



St Catherine's School & College

Specialists in Speech, Language and Communication Needs

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Spring Term Week 5

6th February 2026

ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS

The Reader of the Week award has been

presented to:

Francesco



The Behaviour For Learning award has been

presented to:

Bailey

Max W-B

Mia

Jasmine

Kristen

Seth

Alex



Bloom, Radcliffe, Oliver, Austen & Goldberg

The Behaviour For Character award has been

presented to:

Toby K

Selene

Kayan

Lilly

Charlie F

Nicholas



Well done to all students who received awards this week!



ATTENDANCE

6AMD - 98.15%

6ILP - 97.22%

6JG - 92.59%

Austen - 93.33%

Bloom - 90.74%

Branson - 87.78%

Burton - 97.22%

Goldberg - 82.22%

Hopkins - 98.41%

Newton - 98.15%

Oliver - 100%

Packham - 96.3%

Radcliffe - 98.15%

Watson - 100%



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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

February

9th Children's Mental Health Week

10th Safer Internet Day

12th RE Day

13th Last day of half term

22nd Residential students return

23rd School reopens after half term



March

5th World Book Day

THE GROVE AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

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

February

10th - Painting Crafts

24th - Basement Games

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.



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Awarded by Arts
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BLOOM CLASS

In SRE, we compared what we can do now with what we could do as babies and what we would like to be able to do when we are adults. In Art, we continued to explore Vincent van Gogh's 'The Starry Night'. We created our own night-time images using similar techniques and effects inspired by Van Gogh. In Maths, we continued learning about 3D shapes. We counted faces and vertices and used shape nets to support our understanding. In English, we re-wrote the story Lost and Found using the story maps we created last week, applying the punctuation we have learnt so far. We also really enjoyed our architecture talk yesterday, which inspired lots of thoughtful questions and discussions!

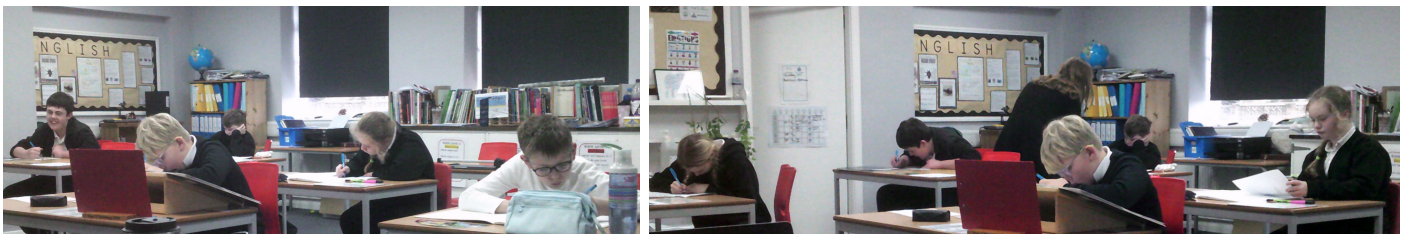


RADCLIFFE CLASS

During our SRE lesson, we talked about what is a healthy and unhealthy relationship. We talked about how people make us feel happy which is a healthy relationship, but if people make us upset or are unkind always, it is an unhealthy relationship. In Maths this week, we are learning about multiplication. We are recognising what is an equal and unequal group.

HOPKINS CLASS

In Assembly on Monday, we found out that the Winter Olympics started in Italy on Thursday! In Humanities, we were introduced to the term 'biomes' and looked at different examples of biomes around the Globe, like the tundra, desert, rainforest and temperate forest. We learnt that there might be different animals, plants and climates in different biomes. For English, we began identifying the features of a diary entry written by Captain Scott. We thought about the emotive language he used, identified examples of informal writing and highlighted words that show the passing of time. We are going to imagine we are in Antarctica and we are going to begin drafting our own diary entries. For Art, we continued to experiment with different types of line to re-create the sky of 'The Starry Night' by van Gogh. This week, in Forest School, we had the best time learning how to light a safe fire and then made smores with hot chocolate! Delicious!



PACKHAM CLASS

In Humanities, we are continuing to look at trade and what products the UK imports and exports. In Science, we have started to create a fact file on a mammal of our choice. During our PSHE topic on internet safety, we discussed the reasons for having passwords and what a strong password might include. In English, we have chosen an animal we want to be from 'The Great Kapok Tree' book and are writing about why we need the tree, why it is important to us, what would happen to us if the tree wasn't there anymore. During PE, we are carrying on learning the skills we need to play handball. We have talked about the rules around passing the ball, what we need to do as defenders and attackers and we have been practising our skills in mini games.

OLIVER CLASS

In PSHE, we explored the important topic of consent and discussed what it means to respect each others boundaries. In English, we have been learning how to expand our sentences using shape coding to make our writing even more descriptive and interesting. In Maths, some of us have been focusing on timetables and squared numbers, building our confidence with numbers and patterns. In Science, we discovered the different ways that animals are grouped and learnt how scientists classify them. In Music, we are writing about our favourite artists, where they come from, and what inspires them to create music. In PE, we are continuing to enjoy developing our skills in handball, practising different techniques to improve our game. In Speech and Language Therapy, we have been thinking about what choices we make and how we can also change our minds and choose something else.

AUSTEN CLASS

English was good this week, focusing on writing a newspaper report. In Speech and Language Therapy, we started our Dungeons and Dragons game, it was great to see the enthusiasm rain from each other. In Forest School, we learnt a new team game called Kubb, it was fun working together to knock the opponents pieces over. We also played a strategy game with the box grid, it helped us use our memory skills and taught us how to use coordinates. During Maths, we looked at square numbers and all saw the pattern once it was set in motion. In PE, we played handball which was competitive. In Music, we started to listen to our tracks and enjoyed the different styles.

GOLDBERG CLASS

This has been a very wet term in Forest School! Luckily we have our cosy hut where we can focus on woodcraft, knots and crafts. Some of us are carving butter knives, others are making dreamcatchers and croaking sticks that sound like a frog! In PE we continued with handball, we played a few matches which was great fun. In English, we have started writing a newspaper report which includes a headline, sub-heading and using journalistic writing. In Maths, we are working on square numbers. In PSHE, we were looking at social media and how it can have a negative effect on people. In our Communication Group, we continued with our journey into 'My Happy Mind'. In ICT, we have been completing tasks for our WJEC qualification.

BURTON CLASS

This week in English, we have started to publish our information leaflets about the Thor'sday Thursday Celebrations. We have completed our site maps and are working on the front covers. We are using our design and artistic skills to make our leaflets attractive to tourists. In PSHE, we worked in groups to look at 'Change'. We talked about things that can change in our lives, how this makes us feel and strategies we can use to help us. In Science, it stopped raining long enough for us to walk around the school site looking at micro-habitats. We documented the mini-beasts that we found. We also had a visitor who talked to us about the White Tailed Eagles on the Isle of Wight. We learnt about their habitats, size, wingspan and the places that they visit around the world. In Humanities, we continued to look at where different foods come from and use an atlas to help us plot the information on a world map.

NEWTON CLASS

In Science, we have been looking at the different star patterns in the night sky, the patterns they can make and how to spot them. In Speech and Language Therapy, we have been looking at our personality traits and strengths. 'Holes' has been interesting in English... some of us have watched the film at home - it makes us want to go to America. In Maths, we looked at exam papers. We feel confident we can get our Entry 3 certificate soon!

BRANSON CLASS

In PSHE, we had a discussion about others' perspectives and views. We talked as a class and in pairs about if there is life on Mars. During Science, we looked at different constellations of stars. We used a website to find Orion, The Bear and The North Star. In English, we are starting to write a newspaper report. We have to include speech and extra information to make it exciting! In DT, we have nearly all finished our clocks! We were putting the finishing touches to them by adding numbers or Roman numerals, we also added vinyl pictures.

WATSON CLASS

This week, we have been practising answering exam questions in English and learning how to organise our time. In our Communication Group, we have been discussing the effects of being addicted to being on our phones and how it can affect those around us and our brain. We were also looking at organising ourselves, prioritising and time management. In PSHE, we discussed understanding feelings and emotions, and used comic strip conversations to understand the effects of emotions.

6JG CLASS

Landbased are reviewing organisation techniques for our Being Organised unit. We had to research and use ways to organise ourselves for two weeks and then report on the pros and cons. In Music, we have been doing our music composition, we have had to come up with ideas to create a song. In Photography, we are continuing the 'Rag and Bone' project and are looking at photographers that capture recycling. In PSHE, we updated our vocational profiles.

6AMD CLASS

In Landbased, we are just finishing our Being Organised unit. We are reviewing techniques like timetables, phone reminders and calendar alerts we used to help us stay organised over a two week period. In Vocational, we are also coming to the end of our researching a topic unit. We have researched British values, choosing one to research in detail and make an informative PowerPoint on.

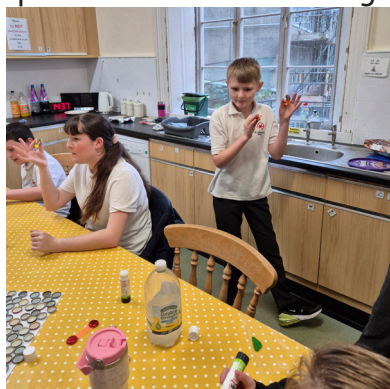
6ILP CLASS

This week we attended the second Dragons' Den presentations in Newport as part of the Young Enterprise Programme we are competing in. We presented our progress in the business to the Dragons' and even showed them some new products. Watch our Instagram, @HappyFidgets2025 for upcoming sales of items and new items! We are preparing now for the final, which is on Tuesday 3rd March 2026. We are very excited but a bit nervous too.



AROUND THE WORLD CLUB

During Around the World club, we looked at Spain and made castanets and an amazing art piece with a bull drawing.



WILDHEART ANIMAL SANCTUARY VISIT

Newton, Branson, Burton and Hopkins classes had a visit from Emma from Wildheart Animal Sanctuary. We learnt about the importance of looking after local habitats and respecting the animals and plants on our island. The visit focused on the reintroduction of White Tailed Sea Eagles, which is a fantastic success story. The students asked lots of questions and were very interested in future careers involving wildlife conservation.



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 Beef/ 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.

ST CATHERINE'S FUNDRAISING GALA DINNER

18TH APRIL 2026
NORTHWOOD HOUSE
COWES

TICKET PRICE £60

INCLUDES WELCOME DRINK AND 3-COURSE MEAL

6:30PM DOORS OPEN
12AM CARRIAGES
DINNER-DANCING-AUCTION
TO BOOK PLEASE EMAIL
SMIHT@STCATHERINES.ORG.UK



St Catherine's
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Ethel Dares
WINGWALKING



WINGWALK FOR ST CATHERINE'S

10TH AUGUST 2026

TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST
EMAIL TANYA
SMIHT@STCATHERINES.ORG.UK



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St Catherine's
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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

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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

VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT

VENTNOR FAMILY PLAY SESSIONS

MONDAY & THURSDAY MORNINGS
(TERM TIME ONLY)



ARE YOU FREE FOR A FEW HOURS A WEEK?

VENTNOR FAMILY CENTRE

CONTACT ELOISE: eloise.preston@ventnortowncouncil.org.uk

SHORT BREAKS



needs you to join fun activities



- and also to become a Young Inspector!

For children and young people with disabilities and/or additional needs

Find out more at our new season event

- Tuesday 10 February 2026 from 4.30pm to 6pm
- Council Chamber, County Hall, High Street, Newport PO30 IUD
- Free refreshments available

www.iow.gov.uk/younginspectors

younginspectors@iow.gov.uk

Isle of Wight Council



NHS
Isle of Wight
NHS Trust



COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR

MONDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2026

THE RIVERSIDE CENTRE, NEWPORT

1PM - 4PM

Join the Isle of Wight NHS Trust Community Health Fair - Discover hospital services, connect with local organisations, and explore charities that benefit our community.

EMPLOYMENT
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GUIDANCE



For more information, please contact Isobel on isobel.irwin@nhs.net



CW+

NHS
CHARITIES
TOGETHER

NHS
England



Bringing Baby Home

A course for parents of young children/babies to give you time and space as a couple to nurture your relationship before a baby and after children....

Mondays starting 9th February
8pm Online

The Gottman Institute

A RESEARCH-BASED
APPROACH TO RELATIONSHIPS

Funded by

Isle of Wight
Council

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SUPPORTING SAFE USE OF AI

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is increasingly woven into young people's digital lives. It can offer some educational benefits and day-to-day assistance; however, it also raises concerns about misinformation, privacy, fairness, and safety. This guide provides parents and educators with practical strategies to support young people to navigate AI tools responsibly, and to use them safely and with discernment.

1 DEMYSTIFY WHAT AI REALLY IS

Children encounter AI in most online places, including games, streaming platforms, and school tools. Explain that AI uses patterns from past data to make decisions, but it doesn't think or feel like humans. Use age-appropriate examples, like how recommendations on YouTube or Netflix work, to build understanding and prevent false beliefs about AI being all-knowing or alive.

2 TALK ABOUT RISKS OF MISINFORMATION

AI can create convincing false information, including deepfake videos, photos, and fake 'facts'. Encourage children to think critically about what they see and read. Teach them to double-check information using reliable sources, to look at images and videos carefully, and to ask an adult if something doesn't seem right.

3 DISCUSS DATA AND PRIVACY

Explain that AI systems learn by analysing lots of data, sometimes including personal information. Help young people to be mindful of what they share online and why protecting personal data matters. Model good habits like reading app permissions together or reviewing what's collected by voice assistants like Alexa or Siri.

4 ENCOURAGE CREATIVE USE OF AI

Support children, when using AI tools, to explore ideas, make art, or build projects. This fosters confidence, imagination, and independent thinking. When children use AI creatively, rather than just passively consuming it, they are more likely to stay engaged and make thoughtful choices.

5 USE AGE-APPROPRIATE AI TOOLS

Not all AI platforms are suitable for children. Choose tools designed for education or creativity, with clear safety policies. Review terms of use and privacy settings, and help children use them in age-appropriate ways. For example, some chatbot tools mimic conversation but should only be used with guidance and boundaries in place.

6 USE AI TOGETHER

Exploring AI tools together can help adults understand how they work and spot potential issues. Try co-writing a story with an AI writing assistant or experimenting with an AI art tool. This encourages curiosity, helps you stay informed about the latest AI tools, and allows you to reinforce safe and respectful use while modelling critical thinking.

7 SET BOUNDARIES FOR AI USE

Establish when, where, and how AI tools can be used, just as you would with any digital technology. For example, you might agree not to use AI tools to complete school assignments without permission, or to avoid unsupervised use of voice assistants. Consistent boundaries help manage overuse and misuse.

8 WATCH FOR OVERRELIANCE

Some AI tools, like homework help apps, may be tempting shortcuts. Encourage children to use AI to support their thinking, not replace it. Celebrate effort and process over perfect answers. Reinforce that mistakes are part of learning and that relying too heavily on AI can limit real understanding.

9 TEACH DIGITAL ETHICS AND LITERACY

Help children explore how AI works, where it might be biased, and why ethical thinking matters. Building digital literacy alongside ethical awareness ensures children engage with AI critically, not just conveniently. Help young people to understand that not all people use AI for legitimate purposes; some use it for malicious reasons. Encourage questions about fairness, representation, and who benefits from certain tools; talk about algorithms, echo chambers, and the impact of automation on daily life.

10 STAY CURIOUS AND INVOLVED

AI is developing rapidly, and staying informed helps you support the young people in your care. Follow trusted sources for updates and keep the conversation going. If a child brings up a new AI trend or tool, take the opportunity to learn about it together. Showing interest builds trust and strengthens digital resilience.

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.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College