



St Catherine's School & College

Specialists in Speech, Language and Communication Needs

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Spring Term Week 8

6th March 2026

ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS

The Reader of the Week award has been presented to:

Jasmine



The Behaviour For Learning award has been presented to:

William	Cosmo	Henley
Kristen	Maisey	Eric
Sophie	Final	Eli
Kaelan	Tanner	Harri
Sean	Tim	Cameron
Amy	Finley	Lily
Levi	Raphael	Brook
Charlie		Darcy

The Behaviour For Character award has been presented to:

Jamie	Alex	Goldberg
Caiden		6ILP

Well done to all students who received awards 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

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

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

ATTENDANCE

6AMD - 96.3%

6ILP - 100%

6JG - 100%

Austen - 93.33%

Bloom - 71.7%

Branson - 86.67%

Burton - 100%

Goldberg - 95.56%

Hopkins - 96.83%

Newton - 96.3%

Oliver - 88.89%

Packham - 77.78%

Radcliffe - 100%

Watson - 94.59%



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



BLOOM CLASS

This week in SRE, we continued learning about puberty and discussed the different changes that happen to boys and girls as they grow. In Maths, we carried on with our work on time, focusing on different units of time such as hours, minutes and seconds. We also practised reading and writing times, including o'clock and half past, using both analogue and digital clocks. In English, we continued exploring our Antarctica topic and developed our writing based on this theme. We also had a fantastic day out at Yarmouth Planetarium, yesterday where the children enjoyed learning more about space and the universe through an exciting and interactive presentation!



RADCLIFFE CLASS

In SRE we went over what happens during puberty. We used some excellent slides from the NSPCC about puberty. The students were able to distinguish between the changes happening between boys and girls. During the Communication Group lesson, we have been looking into our senses. We chose 'sight' this week and got into two teams to guess the picture. It was really fun and everyone had a really good time guessing the pictures. In Maths, we are learning about fractions and folded shapes in half.

HOPKINS CLASS

This Monday's assembly was about World Teen Mental Wellness Day. We reflected on how we might feel on the inside and how we should share these feelings without feeling judged. In Maths we are finishing our topic on time; looking specifically at 5 to and 5 past. Most of us are enjoying using the classroom clock to remind Miss Cook when our lessons end! For English, we have been looking at synonyms and have used a thesaurus to find words that have the same or a similar meaning. In Art, we have started our Northern Lights pictures using acrylics, it is harder than it looked in the artists video, but we've all made a good start. In Music, we explored sea shanty history, played 'Drunken Sailor', had a go on an accordion and played 'Pirates of the Caribbean' on Boomwhackers.

PACKHAM CLASS

In English, we have finished our persuasive writing on why the man shouldn't cut down the Kapok tree and we are starting to present this to the rest of the class. We are continuing our work on habitats in Science and looking in greater depth at Rainforests. We found out that there is a huge flower in the Rainforest called Rafflesia. It smells really horrible so that it attracts pollinators. In PE, we have been honing our throwing skills with partners making sure we throw with the right accuracy and strength so that the ball travels to where it needs to go. In Music, we completed our Tonality topic with a quiz and recording our own chord compositions.

OLIVER CLASS

This week in SRE, some of us are learning about the changes we will experience as we start to get older and grow. In English, we have enjoyed reading a sci-fi story about aliens in a spaceship, we acted out the scene and then with our shape coding skills, we wrote our own sci-fi story. In Science, we have been learning about the parts of a plant and what their job is in order to help a plant/flower to grow. In Humanities, we are continuing our work on the Mayans by learning about their Gods and how important their religion was to them. In Maths, we have continued to learn about fractions. In PE, we learnt the positions in cricket, we had fun practising our batting skills. In OT, we have enjoyed playing games that will get us prepared for going out into the community to shops when we're older. In Speech Therapy Group, we have been learning about consequences.

AUSTEN CLASS

PHSE started the week and we talked about long-term relationships and parenthood. In SALT, we carried on our Dungeons and Dragons project and carried on towards the forest and over the river to find the leader using teamwork and making decisions. During English, we recorded our debate videos. In Maths, we continued our fractions work and finally beat Mr Mcfarlane at a dice maths game. In PE, we got to be outside again and in Music we are moving to perform our artists' songs. In DT, we are using lines to draw graphics and show the vanishing point.

GOLDBERG CLASS

This week in assembly we discussed World Teen Mental Wellness Day. We discussed how we might feel on the inside and how we could share these feelings and who with. In English, we recorded our debates on the iPad, this was about Bullying and some of us really had a good debate. In Science, we had to analyse some data from the British Bird count. We then completed our own bird survey. In PE, we continued with learning how to play cricket.

BURTON CLASS

In PSHE this week, we have been looking at rules, rights and responsibilities. We have thought about the reasons that we have rules and what would happen if there were no rules. We have looked at different types of rules: laws, school rules, rules at home and the consequences for not following rules. We have started to understand what our rights are but that we also have responsibilities with those rights. In Science, we have started to learn to classify animals by using questions. In Humanities, we have used artefacts to help us understand what Mayan life was like. In English, we have made predictions, learned new vocabulary and started to read our new book 'The Great Kapok Tree'.

NEWTON CLASS

In our PHSE we discussed how our feelings affect what we do and how we can manage our strong emotions. In Maths, we have been doing an Entry Level 3 test. We have done really well. In Science, we did a couple of experiments involving setting fire to hydrogen gas. BANG!!! Humanities has been all about endangered eco-systems. In English, we have been practising our persuasive writing.

BRANSON CLASS

In PHSE, we carried on talking about different jobs and skills. In Maths, we have begun a unit on measurement. After we finished the worksheet, we carefully measured all the furniture in the classroom.

WATSON CLASS

In Music, we completed the lyrics to our Blues songs and added a melody using the C blues scale. Some of us recorded solo performances for coursework as well. In PSHE, this week we looked at how emotions can affect our choices, and discussed examples of things we didn't like doing and how we could make it more manageable. In our Communication Lesson, we discussed art themes to make collective pieces over the next few weeks. In OT, this term we are doing cookery, last week we made Cherry Bakewell.

6JG CLASS

In Science, this week we have finished our presentations on the impact of human and natural events or actions that have an effect on our planet and the atmosphere. We also presented them to the class and everyone did very well. In PSHE, this week we researched entrepreneurs. We were looking at what an entrepreneur is and all chose one to research and produce a document with information about what they are famous for and any problems they faced along their journey. In GCSE Music, we have been continuing our compositions. They all started to sound good. We have also been learning about Palestinian music. We also tried playing “Hava Nagila” as we looked at Israeli music. In Vocational, our school social media mascot Curtis popped in to support us to plan sequences to a film that will be captured next week, with Dougal. He was very helpful in sequencing the plan for next week.



6AMD CLASS

We are still recovering from all the potatoes we ate last Friday in OT! We each made our own chips, then tried and scored eachothers'. This kicked off our new Kitchen Skills unit for this half term. This week, we have done very well in our learning around sex and relationships in PSHE. It is a difficult topic at times, but we have been really mature and listened and contributed well. In Maths, we are coming to the end of our angles topic. We have made good progress in planning our fundraising event, as part of our Working with Others unit (Vocational Studies BTEC). In Photography, we are getting all our photos together ready for our idea development for our externally set assignment. We have given our presentations in Science, which all went very well! In Music we have been revising hard recapping on Greek, Palestinian and Israeli music. We have also completed 3 listening questions.

6ILP CLASS

Congratulations to 6ILP who attended the recent Young Enterprise Awards. We were able to pick up the teamwork award which we are very happy with. In class we were able to begin our new maths unit, we were able to consider different ways we might display our created data. We are currently working upon tally and pie charts. As it was World Book Day on Thursday we have been looking at the range of books on offer in the library. We have considered how we can be transported to new locations depending upon the text we read. We have been able to consider the Commonwealth and what it means to be a member. We have produced a pleasing powerpoint for assembly scheduled for Monday.

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.



The Isle of Wight Salvation Army

Working together to fight against hygiene poverty



Providing people with essential hygiene and household cleaning items.

If you are experiencing financial difficulties and as a result experiencing hygiene poverty please speak with a professional. Your GP, childrens school, social worker etc and request a hygiene bank referral.

If you do not have a professional contact please contact the Isle of Wight Salvation Army hygiene bank on the details below .

Contact Us

01983 526312

Isleo@wight@salvationarmy.org.uk

72 Pyle Street, Newport,
Isle of Wight, PO30 1UJ

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=hXw06f1rPlwI3vVLnS>
Meeting ID: 325 219 933 569 71 Passcode: Nn6xd2py



Salient
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CENTRE



Improving supported internship
provision in England.

Funded by
Department
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Delivered by
NDTI
National Development Institute

DFN
Project SEARCH

base
Institution associated with
supported employment

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
School & College
Specialists in Speech, Language and
Communication Needs

Ethel Dares
WINGWALKING



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



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](#)
www.freedomcare.co.uk

0800 0851444

supportenquiries@freedomcare.co.uk



Spring into HAF this Easter!

Our popular Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme is back for Easter 2026!

Activities include bushcraft, football, horse riding, fun at the farm, music, multi-sports and multi-activity holiday clubs. All HAF activities are inclusive and we also have some specialist SEND activities running.

- Activities will run from Monday 30th March- Friday 10th April
- Bookings open Tuesday 3 March at 12pm
- All activities include a healthy nutritious meal for children and young people attending
- Free spaces are available to children who receive income-related free school meals
- Please share with families you are working with and encourage them to book on to activities should they be eligible.

We can also offer a limited number of discretionary-funded places for children who do not meet the criteria above but would benefit from attending. This may include, for example:

- Children assessed by the Local Authority as being in need, at risk or vulnerable
- Looked-after children
- Children under Early Help
- Young carers
- Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

Please contact the HAF team on holidayactivities@iow.gov.uk if you would like to access a discretionary-funded place for a family you are working with.

How to book:

All bookings can be made through our [HAF Booking System](#) (QR code below)



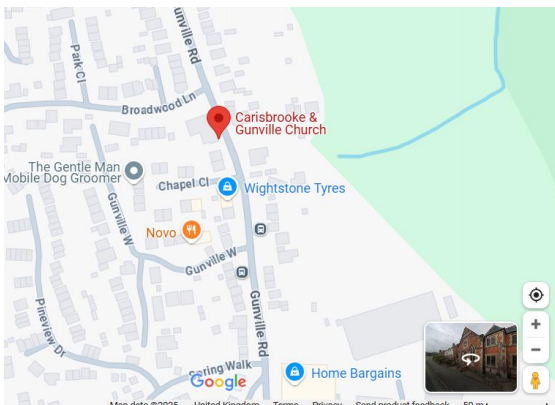
Full details on all of our activities can also be found on the Isle of Wight [Family Information Hub webpage](#).

Please contact the HAF Team on holidayactivities@iow.gov.uk if you have any questions.



Parent and Caregiver Peer Support Sessions

Where: Gunville Methodist Church Hall



When:

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

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.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

CREATIVE WAYS TO ENCOURAGE READING

Reading regularly has a life-long impact, yet recent data from the National Literacy Trust shows a decline in reading for pleasure among 8- to 18-year-olds, with just 32.7% enjoying it in 2025. Despite growing distractions, there are practical ways adults can spark a love of reading. This guide offers strategies and resources to help inspire young readers.

1 VALUE ALL READING

When we think about reading, it's very easy to picture a young person reading a fictional novel; however, reading is so much more than this. To help them understand, why not show them how to create a 24-hour reading diary? Jot down all reading and then discuss this with them. By doing this, you can demonstrate the many ways we turn to reading.

2 WIDEN THE SELECTION

Once we know reading can be varied, we need to think about the selection of reading material they can access. Visit a shop selling magazines, the library and a bookshop, and consider the range of material that is available within them. Then consider how you might broaden their reading choices, so all young people have access to a wide and varied selection.

3 GIFT A BOOK

One simple way to encourage reading is to make books feel special. Gifting a book adds value and shows it's something to be treasured. Whether it's as a reward or for a celebration like a birthday, let the young person choose a title or pick one you know they will enjoy. You could also include a personal note inside.

4 CONNECT WITH AUTHORS

Meeting authors can certainly spark an interest in their reading material. This might be through a live event in a school/bookshop or by using the wealth of online material that is now available. Encourage young people to look at ways to connect with authors using free resources such as Authorly and Just Imagine's Children's Authors Live.

5 BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Access training about reading for pleasure to widen your understanding of this topic and, more importantly, how to develop it. Explore a wide range of free resources that can be found online. The more you know, the better placed you are to inspire a love of reading in others.

6 TALK BOOKS

There are times when we need silence to read and focus on our book; however, we know that reading is a social experience, so we must also factor in discussion time. Reading the same book gives two people a connection and the opportunity to voice their thoughts and questions about it. Why not buy two copies of a book and read it together? Start the connection.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

As well as talking about the content of books, we can share what we are reading or have read recently. This can often act as a trigger for someone else to explore it. How often have you watched a film or series because someone else has recommended it? It's the same with books. If you know the young person well, you can tailor your recommendations and share why you think they'll enjoy it.

8 GO DIGITAL

With the rise in online digital material, we can easily focus on the negatives; however, it also brings a wealth of opportunities. Resources can aid and enhance the reading experience for young people. They can read along with audiobooks, translate, and track their reading goals with resources like PolyIno and apps like Goodreads for older children. Augmented reality books also bring books to life and offer a great way for engagement.

9 RECONNECT

There can come a time when a love of reading seems to disappear. It does not mean it's gone forever; it generally means they have lost the connection. How do we get it back? Find the next piece of reading material that sparks their current interests. The National Year of Reading focus of 'Go All In' captures this well as it is their key theme. As children grow and change, so do their interests. A visit to the local library is a great way to support the reconnection.

10 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let them see you reading. If you make time to read, you send a strong message to children: reading matters. Share why you enjoy it. Is it to relax, escape the world, learn something new or to be entertained? When children see reading as a normal and valued part of everyday life, they are more likely to adopt it themselves.

Meet Our Expert

Carl Pattison is a literacy advisor and early reading expert at The National College. Through his programmes, he supports schools to enhance reading and writing. In addition to his independent work, he also works for a large academy trust in the East Midlands as the strategic lead for their English Hub and Literacy Excellence Centre.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website

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/www.thenationalcollege

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