



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

Website: www.stcatherines.org.uk

Summer Term Week 1

17th April 2026

ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS



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

The Behaviour For Learning award has been presented to:

Tristan Izzy R
Maddie Liam
Gwehona Megan
Imogen Aaron
Lydia Tim



The Behaviour For Character award has been presented to:

Cosmo
Jim



The Principal's Praise award has been presented to:

Elliott B
Caitlin

Well done to all students who received awards this week!



ATTENDANCE

6AMD - 92.59%
6ILP - 100%
6JG - 96.3%
Austen - 95.56%
Bloom - 100%
Branson - 87.5%
Burton - 94.44%
Goldberg - 95.56%
Hopkins - 100%
Newton - 100%
Oliver - 98.11%
Packham - 87.3%
Radcliffe - 100%
Watson - 97.22%

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

April

22nd Photographer in school/college

May

22nd Students break up for half term

June

1st School reopens after half term

26th Summer Fair!



THE GROVE AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

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

April

21st - Ventnor Park

28th - Ventnor Walk

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.



BLOOM CLASS

Bloom Class have had a fantastic first week back! We began the week in PSHE by exploring feelings and emotions, discussing how it is perfectly normal to experience different feelings in different situations. The children shared their thoughts about how they might feel in various scenarios and explained their reasons with great maturity. In Maths, we have moved on to division and are beginning to understand how multiplication and division are linked. In English, we launched our new topic on traditional tales. We explored a range of well-known stories, identifying key events and describing what happens in each tale. The children showed great enthusiasm and confidence when discussing familiar stories. Our new Science topic focuses on plants and living things. This week, we learnt to identify the difference between things that have been alive and those that have never been alive, with some excellent class discussions and examples. We also thoroughly enjoyed our visit to the Spring Fair on Tuesday. The class were a credit to the school, demonstrating excellent behaviour as we walked to the college and back. In Music, we began 'Songs of the Sea'. We did a quiz and looked at playing and singing 'Drunken Sailor' together. Well done, Bloom Class – a brilliant start to the term!



RADCLIFFE CLASS

We began our new topic of PSHE, Managing Feelings and Needs. We have explored the Zones of Regulation and discussed what makes us happy and sad. We are working on strategies which will help us return to green zone when feeling sad or angry. In English, we are reading 'Jim and the Beanstalk', it is a twist on the traditional tale of 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. As part of our hook for the story we visited the opticians in town. We had a super time looking at the equipment and asking lots of questions. We are nearly at the end of our 'senses' experiments. This week, we smelt lots of different smells, some spicy ones were horrible!



PACKHAM CLASS

In Music, we started our new topic of Music Elements. We completed a quiz, recapped on pitch and then created short pieces to show pitch. In Maths, we have begun a new unit on measurement and are looking at the area of shapes. In Science, we have started a new topic all about the states of matter. This includes looking at solids, liquids and gasses and how we encounter these in everyday life.

HOPKINS CLASS

We had a lovely start to the week with an Assembly to celebrate National Art Day on Wednesday. We thought about this in our Art lesson on Tuesday and some of us tried to draw using our opposite hand...it was NOT easy! In PSHE, we are looking at jobs and occupations and thinking about what we might want to do in the future. We also went to the Spring Fair up at the college, this was exciting as some of us have never visited the college before, we tried different stalls and even threw wet sponges at some teachers! To begin our new topic on plants in English and Science, we got the chance to choose two different courgette seeds to plant. We each have our own labelled pot and are taking it in turns to check on their progress over the next two weeks. Miss Cook was pleased that we all knew what plants needed to grow: water, sunlight, warmth and soil (for nutrients). We've got DT this half term and this week, we have started to design and make bridges out of cardboard, wood and other materials. Using triangles seems to be a strong design, but we will see!



OLIVER CLASS

What a busy first week back! We all had a wonderful time at the Spring Fair and the weather stayed fine for our walk up to the college and back. We have started our topic of Ancient Egyptians and are enjoying the artefacts we have in our classroom. Over the next few weeks, we are going to learn all about them and become 'tour guides' so we can invite other classes to come and experience the Ancient Egyptians and let them know what we have learnt. This week, we have been looking at mummification and understanding how the Ancient Egyptians preserved the bodies of their Pharaohs and why. We have even mummified an apple to see how the process works. In Music, we have been practising rhythms in our drumming circle and learning some chords on the ukulele.

AUSTEN CLASS

We were very excited to return after half term and see our flowers had bloomed. We had planted these back in autumn. In English, we have started to look at 'non chronological reports' and looked at what it entails. In PE, we started two new sports, tennis and football. We really enjoyed practising our skills in football. On Tuesday, we went up to college for the Spring Fair and joined in the fun. There were lots of games to play and some of us won prizes. In PSHE, we were looking at work/school-life balance and how to make sure this is a positive balance. In OT this week, we were out and about going around Ventnor town. In Music, we played the drums and ukulele and learnt the notes. In Science, we are learning about chemicals.



BURTON CLASS

In Science, we have been learning about Properties and Materials, we had fun testing out different magnetic objects. We have started our new story for English, 'George's Marvellous Medicine', and can't wait to find out what happens next. During our Speech Therapy Group, we found out what everyone did over the Easter Holidays. In Music, we listened to two songs that were sung by Bessie Smith. We learnt some information about her and we also learnt the C7, F7 and G7 chords. In OT, we planted a variety of different vegetables and we created our own labels for them so we know what we are growing. In PE, we finished off some of our coursework and in our group PE lessons, we are going to start learning skills to play football! On Tuesday, we went up to the Spring Fair at college. We all had a brilliant time playing different games and looking at the things we could buy.

GOLDBERG CLASS

Goldberg had a great first week back. In English, we have started to look at non-chronological reports. We had a great first session back at Forest School, we re-established camps in the woodland and discovered what we believe is a badger hole. We are hoping to loan a motion camera to find evidence of the occupant! In Science, we have been looking at living organisms which was very interesting. We visited the College for the Spring Fair, we played games and won some prizes, it was great fun. In ICT, we have been completing coursework for our WJEC. In PSHE, we have been looking at what is needed to start the journey of career development.



NEWTON CLASS

We started our week off with an assembly about National Art Day. On Tuesday, we went to the College for the Spring Fair which we all enjoyed. In Music, we have been continuing to learn about Blues music and 7 chords to play on either the piano or guitar. In English, we have changed topics and are now reading the poem 'The Highway Man' and looking at producing a glossary of the words used in the writer's description of events. In Science, we are looking at 'animals, plants and fungi'. In ICT, we have continued working on our projects of producing publicity information for a holiday camp. In PE, we have been finishing off our written coursework and playing badminton.

BRANSON CLASS

We all had a great time at the Spring Fair this week. We walked up to the college site, played some games and bought some lovely items made by the college students for the Young Enterprise scheme. These included handmade keyrings, bookmarks and lanyards. In Humanities, we are continuing to work on our eco-system project and in English we have been preparing our presentation coursework ready for our practise interviews for a summer playground supervisor. In DT, we have started planning to make a personalised cushion cover for members of our families. We are looking forward to seeing great results. In Maths, we are looking at pounds and pence. This will help us when we take cash to the shops!

WATSON CLASS

Everyone is back looking refreshed and ready for the sunny summer term, which for some of the class will be their last term in school! In SRE on Monday, we recapped life stages and how humans develop from babies and their needs, we then discussed different types of family, and the importance of positive relationships. On Tuesday morning, we attended the Spring Fair at the College, with stalls, exhibitions and displays. As part of our communication group sessions, we are going to plan some transition events as a team, ideas being a class video or art installation.

6JG CLASS

The GCSE students presented our Photography exhibition this week as part of the Spring Fair. Visiting artists Sarah Vardy and Teresa Grimaldi whose work inspired the beginning of the project came to see the outcomes that we have developed. Visiting artist Steve Baxter, who came in earlier in the year and delivered a sculpture workshop, came in for both the set up and duration of the exhibition. We had creative control of our own exhibition spaces and everyone's spaces looked so different. In Science, we are completing our first assignment in the Biology unit. We have been looking at the interdependence of organisms within an eco-system. In Music, we did some more work on our compositions and began learning about Samba music from Brazil.

6AMD CLASS

6AMD have had a strong first week back. We put on our highly anticipated fundraising event for the RNLI - 'Soak the Teacher'. This was great fun, and the RNLI representatives who attended were very grateful. In Science, we have continued looking at genetics, focusing on DNA organisation and zygosity. We are continuing with past papers in Maths, ready for our fast-approaching Paper 1! As we await the results of our Level 1 Functional Skills Writing exam, we are looking at fine tuning our writing in English: specifically looking at commas and other forms of punctuation. In Music, we revised our Rhythms of the World topic, and completed a quiz on it. We then began revising film music features, looking at atmosphere and mood.

6ILP CLASS

6ILP has had a week of hard work and creativity. We started the week by helping Sarah Finaughty set up and run stalls at the Spring Fair. It was nice to see all the school students joining us at the college, and give out prizes when they won. We were so happy to hear the Spring Fair raised £110. During class sessions, we were able to question why we need rules in school, college and in the community. We were able to consider a world without rules and how it is a much happier and safer place when everyone knows how to behave. We were able to complete our 3D face sculptures by adding paint and PVA glue. When they are displayed in the college hallways, we will photograph them and forward the photos for next week's newsletter.

FOREST SCHOOL SUMMER CLOTHING GUIDE

As the weather is getting warmer, here is a guide to clothing. Having suitable clothing helps students stay comfortable outside, protects from sunburn, scratches and stings and helps them to access outdoor sessions comfortably. A long sleeved top, trousers/leggings and sturdy footwear are the most suitable option.

If you have any problems accessing suitable clothing please don't hesitate to contact me:

atkinsa@stcatherines.org.uk

Alison Atkins (Forest School Leader)

Suggested Summer Clothing List:

- Long sleeved top
- Jogging bottoms/leggings
 - Socks
- Sturdy shoes/trainers
- Sun hat/sunglasses
- Waterproof jacket

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

FIRST YEAR GCSE PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION AS PART OF THE SPRING FAIR

First year GCSE students were given the opportunity to showcase their work as part of the Spring Fair this year. This work was in response to local artists and exhibitions and was curated by the students themselves. The students took inspiration from their visit to The Quay Arts in January. The 'Rag and Bone' exhibition by local artists Sarah Vardy and Teresa Grimaldi was their starting point for their second Photography project. They took their inspiration in different ways, exploring recycling as a theme, using recycled products to make work and looking at contrast, theatre, and puppetry. Students then took part in a sculpture workshop with another local artist Steve Baxter, using recycled corrugated cardboard as a starting point. Their projects individually developed from this point and they worked towards their exhibition outcomes.

SPRING FAIR

The Spring Fair this year was very fun and we managed to raise an incredible £110, so thank you very much for your contributions!

SCHOOL MENU

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Pasta/Quorn Bolognese or Jacket Potato with choice of filling	Jumbo Sausage/Cheese & Onion Roll or Tomato Pasta	Roast Lamb/ Vegetable Burger or Jacket Potato with choice of filling	Pizza with Wedges or Tomato Pasta	Battered Cod/ Fish Fingers/ Quiche 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	Rice Pudding	Fresh Fruit Salad	Fairy Cake	Pudding of the Day

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



WINGWALK FOR ST CATHERINE'S

10TH AUGUST 2026

TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST

EMAIL TANYA

SMITHT@STCATHERINES.ORG.UK



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INFORMATION FROM THE ISLE OF WIGHT SCHOOL TRANSPORT TEAM

Transferring to Secondary School – New Year 7's from September

The deadline for transport applications to be submitted for students transferring to Secondary School is 1st May 2026. To make an application please visit our website <https://www.iow.gov.uk/article/2418/Apply-for-home-to-school-transport>.

Transport for eligible children, whose applications were received on time in line with the dates above, will be allocated to transport by the end of August, and Parents/Carers will be notified about those arrangements via email. For a small number of cases who may require complex transport arrangements, these may not be able to start in September and parents/carers will be notified if this is the case.

Applications received after the deadline will be treated as 'late applications' and can only be reviewed after all on-time applications have been processed. For the families of eligible children who apply late, this means that transport may not be in place for the start of the school term in September and may not be available for the first school term. During this time transport arrangements including costs will be parents responsibility.

Students already receiving transport (excluding Post 16 students)

Students from Year 7 -11 who already receive school transport do not need to do anything unless their circumstances have changed, or if transport has been specifically agreed for a set period of time. For example, if you have moved home or school, you will need to reapply for transport by the relevant deadline. If your child is in year 11, their eligibility for free transport will cease at the end of the current academic year and you will need to explore alternative transport arrangements for your child's post-16 education or training, even if your child will continue to attend the same setting.

On the first day of term, students who are travelling on a contracted bus service will be able to travel without a valid ticket providing they are in school uniform. Bus passes will be sent to the school to be distributed to students on their first day.

Post 16 Students with an EHCP

Post 16 Learners are required to apply for transport each academic year and each academic year the local authority is required to consult on the arrangements for the next school year.

The policy for the 2026/2027 academic year is now available online and any application received will be processed in line with this policy.

The application deadline is 1st May and applications can be completed online at <https://www.iow.gov.uk/article/2419/Travel-assistance-for-post-16-students>

Transport for eligible learners, whose applications were received on time in line with the dates above, will be allocated to transport by the end of August, and Parent/Carers/Learners will be notified about those arrangements via email. For a small number of cases who may require complex transport arrangements, these may not be able to start in September and parents/carers will be notified if this is the case.

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Participants Needed

Can your child help?



This research is being carried out as part of a DClinPsy training course



Does your child (aged 11-21) have experience of receiving therapy support for their mental health?



Do they have communication difficulties or suspected/diagnosed language disorder?



If yes, I would like to interview them about their experiences of having therapy to learn more about how to support young people with communication needs.



As a thank you for taking part they'll receive a £10 voucher!



The interview would take about 30-60mins and could be online or at your home/school, wherever you prefer!



If you're interested... please fill out this brief form and we'll be in touch:



SCAN HERE

[Click Here to Register your Interest](#)

Any Questions?

My email address: emily.parker.23@ucl.ac.uk
Lead researcher email address: sarah.griffiths@ucl.ac.uk

Ethics approval obtained via UCL REC.
ID number: 28577/001
Data Protection Number: Z6364106/2024/10/07

Drop-in Sessions For parents of Early years children with emerging



SEND

Please scan the QR code for more information and to book

Come and join us for a friendly and informal drop in session, designed to provide support, advice, and a chance to connect with other parents and carers.

21st April 2026- Newport Family Centre

21st May 2026- Sandown Family Centre

22nd June 2026- Ryde Family Centre

21st July 2026- Newport Family Centre

9.30am - 10.30am or
10.30am - 11.30am



TEAM TEDDY CHARITY FOOTBALL MATCH

Proudly sponsored by

Team Teddy XI vs. Isle of Wight Ladies FC

23rd May 2026
Kick off: 1pm

Venue:
Shanklin Football Club
Shanklin, Isle of Wight
PO37 7EU

Scan me to get your tickets

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.

Specialist Support for Children with Additional Needs

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.

<p>Personal Assistant Services Dedicated one-to-one support and respite care</p>	<p>Building Independence Developing confidence and life skills in line with EHCP and other desired outcomes</p>	<p>Tailored Family Support Coaching, mentoring and buddy schemes, Respite</p>
<p>Experienced and Trained Our staff are all experienced and trained to our mandatory standard, additional training can be sought as necessary.</p>	<p>Matched Support Personal Assistants carefully selected to meet your child's specific needs and interests</p>	<p>Professional Team Experienced consultants supporting families in Hampshire, Surrey, West Sussex, Dorset & Isle of Wight</p>

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

0800 0851444
supportenquiries@freedomcare.co.uk

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about APP & PLAY STORES

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Since the introduction of Apple's App Store and Google's Play Store, an estimated two million apps have been made available on each. Ofcom's 2025 media use and attitudes report states that more than half of children aged between 3 and 7 use apps or sites to communicate with each other, and, by the ages of 10 to 12, 45% of children are playing games on their mobile phones. This guide will help you ensure that children use the app stores and their content safely.

MALICIOUS APPS WITH MALWARE



Although Google and Apple must approve the apps on their official stores, inappropriate content sometimes slips through the net. For example, in 2025, the security company Kaspersky found that multiple iOS and Android apps contained screen-reading software, primed to look for passwords and stealing crypto-wallet recovery phrases captured in screenshots.

UNOFFICIAL COPYCAT APPS



Both official app stores contain copycat apps – often games – designed to look like popular rivals, mimicking their branding, layout and logos. While these will usually just offer a poor experience packed with ads as a quick money-making exercise, they're also more likely to be vessels for malware than the products they're counterfeiting.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT



As the App Store and Play Store are for all ages, there's a lot of content available that's inappropriate for children. Examples include apps that have references to alcohol, drugs, sex, violence or gambling. In general, these are sensibly age-rated, but social media sites such as YouTube and TikTok, which both have an App Store age rating of 12+, can be gateways to adult material.

PREDATORY IN-APP PURCHASES



App-making is a business, and most creators have found that 'freemium' software is the way to make money. That means the app will be free initially but will either require the user to watch ads or rely on them making in-app purchases. Some 'free' apps can be predatory, and there are plenty of examples reported where parents have racked up huge bills on behalf of their children's app activity.

ADDICTIVE BY DESIGN



Phone addiction is fast becoming recognised as a real concern, and apps are a big part of this. Freemium apps have a real incentive to keep children checking in every day in order to generate more ad views or secure extra in-app purchases. This can interfere with schoolwork and other offline hobbies.

SIDLOADED BANNED APPS



'Sideloaded' – the more complicated practice of installing applications on a device from sources other than the official app stores – bypasses Google's and Apple's security procedures; however, it is possible for tech-savvy users. This opens up huge risks – not just apps that would be forbidden by Apple and Google, but pirate ones packed with malware too.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ACTIVATE PARENTAL CONTROLS FOR APPS



Both Google and Apple have apps that can give adults greater control over children's phone activity. 'Screen Time' (iPhone) and 'Family Link' (Android) have a range of features, such as letting you set age-related restrictions on the app stores, require permission to download an app, set daily time limits on specific apps, and control real-world spending.

DO YOUR RESEARCH



If children ask permission to download an app, do your due diligence and research it. Read the app summary and search the internet for reviews and discussions to establish its legitimacy, safety and appropriateness – if it doesn't seem to be appropriate, look for safer alternatives instead.

LOOK BEYOND THE REVIEWS



App store reviews are helpful, but they are easily gamed, and some unscrupulous developers will pay for quick reviews to give their work perceived legitimacy. Take more than a cursory glance at listings by digging out the one- and two-star reviews and looking closely at the developer – for example, if they've published a lot of unrelated apps, that's a red flag.

TALK TO YOUR CHILD



Talk to children and make sure they're aware that apps can be risky. As part of a wider talk about internet literacy, ensure they don't download apps outside of the official channels, nor grant apps permission to access their camera, microphone, or photos without a good reason. Make sure they understand that in-game currency costs real-world money.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, The Telegraph, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College