



St Catherine's School & College

Specialists in Speech, Language and Communication Needs

St Catherine's
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Summer Term Week 2

24th April 2026

ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS



The Reader of the Week award has been presented to:

Elliott B

The Behaviour For Learning award has been presented to:

Jacob	Cameron
Kayan	Luis
Izzy	Sonnie
Apryl	Holden
Junior	Kristen
Gwehona	Bailey
Sam	



The Behaviour For Character award has been presented to:

Bentley
Final
Caiden
Seth
Luke



Well done to all students who received awards this week!



ATTENDANCE

6AMD - 100%

6ILP - 97.22%

6JG - 100%

Austen - 95.56%

Bloom - 100%

Branson - 92.22%

Burton - 86.11%

Goldberg - 100%

Hopkins - 98.36%

Newton - 92.59%

Oliver - 100%

Packham - 92.06%

Radcliffe - 100%

Watson - 100%



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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

May

6th Parents/carers meeting in school (see newsletter for more information)

22nd Students break up for half term

June

1st School reopens after half term

26th Summer Fair! Theme to be announced next week!



THE GROVE AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

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

April

28th - Ventnor Walk

May

Activities to be confirmed

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

This week in Maths, we continued our learning on division, focusing on using the strategy of drawing circles and dots to help us work out answers. In PE, we enjoyed playing tennis and concentrated on developing our serving skills. In English, we have been exploring traditional tales, with a focus on 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. The children worked hard to retell the story in their own words. In Art, we continued observing the lines and shapes within flowers. We challenged ourselves by drawing with our non-dominant hand and even placed paper over our pencils so we couldn't see what we were drawing - this encouraged us to focus carefully on what we could see rather than what we thought we knew. In History, we researched a famous explorer and learnt about how they contributed to history. Well done Bloom class!



RADCLIFFE CLASS

In PSHE this week, we have continued to look at different emotions and the reasons why people feel the way they do. We have read the book 'Jim and the Beanstalk' in English and are completing comprehension questions. We have learnt that an oculist is more of an old fashioned word for optician! In Maths, we have learnt to use a ruler and we are now measuring in cm! We've found that it can be quite tricky keeping the ruler straight when measuring. We had fun in our communication lesson tasting food. This is the last sense we have been learning about. Radcliffe class also painted the reading corner as a field. Each week a flower will be added, from the art lessons.



HOPKINS CLASS

In English this week, we read our new book 'The Tiny Seed'. We found out about different ways that seeds are dispersed and particularly, how they can travel with the wind. Many of us have been amazed by how quickly our courgette plants have sprouted after just a week and we know this is because they have all the right conditions for optimum growth. In Maths, we are learning that it doesn't matter which way round we multiply numbers and are beginning to recognise the relationship between multiplication and division. For PE, we have started football on Thursday's session and are exploring shots in tennis, in Friday's classes. For Art, we talked about observation and considered shape when looking at flowers. We then used a new medium of layered tissue paper to recreate a chosen flower and despite initial reservations, we were really chuffed with how they all turned out!



PACKHAM CLASS

In Maths, some of us have been working on measurements of length. We have been organising measurements from smallest to largest. This has been tricky because we have had to think about converting units of measurements first to help us find the answer. In English, we continue reading our book 'Where Does My Food Come From?' and are researching the foods that different countries export to us. We have also been thinking about why we get these foods from other countries and not grow them or catch them ourselves in the UK.

OLIVER CLASS

In Science, we are looking at evaporation at different temperatures. We used a hairdryer on a hot and cool heat to see the difference in evaporation of water. In Art, we made a fish or head out of clay and some of the outcomes were amazing. In DT, we carried on with our drawings and drew an entire town of buildings using the vanishing point. In PE, we are looking at football skills and how to pass and use the ball in the game of football. In our Maths work, we are learning our number bonds to 20 by rote and seeing how we can use this when giving change with money. In English, we are writing instructions for how the Ancient Egyptians mummified their Pharaohs.

AUSTEN CLASS

In English, we looked at the yellow spotted lizard to describe them and use various paragraphs for subtitles and paragraphs. In Maths, we are learning about money and how to add a total together. We are also looking at ways to add up a shopping basket of various prices and quantities. In Science, we are looking at solids, liquids and gases. In PE, we are learning football tactics to teach us to play football with different strategies. In Music, we have started to play the ukulele and join in with a song with notes in colour. In Forest School, we excavated bits of tile and rocks we found in the woodland, we are making a collection and may use them to make a mosaic, we also enjoyed making dens to relax in.



GOLDBERG CLASS

In PSHE this week, we began to look at healthy and unhealthy relationships. We focused on what characteristics or traits a person might have and where these might place them in either the healthy or unhealthy bracket. In ICT, we started a new project in our WJEC looking at how to use email effectively and efficiently. In English, we have been writing our introduction for our non-chronological report, describing yellow spotted lizards. In Forest School, we learnt how to erect teepee tarp structures for our shelter skills in our Wild passport. In PE, we enjoyed improving our tennis techniques. In Science, we are looking at fundamental states of matter, solids, liquids and gas.



BURTON CLASS

This week's Monday assembly was all about the Mardi Gras Carnival! In English, we have continued reading 'George's Marvellous Medicine'. We came up with some brilliant expanded noun phrases and wrote our own character descriptions of the old, miserable Grandma! In Humanities, we have been learning about primary and secondary sources. We used some secondary sources to find out about life in ancient Egypt and compare it to life today. In Music, we took part in a quiz on the blues to see what we have remembered over the past few weeks. We also practised playing different St George's Day songs on the keyboards. In PE, we practised serving in tennis and worked on our passing skills in football. In ICT, we each chose a topic that interests us and began writing some information about it. Some of us chose cranes, others horses, cars, and even dolls! In Science, we have been learning about the difference between solids, liquids and gases. We were able to act out the particle structure of these which we really enjoyed doing.

NEWTON CLASS

In Science, we have been planting insect friendly flowers outside of Orange Building. It's going to "bee" fantastic. In PE we are doing football and tennis. We're enjoying learning proper rules of sports. Maths has been all about algebra... it's super hard but interesting, kind of. Some of us have been doing fractions in Maths which is a bit easier.

BRANSON CLASS

In DT this week, we are making good progress with our cushion cover templates and in ICT, we have been working on coursework for WJEC and BTEC qualifications. We had fun in PE, playing football, practising passing skills and ball control. In Music, we had a quiz on blues music and we practised playing songs on the keyboards relating to St George's Day. In Science, we discussed different types of plants and fruits we can plant around the school site. In Maths, we have completed a task that required us planning for a party!

WATSON CLASS

In Assembly, we had a visit from the New Learning Carnival to tell us about this year's event in July, some students tried on the costumes. In SRE, we have been discussing different types of families. We have also been looking at vocabulary for parts of the body and their function. In our communication lesson, we are talking about ideas for a way to leave our mark on the school, as some of us are leaving this year. In English, we are looking at 'Macbeth', finding out about the witches and doing an overview of the play. In Maths, we are doing algebra. It's fun!

6JG CLASS

In 6JG, we have been coming up with ideas for our filmmaking project as part of our Listen Up project, we have been considering elements of stopframe animation. In Photography, we have been writing up our journeys towards our exhibitions, so that we are ready to begin the next phase of our project development. Those of us taking the Land Based option for BTEC continued our growing plants unit, this week we started to re-pot some of the poached egg seedlings and took cuttings from sage, which we are attempting to root in water. In Science, we have been creating food chains and food webs for our assignment and looking at all the interdependent relationships that can be found between organisms in an ecosystem. We went out to find examples in the playground and found a baby slow worm under a log.



6AMD CLASS

This week, we have had the first half of our GCSE Photography controlled assessment. We have dealt with this really well: managing exam anxiety/stress, and communicating with staff to make sure we have all the materials we need. For the details of this Photography exam and others, please consult your young person's exam timetable (if they will show it to you!). In English, we have continued working on Level 1 Functional Skills, focusing on writing articles. In Science, we have been looking at homeostasis and we have just begun the revision of the Chemistry unit. We are doing lots of practice of exam questions.

6ILP CLASS

The students of 6ILP have been very busy this week. We proudly display our creative head sculptures inspired by Mayan culture in the newsletter. We were able to continue our adventure with healthy living by considering which gym equipment can focus on specific parts of the body. We were able to safely venture off campus and visited The Quay Arts in Newport. We experienced two exhibitions based upon nature and our community. Back at college, we performed essential edits to our English work and consider the importance of managing our money.



COLLEGE FUNDAMENTAL BRITISH VALUES

As part of the college Fundamental British Values calendar this month, we are celebrating World Earth Day. We made an Earth art piece with our ideas for how to keep our planet healthy. Speaking of healthy, it is also World Health Day this month and we are running balance, coordination, strength and stamina challenges at lunchtime in the common room at college. It is also World Bee Day, so plant some flowers if you can to help them thrive. World Pet Month also needs a mention, so give your lovely pets an extra fuss or a treat as spending time with them is proven to be really good for our mental health.

FAMILY RECIPES

Friday 15th May is International Day of Families. To celebrate this, we would like to compile a book of the students favourite family recipes. A blank recipe page has been provided in this newsletter and we hope you can all participate in collecting some yummy recipes that we can recreate at college, school and at home. The recipes could be a starter, main, dessert or snack.

NEW SIGNING SONG

Follow the link to watch and learn our new signing song, 'This is Me' that students will be learning at school this term.

<https://bit.ly/4dYqkau>

DANGEROUS BUILDING WARNING

We have been alerted that the Cygnet Hotel in Sandown is currently in an extremely dangerous condition. An independent structural report has confirmed a severe and unpredictable risk of sudden collapse. Of particular concern are recent reports that young people have been accessing the site. In addition to the risk of collapse, there are known hazards present including drugs paraphernalia, sharps, and asbestos. The situation is so serious that police officers have been advised not to enter the building under any circumstances.

Please speak with your children and ensure they understand that this site, or any derelict buildings, must not be entered for any reason.

The safety of our students is our absolute priority. If you have any concerns, please ensure this is shared with the police.

Stay Away. Stay Safe.

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.

WHITE PAPER CONSULTATION PARENT/CARER MEETING 6TH MAY

All parents/carers are invited to join a meeting on Wednesday 6th May, to share ideas for completing the White Paper Consultation.

This meeting will be held at the main school site from 10am to 12 noon.

The session is being organised and led by two of St Catherine's parents/carers.

Nature Photography Day: Monday June 15th

We will be celebrating this day by holding a college photographic competition, with prizes for the winning entries.

- The photographs can be taken anytime from now until the closing date Monday 8th June.
- You can use the May Holiday to take your photographs, whether you are at home or are going away.
- Pictures should be of the natural world, including animals, plants, and sea/landscapes.
- You may want to do closeups of leaves, flowers or shells. Be imaginative and think of different angles.
- Photographs must be taken by the students (not helpful family members!) and not include people
- You can use a camera or your phone to take the pictures.
- Email me the photos (troys@stcatherines.org.uk) or bring them in printed (a copy please as they may not be returned)

Most of all enjoy it and we can't wait to see your entries.



INFORMATION FROM THE ISLE OF WIGHT SCHOOL TRANSPORT TEAM

Transferring to Secondary School – New Year 7s 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:

<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.

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 learners 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.

Ethel Dares
WINGWALKING



WINGWALK FOR ST CATHERINE'S

10TH AUGUST 2026

TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST
EMAIL TANYA

SMITHT@STCATHERINES.ORG.UK



St Catherine's
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Communication Needs

Corf Scout Camp Open Day

Saturday 2 May 2026

10:00am - 4:00pm

Corf Road, Shalfleet, PO30 4NT

Try something new:

- Archery
- Boulder Wall
- Frisbee Golf
- Kayaking*
- Shooting
- Tomahawks
- Open Fire Cook
- Climbing/High Ropes

All welcome -
you don't have to
be a Scout. Bring
the whole family
along.

Many activities. Refreshments.

Parking £5 per car at

What3Words: ///orders.twit.pace

*Water activities dependent on tide and conditions -
swimwear & change of clothes required. No open
toed shoes. All activities dependent on availability of
time and volunteers. No unaccompanied children.



Scouts
Isle Of Wight

www.corfcamp.org.uk



Lily

TEAM TEDDY CHARITY FOOTBALL MATCH

Proudly sponsored by

ESTD 1984
THE WATERFRONT

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



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

Professional Team

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

Tailored Family Support

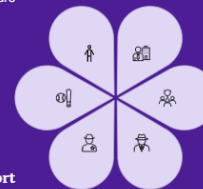
Coaching, mentoring and buddy schemes, Respite

Matched Support

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

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](https://www.freedomcare.co.uk)
www.freedomcare.co.uk

0800 0851444

supportenquiries@freedomcare.co.uk

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about YOUTUBE

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Almost anyone with an internet connection knows about YouTube. The Google-owned platform allows users to upload and share videos globally, making it a readily accessible resource with free content on almost any topic. However, with over 20 million videos uploaded each day, not all material is suitable for younger audiences.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT



YouTube is free and can be accessed across multiple device types, even without an account. While some videos are marked as 'age restricted', this relies on uploader honesty and automated moderation, meaning children and young people may still encounter unsuitable content if these measures aren't taken.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES



Popular trends and challenges can be entertaining and widely shared. While many are harmless, some can be risky or harmful if copied. For example, the 'salt and ice challenge' has caused injuries when imitated.

EXPOSURE TO EXTREME CONTENT



The platform's algorithm often promotes content that attracts high engagement, which can sometimes include videos containing extreme viewpoints, misinformation, or risky behaviour. As children and young people watch more of this content, similar videos are likely to be recommended by YouTube's algorithm, therefore reinforcing the exposure.

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS



YouTube includes social features such as comments and direct messaging. This means young users can interact with people they don't know, potentially exposing them to inappropriate language, cyberbullying, or unwanted contact. Young content creators may be especially vulnerable.

SUGGESTED CONTENT



YouTube recommends videos based on what a user has previously watched. While this can enhance the experience, it may also encourage binge-watching and excessive screen time, particularly when Autoplay is enabled. Without an account, users are shown trending videos, which are not always age appropriate.

SHORT-FORM CONTENT IMPACT



YouTube Shorts – short, fast-paced videos – are designed for continuous viewing. This style of content can be highly engaging but may also contribute to increased screen time and difficulties with maintaining focus over longer periods.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CONSIDER YOUTUBE KIDS



YouTube Kids can help reduce young users' exposure to unsuitable content by filtering videos into age groups, such as preschool, younger, and older children. However, as moderation is automated, it should be used alongside active supervision.

CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS



If a child in your care uploads content, consider setting videos to Private or Unlisted so they are only shared with trusted viewers. Disabling comments can also help reduce unwanted interaction from strangers.

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS



Google Family Link allows adults to filter content, monitor usage, and manage younger users' screen time. Supervised Accounts offer a gradual step up from YouTube Kids, enabling children to explore the platform with appropriate safeguards.

WATCH TOGETHER



Spending time watching YouTube with the children and young people in your care can help you understand what they enjoy and guide your conversations about content. Tools like Downtime in Family Link can also help limit unsupervised viewing.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for publications including Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.



The National College

See full reference list on our website

@wake_up_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

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