



St Catherine's School & College

*Specialists in Speech, Language and
Communication Needs*

St Catherine's
Grove Road
Ventnor
Isle of Wight
PO38 1TT

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Email: general@stcatherines.org.uk

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Issue 165

22nd May 2026

Principal's Welcome

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we move further into the Summer Term, it has been wonderful to see our students continuing to engage so positively in their learning, both in the classroom and through the many enriching activities taking place across the school and college. From sailing sessions and educational visits to creative projects and exam preparation, students continue to demonstrate resilience, enthusiasm and determination in all that they do.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all those parents/carers who completed our communication questionnaire. We had a great response and your feedback will help us improve our communications. Next half-term we will be sending out our annual questionnaire for your feedback on education, therapy and residential care. Your feedback would be greatly appreciated and will help improve the way we support your child.

As always, thank you for your continued support. Working together with families is an important part of ensuring the very best outcomes for our students and we greatly value your partnership.

I hope you enjoy reading this term's newsletter and seeing the many achievements and experiences our students have been involved in.

With best wishes

Sarah Thompson
Principal

2025-2026 TERM DATES

EASTER HOLIDAY	
Start of Summer term	Boarders: Monday 13 th April 2026 Day Students: Monday 13 th April 2026
Quarter term weekend including Bank Holiday	Friday 1 st May – Monday 4 th May 2026
Return after quarter term weekend	Tuesday morning 5 th May 2026
Break up for half term holiday	Friday 22 nd May 2026
SPRING BANK HOLIDAY HALF-TERM	
Return after half term holiday	Boarders: Sunday 31 st May 2026 Day Students: Monday 1 st June 2026
Quarter term weekend	Friday 26 th June 2026
Return after quarter term weekend	Boarders: Sunday evening 28 th June 2026 Day Students: Monday 29 th June 2026
End of Summer term for students	Friday 24 th July 2026
Staff Development Day	<i>Monday 27th July 2026</i>
SUMMER HOLIDAY	

2026-2027 TERM DATES

ST CATHERINE'S SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

TERM DATES 2026 – 2027

Bank Holiday	Monday 31 st August 2026
<i>Staff Development Day</i>	<i>Tuesday 1st September</i>
Start of Autumn term for students	Wednesday 2 nd September 2026
Quarter term weekend	Friday 25 th September 2026
Return after quarter term weekend	Boarders: Sunday evening 27 th September 2026 Day Students: Monday 28 th September 2026
Break up for half term holiday	Friday 16 th October 2026
OCTOBER HALF-TERM	
Return after half term holiday	Boarders: Sunday evening 1 st November 2026 Monday 2 nd November 2026
Quarter term weekend	Friday 27 th November 2026
Return after quarter term weekend	Boarders: Sunday evening 29 th November 2026 Day Students: Monday 30 th November 2026
End of Autumn term for students	Friday 18 th December 2026
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY	
<i>Staff Development Day</i>	<i>Monday 4th January 2027</i>
Start of Spring term for students	Tuesday 5 th January 2027
Quarter term weekend	Friday 22 nd January 2027
Return after quarter term weekend	Boarders: Sunday evening 24 th January 2027 Day Students: Monday 25 th January 2027
Students break up for half term holiday	Friday 12 th February 2027
FEBRUARY HALF-TERM	
Return after half term holiday	Boarders: Sunday evening 21 st February 2027 Monday 22 nd February 2027
Quarter term weekend	Friday 12 th March 2027
Return after quarter term weekend	Boarders: Sunday evening 14 th March 2027 Day Students: Monday 15 th March 2027
End of Spring term	Thursday 25 th March 2027
EASTER HOLIDAY	
Start of Summer term	Monday 12 th April 2027
Quarter term weekend including Bank Holiday	Friday 30 th April 2027
Return after quarter term weekend	Tuesday 4 th May 2027
Break up for half term holiday	Friday 28 th May 2027
SPRING BANK HOLIDAY HALF-TERM	
Return after half term holiday	Boarders: Sunday evening 6 th June 2027 Monday 7 th June 2027
Quarter term weekend	Friday 25 th June 2027 (Summer Fair)
Return after quarter term weekend	Boarders: Sunday evening 27 th June 2027 Day Students: Monday 28 th June 2027
End of Summer term for students	Friday 23 rd July 2027
<i>Staff Development Days</i>	<i>Monday 26th - Wednesday 28th July 2027</i>
SUMMER HOLIDAY	

Please note the above are based on the Isle of Wight Council Maintained Schools Holiday dates.

ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS

100% ATTENDANCE

Congratulations to the following students for 100% attendance this half term.

Tristan
Mia
Megan
Jamie
Tanner
Elliott
Byron
Finley
Raphael
Fletcher
Harri
Sonnie
Nicholas
Charles

Riley
Ted
Tim
Jim
Imogen
Jasmine
Luis
Kaelan
Ashton
Francesco
Bentley
Toby
William
Kristen

Holden
Summer
Max
Evie
William
Darcy
Toby
Alex
Jacob
Aaron
Bella
Maddie
James
Max

AMAZING ATTENDANCE

Congratulations to the following students for amazing attendance this half term.

Gwehona
Jaden
Lilly
Junior
Kayan
Henley
Lydia
Toby
Isabella
Maisey

ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS

BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING

The Behaviour for Learning award has been presented to:

Raph
Byron
Oliver class

Imogen
Shaun

Roaa
Junior
Goldberg class

BEHAVIOUR FOR CHARACTER

The Behaviour for Character award has been presented to:

Apryl

Max

Cosmo

READING AWARD

Kristen

PRINCIPAL'S PRAISE

Lucy

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

18th - 22nd June St Catherine's at the Isle of Wight Festival
Friday 26th June - Summer Fair
Monday 10th August - Fundraising Wing Walk Challenge
Friday 4th September - Fundraising Wing Walk Challenge

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are making a number of changes to our Annual Review process, reviews for students in Years 5, 10 and for those students leaving in Years 12 and 13 will take place in Summer Term. These were previously in the Autumn Term of Years 6, 11, 13. This is to allow for enough time to consult with settings prior to the statutory deadlines. This change will come into effect after this half-term and will mean that, for some students they will have two Annual Reviews this academic year.

From the 1st June onwards, year 11 students will no longer be required to wear their school uniforms. Please ensure that students dress appropriately.

ST CATHERINE'S ROUND UP

This term we are saying goodbye to our Family Liaison Officer, Lucy Reed. Many of you who know Lucy will be as sorry as we are to see her leave but we wish her all the best for her exciting new role in the local authority.

Kirsty Anderson will join us as our new Family Liaison Officer. Kirsty has a wealth of experience in supporting families and we are sure she will be quick to establish working relationships with our families and students.

Amy Welsh has joined us as a Higher Level Communication Support Worker, Amy is a highly qualified CSW and we look forward to seeing how our CSW team develop over the coming months and the benefits it will bring to our students.

2026 EXAM TIMETABLE

Students will sit exams depending on their options. If you are unsure which exams your child will be sitting, please contact their class tutor.

AQA GCSE Mathematics Paper 2: Written Calculator	Wed 3 rd June 2026	AM	1h 30m	One Year 11 student only
IGCSE Mathematics Paper 2	Wed 3 rd June 2026	AM	2h 00m	6AMD
GCSE English Language Paper 2: Writers' viewpoints and perspectives	Fri 5 th June 2026	AM	1h 45m	Some Yr 11 Watson students
GCSE Music: Listening and Appraising	Fri 5 th June 2026	PM	1h30m	6AMD Music students only
8300 1F AQA GCSE Mathematics Paper 3: Written Calculator	Wed 10 th June 2026	AM	1h 30m	One Year 11 student only
Contingency Day	Wed 24 th June 2026	AM PM	All day	Various and pending based on any interruption to the series.

N.B. In addition to the above timetabled exams, Functional Skills English and Mathematics examinations can be booked throughout the examination period with only two weeks' notice.

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.

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION REMINDER!

This half term holiday is the perfect time to get out and about to take photographs, for the Nature photography competition. We can not wait to see your entries, closing date Monday 8th June.
Send to troys@stcatherines.org.uk

CULTURAL DIVERSITY

As part of our Cultural Diversity activities in college, we are having a Scottish Curling tournament. Everyone is really enjoying it and we have several very skilled competitors.

CLASS ROUND UP

BLOOM CLASS

Imogen:

This term we did lots of English work, we finished 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. In Science, we learnt all about plants and the different parts. In PE, we have been playing tennis and learning rules. The last two Mondays we have been sailing at Seaview everyone has really enjoyed this.

RADCLIFFE CLASS

Kristen:

'We've been planting soil and planting beans that grow. We went to the Botanical Gardens, I like the flowers'. We went to the 'Opticians, try glasses on'. I liked 'the glasses'. In Art, 'We've been making flowers with card'. In Maths, 'been pouring water, measuring'. In PE, 'football, tackling'. In sailing, 'I went in the water, it was freezing'.

HOPKINS CLASS

Mia:

I have really enjoyed sailing. I felt a bit nervous the first week. The rib boat was really fun! In Art, we made flowers using tissue paper. We also made clay tiles and used flowers and leaves to make an imprint in the clay. 'The Tiny Seed' was our book in English. We had to write our own instructions on how to plant a seed. In Maths, I have learnt how to divide and multiply. In PE, we are playing football. It is not my favourite, but I had a go!

PACKHAM CLASS

Bentley:

In English, we have been learning about food and where it comes from. We have looked at the process of how the food comes from where it is grown and how it gets to our plate. In Maths, we have been learning about money and we took a trip to the shop to spend some money by buying some things. In Science, we have been learning about the states of matter - solids, liquids and gasses and how we can see water in all 3 states. We learnt that many materials can be changed into the 3 states of matter by giving it heat energy or taking away heat energy. In Humanities, we have been learning some amazing things about the Ancient Egyptians like it took over 20 years to build a pyramid and its made of over 2 million blocks of stone.

OLIVER CLASS

This week we have been completing our Science work with matters of state. We have looked at separating solids with sieves and completing investigations into separating flour from rice, also separating pouring solids from liquids with filter paper. In PSHE, we have been completing our work on cyberbullying and staying safe online. We are looking forward to being tour guides for our Ancient Egyptian work and presenting them to other classes.



AUSTEN CLASS

Maisey:

In Forest School, we made pizza wraps, these were very nice. In Maths, I beat the teacher at a game - I got 41 and Miss Fox only got 28. In English, we have been writing a letter. In PE, we have been playing tennis and football. I have enjoyed playing tennis. In OT, we have been going into town and looking round Ventnor.

GOLDBERG CLASS

Eli:

I have really enjoyed Forest School this term. We made hot dogs, ate marshmallows and drank orange juice. I also got to try candy kittens. I played chess and also got to try chequers for the first time. In Science, I have enjoyed building the robot and finally getting to play with it. In PE, we did football and Tennis.

BURTON CLASS

Olivia:

In English, I have enjoyed the story of 'George's Marvellous Medicine' and I am looking forward to finding out what will happen to Grandma. In Science, I have enjoyed our topic 'States of Matter' because it has involved lots of experiments. It has been lots of fun doing these. In Humanities, we have been learning about the Egyptians. I have enjoyed finding out about the way that they lived and looking at the similarities and differences to our lives. I have enjoyed our Music lessons and listening to Chinese music. In OT, we have been gardening. I designed the name tags for the plants and created some bird boxes for swifts. I have also been going on visits to Bodster Horse Centre. I have had a brilliant time and the best part has been leading Tippy the horse.

NEWTON CLASS

Kayan:

On RE day we learnt about parenthood and The Holy Trinity, which was quite interesting. PE has been tennis and football. In Science, we looked at red onions under the microscope, and then labelled parts of a plant cell. We then swabbed our cheeks to look at human cells! I found it interesting but a bit sickening. We have renamed our robot ChuckBot... it can now drive, throw balls and even pick up balls! Humanities has been all about societies in the past. In English, we had fun making wanted posters for the Highwayman.

BRANSON CLASS

Sean:

This term I have really enjoyed music, especially the group pieces where we learnt about and played the Chinese instruments. The sheng, the gong and the pipa which is a type of Chinese guitar. I've enjoyed Science. We looked at onion skins under the microscope and we found that it was made up of tiny layers and segments. DT was fun because we started to design pillow cases. I'm designing one for my brother with his band logo on it, "Jaded" I think he will like it. I have enjoyed PE. I have learned about ball control and underarm serving. I am much better at tennis now. I also enjoyed playing mini tennis matches and football matches too.

WATSON CLASS

William:

This term I have been learning the stem and leaf method in Maths and we have been doing football in PE. In English, I have been practising exam papers and will take the exam this week. I am preparing for transition to the IOW College and went to visit the College last week. I went with the OT and we practised getting the bus, walking through town. I met a key person at the College and we looked around the different departments. I have enjoyed this term and spending time with my friends playing football.

6JG CLASS

Halle:

This term I have enjoyed cooking in Food and Nutrition GCSE. We have cooked omelette and scones. We have also been searching for different food from different countries. We have learnt how to look after plants and have germinated seeds to plant up. In Maths, we have been learning indices, some of these have been tricky.

6AMD CLASS

Fenner:

This term we started with the Spring Fair event and did Soak the Teacher to make money for the RNLI in Bembridge. This was really successful, and we raised over £42. Since then, we have been doing a lot for exams. We have revised very hard for English, Maths, Science and Music. So far we have done the English, some Maths and the Science exam, which I thought went well.

6ILP CLASS

Edward:

I have had a very busy half term. I have taken some very challenging exams in both Maths and English. I am completing the OCR course which has been a long journey. I have enjoyed some of the trips we have taken this term. I enjoyed travelling to Appuldurcombe house recently and seeing the massive building and surrounding grounds. I have also enjoyed some of the painting exercises, particularly the butterfly project.

RESIDENTIAL ROUND UP

ST CHRISTOPHER'S UPDATE

This term at Christopher's, the students have been fortunate to celebrate two birthdays. For the first birthday, they enjoyed a trip to Laser Quest Ryde followed by a special treat at McDonald's. For the second birthday, the group visited Westridge Golf Driving Range where they enjoyed practising their golf skills before returning to the house to share a birthday cake together.

Throughout the term, the students have also enjoyed visiting parks across the Island and taking part in life skills sessions. They have been learning about recycling and understanding the importance of using the correct bins for different types of waste. In addition, the students have been learning about online safety, understanding how important it is to keep personal information private and stay safe when using the internet.



ST MARGARET'S

Over the past term in St Margaret's the residents have started the annual 6th form walk. This year the walks have focused on circular routes rather than across the Island. So far we have walked 3 x 4 mile walks stopping for packed tea and admiring the Island's views.

We have also started the gardening club and have started a sunflower competition as well as digging the borders outside St Anne's residential house ready for plants. The students have also been polishing up on their life-skills completing recycling, clothing, online safety challenges as well as independence work in and around Ventnor.

Students that have stayed over for weekend breaks have also enjoyed a spot of fishing/ crab fishing at Yarmouth and trips to the cinema to watch the Michael Jackson movie which was enjoyed by all!

We have also attended peers' birthday celebrations at LA Bowls laser quest!!



SALT BY FLETCHER & KAYAN

In Newton's group speech sessions, we have been solving a mystery in a hotel. The first thing we did was to create a character each. We thought about who fits into a hotel climate, what age they are, what their motive could be, how they behave and what their communication style might be. To do this we used our imagination. Then, the speech therapist made AI portraits of our characters and showed us the crime scene. In the picture there were lots of clues. We had to work out who the items in the picture might belong to, by making connections with our characters. Then, we had to make a prediction about whodunnit! Every week we got more evidence and made more predictions, until eventually we worked out who had done the crime and why. There was a lot of problem solving to do. We also had to use our memory, which was tricky. The things we found most enjoyable about the sessions were talking about the characters, the storytelling, and all the drama. We really liked accusing each other and being accused – that part was funny.

BREAKFAST CLUB

In Breakfast Club we have been trying new ideas. We have a yoghurt station and we had a Jewish breakfast on Tuesday. Oats and pancakes are always popular and toast and cereal are always available. There is a variation of fruit always available and the students come in and talk about their days ahead.

Breakfast Club is open to any school aged student who may have difficulty having breakfast before coming to school. If your child is interested in attending please talk to their class tutor. Please note this free opportunity is only open to school aged students.



AROUND THE WORLD CLUB

In Around the World Club when we went to Thailand we learnt the capital was Bangkok and that they like spicy food which most of us tried. The sweet chilli crisps were a huge hit. We played Jacks and a cloth game similar to a traditional duck duck goose game.



ST CATHERINE'S CHARITY SHOP

Another busy few weeks at the charity shop!

Laura and the work experience students, have been further developing their monetary skills, and also had a recent visit from Curtis, the schools doggie mascot, who got his paws dirty hanging clothes, sorting hangers and counting money!

I was very lucky to secure a large regular donation of clothing for the shop, which will be amazing to continue raising funds for the students!

I have also been celebrating "World Bee Day" on 20 May as part of my continued commitment to sustainability through the shop; take a look at the window!

I hope everyone has a restful half term break, and if you are having a declutter, i always need good quality, saleable, items for the shop!

Thank you for the continued support xx
Amanda, Charity Shop Manager



FUNDRAISING

Join us at the School Hawaiian Summer Fair on Friday 26th June for an afternoon of fun, community spirit, and fundraising activities.

Before then, we'll also be at the Isle of Wight Festival from 18th–21st June with our popular Tuck Shop and Face Painting Stall — come along and say hello if you're attending!

We are also excited to announce that there are still spaces available for our thrilling Wing Walk Event on 10th August. If you're looking for an unforgettable challenge while supporting a great cause, we'd love to hear from you.

Become a friend of St Catherine's by signing up to give a monthly/quarterly or yearly donation.

If you would like to organise or host your own fundraising event to support St Catherine's, please contact Tanya at: smitht@stcatherines.org.uk

August 10th – Wing Walk

Ready for a sky-high challenge with heart? On 10th August, you can take part an unforgettable wing walk to support St Catherine's.

Strap yourself to the wing of a vintage biplane and soar above the Isle of Wight — facing fears, ticking off a bucket-list moment, and raising funds that help St Catherine's continue its life-changing work.

Whether you're an adventure lover or looking for a meaningful way to make a difference, this wing walk is a once-in-a-lifetime experience with impact! Please use the link below to register any interest in the event.

<https://forms.gle/umjyjD3KjCX2ba3fA>

St Catherine's

A registered Charity no. 288148

Recognised by the Department for Education (DfE)

Grove Road, Ventnor, Isle of Wight, PO38 1TT

T: 01983 852722 E: general@stcatherines.org.uk

www.stcatherines.org.uk



**WINGWALK FOR
ST CATHERINE'S**

Fundraising Enquiries

For further information about our fundraising activities, contact our Fundraising Team on: 01983 852722 or email: smitht@stcatherines.org.uk

EASTER HALF TERM-WHAT TO DO

The following pages are provided for information -
St Catherine's does not endorse any of these activities

TICKET TO RYDE

LATE MAY BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND
23-24 MAY EASTERN GARDENS, RYDE HARBOUR

THE ISLAND'S
BEST BANDS
& PERFORMERS

**FREE
ADMISSION**

STALLS

FRESHLY COOKED
LOCAL FOOD
REAL ALE BAR
ALL ISLAND TRADERS
KIDS TREATS
FAMILY FUN

SAT 23 MAY

EMELLIA
PISTOL KNIGHTS
THE AMY JOLIFFE
BAND
TABOO
IT'S NOT A PHASE
MOM!

SUN 24 MAY

STEVE LOVE'S
ISLAND SONGS
DOUBLE TAKE
WIGHT HOT PIPES
SIDE HUSTLE
GREG & THE BEARS



BANK HOLIDAY
MONDAY
25TH MAY 2026
**BEMBRIDGE
STREET FAIR**
SHOP • EAT • PLAY • ENJOY
OVER 100 STALLS
FREE PARK & RIDE
LIVE MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT
FOOD & DRINK FOR EVERYONE
SEE YOU THERE!

Scallywags Holiday Club

open for lots of fun & games at

Held at our wonderful home at

Dakfield CE Primary School, Appley Road, Ryde, PO33 1NE



MAY HALF TERM WEEK 2026

OPEN TUESDAY 26TH - FRIDAY 29TH MAY

TIMES 8am-6pm / Places are limited
Children aged 3-18 years welcome / Ofsted registered

Please text / ring Sarah Wherry on 07977709088



SANDOWN SOCCER
AT THE BAY CE SECONDARY
**4 DAYS OF
NON-STOP
FOOTBALL**
5 HOURS OF FUN EVERY DAY!
10AM - 3PM
INCLUSIVE FOOTBALL FOR ALL ABILITIES!
26TH - 29TH MAY 10AM - 3PM FOR CHILDREN AGED 4-12
JUST £15 PER DAY OR £54 FOR ALL 4 DAYS!
★ SIBLING DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE!
WHAT YOUR CHILD WILL GET:
EXPERT COACHING: FA qualified coaches with enhanced DBS and first aid training.
BUILD SKILLS & CONFIDENCE: Fun games to improve agility, balance & coordination.
DAILY PRIZES: Win medals as Penalty, Keepy-uppy, Crossbar or Speed Champion!
PLAYER OF THE DAY: Trophies and t-shirts up for grabs every day!
WORLD CUP FINALE!: Take part in the Sandown Soccer World Cup - one team will be crowned WORLD CHAMPIONS!
BOOK NOW - LIMITED SPACES!
Text your child's name, school year & dates to:
07594 389531
Only limited spaces available!
SCAN TO BOOK IN SECONDS
Instant booking on your phone
FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK ★★★★★ TRUSTED BY LOCAL PARENTS ACROSS THE ISLE OF WIGHT Sandown Soccer - Isle of Wight


Newport & Carisbrooke
 Community Council

SUMMER FAYRE

Victoria Recreation Ground
 Newport

Saturday 30th May
 10AM - 4PM

FREE ENTRY! + FREE PARKING
 Email info@newportwight.org.uk

Activities:
 • Fusion BMX Stunt Show
 • Medina Marching Band
 • Boogie Woogie Bluebirds
 • Stalls
 • NERF Arena & More!



UKSA
 Beyond the Horizon

Splash into school holiday fun!

SAIL, EXPLORE, HAVE FUN AND MAKE FRIENDS & MEMORIES THAT LAST A LIFETIME!

OPEN TO 8-15 YRS AND 15-17 YRS

WATERSPORTS
 SAILING, KAYAKING, WINDSURFING, KEELBOATING, PADDLE BOARDING & MORE!

NEW FRIENDS
 MAKE MEMORIES, BUILD CONFIDENCE & HAVE A BLAST!

EVENING FUN
 BEACH GAMES, SUNSET WALKS, CRABBING, GAMES AND MORE!

ON-SITE POOL **TEAM BUILDING** **DINGHY SAILING** **CRABBING**

FUNDING AVAILABLE **MONDAY TO FRIDAY** **RESIDENTIAL CAMPS**

5 Stay overnight or join us for the day! Bunk-style accommodation, delicious meals, full activities programme & evening socials

ISLANDER DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE
 LEISURE@UKSA.ORG • UKSA.ORG/TEEN-CAMPS
 SPACES FILL QUICKLY!
 BOOK NOW TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT
 LUNCH INCLUDED. 24/7 STAFF SUPERVISION

BOOK NOW!

BASED ON THE WATERFRONT IN COWES, ISLE OF WIGHT



Pizza & Play!

Make your own chocolate pizza slab with Isle of Chocolate

£15

Then a soft play in MAGIC ISLAND

9.30-11.30 • 1hr of chocolate • 1hr of play
 Booking via Isle of Chocolate only **26th May**



FAMILY FUN DAY

SANDOWN FAMILY EVENTS

SATURDAY MAY 30th 2PM - 4PM AT CAULKHEADS

Character Appearances from Elsa and Thor

Face painting

Sweet Cones

£3 per Child

Raising money for Sandown Family Events

Wristbands on sale at Caulkheads

ORIGEN STORIES



**Blackgang
Chine**

**WILD WEST
Week**

Returns
23rd - 30th May

www.blackgangchine.com

**ROBIN HILL
ADVENTURE PARK**

**APRIL AND MAY
OPENING TIMES**

FROM 15TH APRIL - FRIDAY 22ND MAY 2026

Robin Hill Adventure Park Opening
Wednesday - Sunday (Closed Mondays & Tuesdays)
10:00 AM - 4:30 PM (except May Bank Holiday weekend
10:00 AM - 5:00pm)

Wednesday - Friday: Manned attractions open on a session basis only

Diggers and Croc Creek: 10:00 AM - 12:15 PM
Falconry Display: 1:30PM
Toboggan: 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Saturday & Sunday: Manned attractions open all day

The Adrenaline Zone Opening
Saturday 10 - 4:30 PM
Sunday 10 - 4:30 PM (except May Bank Holiday weekend
10:00 AM - 5:00pm)

FROM 22ND MAY - 31ST MAY (MAY HALF TERM)
Robin Hill Adventure Park & The Adrenaline Zone will be open 7 days a week! 10:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Please note that the falconry displays and toboggan are weather dependent.

**FUNDRAISING
QUIZ!**

BRIGHSTONE SOCIAL CLUB

**SATURDAY
30TH MAY**

7PM
(DOORS OPEN AT 6.30PM)

IN AID OF
BRIGHSTONE LIBRARY

ORGANISED BY
BRIGHSTONE CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

TEAMS OF **4**
MAXIMUM

**£2.50
EACH**

RAFFLE
THERE WILL
BE A RAFFLE

**BOOKING
ESSENTIAL**
PHONE DIANE
07581 230341

Brought to you by the Chillerton & Gatcombe Community Association and Parish Residents.

Approximately
100 Scarecrows

**CHILLERTON AND GATCOMBE
SCARECROW FESTIVAL 2026**
Website: gallybagger.org.uk

Scarecrow Festival 2026
Saturday 23rd May to Sunday 31st May Inc.
Launched at 11am on Saturday 23rd May by The IW High Sheriff
& The Men of Wight Morris Dancers.

A Scarecrow location map will be available from
The Gallybagger Inn & the Village Hall.
There will be a people's & judge's favourite vote for
the best Scarecrow, Lots to choose from!

Live music from 12-4pm
Sat 23rd, Sun 24th,
& Sat 30th May
With a live band both
Saturday evenings
7-9pm.

**Aunt Sally's Tea-Room
(Village Hall)**
Will be open daily from
10.30am-4pm
Serving Teas, Coffees,
Cold drinks and
delicious homemade cake.



Road Safety Topic Meeting

ISLE OF WIGHT
Learning Disability Partnership Group

A fun session for the LD community. Everyone is welcome!

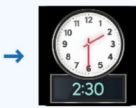
WHEN AND WHERE



This is a road safety meeting



Tuesday 26 May 2026



1:00 in the afternoon
The meeting will finish at 2:30



Riverside Centre, Newport
This is an accessible building

WHAT WILL HAPPEN?



We will watch a road safety video



We will do a fun road safety quiz



We will talk about what matters to you



People with a learning disability will lead this session

WHO IS THIS FOR?



People with a learning disability



Families, carers and supporters are welcome too

WANT TO COME? CONTACT US



Call us
07967 326787



Email us:
involvingpeopleiow@helpandcare.org.uk

HALF-TERM COLOURING



NATIONAL ONLINE SAFETY

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MINECRAFT

As the best-selling game in history, Minecraft has made a name for itself by empowering audiences of all ages to harness their creativity. Originally an indie hit, it's become a cultural phenomenon with merchandise, spin-off titles, and wider media adaptations. Even if you don't know your Creepers from your Endermen, this guide will explore the risks of Minecraft in 2026 and explain how to support a safe gaming experience for the children in your care.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

PUBLIC SERVER COMMUNICATION

Many players enjoy Minecraft with others, including friends and unknown players online. In-game text chat is commonly used to coordinate building projects and gameplay, and this can extend to adding friends to voice chat. While often harmless, this creates risks around contact with strangers, and in some cases server hosts may expose IP addresses (if hosting independently), which raises privacy and security concerns.

GRIEFING BEHAVIOUR

Some players deliberately damage or destroy other players' creations. This behaviour, known as 'griefing', is a form of bullying that can undo hours of effort and cause frustration or distress to affected players. Although many servers treat griefing as a serious offence, enforcement varies. Children who prefer to build independently may feel safer working on private worlds or controlled servers.

ADDICTIVE GAMEPLAY LOOPS

Minecraft's creative focus can make it easy for players to lose track of time. The cycle of gathering resources and building projects can be highly engaging, which may challenge agreed screen-time limits. If not managed effectively, this can impact children's sleep, schoolwork, and real-world social interaction.

SCARY GAME ELEMENTS

Although often compared to digital construction toys, some gameplay modes include hostile creatures with unsettling sounds and sudden encounters. While there is no graphic violence, younger players may still find zombies, spiders, or dark environments frightening. These experiences can lead to anxiety or reluctance to play, depending on the child's age and sensitivity.

IN-GAME SPENDING

Minecraft requires a one-off purchase after a free trial, usually around £15, but additional spending is possible. Players can buy cosmetic content or subscribe to Minecraft 'Realms' for private servers. Without supervision, children may make unintended purchases. Subscription services and add-ons can also increase overall costs over time if not monitored.

ONLINE INTERACTIONS

Playing with others can introduce broader online safety concerns, including exposure to inappropriate language or behaviour. Some players may attempt to move conversations beyond the game, which can increase risks to children's safety and welfare. Children may not always recognise these situations, meaning guidance and ongoing conversations about safe interactions are essential.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CHOOSE SUITABLE GAME MODES

Creative or Peaceful modes remove hostile creatures and reduce the pressure during gameplay. These options allow children to focus on building and exploration without fear of attack. They are also ideal for shared play between adults and children, creating a calmer environment to learn the game and enjoy collaborative projects.

USE PRIVATE SERVERS

Setting up a private server helps control who can join a child's game. Access can be limited to trusted friends through passwords or invitations. This reduces the likelihood of unwanted interactions and gives adults greater oversight. While some options involve a subscription fee, they offer a safer and more controlled multiplayer experience.

DISCUSS ONLINE STRANGERS

Children should understand that not everyone they meet online is who they claim to be. Clear guidance about not sharing personal information is essential. Encourage children to report any worrying or uncomfortable interactions and reassure them that they can seek help without fear of punishment. Open, ongoing conversations help build their confidence and awareness of these issues.

SET SPENDING BOUNDARIES

Agree on clear rules around purchases before letting children play, and use device settings or platform controls to restrict spending within agreed limits. Explaining that in-game currency uses real-world money can help children make informed decisions. Regularly reviewing purchases together can also prevent unexpected costs and encourage responsible behaviour.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes spent 7 years in games media, before moving into the games industry via PR and marketing. A parent himself to a Minecraft-loving son, he understands why it's so important to stay safe online.



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