



# St Catherine's School & College

Specialists in Speech, Language and Communication Needs

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

Tel: 01983 852722

Email: [general@stcatherines.org.uk](mailto:general@stcatherines.org.uk)

Website: [www.stcatherines.org.uk](http://www.stcatherines.org.uk)

Autumn Term Week 12

5th December 2025

## ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS



The Reader of the Week award has been presented to:  
Elliott B

The Behaviour For Learning award has been presented to:

Seth  
Sonnie  
Charlie-Joe  
Levi  
Aaron  
Caitlin  
Henley



The Behaviour For Character award has been presented to:

William L  
Gracie  
Bella  
Tanner  
Max WB



The Principal's Praise award has been presented to:

Tristan  
Olivia



Well done to all students who received awards this week!



## ATTENDANCE

6AMD - 100%

6ILP - 100%

6JG - 96.3%

Austen - 90.91%

Bloom - 90.57%

Branson - 95.89%

Burton - 97.14%

Goldberg - 91.11%

Hopkins - 98.39%

**Newton - 100%**

Oliver - 96.3%

Packham - 81.48%

**Radcliffe - 100%**

Watson - 81.48%



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

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### December

10<sup>th</sup> RE Day

13<sup>th</sup> St Catherine's Christmas Market

16<sup>th</sup> End of Year Celebration Meal - College

17<sup>th</sup> End of Year Celebration Meal - School

17<sup>th</sup> End of Term Consultations

18<sup>th</sup> 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

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](mailto:the-grove@stcatherines.org.uk)  
Transport must be arranged by parents. £2 per week.



Artsmark  
Silver Award  
Awarded by Arts  
Council England

Registered Charity No. 288148  
Company Limited by Guarantee No. 1757474



## BLOOM CLASS

In PSHE this week, we explored the concept of trust, identified trusted adults, and discussed how trust can be built and lost. In Maths, we worked on combining addition and subtraction skills to solve mixed-operation problems. In English, we planned and wrote non-chronological reports about minibeasts of our choice, focusing on key features and factual writing. In Art, we studied different styles of architecture and began designing our own building inspired by what we observed. During OT, we continued developing our practical skills through cooking activities, and this week, we created a tasty and well-prepared sandwich.



## RADCLIFFE CLASS

In PSHE, we discussed personal hygiene and what this means. We ended up playing a bingo game and guessing the activity ie. taking a shower. This week in Maths, we continue with time and have learnt the days of the week and months of the year. We are listening to a catchy song to help us remember the sequence. We are learning about Osborne House in readiness for our visit on the last week of term. Our topic of 'Sensory Art' was fun as we collected items around the school field and used different parts to print with! In Forest School, we put our bird feeders out on a sycamore sapling near the Hut. We did some bird watching and had a robin visit our feeders. We also made some green decorations for the Carol service.



## HOPKINS CLASS

This week in Hopkins, we have been looking at angles and shapes in Maths. Following our amazing visit from the Vikings we have been creating a Viking poster. We have used the website canva.com to make these and a created our own layout, design and colour scheme. In Science, we have been focusing on recycling and had to organise some materials into the right groups. In DT, we are having an amazing time, we have been finishing off our plastic shapes by using the coping saw and filing it down with a metal file. During ICT, we have been looking at e-safety and why it is important to be kind online. In PE, we have been practising hitting the shuttlecock over the net. Within Humanities, we were able to go into town and visit the Heritage museum and look at all the artefacts. Finally, in Art we have finished off our architecture designs based off of Friedensreich Hundertwasser, and we are all very proud of our designs.



## PACKHAM CLASS

In Forest School this week, we made potions to help Santa's Elves get through the Christmas season. It was great fun experimenting with the potion equipment using a range of plants and natural materials. In Humanities, we have been using the information we found out during the Viking visit. We were able to record and show information and facts about Viking life and how this relates to life in a Viking longhouse. In our PE lessons, we have been playing badminton. We have been practising our skills of hitting the shuttlecock over the net.



## OLIVER CLASS

This week in Forest School was extremely wet, so we spent the afternoon in the Hut making wreaths and green decorations for the Carol service. We also were lucky enough to be visited by a brave little Robin who came right up to the Hut door!

## AUSTEN CLASS

We finished off our forms in PSHE and played some interactive quizzes. After a catch up in Speech, we talked about what we all need to help us learn and drew our learning classroom. In English, we are continuing reading 'Journey to Jo'burg' and talking about what has happened so far and finally finishing the book. In Maths, we continued with some subtraction and fraction work. In Science, we experimented with a standing jump and Luis jumped the furthest. In Music, we looked at different genres and listened to some Kylie Minogue and even the teachers had a little boogie. In PE, we practised some basketball techniques.

## GOLDBERG CLASS

In the Communication Group this week, we have been looking at 'MyHappyMind' website and working through the HAP lessons, where we explore how our brain works. In ICT, we have been working on our BTEC and WJEC coursework and we are currently collecting evidence to show the exam board what we have created. In Art, we did mono printing and we then started to plan our design for a t-shirt we are creating for ourselves. In English, we finished the book 'Journey to Jo'burg' and then created our own story boards. In PE, we continued with our basketball skills.

## BURTON CLASS

In Humanities, we talked about the different jobs that Viking men, women and children did to support the village they lived in. We looked at how the Vikings gathered, hunted and grew food and then designed a Viking dinner. In Science, we carried out our investigation to answer the question, 'can people with longer femurs jump the furthest?' Our results showed that this was not always true and we discussed the reasons for this. We have also started to learn about the muscles in our body. We have been learning how our biceps and triceps work together to allow us to move our arms. In English, we have completed the design for our dragon trap and are now writing our instructions on how to catch a dragon.

## NEWTON CLASS

In Science, we enjoyed learning about Earth and why it is a perfect planet. It really is perfect! Algebra has been a little difficult in Maths. We are learning about teamwork sports such as handball in PE. In English, we have been trying to remember how to use paragraphs. We have been making tray bakes in Cooking. In English, we did some spellings and describing of word meanings.

## **BRANSON CLASS**

In English, we have finished reading 'Journey to Jo'burg' and begun to focus on recounting the story. We are learning how to organise our writing in chronological order and use adverbials of time. In Science, we have started a new topic all about Space. We focused on Earth and why it is good to live on Earth. In Humanities, we are continuing with our work on St Catherine's School, comparing it now and a long time ago. In our Communication Group, we are getting our presentations ready to share with the class. Some of us have presented them to the class. In Art, we were all given a camera to use. We practised turning it on and focusing it correctly. We were able to go outside and take six pictures each.

## **WATSON CLASS**

This week, we have begun making our clocks in DT after designing and planning them. In English, we have been looking at our new book and have been making storyboards. During Science, we have been looking at different factors that make our planet perfect and what would happen if they change. In Maths, we have been looking at rotational symmetry within geometry. In PE, we have been learning teamwork skills in handball. In OT, we have been talking to different staff within the school and learning how they organise and manage their days.

## **6JG CLASS**

During PSHE this week, we have been looking at potential scams that could happen with our money. In Photography, we have been looking at photographers whose work we like and are beginning to analyse this work. In Music, we are studying solo artists from the 1980s to the modern day, including Adele and Ed Sheeran. In Maths, we have been continuing our topic of Algebra. We have been working on how to simplify terms, everyone has focused very hard on this task. In Science, we have been looking at physical and chemical properties.

## **6AMD CLASS**

This week in Maths, we have been working very hard and learning about averages. In Music, we have moved on to study the romantic period, looking at famous composers from the time and developing our listening skills. We also continue to work on our set brief compositions. In Science, we are finishing our latest assignment all about the uses and properties of different chemical substances. Some of us are looking forward to going to The Heights, building our functional independence, whilst enjoying the steam room!

## **6ILP CLASS**

6ILP began the week with an in-depth look at the words honesty and friendship. We continued by considering what are the responsibilities we have as we move towards adulthood. We were able to create a number of very colourful prints using a range of resources. We were able to further our English understanding by considering verbs and when to use an exclamation mark. We completed our measuring activity by making different strength juices to the right ratio. We participated in a Google meeting activity. We were able to read independently and follow the movements of the sparrow in our book 'The Happy Prince'.

# **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 night costs £75 + VAT, 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](mailto: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



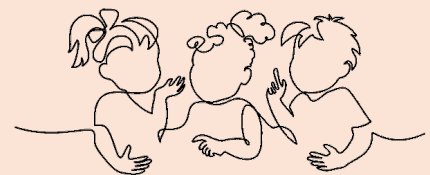
“Great opportunity for our child and family unit. Helps them develop coping strategies away from the family home” - Parent



“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



# CHRISTMAS 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](mailto:smitht@stcatherines.org.uk).

# END OF YEAR CELEBRATION LUNCH

Our end of term celebration lunch for students will take place on Tuesday 16th December at the College, and Wednesday 17th December 2025.

You can find the menu on the next page of this newsletter.



## Specialist Support for Children with Additional Needs

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.

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](http://www.freedomcare.co.uk)  
[www.freedomcare.co.uk](http://www.freedomcare.co.uk)

**0800 0851444**  
[supportenquiries@freedomcare.co.uk](mailto:supportenquiries@freedomcare.co.uk)

## SCHOOL MENU

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Sweet & Sour Chicken/Quorn or Tomato Pasta	Meatballs/ Quorn Balls or Jacket Potato with choice of fillings	Roast Pork/ Vegetable Burger or Tomato Pasta	Lasagne/ Quorn Lasagne or Jacket Potato with choice of fillings	Battered Cod/ Fish Fingers/ Vegetable Burger with Chips or Jacket Potato with choice of fillings
Salad Bar Tuna or Mackerel	Salad Bar Egg & Cheese or Mackerel	Salad Bar Ham or Mackerel	Salad Bar Tuna or Mackerel	Salad Bar Cheese or Mackerel
Fruit Platter	Jelly	Fresh Fruit Salad	Tray Bake	Pudding of the Day

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



# *End of Year Celebration*

## **MENU**

### **MAIN**

ROAST TURKEY

ROAST POTATOES

PIGS IN BLANKETS

STUFFING

YORKSHIRE PUDDING

BROCCOLI & CARROTS

OR

SPINACH & PUMPKIN BAKE

### **DESSERTS**

CHRISTMAS PUDDING

OR

CHOCOLATE FUDGE CAKE

OR

ICE CREAM



ST CATHERINE'S

SCHOOL

CHRISTMAS MARKET

SATURDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> 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



# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

## ELECTRICAL SAFETY AND DEVICES

Electrical safety is a vital topic for parents and educators, especially with the growing use of devices like smartphones, laptops, and power banks. Electrical fires are a major risk and are the cause of many deaths and injuries each year. There are reportedly nearly 20,000 accidental fires of electrical origin each year in the UK. This guide offers practical advice to help families and schools prevent electrical hazards, and promote safety when using everyday devices.

### 1 CHECK FOR OVERHEATING

Devices such as laptops, tablets, and smartphones can overheat if used for long periods or when charging. Ensure that children don't use devices on soft surfaces like beds or sofas, which can block ventilation. If a device becomes unusually hot, turn it off and unplug it. Overheating can lead to fire hazards if left unchecked.

### 2 INSTALL RESIDUAL CURRENT DEVICES

Ensure that homes and schools are equipped with Residual Current Devices (RCDs). These devices cut off the power if an electrical fault occurs, preventing electric shocks and reducing the risk of fires. RCDs should be tested regularly to ensure they are working properly. More information about RCDs is available from Electrical Safety First.

### 3 AVOID OVERLOADING SOCKETS

Plugging too many devices into one socket can overload the electrical system and cause a fire. In schools and homes, ensure extension leads are not overloaded and never 'daisy chain' multiple extension cords together. Educate children on the dangers of connecting too many devices to a single outlet.

### 4 POWER BANKS: SAFE USE

Power banks are a handy way to charge devices, but they can also pose a risk if misused. Ensure power banks are of high quality and comply with UK safety standards. Teach children never to leave power banks charging unattended, and to avoid placing them under pillows or bedding where they may overheat.

### 5 REGULAR DEVICE INSPECTIONS

Regularly check devices for signs of wear and tear. Frayed charging cables, cracked device casings, or devices that are slow to charge may indicate electrical problems. If any issues are noticed, stop using the device until it can be repaired or replaced by a qualified technician. This proactive approach helps prevent fires caused by faulty devices.

### 6 UNPLUG DEVICES WHEN NOT IN USE

Encourage children and pupils to unplug devices when not in use, particularly overnight. Devices left plugged in unnecessarily can overheat or become fire hazards, especially if left charging unattended for long periods. Simple habits like unplugging can prevent serious incidents.

### 7 USE GENUINE CHARGERS

Always use chargers supplied by the manufacturer or from a reputable retailer. Faulty or counterfeit chargers can cause devices to overheat, short-circuit, or even catch fire. Teach children the importance of avoiding poor-quality chargers, and regularly inspect charging cables for signs of wear or damage. More tips on safe charging can be found at Electrical Safety First.

### 8 WATER & ELECTRICITY DON'T MIX

Teach children that water and electricity are a dangerous combination. Devices should never be used near sinks, bathtubs, or swimming pools. Parents and educators should ensure that any electrical appliances near water sources have proper waterproof casings and are plugged into RCD-protected outlets.

### 9 KEEP DEVICES VENTILATED

Devices need proper ventilation to avoid overheating. Avoid stacking items on top of plugged-in devices like laptops or gaming consoles, and make sure there is enough space around devices to allow for airflow. Proper ventilation helps prevent dangerous heat build-up, reducing the risk of fires.

### 10 SUPERVISE YOUNG CHILDREN

Younger children may not understand the dangers of electricity, so it's important to supervise them when they are using devices. Keep electrical cords out of reach and always remind children never to put objects into electrical outlets.

## Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is an experienced health and safety expert who is a Chartered Member of the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health. He provides services to educational settings as well as many other industries to help them maintain a safe working environment.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website

@wake\_up\_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 03.12.2025