINE'S SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

TERM DATES 2025 – 2026

<i>Staff Development Day</i>	<i>Monday 1st & Tuesday 2nd September 2025</i>
Start of Autumn term for students	Wednesday 3 rd September 2025
Quarter term weekend	Friday 19 th September 2025
Return after quarter term weekend	Boarders: Sunday evening 21 st September 2025 Day Students: Monday 22 st September 2025
Break up for half term holiday	Friday 17 th October 2025
OCTOBER HALF-TERM	
Return after half term holiday	Boarders: Sunday evening 2 nd November 2025 Day Students: Monday 3 rd November 2025
Quarter term weekend	Friday 21 st November 2025
Return after quarter term weekend	Boarders: Sunday evening 23 rd November 2025 Day Students: Monday 24 th November 2025
End of Autumn term for students	Thursday 18 th December 2025
<i>Staff Development Day</i>	<i>Friday 19th December 2025</i>
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY	
<i>Staff Development Day</i>	<i>Monday 5th January 2026</i>
Start of Spring term for all students	Tuesday 6 th January 2026
Quarter term weekend	Friday 23 rd January 2026
Return after quarter term weekend	Boarders: Sunday evening 25 th January 2026 Day Students: Monday 26 th January 2026
Students break up for half term holiday	Friday 13 th February 2026
FEBRUARY HALF-TERM	
Return after half term holiday	Boarders: Sunday 22 nd February 2026 Day Students: Monday 23 th February 2026
Quarter term weekend	Friday 13 th March 2026
Return after half term holiday	Boarders: Sunday evening 15 th March 2026 Day Students: Monday 16 th March 2026
End of Spring term	Friday 27 th March 2026
EASTER HOLIDAY	
Start of Summer term	Boarders: Sunday 12 th April 2026 Day Students: Monday 13 th April 2026
Quarter term weekend including Bank Holiday	Friday 1 st May – Monday 4 th May 2026
Return after quarter term weekend	Tuesday morning 5 th May 2026
Break up for half term holiday	Friday 22 nd May 2026
SPRING BANK HOLIDAY HALF-TERM	
Return after half term holiday	Boarders: Sunday 31 st May 2026 Day Students: Monday 1 st June 2026
Quarter term weekend	Friday 26 th June 2026
Return after quarter term weekend	Boarders: Sunday evening 28 th June 2026 Day Students: Monday 29 th June 2026
End of Summer term for students	Friday 24 th July 2026
<i>Staff Development Day</i>	<i>Monday 27th July 2026</i>
SUMMER HOLIDAY	

Please note the above are based on the Isle of Wight Council Maintained Schools Holiday dates.

ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS

100% ATTENDANCE

Congratulations to the following students for 100% attendance this half term.

Sean
Sophia
Mia
Megan
Jamie
Tanner
Halle
Elliott
William
Byron
Finley
Fletcher
Jaden

Harri
Nicholas
Charles
James
Riley
Ted
Joseph
Keagan
Jim
Jasmine
Luis
Gracie
Kaelan

Sam
Francesco
Toby
Brooke
Holden
Summer
Alex
Emilia
Edward
Bella
Caitlin
Charlotte
Elliot

AMAZING ATTENDANCE

Congratulations to the following students for amazing attendance this half term.

Tim
Ashton
Cosmo
Charlie-Joe
Evie
William
Jacob
Levi
Toby
Kayan

ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS

BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING

The Behaviour for Learning award has been presented to:

Apryl
Megan
Eva
Ted
Lydia
Bella

Gwehona
Millie
Jasmine
Toby
Lilly
Harri
Henley

Selene
Tanner
Charlotte
Eli
William
Olivia

BEHAVIOUR FOR CHARACTER

The Behaviour for Character award has been presented to:

Charlotte
Josh
Eddie

PRINCIPAL'S PRAISE

Sophia

READING AWARD

Apryl

ST CATHERINE'S ROUND UP

As we enter the colder months please send your child in with a coat and please make sure your they have their name in it.

Day students return to school on Monday
3rd November
Residential students return Sunday evening
on 2nd November

SCHOOL MENU

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Chicken/ Vegetable Curry or Jacket Potato with choice of filling	Toad in the Hole/Vegetable or Plain Sausage or Tomato Pasta	Roast Pork/ Vegetable Burger or Tomato Pasta	Macaroni Cheese with a Baguette or Jacket Potato with choice of filling	Beef or Vegetable Burger/Fish Fingers with Chips or Jacket Potato with choice of filling
Salad Bar Tuna or Mackerel	Salad Bar Cheese & Egg or Mackerel	Salad Bar Ham or Mackerel	Salad Bar Tuna or Mackerel	Salad Bar Cheese or Mackerel
Fresh Fruit Platter	Artic Roll	Fresh Fruit Salad	Cookies	Pudding of the Day

Fresh vegetables and salad are available with all main meals. Fresh fruit and yoghurt are always options for dessert.

THE GROVE UPDATE

THE GROVE AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

We are holding 'The Grove' after school club every Tuesday 3:30pm - 5:00pm.

The Grove after school club has had a great start to the new school year. We recently enjoyed some pumpkin carving making some Jack-o'-lanterns.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

4th November-Dragons' Den 1

Bring your parent/carer to school day - 26th November 2025

We will be holding a bring your parent/carer to school day on 26th November 2025, which will give parents the opportunity to take part in activities alongside their young person. There will be sessions during the morning and afternoon. Further information will be sent out after the half term break.

Mufti Day

Friday 14th November

Students can come in Mufti in exchange for a prize for our Tombola Stall at the Christmas Event.

Sponsored by MCM



ST CATHERINE'S SCHOOL CHRISTMAS MARKET

SATURDAY 13TH DECEMBER

10:30am till 4pm

St Catherine's Church
Church Street, Ventnor

LOCAL CHRISTMAS STALLS

SPIDERMAN AND ELSA

FREE TREASURE HUNT

VISIT FROM THE GIFT ELF

REFRESHMENTS, RAFFLE

LIVE MUSIC THROUGHOUT THE DAY

PLEASE FOLLOW OUR FACEBOOK PAGE



FOR TIMINGS



SAVE THE DATE

ST CATHERINE'S

GALA DINNER

18TH APRIL 2026

NORTHWOOD HOUSE

COWES

TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST NOW EMAIL

SMIHT@STCATHERINES.ORG.UK



CELEBRATING DLD DAY

Today we are raising awareness of Developmental Language Disorder (DLD). This year's theme is 'You can't see DLD'. Staff and students have taken part in a mufti day wearing the colours of purple and yellow (these are the colours of DLD Day) with the added option of wearing camouflage linked to DLD being known as a 'hidden' disability.

Staff have been provided with facts about DLD including strategies to support in the classroom and websites for additional training and information.

During Speech Therapy Group sessions, students have been taking part in different activities. Lower and Middle School have taken part in a 'hide and seek' activity where they had to find different facts about DLD. These were discussed in their groups where students were also able to voice whether they found these things difficult too.

Upper school, college and some Post 19 students learnt about recent DLD priorities that were put forward for research. Students were given the opportunity to order the priorities themselves, to see if they agreed with the final Top 10 order decided by the research group.

We have also been busy sharing information with all schools on the Isle of Wight. This week, schools would have received some information about DLD and how to spot the signs. We felt that it was important to share the information as it has been estimated that around 2 children in every mainstream classroom of 30 has DLD. Businesses and families have been displaying posters to support us raising awareness for St Catherine's.

This year, Crave has supported us again to raise awareness for DLD by producing a DLD themed ice cream and displaying information in their shop in Ventnor.



DLD Awareness Day 17th October 2025



You can't see DLD



ADHD AWARENESS MONTH



October is ADHD Awareness Month, a great time to spread the word and raise awareness about this condition, especially in children. By understanding their unique experiences, we can take meaningful steps to help them thrive.

WHAT IS ADHD?

ADHD (Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder) is a neurodevelopmental condition characterised by persistent patterns of inattention, hyperactivity, and impulsivity, affecting focus, behaviour regulation, and daily functioning across various settings.

Approximately 5% of children in the UK have ADHD, one of the most common neurodevelopmental disorders, with most diagnoses occurring between ages 6 and 12.

ADHD affects various aspects of daily functioning, including academic performance, social relationships, and family dynamics. Children with ADHD may face challenges in school due to difficulties with attention and organisation, often resulting in lower grades or increased disciplinary actions. Socially, they may also struggle to make and keep friends, leading to feelings of isolation or frustration. Children with ADHD often experience high levels of energy that can be challenging to manage in structured indoor environments. Outdoor play allows them to expend this energy through activities like running, jumping, climbing and playing sports. Engaging in vigorous physical activity helps to burn off excess energy, leading to a calmer state of mind when returning to quieter tasks

Outdoor play encourages social interaction with peers, which is crucial for developing social skills. Children with ADHD may struggle with social cues, but the dynamic nature of outdoor play allows them to practice communication, teamwork, and conflict resolution in a less pressured environment.

BLOOM CLASS

Bella:

I have really enjoyed doing gymnastics in PE. I like doing roly polies. I have made some new friends and I love it at my new school. I love my class and I have made friends with everyone. I like the other room we can go into at the end of lessons. We have turned the role play area into a subway and I like to make the sandwiches and coffee for the customers. I also like Maths and I like using the number line to help me

RADCLIFFE CLASS

Holden:

I like science because we were making a wormery. Getting worms and getting soil and sand. We put food on it, bananas and oranges. In PE, I like doing the gymnastics. I like the warm up games we play, it's fun. I like doing coding in ICT and I likes seeing my friends. The trip to Butterfly World was really fun. I liked touching the animals and feeding the fish. I liked doing DT and going to the library to get a book.

HOPKINS CLASS

Gracie:

I have liked doing PE. My favourite activity is doing gymnastics. We have been learning to do balancing and different rolls. We did a class trip to Butterfly World. The best part was when I touched a snake and had a spider on my hand. It tickled. My favourite lesson is Maths with Miss Cook. I liked going to the library to choose a book, our library has lots of different books. I am happy in my new class because I like my teacher.

PACKHAM CLASS

Bentley:

There are three things that I have enjoyed the most so far. The best lesson I have enjoyed is Humanities because we are learning about longitudes, latitudes and time zones. Another lesson I have liked is PE where I have been doing gymnastics and volleyball. My favourite is volleyball. I have learnt how to do a rally to keep the ball in the air with a partner. My third best lesson is ICT. I have been looking at the benefits of technology and how we use it to help us every day. It has been good being in Packham class.

OLIVER CLASS

Gwehona:

I have enjoyed playing the Gong in Music and the Djembes drums. We have learnt about different instruments from around the world. We have been doing volleyball in PE and it's been a lot of fun. In Art, I have loved making a T-shirt using my own design with bright pop art ideas and printing. We have been learning about 'Gulliver's Travels' in English and I liked watching the film - it was very funny. We have learnt about magnets in Science and I liked testing what was magnetic and what wasn't. In OT, I enjoyed using the Blue Room; throwing the ball and using the different equipment in there.

AUSTEN CLASS

Luis:

This term I have enjoyed Forest School. I really liked building dens. In OT this term, we have been cooking, this was really good. We have made lots of different things such as marble cake and crumble. In Science, we learnt about forces and magnets. We got to go outside and look at different forces in the playground. In PE, we did volleyball and gymnastics. I enjoyed gymnastics and learning different movements.

GOLDBERG CLASS

Harri:

The things I have enjoyed the most this half term are English and OT. In English, we have been reading 'Ice Trap', it's a book based on true events, Sir Ernest Shackleton's incredible adventure in the heroic age of Antarctic exploration. We then had to write a 3-day diary entry pretending to be someone who was on the journey. We used expanded noun phrases, similes, personification and variation of punctuation. It was really fun. In OT, we have been cooking various hot meals including fish and chips, soup and pancakes. We got to eat everything we made, which made me very happy!!! I've really enjoyed the start of this school year being in Goldberg class.

BURTON CLASS

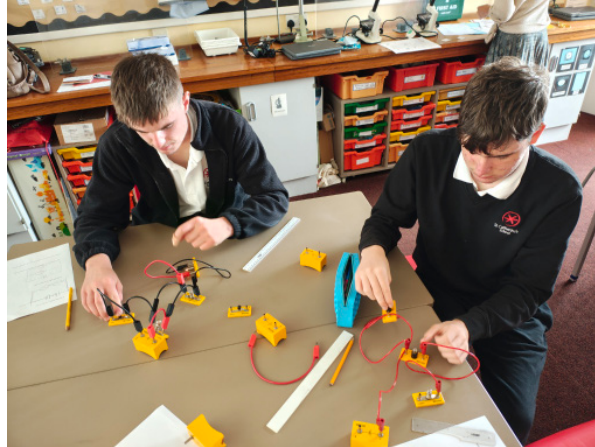
Sam:

In English, we have been reading and learning about the story of Gulliver's Travels. In PE, we have been doing basketball which is really fun! In Humanities lessons, we have been learning to use compasses and working with maps. We have really enjoyed designing and creating felt pouches in our DT lessons. In Science, we have learnt about magnetic forces. In our OT sessions, we have been baking and cooking some delicious treats to take home!

NEWTON CLASS

Fletcher:

In English we have been learning about 'Ice Trap', which is about sailing to and walking across the Antarctic. It was a massive fail, but they survived in the end. In Maths, we've been adding with decimals and whole numbers. We've been practising not using calculators. PE has been fun, playing basketball. In ICT we've been sending emails and learning how to be safe online. In Art, we've been doing photography. We took photos and edited them using ICT. Humanities has been all about the history of the school. Science has been all about electricity. The highlight was making batteries from lemons.



BRANSON CLASS

Lilly:

In English, I enjoyed writing my diary entry using one of the characters from 'Ice Trap'. In PE, we were learning about different sports and the rules needed for them. Humanities: we are looking at old photographs of the school and staff from a long time ago. In Science, we did an experiment using magnets and paperclips. We had to see how many paperclips each magnet could hold. In DT, we have planned our own design to make a clock using a variety of different materials. In OT, we have been talking about different careers and work experience. We also have made our own hot drinks. I have enjoyed GCSE Art. My design had snakes and also included writing linked to Tim Burton.

WATSON CLASS

Bella:

This half term, I have been looking at local history in Humanities; we looked at boxes of old photos of the school which was really interesting. I found out that there used to be a big house where the staff car park is now, which had a ballroom. I have been doing work experience in the Charity Shop on a Monday morning, hanging clothes up and sorting them out into sizes. In Art Club, I did my GCSE mock exam and made a house and people to go in it out of terracotta clay. In RE day, I did photography in the afternoon, I took photos on the theme of saying sorry and edited them on the computer. On the 14th October, all of year 11 went to a Careers Fair at Medina Leisure Centre. There was a talk first and then we went to another room with stalls by Colleges and Employers showing the things that they do. I was interested in the IOW Council Health and Social Care stand and talked to them. I have generally had a good half term.

6JG CLASS

Aaron:

This half term, I have enjoyed photography. We have been looking at view points. We have experimented with exposure and shutter speeds. I really enjoyed turning one of my class mates into a ghost. I did this by using a photo PEA to edit the brightness and contrast. I have also enjoyed Music this half term. We have been focusing on rock and roll features. We have been playing songs from that genre. My favourite to play was Elvis, rock and roll blues, 12 bar blues and The Beatles. I have been playing these on the drums whilst accompanied by my class mates on piano and guitar. This half term I have also enjoyed the independence of travelling to college on the bus with friends, having to ensure we are not late. There have been a few close calls!

6AMD CLASS

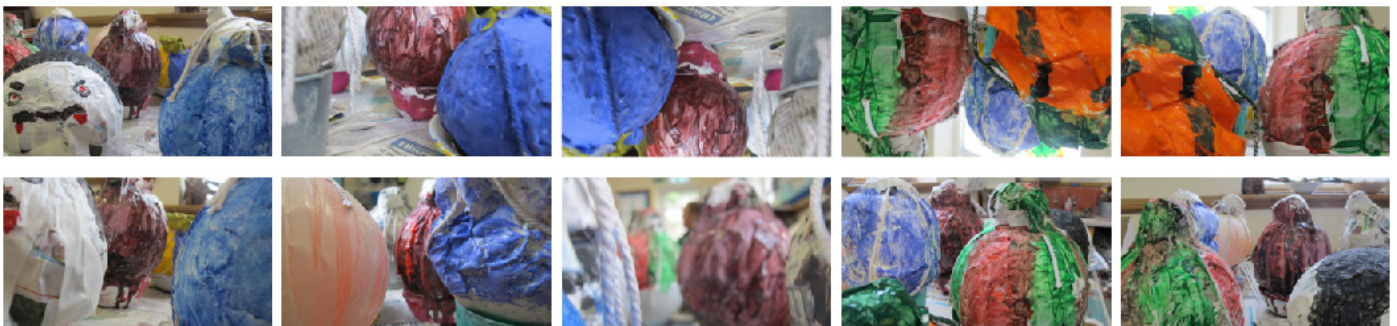
Charles:

This half term I have enjoyed Music. I have been studying Baroque music for our GCSE, this is an era of music from 1600-1750. I have also started work on my set brief piece, I will be making a piece of music inspired by a picture. Photography has also been a high point this half term, I have been working with mixed media on a project about my interests. In the residential house, I have enjoyed going bowling and visiting the driving range or crazy golf! I am also researching college courses to help me next year with my next steps!

6ILP CLASS

Keagan:

My first half term at the college has been a good one. I have enjoyed going out on trips; I particularly enjoyed the recent visit to Quarr Abbey, I enjoy the wildlife. I have made new friends and enjoyed some of the subjects. I have shown my footballing skills during wellbeing sessions as well as practising my throwing skills during my Maths lessons.



ST CHRISTOPHER'S UPDATE

Students spending nights in St Christopher's have had a good start to the new school year, learning new life skills in our weekly challenges and taking part in fun activities such as bowling, football, swimming, blackberry picking, cooking, cinema nights and crazy golf.

YOUNG ENTERPRISE UPDATE

This year's Young Enterprise Team is now underway. Please follow us on Instagram to keep up to date with our latest products, news and upcoming events.

@happyfidgets2025 and @stcatherinesye

This year's team is called Happy Fidgets and they are making a range of fidget products using different beads.

To order some of our wonderful products please contact finauptys@stcatherines.org.uk. Keep an eye on our social media pages for new products, more being released regularly. Some products in the photos may have already been sold, see socials for most up-to-date stock and pricing.



FOREST SCHOOL

Forest School classes have had a great start back to their outside learning. We have covered many new skills within fire safety, shelter and knots and have celebrated time spent in nature as the season changes. All groups are developing wonderful Forest School communities, building on their social skills and gaining confidence in their own abilities! Next term Forest School classes are Oliver, Radcliffe and Packham.



ALLOTMENT CLUB

A busy term collecting harvests and making way for new crops. We have now planted next year's onion and broad bean crop. We used tomatoes to make chutney and have butternut squash stored to make soup. Toby:

"I've enjoyed picking the tomatoes and potatoes and making chutney which is delicious!"

FUNDRAISING AND DEVELOPMENT

It's been a busy start to the term with lots of planning for this year's events. We are looking forward to a Christmas Carol Concert in December and Christmas Market on 13th December. If you would like to be involved with a fundraising event please get in touch with Tanya - smitht@stcatherines.org.uk. We look forward to also adding our student lead fundraising event

SPONSORING OUR CHRISTMAS MARKET 2025

We are very grateful to MCM construction for sponsoring our Christmas Market event on Saturday 13th December.

This year we are able to offer so much more to those who attend including a Grinch grotto, a free treasure hunt, a free colouring competition and more.



St Catherine's

A registered Charity no. 288148
Recognised by the Department for Education (DfE)
Grove Road, Ventnor, Isle of Wight, PO38 1TT
T: 01983 852722 E: general@stcatherines.org.uk
www.stcatherines.org.uk

Fundraising Enquiries

For further information about our fundraising activities, contact our Fundraising Team on: 01983 852722 or email: smitht@stcatherines.org.uk

RESIDENTIAL OPEN DAY



St Catherine's
School & College

*Specialists in Speech, Language and
Communication Needs*

RESIDENTIAL OPEN DAY WEDNESDAY 19TH NOVEMBER 2025

St Catherine's residential provision supports young people aged 11 - 19 with speech, language and communication needs

Free travel from Portsmouth to our site on the Isle of Wight

To register your interest, please visit our website:
www.stcatherines.org.uk/open-day-interest-form

Speech &
Language Therapy

Occupational
Therapy

Sign Supported
English

Residential and
Day School

For more information please contact our
Admissions Team on 01983 852722 or email
admissions@stcatherines.org.uk



Residential
School & College

Registered Charity No. 288148
Company Limited by Guarantee (Number 1757474)
St Catherine's, Grove Road, Ventnor, Isle of Wight, PO38 1TT
www.stcatherines.org.uk



Education
School & College

ST CATHERINE'S CHARITY SHOP

It's been a very busy few weeks at the charity shop with sales and donations. Thank you to the students who have had work experience placements with Laura, and to my 2 wonderful volunteers for all your great help!

If you are having a half term clearout, donations of good quality, saleable goods would be appreciated. Thank you for your continued support,

Amanda, Manager



St Catherine's
Specialists in Speech, Language and
Communication Needs
School - College - Post 19

TRUSTEE VACANCY

We are looking for outstanding individuals to join our Board of Trustees to help take us forward as we continue to develop our services. We welcome interest particularly from people with expertise in special educational needs.

If you would like to find out more, have an informal discussion or visit St Catherine's, please contact Susan Graves, Clerk to the Trustees on 01983 852 722 or email susan@stcatherines.org.uk

Trustee appointments are subject to enhanced-level disclosure and barring checks.

St Catherine's is a national charity, based in Ventnor on the Isle of Wight, which runs a residential special school, sixth form college and post 19 provision for children and young people with speech, language and communication needs and associated difficulties.

Charity no. 288148, 288148:2

OCTOBER HALF TERM - WHAT TO DO

The following pages are provided for information - St Catherine's does not endorse any of these activities



ROBIN HILL
ADVENTURE PARK

SPOOKTACULAR

30TH & 31ST OCTOBER 2025

with DOUBLE TROUBLE EVENTS

7-9 PM

£14.95
UNDER 3s FREE!

BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW robin-hill.com

30 Oct at 17:00 – 31 Oct at 21:00

Spooktacular Halloween Party 30th & 31st

Public · Event by Robin Hill



HALLOWEEN CRAFT WORKSHOPS

Halloween themed dreamcatchers, macrame bracelets or keyrings, and zine based mini books

FREE Ages 11-18
Booking advised
adults not required to stay

free slots

Niton Library Tuesday 21 st October 2pm - 4pm	zines
Ventnor Library Friday 24 th October 2pm - 4pm	dream-catchers
Ryde Library Monday 27 th October 2pm - 4pm	dream-catchers
Sandown Library Tuesday 28 th October 2pm - 4pm	macrame
Freshwater Library Wednesday 29 th October 2pm - 4pm	dream-catchers
Newport Library Thursday 30 th October 2.30pm - 4.30pm	macrame
Cowes Library Friday 31 st October 2pm - 4pm	macrame

 Supported using public funding by **ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND**
 **Isle of Wight Council**
 **CREATIVE ISLAND new carnival**



SMALL MUSEUMS · BIG ON HISTORY!

HALF-TERM ACTIVITIES

NO NEED TO BOOK

NEWPORT ROMAN VILLA

CLAY DAYS



- Discover more about Roman gods
- Explore the villa remains
- Create a Roman shrine or an offering to the gods

♦ £1 per person
 ♦ 10am to 2pm
 ♦ Wednesday 22 October
 ♦ Wednesday 29 October

MUSEUM ISLAND HISTORY

FOSSILS



Pictured: *Australiceras gigas* found at Chale Bay

- Create a dinosaur diorama
- Visit pop-up Dinosaur Isle gift shop
- Discover local dinosaurs and get hands-on with fossils

♦ £1 per person
 ♦ 10am to 2pm
 ♦ Tuesday 28 October
 ♦ Thursday 30 October

ALL-WEATHER ATTRACTIONS

Cypress Road, Newport, IW, PO30 1HA | 01983 823433 | iow.gov.uk/museums
museums@iow.gov.uk | Guildhall, High Street, Newport, IW, PO30 1TY

Events organised by the Isle of Wight Heritage Service |  **Isle of Wight Council**

AAC AWARENESS MONTH

@drawnto aac

What is A.A.C.?

AAC stands for:
Augmentative
and
Alternative
Communication

It is anything that adds to or is an alternative to verbal communication

Speech-generating devices + apps

hi

Examples of AAC

- Speech-generating devices + apps
- texting emojis
- Pictures and flip books
- eye-gaze communication systems
- Sign language + gestures

There are many different kinds of AAC, and we all use AAC everyday! AAC is especially helpful for people who have difficulty speaking. People can use devices, phones, computers, pictures, and more to communicate!

this is my AAC device. It helps me communicate.

AAC Fact Sheet

AAC supports speech development and language skills

People learn AAC best when others use it too

Speaking people use AAC too - try it when communication is tricky

Take all the time you need to support an AAC user to communicate

AAC can be as simple as drawing options on a piece of paper!

It is never too early or too late to start using an AAC strategy

Abdi Omar's Top Tips for AAC Awareness

#AACAware

Top Tip no.1: "Let your students have their communication aid as much as possible. Living without a voice is very difficult to live with."

Top Tip no.2: "Let your students explore their communication aids. Practice will help."

Top Tip no.3: "Have patience when working with communication aid beginners. Making mistakes is good. It means they are trying."

Top Tip no.4: "Do you talk to people behind them? No! Always stand where an AAC user can see you (in front or beside)"

Top Tip no.5: "When working with an advanced AAC user push them!"

Top Tip no.6: "Everyone has bad days sometimes. Don't force an AAC user to use their device. Try doing what they like."

Top Tip no.7: "It's your mission to bring out your students' best so sometimes you must think creatively."

Top Tip no.8: "Try every AAC device possible as what might work for one student might not work for another."

Top Tip no.9: "Believe in your students and they will feel more confident in class."

Top Tip no.10: "Don't be afraid to push your AAC students as they could have countless abilities"

Watch my Top Tips Video!

CENMAC
 Assistive Technology in Education
 CENMAC 76 (300) 854-1031 | Fax: (300) 854-1143 | Email: info@cenmac.com | Website: www.cenmac.com

@drawnto aac

octorber is AAC awareness month

OCTOBER HALF TERM - WHAT TO DO



Made possible with
Heritage Fund

Naturezones
Wise Owl Holiday Club
8 - 14 yrs



Come and have a great time outdoors! Go on a nature safari, look for wildlife in our ponds, woods and meadows. See if you can charm worms out of the ground. Get creative in our guided art sessions and try some crafts using willow and other natural materials. Play games based around wildlife and tackle a challenge! Various different fun activities during each session.

Dates: October; Thurs 30th, Fri 31st
Cost: £8 - £5 fsm

Bring one snack and a packed lunch

MUST BOOK - Limited places
Full details on booking form

Where: Blackwater
www.naturezones.org.uk




Halloween at Naturezones



Thursday 30th and Friday 31st
October between 10.30am and 2.30pm no need to book

Who has taken the missing pumpkin? Seek and find then claim your chocolate prize
£5/person (under 4's free)



Bring your little ones along for one of our very popular barn dances, but this time for kids. Suitable for kids aged between 4-13. Fancy dress optional but always fun.

OCTOBER 29TH

Kids Halloween Barn Dance




3:30PM - 5PM
£5 per child includes squash
Kids to be supervised at all times by parents.
(Kids not to be left)
Book tickets online. Limited availability

www.wildoakfarm.co.uk Wild Oak Farm, Havenstreet, PO33 4SA



INCLUDED IN SUMMER SEASON PASS!

TAPNELL FARM PARK

DRESS UP FOR
THE ISLAND'S ULTIMATE MONSTER BALL!

BOO MANIA

FARM. BARN. RAVE. REPEAT

TUESDAY 28TH and THURSDAY 30TH OCTOBER FROM 1.30PM!

FARM PARK OPEN 10AM - 4.30PM

VENTNOR TENNIS CLUB

HALF TERM TENNIS

TUESDAY 21ST OCTOBER

RED BALL - 9:30-11:00
ORANGE/GREEN BALL - 11:00-13:00

TUESDAY 28TH OCTOBER

ORANGE/GREEN BALL - 11:00-13:00

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Ljlouise@icloud.com
07971 298367



OCTOBER HALF TERM - WHAT TO DO

OCTOBER HALF-TERM ACTIVITIES

Swimming lessons 5-day week £40.75, (Monday-Friday)
Minimum age 4 years
Learner Pool
 0900-0930 – Stage 1 – Non-swimmer – Happy to go in the water in armbands.
 0930-1000 – Stage 2 – Ready to swim without armbands.
 1000-1030 – Stage 3 – 5-10m – Water confident, can swim 5-10m on front and back.
Main Pool
 0900-0930 – 10m+ Can Swim at least 10m on front and back and happy to put face in water.
 0900-0930 – 25m+ Can swim at least 25m on front and back using a recognisable stroke.
 0930-1000 – 50m+ Can swim at least 50m using good front crawl, back crawl and breaststroke.
 0930-1000 – 100m+ Can swim at least 100m using good front crawl, back crawl and breaststroke.

MONDAY
Climbing – 1600-1700 – 7-12 years – £16.85 – A fun session suitable for all abilities. Waiver form will need to be completed. Monday 20th October ONLY.
Climbing – 1700-1800 – 7-12 years – £16.85 – A fun session suitable for all abilities. Waiver form will need to be completed. Monday 20th October ONLY.
Youth Football – 1800-1900 – 13-15 years – £4.00 – Opportunity to play football under the guidance of FA coaches.

TUESDAY
Snorkelling – 1000-1100 – £6.20 – Must be able to swim at least 25m and be happy under the water.
Climbing – 1300-1400 – 7-12 years – £16.85 – A fun session suitable for all abilities. Waiver form will need to be completed.
Climbing – 1400-1500 – 7-12 years – £16.85 – A fun session suitable for all abilities. Waiver form will need to be completed.
Youth Pickleball – 1600-1700 – 12-16 years – £4.00 – Try this growing paddle sport that combines elements of badminton, tennis and table tennis.
Youth Boxing – 1700-1800 – 12-16 years – £6.20 – Non-contact boxing, offers a fun and challenging fitness experience for all abilities.

WEDNESDAY
Raft Racing – 1000-1100 – 6 years+ – £6.20 – Fun and games in teams racing on our specially built rafts. Must be able to swim at least 50m.
Soft Archery – 1300-1400 – 7-12 years – £6.20 – An introduction to archery through games, using soft arrows
Indoor Olympics – 1400-1500 – 7-12 years – £6.20 – A multi-sport session including Basketball, Badminton, Table Tennis and Football.

THURSDAY
Diving – 1000-1100 – £9 – Must be able to swim at least 25m, be happy underwater and be able to perform a headfirst entry into the pool.
Climbing – 1300-1400 – 7-12 years – £16.85 – A fun session suitable for all abilities. Waiver form will need to be completed.
Climbing – 1400-1500 – 7-12 years – £16.85 – A fun session suitable for all abilities. Waiver form will need to be completed.

FRIDAY
Mermaids Main Pool – 1000-1030 – £6.20 – Must be able to swim at least 50m+ and happy under the water.
Mermaids Small Pool – 1030-1100 – £6.20 – Must be able to swim at least 25m+ and happy under the water.
Rookie Lifesaving – 1000-1100 – 8-12 years – £9 – Must be able to swim at least 50m and tread water. Teaches self-rescue and casualty rescue techniques. Bring an old t-shirt to wear in the water over normal swimwear. Friday 24th October ONLY.
Climbing – 1200-1300 – 7-12 years – £16.85 – A fun session suitable for all abilities. Waiver form will need to be completed. Friday 31st October ONLY.
Climbing – 1300-1400 – 7-12 years – £16.85 – A fun session suitable for all abilities. Waiver form will need to be completed. Friday 31st October ONLY.

FUN HOURS
 Fun and floats in our pool. Under 8's MUST be accompanied in the water.
 £4.50.
 Monday-Friday 1100-1200
 Saturday and Sunday 1000-1100.

ROOKIE LIFEGUARD

OCTOBER 20TH – NOVEMBER 2ND

OCTOBER HALF-TERM ACTIVITIES

West Wight Sports & Community Centre
 Freshwater, Isle of Wight, PO40 9XH
 Tel: (01983) 752168
 www.westwight.org.uk
 E-mail: info@westwight.org.uk

The MacNaughton-Howe Festival Association
 presents:

MACNAUGHTON-HOWE FESTIVAL
 Est. 1955

70th Anniversary Edition

A community inspired arts & crafts, horticultural, and performing arts festival for all ages

24 & 25 October 2025
 St Catherine's Church
 Ventnor
 www.macnaughtonhowe.co.uk

OCTOBER HALF TERM - WHAT TO DO



**VISIT BRIDDLESFORD FARM
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK!**



ALL ACTIVITIES ARE FREE FOR CAFE OR FARM SHOP CUSTOMERS!

Meet the Calves every day, situated next to the cafe.

Relax in the Bluebell Cafe - Enjoy barista coffee with our signature unhomogenised Guernsey milk, homemade cakes and delicious breakfast and lunches.

Explore the Old Hopkilns. Step into our Heritage Centre with hands-on displays and stories from Briddlesford's farming past.

Browse our farm shop and discover delicious local produce.

briddlesford.co.uk



**WELLY WEDNESDAYS
THIS HALF TERM!**



EVERY WEDNESDAY DURING HALF TERM
£5 CHILDREN, £10 ADULTS

Looking for a family adventure this half term? Bring the children along 2pm-4pm for an afternoon of fresh air, learning and farmyard fun.

Meet our friendly Guernsey cows
Discover where milk comes from
Fun hands-on activities for children
Don't forget your wellies!

Book your family spot today
and make half term unforgettable!

briddlesford.co.uk



SCAN ME!



HALLOWEEN

- Spooktacular -

FRIDAY 3RD OCTOBER - SATURDAY 1ST NOVEMBER

JOIN US THIS HALLOWEEN AT SHANKLIN CHINE AND ENJOY ILLUMINATIONS,
TRICKY TRAILS, CREEPY CRITTERS, TASTY TREATS AND MUCH MORE!

01983 866432 | [f/SHANKLINCHINE](https://www.facebook.com/shanklinchine) | STANDARD ADMISSION PRICES APPLY

OCTOBER HALF TERM - WHAT TO DO

THE ISLAND SAVOYARDS
PRESENT



Annie

BOOK BY THOMAS MEEHAN MUSIC BY CHARLES STROUSE LYRICS BY MARTIN CHARNIN

Original Broadway Production Directed by Martin Charnin Presented on Broadway by Mike Nichols
Produced by Irwin Meyer, Stephen R. Friedman, Lewis Allen, Alvin Nederlander Associates Inc.,
The John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts, Icarus Productions.

Based on "Little Orphan Annie" © by permission of the Tribune Media Services Inc.

SHANKLIN THEATRE
OCTOBER 22ND-26TH

Tickets | Adults £25 | Children £22
Inclusive Booking Fee

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International
All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI
www.mtishows.co.uk

BOX OFFICE | 01983 868000 | shanklintheatre.com



Winnie and Wilbur

In conjunction with Wild Roots IW CIC

The Amazing Pumpkin

Wild Roots IW CIC invites you to join the team for an immersive afternoon, experiencing the wonder of Winnie and Wilbur's The Amazing Pumpkin. There will be fire lighting, potion making, and creating a giant pumpkin installation and much, much more! All within the magical setting of Moorhills Farm.

Saturday 25th October 3pm-5pm.
£12 per child and adults free.
www.bookwhen/wildrootsiw.

BEAVERS



COME JOIN THE FUN

3RD VENTNOR BEAVERS

We welcome both boys and girls aged between 5 years and 9 months and 8 years of age

When :
Tuesday Evenings
1630 - 1730

Where :
Scout HQ, Trinity Road, Ventnor (above the Church)

Contact :
Carol Young 07810 064862 or email beechwood@live.co.uk for more details

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Let the kids

Go Wild

This Autumn

£40 per child
Ages 6-12

Monday 27th,
Tuesday 28th and
Wednesday 29th.
9am -3pm

www.bookwhen.com/wildrootsiw

OCTOBER HALF TERM - WHAT TO DO

 **CALLING ALL WITCHES AND WIZARDS**

POTTY ABOUT POTTER! AND PERFORMANCE

Students aged 7-16 will build confidence, creativity, and teamwork as they step into the wizarding world of Harry Potter to bring their own story to life. Together, we'll create and perform a brand-new magical mystery.

Show back performance at 3:30 pm

Early bird rate: £25 for the day if booked before 13/10
Full Price: £30 (if booked after 13/10)
Sibling rate: £25 (if adding on a second child booking)

SCAN ME TO BOOK YOUR PLACE



TUESDAY 21ST OCTOBER, 10.00AM TO 4.00PM
© DEPARTMENT, RYDE

HALLOWEEN FANCY DRESS PARTY

Monkey Madness Softplay
Thursday 30th October
4pm-6pm
£10 per child
1 adult free per family
Additional adults £2.50
Buffet
Halloween games
Fancy Dress Competition
Disco



To book tickets please call
01983867122
Or email amazonworld@rocketmail.com

PUBLIC LAUNCH

Tuesday
21st & 28th
October

7pm launch

**BEMBRIDGE
RNLI LIFEBOAT**



**free
stacks**

HALLOWEEN MACRAME WORKSHOP

Friday 31st October - 2pm-4pm

Cowes Library

Ages 11-18 - Booking advised:
 01983 293341  coweslibrary@iow.gov.uk

Make your own Halloween
themed bracelets or keyrings

new:carnival

**Please be aware that there are currently
no toilet facilities available in the library.**

OCTOBER HALF TERM - WHAT TO DO



HALLOWEEN PUMPKIN HUNT

NO NEED TO BOOK! JUST £1 PER CHILD

18TH OCTOBER - 1ST NOVEMBER | ALL DAY LONG!

The poster features a dark background with orange pumpkins, a ghost, a witch, a cat, and a bat. The text is in a bold, orange, stylized font.



AS SEEN ON FILM & TV

CREATURAMA

THE WORK OF ARTIST ANTHONY JAMES

£12.50 PER PERSON
SESSIONS 1 HOUR

HALLOWEEN JUNK MODEL MAKING WORKSHOPS

ARRETON BARNs CRAFT VILLAGE
ARRETON, THE ISLE OF WIGHT PO30 3AA
27th, 28th, 29th & 30th October 2025
Sessions at 11am, 1pm and 3pm

LIMITED SPACES SO BOOK EARLY!

TO BOOK GO TO THE 'SHOP' ON THE WEBSITE
For more info log on to www.creaturama.com

The poster features a central image of artist Anthony James holding a carved jack-o'-lantern. It includes logos for Jurassic World, BBC, and CBBC, and a QR code for booking.

HELP AND SUPPORT

A SLICE OF SEN.

Cake and Company.



Informal Isle Of Wight SEN Support meet up .

To chat ,

have a slice of cake ,

meet other parents/carers,

meet some of the IWSS Team,

A friendly safe space for children and adults, all welcome
with or without children/Young people.

toilets,

sensory toys,

private room.

November 4th

10-11:30 am

Newport family centre

Furrlongs

Newport

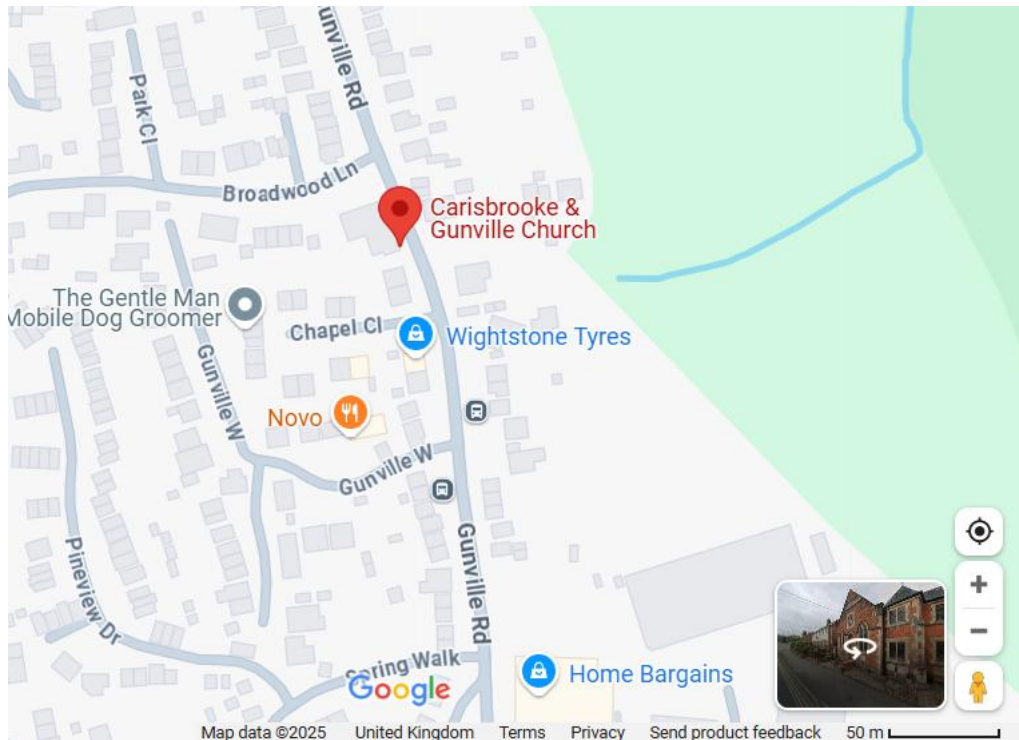
PO30 2AX

HELP AND SUPPORT



Parent and Caregiver Peer Support Sessions

Where: Gunville Methodist Church Hall



When:

11th September 2025 (10am - 12 noon)

6th November 2025 (10am – 12 noon)

15th January 2026 (10am - 11am)

5th March 2026 (10am - 12 noon)

7th May 2026 (10am – 12 noon)

HELP AND SUPPORT

Social media safety

A guide for parents
and carers



Social media is a big part of most young people's lives. For many, it's a way to have fun with friends, so it's understandable that you may not want to stop your child using it. But there are some risks, so how can you help your child stay safe? Read on to find out how to set up privacy and parental controls on the major platforms.

You'll also find more information about online safety on our [blog](#).

Facebook and Messenger

Facebook and its instant messaging app, Messenger, are introducing Teen Accounts for young people aged 13 to 17. These have built-in protections, which under 16s need parental permission to change.

They also let you supervise your child. Once connected, you can see their contacts, how much time they're spending on the platforms, and more. You can set daily limits on use and schedule breaks for them.

To set up supervision, you'll first need to register for your own Facebook account, or login. Then, under 'Settings & Privacy', select 'Settings', and then 'Family Centre'.

You can also change your child's privacy settings directly through their account. Go to 'Settings & Privacy', and then select 'Privacy Centre'.

For more information, visit familycenter.meta.com.

Instagram

Young people aged 13 to 17 are automatically given a Teen Account on Instagram. You can set up supervision through your own Instagram account in the same way as you would on Facebook.

You can also manually change preferences through your child's account. On their profile in the app, select the menu in the top right corner. From here, you can change their account's privacy, what content they see, limit who can interact with them, and filter comments and messages.

For more help with Instagram, visit familycenter.meta.com.

The
Children's
Society

HELP AND SUPPORT

Snapchat

Snapchat's Family Centre lets you see who your teen is friends with on Snapchat and who they've been messaging over the last seven days. It also allows you to restrict sensitive content.

To use Family Center, you'll need to login or register for your own Snapchat account and add your teen as a friend by searching for their username. Then, simply search 'family' in the app and select 'Family Centre', following the steps from there.

To find out more, visit parents.snapchat.com.



Tik Tok

On TikTok, accounts for young people under 18 are automatically set to private, although your child can change this setting. Under 16s also don't have access to direct messaging or group chat.

To see and change your child's settings on the app through their account, select their profile, tap on the menu in the top right corner, and choose 'Settings and privacy'.

If you have your own TikTok account, you can also set up Family Pairing to create screen limits, filter the content your child is shown, and customise their comment controls. To do this from the 'Settings and privacy' menu, select 'Family Pairing'.

For more information, visit tiktok.com/safety/guardians-guide.

WhatsApp

There are already some privacy settings in place on WhatsApp that apply to all users (for instance, no one can search for your phone number if they don't already know it). But you can also run a privacy checkup.

To do this in the app through your child's account, select 'Settings' (bottom right corner), and then select 'Privacy checkup' (this may be at the top of the page, or you can find it at the very bottom).

For more information, visit the [WhatsApp Help Center](https://www.whatsapp.com/help).

**The
Children's
Society**

HELP AND SUPPORT

Discord

Discord is an app that allows people to send voice, video, and text messages. On the Discord **Parent Hub**, you can learn more about how your child might use the app and the safety features in place to protect them. If you set up your own account, you can also use the **Family Centre** to see who your child is interacting with.

Twitch

Twitch is a live streaming platform that can be accessed through an app, online, and through some game consoles. You can find out more about how your child might use Twitch and how you can help keep them safe at **safety.twitch.tv**.

The pocket guide for raising tweens

If you found this document useful, you might like to sign up to [The pocket guide for raising tweens](#). It offers exclusive, tailored advice for parents and carers of children aged 8 to 13, so that you can support your child to feel safer, happier, and more hopeful. Find out more and sign up at **childrenssociety.org.uk/tweens**.

If you have seen something you're concerned about online or are looking for general advice or information about safeguarding or child protection, you can contact the NSPCC helpline on **0808 800 5000**.

HALF TERM COLOURING

Family Fun

Kids Colouring Competition

Win an Air Fryer



Ventnor Library

Wednesday 29 October

10.30am -11.30am

NATIONAL ONLINE SAFETY

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MEMES

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Memes may look like simple jokes, but, for many teenagers, they form a shared cultural language. Quickly created and reworked, they spread across social media platforms as images with text or short videos. Nearly eight in ten teenagers share memes (79%, YPulse), making them part of daily life. While memes encourage creativity and participation, they can also spread misinformation or reinforce harmful stereotypes.

SPREADING MISINFORMATION

While memes help to communicate complex topics, they can also spread misinformation. Memes may sometimes include content presenting false facts or biased viewpoints, especially around health, politics, or current events and, as they're designed to be shared quickly, young people may not question their accuracy.

EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Memes are widely circulated, and not always age-appropriate, meaning young people may encounter explicit language, sexual content, or graphic imagery, even without searching for it. As memes spread fast on platforms like Instagram, TikTok, or WhatsApp, it's nearly impossible to filter them completely.

MASKED MESSAGES

Some memes are designed to be confusing or layered with hidden meanings, making them hard for parents, and, sometimes, other young people to understand. Online groups often create these memes to look like inside jokes, but they can sometimes conceal offensive, harmful, or misleading content.

HIDDEN HARMS & LOSING SENSITIVITY

When serious topics like violence, racism, or mental health are turned into jokes, children and young people may become less sensitive to these issues over time. While a funny meme may seem light-hearted, it can carry messages that belittle certain groups, encourage risky behaviour, or mock personal struggles. Repeated exposure through memes can make harmful behaviour seem normal or less important. Over time, this can blur their understanding of what is funny versus what is discriminatory, harmful, or damaging to themselves and others.

PERMANENT DIGITAL FOOTPRINT

Unlike spoken jokes, memes leave a trail. Created or shared memes can resurface later and be misunderstood, even if intended as harmless. Once online, memes may be copied, saved, or spread beyond a young person's control - digital actions can follow them into their future, shaping how they are perceived by peers, teachers, or even employers long after the original meme has been shared.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Talk regularly with young people and try to understand their online world - discuss what they find funny about the memes, and why. By listening without judgement, you build trust, making it easier for them to come to you if they see something harmful. Open conversations also help children and teens think critically about the messages behind memes rather than simply accepting them at face value.

MODEL HEALTHY BOUNDARIES

Show children and teens positive online behaviours, such as taking breaks from screens, avoiding late-night scrolling, and engaging in offline activities. Setting clear routines around screen time at home can help to reinforce healthy boundaries and reduce the risks of overuse. By modelling balanced technology use, adults can help children and young people see that digital entertainment, including memes, should be just one part of life.

TEACH DIGITAL LITERACY

Help children and young people learn to question where information comes from and whether it's reliable - developing media literacy skills prepares young people to understand and navigate through their future online lives. Show them how memes can sometimes exaggerate or misrepresent facts for laughs, and encourage them to check credible sources when memes claim to present truth.

FOSTER EMPATHY ONLINE

Remind children and young people that memes should never come at someone else's expense. Encourage them to think about how a meme might make another person feel before sharing or creating it. Highlight examples of positive memes that celebrate creativity without hurting others. Fostering empathy, respect, and kindness in digital spaces will help them become more aware of promoting a safer, more supportive online culture.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Cristina Moreno-Almeida is a Senior Lecturer in Digital Culture at Queen Mary University of London. She specialises in memes, online networks, and youth culture, examining how digital spaces shape identity and everyday life.



See full reference list on our website

@wake_up_weds

/wuw.thenationalcollege

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