



# St Catherine's School & College

Specialists in Speech, Language and Communication Needs

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Spring Term Week 1

9th January 2026

## ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS



The Reader of the Week award has been presented to:  
Maddie

The Behaviour For Learning award has been presented to:

Tristan  
Sonnie  
Eli  
William L  
Apryl



The Behaviour For Character award has been presented to:

Gracie  
Maisey  
Harri  
Charlie E  
Eric  
Henley  
Caiden  
Jamie



Well done to all students who received awards this week!

## ATTENDANCE



6AMD - 100%  
6ILP - 100%  
6JG - 78.57%

**Austen - 100%**  
Bloom - 97.62%  
Branson - 98.39%  
Burton - 98.21%  
Goldberg - 88.57%  
Hopkins - 97.96%  
Newton - 95.24%

**Oliver - 100%**  
**Packham - 100%**  
Radcliffe - 88.1%  
Watson - 72.86%



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

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### February

13th Last day of half term



### 100% ATTENDANCE

Well done to Charles and James who both received 100% attendance awards for last term.

## THE GROVE AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

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

### January

13th - New Age Curling  
More activities to be announced...

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

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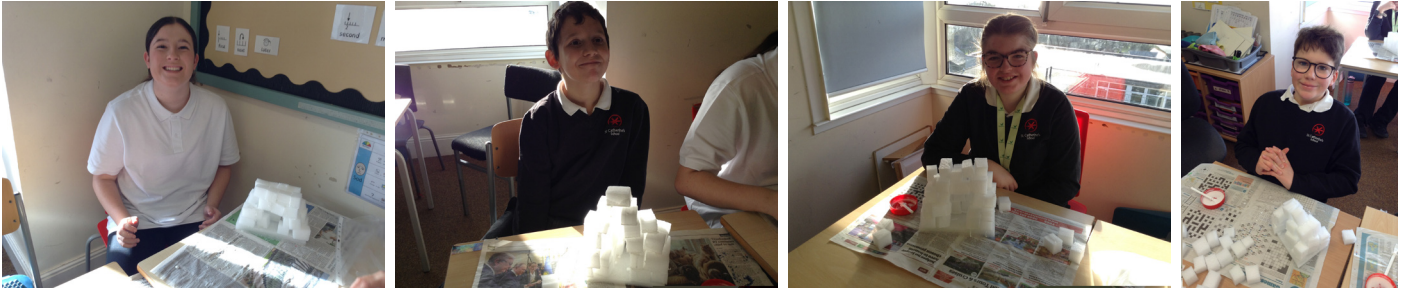
## BLOOM CLASS

Bloom Class have had a fantastic first week back and have settled into routines brilliantly. The children have returned with a positive attitude and enthusiasm for learning. In Maths, we have moved on to 2D shapes, focusing on recognising, naming and sorting a range of shapes. The children enjoyed exploring shapes in different ways and explaining how they knew which shape was which. Our topic this term is the winter and the cold, and in Science we have begun our exciting new topic on the Arctic! We learnt about what life is like in the Arctic and compared it to life in the UK, looking closely at differences in homes, transport and the environment. The children asked thoughtful questions and shared some excellent ideas. In English, we explored firework poems, identifying rhyming words and beginning to create our own simple rhymes. The children loved playing with language and listening out for patterns in words. In ICT, we practised researching information on Google.



## RADCLIFFE CLASS

This term, our topic is the winter and the cold. We are reading the story book, 'The Great Explorer' by Chris Judge. The book explores the animals that live in the Arctic. We used videos to research The Northern Lights and discussed icebergs. For our hook, the students made an igloo each using polystyrene blocks. They greatly enjoyed making the 3D models. In Maths, we continue to learn about o'clock and how to write the time on a clock face.



## HOPKINS CLASS

It's been a busy first week back this half term. We had a lovely chat about our Christmas holiday on the first day back and then we started our new cross curricular topic on the winter and the cold. In English, we looked at predicting and had to select an item from the secret chest. We all chose something, described it and then made a prediction about the topic, based on the items we found. In Art, we have begun looking at light and dark. This week, we have been looking at Vincent van Gogh. We got to try using oil pastels and soft chalk pastels in the style of van Gogh. In Science and Humanities, we have looked at using Atlases, finding the Arctic and Antarctica, identifying the North and South Poles and finding the longitude and latitude. We loved Forest School this week. We made fires and studied different habitats of minibeasts. The best bit was having a delicious hot chocolate to finish the session!



## PACKHAM CLASS

In English, we have started our new reading texts. For some of us it's the book called 'Holes', and for others it's a book called the 'Kapok Tree', which is all about the rainforest. In Science, we have started the new topic of 'animals including humans'. We are going to learn about the different groups of animals and their features. In Humanities, we have started to learn about trade and the economy. It's been a busy first week back!

## OLIVER CLASS

In Science this week, we have moved onto our new topic of 'animals and their habitats'. We have started by recalling all the previous information we have learnt and looking at what we are to learn this term. Our first lesson has been thinking about classification and the similarities and differences between different groups of animals and plants that we already know. We have enjoyed sharing our Christmas holiday adventures and being back together as a class again.

## AUSTEN CLASS

A lovely start to the week with a great Science lesson about the categories of 'dead', 'alive' and 'was alive'. In English, we started a new book called 'Holes' and looked at the cover to predict the story before moving on to read a few chapters; it was very interesting to hear the varying ideas about the different book covers. In Maths, we looked at dates and investigated numbers to identify which years had square numbers. In PE, we practised handball, there were some amazing skills and we had some giggles. In Music, we are choosing a song and singer to design our own information including musical factors.

## GOLDBERG CLASS

We had a cold but fun start back at Forest School this week. We set up camp, built a big fire and made toast. The fire was lovely and warming and made the best toast ever! In Science, we are looking at animals and the different categories they fall under, i.e. mammals, reptiles etc. In English, we started to look at a new book called 'Holes', we looked at several different book covers and gave our predictions on what will happen in the story. In Tutor Time this week, we have been discussing topics from 'My Happy Mind' and discussing the clubs we are about to get involved with. In ICT, we have been looking at BTEC and WJEC coursework and the units which are nearing completion. A great first week back for Goldberg!



## BURTON CLASS

Burton Class have settled in well to their new term. In Science, we have started our new topic of 'Living Things and their Habitats'. This week, we have been thinking about things that are alive, have never been alive and things that are dead. We have looked specifically at foods such as burgers, sausages and roast dinners! We have also thought about items such as wooden tables and paper. This has created some interesting discussions in the classroom and a few shocked faces! In English, we are continuing to read 'How to Train Your Dragon'. We have started to learn some new vocabulary and are looking forward to learning about the Thor'sday Thursday Celebrations.

## NEWTON CLASS

Newton are happy to be back and have settled in well, ready for the new term. In English, we described what we could see in two photos and made predictions about what our new book might be about. In Communication Group, we reflected on what made us feel proud in 2025 and shared our New Year's resolutions for 2026. In Science, we have been learning about the Earth, the Sun, the Moon and the other planets in our universe. In Humanities, we are exploring what St Catherine's was like in the past and comparing it to how it is today. In PE, we have enjoyed playing table tennis and badminton. In ICT, some of us focused on learning how to use emails, while others wrote about the websites they created.

## BRANSON CLASS

Branson returned to school excited to share what they did over the Christmas holiday. We started to talk about a new book that we are starting in English. We looked at the front cover and had to guess what the book was about. It is called 'Holes'. In Humanities, we are carrying on collecting information about St Catherine's in the past. In DT, we are finishing the clocks that we designed last term. In Maths, we have been practising our ability to tell the time on an analogue clock.

## WATSON CLASS

It was good to see everyone again after the two week break. In our Communication Group on a Tuesday, we will be discussing teenage issues and made a mind map about different types of addiction. Over the next five weeks we will be looking at some of these in more detail and discuss them. Students have selected their club choices for this half term. In Art lessons, we are completing our Photography unit, taking photos of our local environment with a focus on visual elements and techniques that photographers use in their work. There are some class changes and we welcome a student who has joined Watson class this week from another class, we will all help them settle in. In Science, we have been learning all about the Moon by going into a dark room (The Crypt) and using a torch as the sun shining from different angles onto a moon prototype, to show all the different types of moons visible to us on Earth. Such as the Crescent Moon and the Full Moon. We did this by moving our positioning as if we were the Earth. In ICT, we have been continuing our work on recording our Newsreel and editing it.

## 6JG CLASS

It has been lovely to have everyone back this week. Everyone has come in ready to start the new term. In Vocational, we are finishing up some of our Art work and thinking about what our final piece will look like and what materials we will use. In GCSE Photography, we are writing about the exhibition we held during the 'Tea and Carols' event. This will complete our skills unit, we are excited to start a new unit next week. In Maths this week, we have started a new topic looking at BIDMAS. Everyone worked very hard at remembering the order we complete our mathematical sums using BIDMAS. In English, we have been focusing on when we use commas in complex sentences.

## 6AMD CLASS

6AMD have had a restful holiday and are eager to continue with their qualification studies. In BTEC Vocational, they made a start on their 'researching a topic unit', by finding out information on British Values. We jumped straight back into English with a focus on commas. We also made a start on shape coding, a colourful way to make grammar and punctuation finally make sense. In Science, we have been looking at the rates of reactions and doing an experiment to test how concentration can affect this. In Music, we we have continued to work on our compositions and projects on classical composers.

## 6ILP CLASS

A good start to the new year. All students have been able to engage with a very challenging measuring activity. We have the skills now to work in any fruit and veg market. We were able to consider different ways to apply paint using colour disks as we created likenesses of the common chaffinch. The group reviewed a number of possible locations for our community trip next week. Finally we considered which ICT devices and software to use when given different tasks. A very pleasing start to the year.



## STATUTORY PSHE

Just a reminder to all parents and carers, that from 19th January we will start to teach our sex and relationship education programme to students. It is a statutory requirement that schools teach this element of the PSHE curriculum and the programme will run until the end of the academic year. Letters have been sent home to parents/carers and we would like to offer resources to our families, which will enable them to extend the learning of this important topic at home. If you would like these resources then please ask your child's tutor. In addition, if you have any questions or concerns about your child accessing this element of the PSHE curriculum then please contact our PSHE lead, Jenn Walker on: [snaithj@stcatherines.org.uk](mailto:snaithj@stcatherines.org.uk)

## FOREST SCHOOL WINTER CLOTHING GUIDE

Here is a guide to clothing. Having suitable clothing helps students stay comfortable outside, protects from weather, scratches and stings and helps them to access outdoor sessions comfortably.

We have a selection of waterproof trousers, jackets and wellies for student use, but if you have any problems accessing suitable clothing please don't hesitate to contact me:

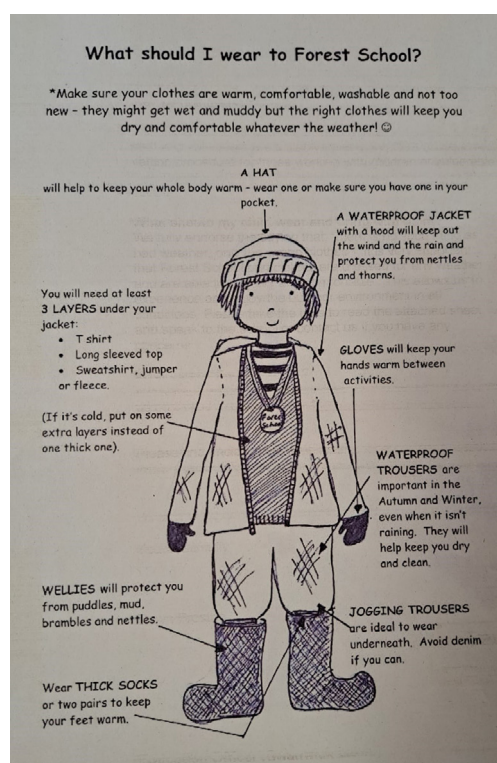
[atkinsa@stcatherines.org.uk](mailto:atkinsa@stcatherines.org.uk)

Alison Atkins (Forest School Leader)

### Suggested Autumn/Winter Clothing List

- Layers of clothing, vest/t-shirt/jumper or fleece
  - Jogging bottoms/leggings
    - Socks
  - Sturdy shoes/trainers/wellies
    - hat/gloves
    - Waterproof jacket

Classes doing Forest School this term:  
**Goldberg, Hopkins and Austen**



## OSBORNE HOUSE SELF-PORTRAIT COMPETITION

Congratulations to one of our students for coming second place out of 200 entries in the Osborne House self-portrait competition, winning £100 for St Catherine's!



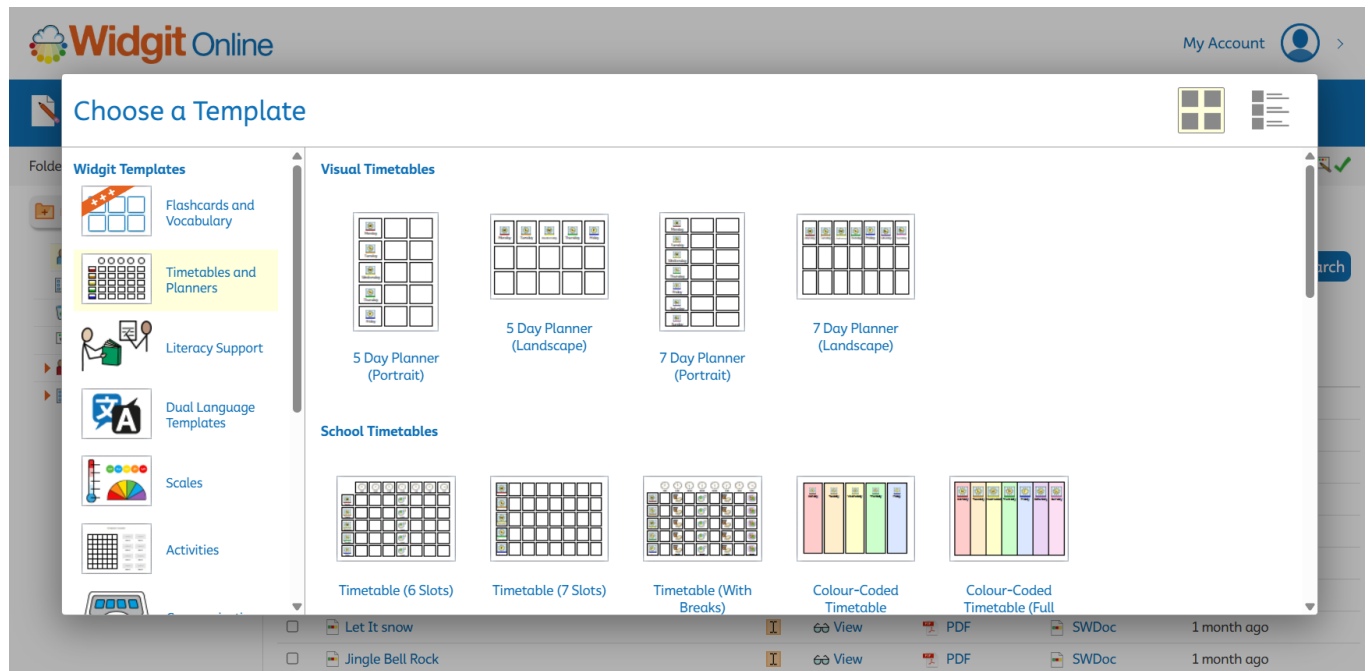
# MAKING LANGUAGE VISUAL

In the last newsletter, we shared a simple calendar to support your child through the changeable routine of the Christmas break. Thank you to those who got in touch to share how well this worked for their family.

For those asking, you can have a go at making your own visuals using [widgitonline.com](https://www.widgitonline.com)

Want to know more about using visuals to support your child? Feel free to get in touch with the team. We'd be happy to chat.

St Catherine's SaLT team  
[speechtherapy@stcatherines.org.uk](mailto:speechtherapy@stcatherines.org.uk)

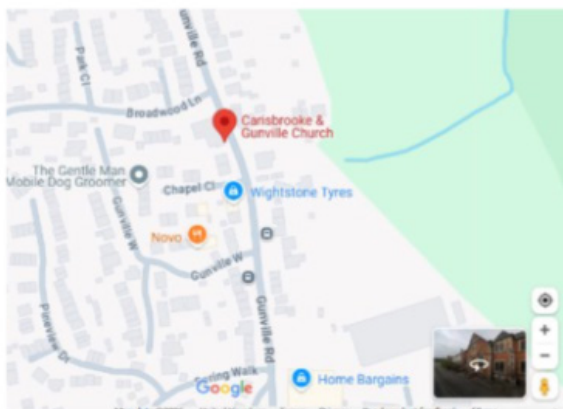


Isle of Wight  
**Neurodiversity**  
Team



## Parent and Caregiver Peer Support Sessions

Where: Gunville Methodist Church Hall



When:

<b>11<sup>th</sup> September 2025 (10am - 12 noon)</b>
<b>6<sup>th</sup> November 2025 (10am - 12 noon)</b>
<b>15<sup>th</sup> January 2026 (10am - 11am)</b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup> March 2026 (10am - 12 noon)</b>
<b>7<sup>th</sup> May 2026 (10am - 12 noon)</b>

Come along to meet with other parents / caregivers for an informal meet up and chat about your journey. Refreshments provided. No need to book, just turn up. Free onsite parking.



Isle of Wight  
Pottery

Starts Fri 9<sup>th</sup> Jan



# Kids Afternoon Pottery Club



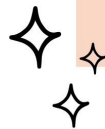
Fridays 4pm - 5:30pm during term time.

£108 for 6 weeks

An exciting opportunity for your child to learn a variety of making techniques in our working pottery studio. Over a 6 week period, we will explore wheel throwing, sculpting and modelling and follow the pottery process through to completion. They'll finish with a range of glazed and fired pieces to take home.



To book visit us at:  
[www.isleofwightpottery.com](http://www.isleofwightpottery.com)



## 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.

# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

## ESSENTIAL ONLINE SAFETY

Children and young people use the internet every day to learn, play, and connect, but the online world is not always safe. For adults, it can be hard to keep up with the risks, including harmful content, cyberbullying and scams. These 10 tips provide clear and practical advice to support safer and healthier digital habits, helping young people to make informed, secure choices when using technology.

### 1 START EARLY CONVERSATIONS

Begin talking about online behaviour from the moment children start using devices. Use age-appropriate language and revisit topics regularly, making it clear they can speak to you about anything that upsets or confuses them. Keeping these chats open helps build trust, so children are more likely to come to you when needed.

### 2 PROMOTE SAFER SHARING

Children can overshare without understanding the risks. Remind them that photos, locations, or messages can be copied or shared beyond their intended audience. Explain how even private messages or group chats can be saved and/or misused. Talk about what is appropriate to post, message, and who it's safe to share with.

### 3 ENCOURAGE DIGITAL BALANCE

Many apps and games are designed to keep users engaged through rewards, likes, or constant updates. These features can make it hard for children to switch off. Talk openly about how these systems work and help children recognise when it's time to take a break. Building in tech-free routines supports a healthier balance and awareness of their screen time.

### 4 CREATE A SAFE SPACE FOR CONCERNS

When children come to you with a concern, respond with interest and care, rather than with alarm. Keeping your reaction measured helps them feel safe and supported. This doesn't mean ignoring serious issues; it means showing that you're there to help. When children trust that they can speak openly, they're more likely to feel supported through unpleasant online experiences, and to ask for help in future.

### 5 STAY INFORMED AND CURRENT

With emerging technologies like AI moving and changing so quickly, it's important to stay updated on how children are using new platforms, apps and games. Ask them to show you what they use and let them take the lead as you explore together. This opens up valuable conversations and helps you stay ahead of emerging risks and trends.

### 6 TEACH CRITICAL THINKING

Talk to children about how to recognise unreliable information or scams online. With AI-generated videos, photos, and stories becoming harder to spot, help children question what they see and encourage them to look for evidence, check sources, and ask questions. These skills will help them avoid risks, make smart choices, and develop healthy habits for the future.

### 7 SET CLEAR BOUNDARIES

Involve children in conversations about device usage so they feel included. Agree on digital rules such as screen-time limits, age-appropriate apps, and no devices in bedrooms overnight. Use parental controls to block or filter harmful content and explain that rules are there to protect and support them, not to spoil their fun.

### 8 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Children often copy the behaviour of adults around them. Show them what balanced, respectful, and mindful use of technology looks like, such as avoiding scrolling during family time and speaking kindly in messages. If you expect certain behaviour from them online, make sure your own habits reflect the same standards.

### 9 EXPLORE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Show children how to use privacy tools on apps, games, and websites. Teach them to use strong passwords, block or report others in response to problems, and avoid sharing personal details. Explore settings together so they feel confident and in control, and explain that these features are there to help them stay safe online.

### 10 KNOW WHERE TO GET HELP

Familiarise yourself with tools and organisations that support online safety. The National College offers online safety guides and webinars which provide tips on staying safe. Websites like Report Harmful Content and CEOP can be used to report when something goes wrong. Show children how to report or block users, and where to go if they feel unsafe. Make sure they know that asking for help is always the right thing to do, and be prepared to support them.

## Meet Our Expert

Home to the world's largest CPD library for educators, The National College has transformed the way education establishments go about developing their workforces and managing compliance. Our three memberships help all phases and types of setting raise standards, save time, reduce risk, and build a culture of improvement.

See full reference list on our [website](https://nationalcollege.com)

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