



# 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)

Spring Term Week 7

27th February 2026

## ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS

The Reader of the Week award has been presented to:

Imogen



The Behaviour For Learning award has been presented to:

Burton Class	Lydia	Sonnie	Kayan
Hopkins Class	Megan	Joseph	Bentley
Cosmo	Halle	Seth	Fletcher
Jamie	Millie	Maisey	Tim
Olivia	Sam	Jamie	Sophia

The Behaviour For Character award has been presented to:

Roaa, Nicholas & Sam H

The Principal's Praise award has been presented to:

Luis

Well done to all students who received awards this week!



## ATTENDANCE

6AMD - 90.74%

6ILP - 100%

6JG - 85.19%

**Austen - 100%**

Bloom - 90.74%

Branson - 88.89%

Burton - 95.83%

Goldberg - 77.78%

**Hopkins - 100%**

Newton - 94.44%

**Oliver - 100%**

**Packham - 100%**

Radcliffe - 96.3%

Watson - 98.61%



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

## March

- 5th World Book Day
- 7th Isle of Wight College Open Day  
10am-1pm
- 11th Residential Open Day
- 16th Neurodiversity Celebration Week
- 17th Open Morning for 2027 Day  
Placements
- 18th Police visiting school students for  
lunch

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 19th Police visiting college students for  
lunch
- 19th HTP Open Day 4pm-6pm
- 24th RE Day
- 25th Virtual End of Term Consultations
- 27th Coffee Morning, End of Term  
Assembly and In-Person End of Term  
Consultations



## THE GROVE AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

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

### March

3rd - Circus Skills

10th - New Age Curling

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.



## BLOOM CLASS

In PSHE this week, we explored the topic of puberty and discussed the changes our bodies go through during this important stage of development. The children approached the discussions thoughtfully and maturely. In Maths, we began an exciting new topic on time. We have been learning how to sequence events, understand dates, and use calendars accurately. In English, we started our new topic on Antarctica. The children showed great curiosity and used question marks to write their own thoughtful questions about this fascinating continent. In Science, we moved onto looking at the seasons, focusing on different types of weather and the symbols used to represent them. We all really enjoyed tag rugby this week in PE! A great first week back - well done Bloom Class!

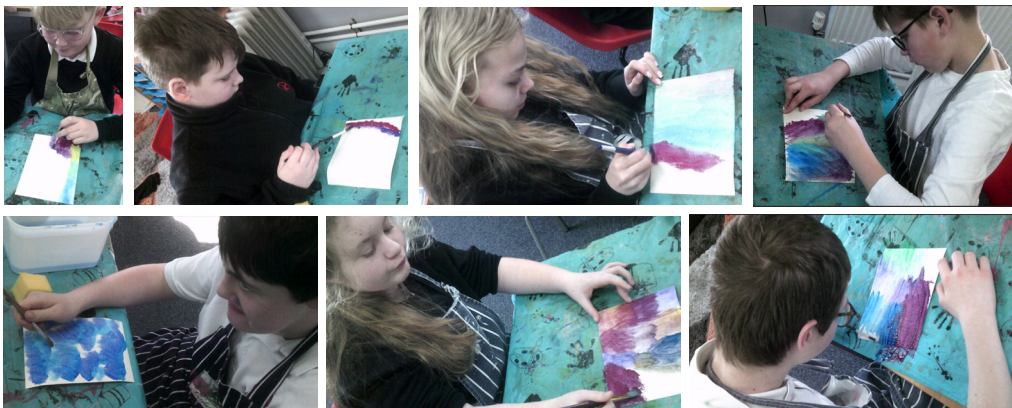


## RADCLIFFE CLASS

We are finishing off the topic 'Sex, Relationship Education' by talking about different kinds of relationships. The students were very mature in discussing the types of families we have in our society. Our new topic this term is Space. We put together the solar system by using food to show the different sizes of the planets. We used a grape to represent Earth! We have been working on multiplication and division. We learnt how to share equally. In History, we learnt all about our King, Charles III. We put his life into a time line.

## HOPKINS CLASS

This term, we have changed our timetable again slightly and we had OT on Tuesday afternoon, where we used therapy putty and discussed the rules of using the school kitchen. It was great fun. In English we are looking at the narrative 'Lost and Found' and we all read it aloud to each other. Miss Cook was really impressed with our reading skills. For Art, we are looking at light and dark and began studying the Northern Lights, which we now know are also called the Aurora Borealis. We looked at why they occur and found out that when solar particles mix with gases in the Earth's atmosphere, a range of colours are made. In Music, we began our 'Songs of the Sea' topic, listened to 'Drunken Sailor' and played it together as a group.



## PACKHAM CLASS

In Music, we began composing our own chord progressions. We also identified chords and discussed major and minor tonality in chords. During English, we are planning a piece of persuasive writing about 'The Great Kapok Tree', trying to persuade the man to not chop the tree down. We have thought about what title we could use and started to plan our introduction. In Science, we have begun to learn about habitats and the living things that live there. In Humanities, we have started to learn about the Mayans. We started with an overview of the different aspects of their lives. In Maths, we have been looking at different types of triangles and quadrilaterals.

### **OLIVER CLASS**

In SRE this week, some of us learnt about what secrets are, which secrets are ones that we can keep and which secrets we can't keep. We discussed the importance of telling an adult whom we trust if we feel it is a secret we shouldn't keep, and we also spoke about what the word consent meant to recap. In PSHE, we learnt about sectors of careers. In Science, we are learning about plants, what the different parts of plants are called, what they need in order to grow and how they reproduce. In English, we are learning about different genres of books/stories and we have also been improving our shape coding skills. In PE, we have been learning different techniques to use in cricket. In Maths, we have been learning about different fractions and how to shade so many parts of different fractions. On Wednesday, we learnt that it was International Cochlear Implant Day, which is an important day for some students and staff at St Catherine's.

### **AUSTEN CLASS**

In PSHE, we looked at diversity and differences in people and things, and how we are all different but need to be treated the same. In Maths, we looked at fractions and in English, we are learning how to debate politely. In Music, we finished off our fact files and in PE, we went outside - it was nice to be in the sunshine and practise our catching, ready to play a cricket game. In Science, we are separating the vertebrates and invertebrates and classifying them.

### **GOLDBERG CLASS**

In PSHE this week, we have been discussing possible career choices and what we need to do to help get on the right track to that career. In PE, we have started our new topic which is cricket. We managed to get outside to do this which was great. In English, we are all preparing a presentation on bullying, we are hoping to video these next week. In Maths, we are working on fractions. In Science, we continued to build our robot which is starting to get tricky. It was a great first week back.

### **BURTON CLASS**

In PSHE this week, we started to look at diversity. We learnt that we are all different and we like different things, but we can still be friends. In English, we have started to learn about the Kapok Tree. It is the largest tree in the rainforest and has up to 4000 fruits. We are making a class information sheet about it. We are still trying to work out what this has to do with our new book, but Mrs Williams will not tell us yet! In Humanities, we have started a new topic all about the Maya. We have learnt that they lived in Central America. We have plotted the Central American countries on a map and used co-ordinates to find out where the Maya built their cities. In Science, we are continuing to look at 'Living Things and their Habitats'. We have started to learn about classification and the different groups that vertebrates can be divided into.

### **NEWTON CLASS**

Some of us competed in table cricket with St George's this week... and we won! We also met some nice students from Carisbrooke. Progress on our robot in our Communication Group has been good. We've started circuit training in PE. In was great catching up with our friends after half term.

### **BRANSON CLASS**

In PSHE, we came up with a list of different types of jobs. Did you know there are more than ten different types of jobs at St Catherine's? We counted 50...how many can you think of? In English, we finished our newspaper reports about the stolen trainers. In Music, we explored the structure of Blues song lyrics and began creating two verses of our own. We also listened to some examples of this type of lyric technique. In Maths, we have been doing lots of work with fractions - halves, quarters and thirds. We have also been practising our times tables up to 5.

### **WATSON CLASS**

In PSHE, we discussed loss and change and made timelines showing events that happen in life. We are studying the endangered eco systems in Humanities; we have found out what it is, what endangered means and different endangered areas of the UK. In Technology, we are designing and making clocks. In our Communication Group session, we made art pieces for The PEACH Project on the theme of Energy, making clay pieces and drawings. In Maths, we are studying decimals, percentages and fractions.

## 6JG CLASS

We have come back to college refreshed and ready to learn. This week in Science, we have been carrying on our topic of natural and human factors that can damage our environment by finishing off our presentations, In Music, we did some more work on our student compositions and we began learning about the features of music from Palestine. In Photography, we have been thinking in three dimensions and have started to explore methods for creating sculptures in a workshop on Wednesday morning, delivered by a visiting artist Steve Baxter.

## 6AMD CLASS

6AMD have had a great first week back! In Science, we have continued our work examining different human and natural factors that negatively impact the environment. We are preparing presentations to deliver to the whole class on this topic. In Maths, we have been looking at angles and solving angle problems. For PSHE, we have looked at what relationships are, the different kinds that exist and the features of healthy versus unhealthy relationships. In Music, we are revising notation symbols, treble clef notes and key signatures. We also revised Indian and Bhangra music features with listening skills. For our Vocational Studies BTEC, we are continuing to shoot our mini-films, and have started planning a charity fundraising event for our 'Working with Others' unit. After our English lessons this week, we are now experts in the use of adverbs and commas, including fronted adverbials! Our group speech therapy continues to support our PSHE work (sex and relationships education).

## 6ILP CLASS

6ILP has had another busy week. We visited Power Device Ltd Uk in Ryde. Whilst there, we were able to present our products and talk further about our business venture to staff members. We were also able to understand a little more of the services they provide. At college, we created some creative portraits of staff members using a new crayon technique. We were able to consider the rules when writing a letter and were able to follow instructions as we prepared for our next assembly which revolves around the Commonwealth.

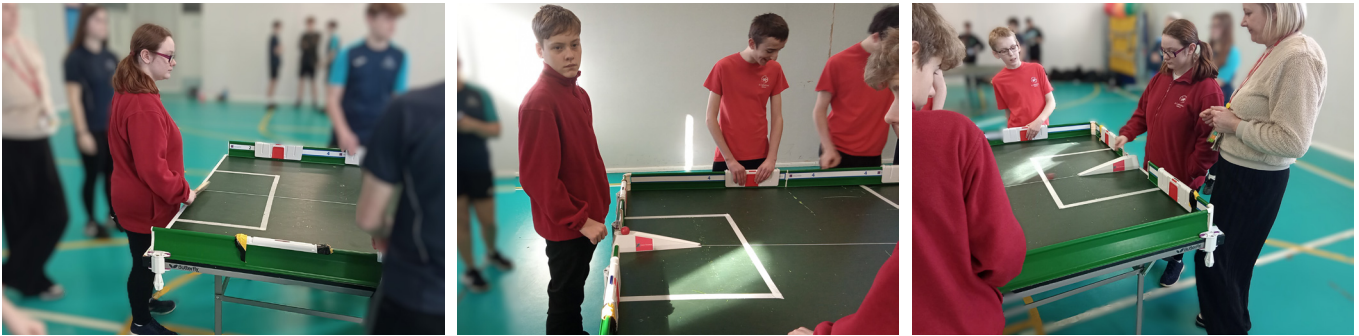


## WORLD BOOK DAY

On Thursday 5th March, we are taking part in World Book Day! Students and staff can come to school dressed up as their favourite book character, or in comfy clothes/pyjamas (appropriate undergarments required) and bring a favourite book to talk about.

## TABLE CRICKET

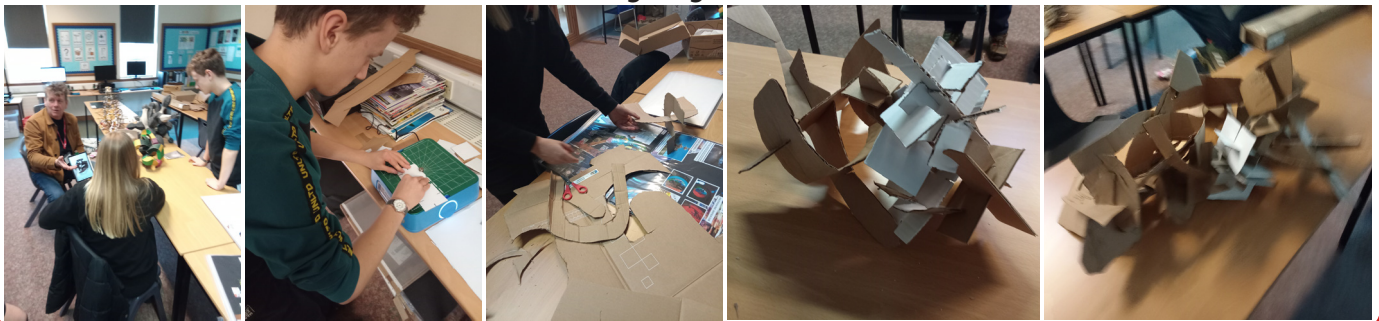
On Tuesday afternoon, six students went to St George's to play Table Cricket. The students played really well and had a great time. They won 2 out of 3 games and were the overall winners. Fantastic work team!



## 6JG PHOTOGRAPHY - VISITING ARTIST WORKSHOP

On Wednesday, those of us studying photography had a visit from the sculptor Steve Baxter.

He lives on the Island but has exhibited work all over the UK, in Belgium and Berlin. He spoke to us about the processes he uses to make art from what other people throw away, like cardboard and carpet. He also talked about how it's not a bad thing to make mistakes. When mistakes happen, it's important to learn from them and try again. This is true when making sculptures, but also true in all areas of our lives. We used a ChompSaw that Steve has kindly lent us to each make a small sculpture out of a few shapes we cut out of cardboard. Then, we combined all our sculptures into one. We were all very happy with our work, and Steve was very impressed! Over the next few weeks, we will be making our own sculptures as part of our GCSE. We will be using what we learnt to create our own sculptures and installations. In five weeks, Steve will come back and we will exhibit our pieces to him. It was an incredible experience to talk to an artist about the process of making art, and it has given us lots of ideas going forward.




## GYM CLUB

Last half term we had college students join gym club. They were focusing on good form with their stretching as well as taking part in a firefighter fitness test on the treadmill. All students rose to the challenge and completed the 12 minutes of activity at an ever increasing incline.



# LOST PROPERTY

We kindly ask all parents/carers to verify that their child has the correct uniform. A named jumper has been misplaced in Goldberg Class. If you find an item that does not belong to your child, please return it to the school office or class teacher as soon as possible.



Find out More Webinar for  
Parents/Carers and Employers  
**'What is a Supported Internship'**  
DFN Project Search

TEAMS | 24th of March | 17:30 - 18:15  
2026

Join: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/32521993356971?p=hXw06f1rPlw13vVLnS>  
Meeting ID: 325 219 933 569 71 Passcode: Nn6xd2py




## 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

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

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



**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.

**Ready to learn more?**  
Freedom Care Support for Your Child Attending a Special Needs School

See our detailed brochure [HERE](#)  
[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.

**ST CATHERINE'S  
FUNDRAISING GALA DINNER**

18<sup>TH</sup> 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  
School & College  
Specialists in Speech, Language and  
Communication Needs





# WINGWALK FOR ST CATHERINE'S

**10TH AUGUST 2026**  
TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST  
EMAIL TANYA  
SMIHT@STCATHERINES.ORG.UK



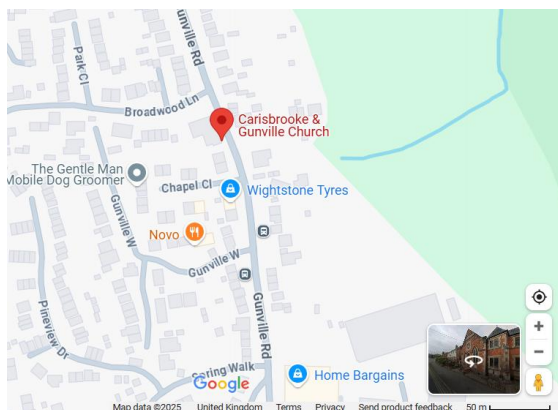
St Catherine's  
School & College  
Specialists in Speech, Language and  
Communication Needs

**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 neurodiversity journey. Refreshments provided. No need to book, just turn up.

Free onsite parking.

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ADULT ANIMATED CONTENT

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Bright, bold, and widely shared, adult animated content is more popular than ever, but not always what it seems. These videos, which may appear cartoonish and harmless, often contain strong language, explicit themes, graphic violence, or dark humour. Many are accessible through platforms like YouTube, TikTok or streaming services, where filters may not catch them in time.

### MISLEADING VISUAL STYLE

Many adult animations mimic the colourful, exaggerated look of children's cartoons. This can easily mislead not just children, but also adults, into thinking they're suitable for younger viewers. Without watching the content fully, parents or educators might approve a show or video that contains explicit jokes, graphic imagery, or highly inappropriate language, all disguised beneath a playful and fun visual style.

### EXPOSURE TO HARMFUL THEMES

A number of adult animated shows and online videos explore mature or disturbing themes, such as addiction, trauma, abuse, self-harm, or violence, and often do so in a stylised or humorous way. Younger viewers may not have the emotional maturity to process this content, leading to confusion, distress, or the normalisation of very serious issues that should be discussed in a supportive context.

### RISK OF DISTRESS AND FEAR

Some adult animations, especially horror-based content or 'creepypasta' style stories, include disturbing imagery, unsettling music, and sudden scares. These videos sometimes feature distorted versions of well-known children's characters, such as Sonic the Hedgehog or Peppa Pig, in frightening or violent scenarios. Children can be negatively affected if they come across this unexpectedly, leading to sleep disturbances, anxiety, or long-lasting fears, especially if children have existing worries or sensitive personalities.

### INFLUENCE OF EDGY HUMOUR

Dark, edgy humour is common in adult animation and often includes jokes about topics like sexism, racism, mental illness, or abuse. When children hear these jokes, they may repeat them without fully understanding their meaning. This can lead to inappropriate behaviour in school or online spaces, and in some cases, it can reinforce harmful stereotypes or desensitise children to real-world injustice and discrimination.

### ALGORITHMIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Video platforms are designed to keep users watching by suggesting similar content. If a child watches one mature animation, they may quickly be shown more, including even darker or more extreme videos. These recommendations are based on viewing patterns, not age-appropriateness. Without strict settings in place, this can lead to a rapid spiral into unsuitable, upsetting, or even harmful content online.

### DESENSITISATION TO VIOLENCE

Stylised violence in animation is often exaggerated and constant. Repeated exposure to it can reduce a child's emotional response to harm, making aggression or cruelty appear entertaining or acceptable. Over time, children may become less empathetic or more tolerant of harmful behaviours in real life, especially if they see others online reacting with humour, memes, or praise for violent characters or scenes.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### LEARN WHAT CHILDREN ARE WATCHING

Take time to ask children what they're watching and who their favourite creators are. Sit down and watch a few videos to get a full understanding. This helps you spot inappropriate content early and shows children that you're interested and engaged in their online world, not just policing it.

### USE PLATFORM SETTINGS WISELY

Make use of built-in safety tools like content filters, restricted mode, and age settings on platforms such as YouTube, Netflix or TikTok. Turn off auto-play where possible and regularly review what children are being recommended. Although these settings aren't foolproof, they add an important layer of protection and help reduce the risk of children encountering disturbing or adult content accidentally.

### TALK ABOUT WHAT'S APPROPRIATE

Keep communication open and non-judgemental. Talk about why certain themes or jokes are not appropriate for children, even if they appear in animated form. Help children understand that just because something is popular or shared widely, it does not mean it's suitable or safe. If they've seen something upsetting, respond calmly, offer reassurance, and explain things in an age-appropriate way.

### ENCOURAGE CRITICAL THINKING

Help children think carefully about what they watch. Talk about the difference between fictional exaggeration and reality, while helping them question why certain content is made. Is it informative, entertaining, or meant to shock? This builds digital resilience and encourages them to make safer choices in future, rather than simply following viral trends or peer pressure to watch mature content.

## 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. We offer memberships and packages to help all phases and types of setting raise standards, save time, reduce risk, and build a culture of improvement.

#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

See full reference list on our website

X @wake\_up\_weds

f /www.thenationalcollege

ig @wake.up.wednesday

yt @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: 25.02.2026