



St Catherine's School & College

Specialists in Speech, Language and Communication Needs

St Catherine's
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Autumn Term Week 11

28th November 2025

ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS



The Reader of the Week award has been presented to:
Toby T

The Behaviour For Learning award has been presented to:

Summer	Finley
Luis	Jacob
Roaa	Sam
Riley	Levi
Georgia	Gracie
Fletcher	Mia



The Behaviour For Character award has been presented to:

Shaun	Cosmo
Maisey	Max N
Luis	Hopkins
William L	Megan
Holden	6ILP



Well done to all students who received awards this week!



ATTENDANCE

6AMD - 92.59%
 6ILP - 97.22%
 6JG - 96.3%
 Austen - 91.11%
 Bloom - 85.19%
Branson - 100%
Burton - 100%
 Goldberg - 97.78%
 Hopkins - 95.24%
 Newton - 96.83%
 Oliver - 94.44%
 Packham - 96.15%
Radcliffe - 100%
 Watson - 83.54%



Well done to all classes who were here everyday this week!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

November

29th Find Happy Fidgets (Young Enterprise) at Quarr Abbey Craft Fair 10am-4pm

December

4th Christmas Carol Service
 10th RE Day
 13th St Catherine's Christmas Market
 17th End of Term Consultations
 18th Coffee Morning, End of Term Assembly and Consultations



THE GROVE AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

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

December

2nd - Cooking

9th - Painting Decorations & Crafts

16th - Christmas Bonanza

All activities are weather dependent. If the weather is not suitable for an outside activity, an indoor alternative will be arranged. Sessions have to be booked in advance and parents/carers are able to book block sessions. If you have any queries or would like to book, please contact The Grove Team on: the-grove@stcatherines.org.uk

Transport must be arranged by parents. £2 per week.



Artsmark
Silver Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England

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BLOOM CLASS

In PE, the children had great fun learning what a rally is and exploring different ways to hold a badminton racket. In Maths, we continued developing our skills on addition before moving on to a range of subtraction activities. In English, we carried on with our non-fiction focus. This week, the children planned and began writing their own non-chronological reports about a minibeast of their choice. In Science, we continued our topic on materials, investigating how the shape of objects made from certain materials can be changed. We've had a fantastic week of learning. Well done Bloom class!



RADCLIFFE CLASS

We have started the week extremely busy! We have started our new Maths topic 'Time'. We began by watching Mrs Noctor make a cup of tea and then had to sequence the activity using time connective words - first, next, finally. In English, we are learning to write places using a capital letter. In Art, we are using our sensors to explore materials. We used foil to create a picture using glue and felt pens.



HOPKINS CLASS

We've had an interesting week this week, especially our visit from the Vikings! Thankfully they didn't come to invade, but to show us how they lived. It was great. In Maths, we have been looking at addition and subtraction with exchanges and without exchanges. For Science, we have been looking at materials and their uses. This week, we looked at a variety of materials and explored whether they can change shape. We were good at predicting what materials might: bend, stretch, twist or squash. In Art, we looked at the interesting architecture of Friedensreich Hundertwasser and recreated our own buildings using inspiration from his designs. We came up with some great work that really impressed all the class staff.



PACKHAM CLASS

In Humanities this week, we learned about Danegeld. This means 'Dane gold' or 'Dane tax' which the Anglo-Saxons paid to the Vikings to stop attacking them. On Thursday, some Vikings came to the school to show us what it was like to be a Viking and how they lived. It was really good. We have been continuing with our work on 'Gulliver's Travels', where we are designing and making a leaflet about Lilliput. We have been learning how to identify and distinguish the features of a leaflet and story. In Science, we have been investigating the different metals that are magnetic. We have found out that not all metals are magnetic. Only those with certain metals in them are, such as iron.

OLIVER CLASS

In Science this week, we have been learning about conductors and insulators of electricity. We have been thinking about how insulators keep us safe from electricity, especially the plastic around wires, plastic light switches and plastic plugs. We have created circuits to test conducting materials. In Humanities, we created questions to ask our Viking visitors by remembering all the information we have learned so far. At Forest School, we arrived at the Hut to find a letter from Santa asking us for help to make potions to keep his elves and reindeer healthy and energised through the Christmas rush! We foraged wild ingredients and experimented to make special potions!

AUSTEN CLASS

We had a good start to the week as we looked at what we knew about ourselves. In Speech and Language Therapy, we looked at a chart to see what we were good at and any improvements that could be made. In English, we have started to write a diary from one of the children's views that travelled to Johannesburg in the story using lots of English vocabulary. In Science, we are looking at the skeleton and what different bones are in our body. In Maths, we did some timekeeping and pricing of an outing to a restaurant to a town beginning with B. On Thursday we had the Vikings visit us. We had a great time.

GOLDBERG CLASS

In Tutor this week, we have been reading as a group from our own novels that we selected from the library. Sharing our stories with the group is something we are looking forward to next term. In our Communication Group, we created presentations to explain what Team HAP is and how it works. In ICT, we are working on WJEC projects, Desktop Publishing and Spreadsheet Creation. In DT, this week we started making our clocks. In English, we are still working hard on our diary entries and have all been very creative. We all enjoyed our special guests the Vikings this week, it was very interesting.

BURTON CLASS

This week in Humanities, we looked at the Vikings and the clothes that they wore. We detailed these in a diagram and was surprised how many clothes they wore to keep warm. In Science, we looked at different types of skeletons: endoskeletons, exoskeletons and hydrostatic skeletons. We sorted animals into groups depending on the type of skeleton they have. In English, we have continued to work on writing instructions and have started to plan how we will catch a dragon.

NEWTON CLASS

In Communication Group, we learnt about how to look after money and spend it carefully. In English, we finished off our book. In Music, we enjoyed playing the piano. We have been writing diaries from the past in Humanities.

BRANSON CLASS

During Science, we did an experiment to see if certain metals could be used to power a battery. In English, we started to write our diary about 'Journey to Johannesburg', using the plan we have written. We tried to include a fronted adverbial and simile. In Art, we researched famous photographers. We had to also find out when they were born, where they live and what sort of photographs they take. In Humanities, we carried on with our research about St Catherine's now and in the past. On Thursday, we had a visit from some vikings! We learnt what they ate, how they fought in battles and what they did all day.

WATSON CLASS

This week in PSHE, we have been starting with our topic of healthy lifestyles by looking at an area of mental health: anxiety, what it is, how it makes you feel and where to get support. We discussed these areas and looked at material on supportive websites including Youngminds, NHS and Childline. We will be looking at and discussing our mental health areas over the next few weeks. We have started looking at context in 'The Christmas Carol'. We started reading the introduction and discussed it. We had some parents in school this week for 'Bring your Parent/Carer to School Day' and enjoyed sessions in PE, DT and Cookery and Forest School. In PE, we are doing handball and playing different small games. Yesterday, we had the Vikings in school and learnt how they lived.

6JG CLASS

This week in PSHE, we have been investigating money; we have explored borrowing and lending. In Photography GCSE, we have been continuing to select and edit to enhance our final images to represent what we have learnt since September. We will be printing these as our final outcomes. In English this week, we have been working on paragraphs. We have worked on when you should start a new paragraph in our writing. In Maths, we have started a new topic of algebra. We have looked at all the rules surrounding this topic and started to apply this on our worksheets. In OT, we have been looking at our weekly schedule, working out what we have to do and what time we have for our leisure time. We are using this to focus on our topic which is burnout.

6AMD CLASS

In Music, we are learning about ornaments and how they are used in piano and other scores. In Science, we have been working on our assignments based on physical and chemical properties of elements and how we use them according to this. In Maths, we have started to study and understand averages, we hope to learn a helpful song about the mean, the median and the mode soon.

6ILP CLASS

It's been a busy week for 6ILP. We were off-campus for an exciting trip to Newport. We visited the Quay Arts Centre who were exhibiting a number of fine thought-provoking art pieces. We enjoyed the oversized imagery and sculpture when checking out the myth of 'The Sandown Clown' as well as deep sea creative film making. Back at College, we presented our Young Enterprise business journey to the entire school community. We were able to consider different ways we can enhance our wellbeing as well as practise our comprehension skills. We were able to continue with our roleplay activities as we considered safety online.

RESIDENTIAL ENRICHMENT NIGHTS

Our weekly "Residential Enrichment Nights" offers students a safe, supportive, and enjoyable space to build essential life skills beyond the classroom. Through structured activities, shared games, and collaborative projects, students have the opportunity to develop their social communication, teamwork, and play skills in a relaxed environment.

Each Enrichment Night costs £75, which covers an overnight stay, all meals, in-house activities and staffing, ensuring students receive high-quality support and a well-rounded experience.

Many of our students have shown noticeable improvements in confidence, problem-solving, and positive peer interaction. The sessions also encourage independence, resilience and practical life skills—helping students to thrive both within the residential setting and in their wider daily lives. Enrichment Nights have quickly become a valued part of our provision, nurturing personal growth while ensuring students have fun and feel part of a community.

Please see our poster on the next page or contact Siobhan on smcguigan@stcatherines.org.uk for more information.

St Christopher's

Stay - Learn - Grow



How do you feel the opportunity to stay in Residential has benefitted your young person?



“She loved the activities and staff were fantastic even down to plaiting her hair in the morning” - Parent



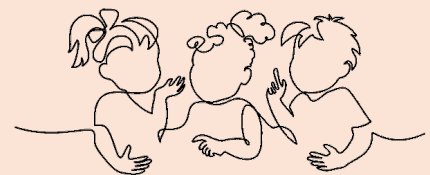
“Great opportunity for our child and family unit. Helps them develop coping strategies away from the family home” - Parent



“Starting to build great resilience and confidence away from home” - Parent



How do you feel about staying at St Christopher's?



“I enjoy seeing everyone, the activities and having a lay in” - Student

“I love the food and doing my life skills to get better” - Student

“I love staying at the house with the staff and they play fun games and I try new foods” - Student



COLOURING COMPETITION

Students have been sent home with a colouring competition. If you would like to take part, please send entries back into school by Wednesday 10th December 2025. If you would like another sheet, please email Tanya on smitht@stcatherines.org.uk.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Well done to one of our students who received their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award last week!



THE DUKE
OF EDINBURGH'S
AWARD

SCHOOL MENU

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Pasta/Quorn Bolognese or Jacket Potato with choice of filling	Jumbo Sausage/Cheese & Onion Roll or Tomato Pasta	Roast Lamb/ Vegetable Burger or Jacket Potato with choice of filling	Pizza with Wedges or Tomato Pasta	Battered Cod/ Fish Fingers/ Quiche 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	Rice Pudding	Fresh Fruit Salad	Fairy Cake	Pudding of the Day

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

BRING YOUR PARENT/CARER TO SCHOOL DAY

We had a great time on Wednesday for Bring your Parent/Carer to School Day! Here's some photos of our day.





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CAROL
SERVICE IN
THE CHAPEL

ST CATHERINE'S SCHOOL
GROVE ROAD
VENTNOR
4TH DECEMBER 2025

TICKETS £5

DOORS OPEN 5:45PM
CAROLS START AT 6PM

TICKETS £5
INCLUDE A HOT DRINK AND MINCE PIE

CAROLS BY THE
UNDERCLIFF SINGERS

TO BUY TICKETS PLEASE EMAIL

SMITHT@STCATHERINES.ORG.UK

ST CATHERINE'S

SCHOOL

CHRISTMAS MARKET

SATURDAY 13TH DECEMBER

10:30am till 4pm

St Catherine's Church

Church Street, Ventnor

LOCAL CHRISTMAS STALLS

SPIDERMAN, ELSA AND THE GRINCH

REFRESHMENTS, RAFFLE

LIVE MUSIC THROUGHOUT THE DAY





YOU'RE INVITED TO A

A Slice of SEN.



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.

DECEMBER 5TH
12:30 - 14:00 (2PM)
NEWPORT FAMILY CENTRE
FURRLONGS
NEWPORT
PO30 2AX



Our personalised care addresses your child's specific needs while building practical life skills, communication abilities, and independence.

Professional, caring support tailored to children with additional needs. Our experienced Personal Assistants help develop skills, build confidence, and enjoy life to the fullest.

Specialist Support for Children with Additional Needs

Over 20 years of trusted care for children and young people up to age 25 with

ASC/ASD, ADHD, PDA, SEMH, LD and other complex needs.



Personal Assistant Services

Dedicated one-to-one support and respite care



Building Independence

Developing confidence and life skills in line with EHCP and other desired outcomes



Tailored Family Support

Coaching, mentoring and buddy schemes, Respite



Experienced and Trained

Our staff are all experienced and trained to our mandatory standard, additional training can be sought as necessary.



Matched Support

Personal Assistants carefully selected to meet your child's specific needs and interests



Professional Team

Experienced consultants supporting families in Hampshire, Surrey, West Sussex, Dorset & Isle of Wight

Ready to learn more?

Freedom Care Support for Your Child Attending a Special Needs School

See our detailed brochure [HERE](#)
www.freedomcare.co.uk

0800 0851444

supportenquiries@freedomcare.co.uk

New Carnival Presents

Merry & Bright Festival of Light

Fri 5th Dec
5-8pm

Late Night Shopping
Entertainment
Music
Illuminations
Craft Market
Activities

FREE

Lantern
Parade
6-7pm

SCAN FOR PROGRAMME:



RYDE TOWN

www.newcarnival.co.uk



Supporting public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

(Certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Online videos are often associated with apps such as YouTube, but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a potentially addictive, never-ending stream of short clips tailored to users' interests based on their viewing habits. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while most content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where young people are "most likely to encounter a potential harm".

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

TikTok's Following Feed shows videos from known creators, while the default For You Feed serves endless clips based on viewing history. Most are harmless, but unsuitable content can still appear, and watching for long enough signals interest to the algorithm. Although TikTok bans illegal or inappropriate uploads, the volume of posts means some slip through, increasing the chance that children encounter age-inappropriate material before it is detected or removed.

BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

Ofcom reports that most online harms for girls involve body image, while boys more often see dangerous stunts. Both types appear frequently on TikTok and spread quickly through its engagement-driven algorithm. Harmful challenges have included the "blackout" trend, where users held their breath until passing out. Families filed lawsuits after children died linked to the trend, showing how extreme or risky content can rapidly reach young people and negatively influence them.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but children can still spend money. TikTok coins, costing £9.99 to £224.99, let users buy gifts for creators. TikTok Shop adds risk by allowing purchases from influencers or companies, sometimes leading to poor-quality items driven by persuasive marketing. A Canadian investigation found TikTok collected personal data from many children for targeting and advertising despite age limits, meaning young users may lose control over their personal information.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Between 1.6 and 1.9 billion people use TikTok, meaning there's a high risk of unwanted attention from strangers. Accounts created by over-16s (or young people using a fake date of birth) are set to public view by default. This means that not only is someone's profile visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their videos to others and allows anyone to download or comment on them.

MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION

TikTok's short videos may appear lighthearted, but they can expose young people to harmful ideas. Misinformation is common, and Ofcom reports that nearly one third of 12-15-year-olds use TikTok as a news source, increasing the chance of seeing racist, misogynistic, extremist or conspiracy material. Even brief clips can influence impressionable users and shape their worldview, making discussions about critical thinking, propaganda and online influence especially important for parents and educators.

ADDICTIVE DESIGN

TikTok's fast-paced stream of eye-catching videos can be potentially addictive for young users. In 2024, UK children spent an average of 127 minutes per day on the platform, double the time recorded in 2020. Excessive use can disrupt sleep, increase irritability, and distract from healthier activities. Constantly skipping between short clips may also affect attention span, making it harder to focus on longer tasks such as homework or reading.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's in order to manage settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen time limits, make accounts private and manage whether their child can send messages – and if they can, to whom. Children cannot alter these settings without parental approval.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If a child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's good practice to discuss the potential risks. Ensure they don't share any identifying personal information or respond to dangerous trends, and that they know to talk to a trusted adult if they're worried by interactions on the app. With more teens using TikTok for news, it's important to talk about misinformation and propaganda.

BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING

Parents can restrict in-app purchases on iPhone and Android devices to prevent accidental or impulsive TikTok spending. Young people can easily spend large amounts on TikTok coins or low-quality products promoted through TikTok Shop. If a disappointing purchase occurs, turn it into a discussion about influencer marketing and how online promotions can be misleading.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as is failing to complete homework or skipping meals. Remember, the parental controls are there for a reason, and it's never too late to introduce limits.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website

@wake_up_weds

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