



# St Catherine's School & College

Specialists in Speech, Language and Communication Needs

St Catherine's  
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Isle of Wight  
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Summer Term Week 8

12th June 2026

## ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS



The Reader of the Week award has been presented to:

Charlie-Joe

The Principal's Praise award has been presented to:

Sonnie & Tanner

The Behaviour For Learning award has been presented to:

Cosmo	Holden	Seth
Cameron	Charlotte	Aaron
Gracie	Nicholas	Tristan
Watson-class		Eli
		Rooa



The Behaviour For Character award has been presented to:

Cosmo	Radcliffe-class	Kristen
Max N	Jaden	Bentley
Lukas	Cameron	Henley
Francesco	Raph	Eric
Finley	William B	Elliott W

Well done to all students who received awards this week!

### LOGO

Our logo is wearing a rainbow for June as we celebrate Pride Month and reinforce our commitment to diversity and inclusion.



## ATTENDANCE

6AMD - 100%

6ILP - 83.33%

6JG - 93.06%

Austen - 71.11%

Bloom - 91.11%

Branson - 93.33%

Burton - 100%

Goldberg - 100%

Hopkins - 90.48%

Newton - 100%

Oliver - 96.3%

Packham - 77.48%

Radcliffe - 98.15%

Watson - 96.83%

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

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### June

16th Mufti Day for the Air Ambulance

26th Summer Fair

### July

22nd Virtual End of Term Consultations

24th Coffee Morning, End of Year 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.

### June

16th - Seaglass

23rd - Field Games

30th - Mini Golf

### July

7th - Homemade Lemonade

14th - Ventnor Walk

21st - Summer Activity

All activities are weather dependent. If the weather is not suitable for an outside activity, an indoor alternative will be arranged. Sessions have to be booked in advance and parents/carers are able to book block sessions. If you have any queries or would like to book, please contact The Grove Team on: [the-grove@stcatherines.org.uk](mailto:the-grove@stcatherines.org.uk)  
Transport must be arranged by parents. £2 per week.



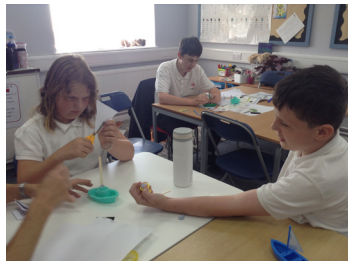
## BLOOM CLASS

In PSHE this week, we explored online safety and resilience. The children sorted statements into those that would belong in a safe online world and those that would belong in an unsafe online world, helping us to understand how to stay safe when using technology. In Maths, we began a new topic on money. We recognised different coins and explored the value of various denominations, developing our understanding of money and its uses. In English, we continued our work on *The Tiny Seed*. We focused on writing setting descriptions and then used information from the story to describe the different seasons, using a range of descriptive vocabulary. In Art, we continued our Oceans project! This week, we experimented with a variety of tools and techniques to create different artistic effects and enhance our ocean-inspired artwork.



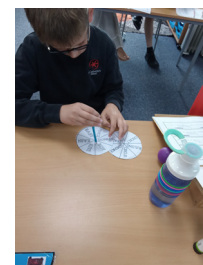
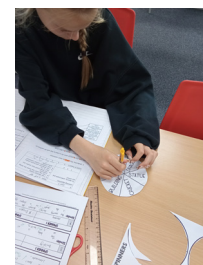
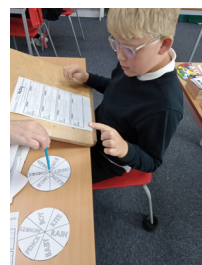
## RADCLIFFE CLASS

During PSHE this week, Radcliffe went back over Internet Safety. We explored more about 'pop up' tags coming onto our screen. We all know that if we are unsure about anything, we must tell a 'trusted adult'. We continued working on our class story, *The Rainbow Fish*. We are really enjoying the story and have discussed the theme of the book, 'kindness'. In Music, we continued with 'Songs of the Sea' and tried 'Drunken Sailor' on keyboards and as a group. We also looked at a harmonium instrument. We are continuing to work on 'money' during maths. We know that the value of a 2p is '2'. We are finding the correct value of coins to buy things from our pretend shop.



## HOPKINS CLASS

Last Thursday we had a visit from Ian Vallance from the Maritime Archaeology Trust. We had such a fabulous time, playing group guessing games and then having a competition to build the sturdiest and fastest boat to travel along a tube of water. All of lower school got to do this and it was great fun. This week's assembly was about World Ocean Day and we looked at the theme for this year about protecting our seas. We thought about ways in which we can reduce plastic waste, such as having a water bottle that we can wash and refill, rather than using a plastic throw away bottle. We had a great Forest School session this week working on formal shelter constructions using some of the knots we practised last week. In English, we have been looking at Similes and amazed Miss Cook with our wonderful imaginations. For Maths, we have been doing statistics and this week we collected data from each other about our favourite things and then made bar charts.



## PACKHAM CLASS

During OT, we walked into town and had £3 to buy some protein that we had not tried like a meat feast pizza or wedges with hummus and scampi. We enjoyed cooking and shopping. Bentley made an amazing chicken tikka masala. In Maths, we have been doing more work with subtracting fractions and also learning how to play Knock-Out Whist. In Forest School, we are continuing to work on our log people, they are coming along really well. We also practised lots of new knots for our Wild Passport. In Science, we did a plant dissection where we were able to look at the different parts of a flowering plant and draw them. We are learning what each part does. In Humanities, we are learning about water and where it comes from. We watched a video of how our sewage is treated before the waste water goes back into the sea.



## OLIVER CLASS

We made some chicken tacos in OT and it was interesting how everyone's input changed the ingredients. They all managed the chopping and Caiden's tasted delightful. In Science, we tried to make a dam like the beavers and realised it was harder than we thought and discussed how clever the beavers were. In Maths, we walked to the field to measure 50 metres and then we are going to walk 1 kilometre which is 20 lengths. This week we started to work through some useful knots to help our shelter building skills. In PE, we are playing rounders in various forms like diamond rounders and football rounders. Jamie hit a remarkable ball and was very proud of himself.

## AUSTEN CLASS

In SALT, we carried on with 'Dungeons and Dragons' and Eric's imagination was great. In Maths, we are looking at cm into metres and grams into kilograms and measuring the school field to see how far a kilometre was. In Science, we are growing seeds and watching how they germinate. In Music, we are learning to play 'Happy Birthday' and also as a group playing 'Chopsticks' after watching a clip of the movie 'Big' where Tom Hanks plays it in a toy shop. During PE, we began to practise our batting skills, we also played diamond rounders where we moved around batting and running. In Art, we are carrying on with our clay and DT we are making a maze out of wood.

## GOLDBERG CLASS

In assembly this week we talked about World Ocean Day and how we can protect our seas. During Maths, we have been looking at measuring and how to convert measurements. We even went to the field so Mr Macfarlane could show us practically how far metres were. In English, we are looking at the lizard poem and looking at how to reword certain explanations. In PE, we are playing rounders and using various tactics to show how the game can be played in variations. On Thursday we went on a trip to compete with our robot that we had made with Newton Class. This was a very fun day.

## **BURTON CLASS**

In English, we have continued with our work on George's Marvellous Medicine. We have been learning about adverbs of time (which tell us when things happened) and writing in the first person (I). In Science, we have continued to learn about plants. We have planted bean seeds so that we can observe the order in which different parts of the plants grow. We have also been learning about the things that plants need to grow. We have set up experiments taking one thing away from the plant (water, air, sunlight, soil) to see if they will still grow. In Humanities, we have continued to learn about different parts of a river and have labelled a diagram of this. In Music, we completed evaluations of an earlier recording we did. We also continued with the Chinese composition task.

## **NEWTON CLASS**

In Music, we listened to a traditional Chinese piece, did more work on our Chinese compositions and played a Chinese group piece together. On Thursday we went on a trip to compete with our robot that we had made with Goldberg Class. This was a very fun and active day.

## **BRANSON CLASS**

In Music, we helped to set up a drumkit in the classroom, revised pentatonic scales and played China Jumps as a group using percussion. In Maths, we have been looking at the probability of how many times we roll a specific number on a dice. In Science, we are conducting a Bee survey and learning about the male and female parts of a flower. In PE, we are playing rounders and learning how to throw a javelin. In English, we are writing a non-chronological report on the Yellow Spotted Lizard. In the Communication Group, we are looking at interview techniques and how to answer questions. In Humanities, we are continuing with our WJEC course work. In Art, we have been researching different printing techniques and also researching artists who used printing techniques.

## **WATSON CLASS**

In Maths, we have been learning 'Probability,' we used a dice to find the probability of how many times we rolled a specific number. In Music, we listened to a traditional Chinese piece, did more work on our compositions and played a Chinese group piece together. It worked very well. In English, we are designing the backdrops for the stop motion for 'The Lord of the Flies.' In Science, we have taken part in a Bee survey. Finally in PE we have been playing table tennis.

## **6JG CLASS**

We had the opportunity to update our Vocational Profiles in PSHE this week. In Photography, we are continuing with our Album Artwork exploration, design and development. In English, we have started to read our new book called 'Cogheart'. We have made predictions as to what may happen. In Vocational, we have continued to explore Being Organised. In the Communication Group, we have been beginning to plan what we would like in our short film as a part of our collaboration with the IOWCEP's Listen Up project. In Science, we have been looking at the different problems associated with pollution such as eutrophication and bioaccumulation. We have begun to create a display on 'Pollution Solutions'. It is about the 3R's - Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. In Music, we continued developing our instrument skills and played group pieces. 'Wicked Game' went very well this week as did '7 Nation Army'.

## **6AMD CLASS**

Our top story this week is that one of our students has won the College curling championship! This week also marked the start of our Leavers' Timetable. On Monday, we started planning for the College Picnic. This involved thinking of food choices, and collecting votes from our peers to decide how much of which foods to buy. We will host the picnic on Tuesday 30th June, using Monday 29th June to prepare. We continued working on the topic of self-advocacy in our speech and language therapy sessions. We recapped what this means, and discussed what we may need to advocate for in different settings, including with friends and in educational environments. We created a list of points to self-advocate for in our next provision. In Life Skills, i.e. our core occupational therapy provision, we are looking at preparing our own lunches for Mondays. This is crucial in preparing us for future provisions where we will not have lunches provided in the same way they currently are. In our Music sessions, we rehearsed songs to play at the Summer Fair.

## 6ILP CLASS

6ILP has been very busy over these rainy days. We began our week of looking at the map of Europe. We decided what the difference is between a city and a town. We researched why different countries have different cuisines and costumes. We were able to create some art work using plasticine making tiny, very creative characters and shapes. During Maths sessions, we considered how useful it might be to know the days, months and years with more clarity. We were able to demonstrate our skillset by adding and taking away. We also considered why we have a leap year every four years. A very productive week.



## 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.

## MUFTI DAY FOR THE AIR AMBULANCE

On Tuesday 16th June, we will be holding a mufti day to raise funds for the Air Ambulance. Alongside the fundraiser, volunteers from the Air Ambulance will be visiting our school to run interactive workshops for some of our students. In these sessions, students will learn how and when to call 999, and they will have the opportunity to practice role-playing emergency calls in a safe, supportive environment.

## Breakfast Club Menu

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
 Pancakes	 Scrambled Eggs	 Pancakes	 Scrambled Eggs	 Pancakes
 Toast	 Toast	 Toast	 Toast	 Toast
 Cereal	 Cereal	 Cereal	 Cereal	 Cereal
 Yogurt	 Yogurt	 Yogurt	 Yogurt	 Yogurt
 Fruit	 Fruit	 Fruit	 Fruit	 Fruit
 Boiled egg	 Boiled egg	 Boiled egg	 Boiled egg	 Boiled egg
 Porridge	 Porridge	 Porridge	 Porridge	 Porridge
 Milk	 Milk	 Milk	 Milk	 Milk
 Water	 Water	 Water	 Water	 Water

## 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>

## AROUND THE WORLD CLUB

We started a new group with passports and venturing to France. We tried warm baguettes with camembert and brie, pain au chocolate and home made macaroons. Thanks to Final's mum for her outstanding baking skills.



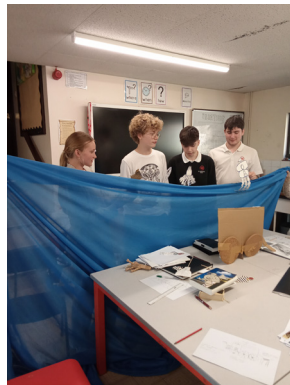
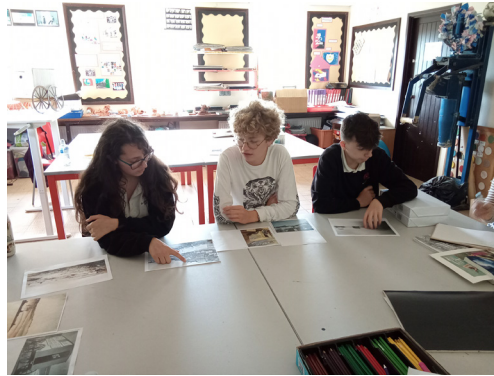
# THE DIPPERS

On Friday GCSE Art students were lucky to experience a workshop from visiting artists, Teresa Grimaldi' and Michele O'Brian. Students were able to have their input into a show that will be held at the Ventnor Fringe, then moving to other seaside towns. The Dippers were ladies who would help Victorian people get changed for swimming and then dip them into the sea.

Students got to try on Victorian swimsuits, corsets and underskirts. All the students really enjoyed dressing up. The artists showed us models of bathing machines. They also read out some old prescriptions from Victorian times. We learnt that a lot of salt water and seaweed used in healing illness.

The artists showed us their prototype of a horse's head for their show. One student (Kayan) became the horse and all the other students asked him questions as the horse. He did very well as the horse and all the students enjoyed this. Great questions and great answers (lots of giggles had). The students were set the challenge of designing the best bathing machine on paper and they had lots of ideas. A few of the students were given 2D puppets of sea creatures and they put on their own mini show. The students were fantastic and the audience loved it. It was very entertaining. The artists shared some songs they are planning to use in their show and told us the story they have started to work on.

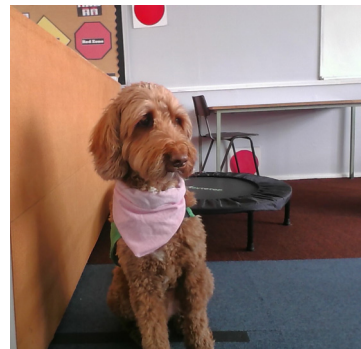
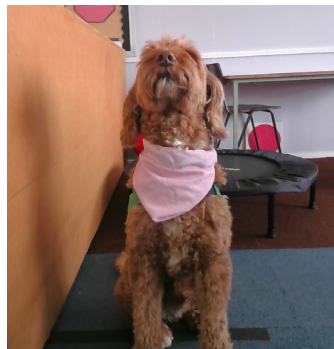
The students really enjoyed the afternoon and were enthusiastic, polite and enjoyed participating. The art club students really showed St Catherine's at their best.



## DOUGAL

Luis from Oliver class has been working on a project to make a dog bandana during his OT sessions. He started by researching different dog accessories, then went into Ventnor town to source and buy fabric. Luis then followed a YouTube tutorial to cut and sew his material to make into a dog bandana that slips over a dog collar. Luis completed his first one this week, and Dougal very kindly tested it out and modelled it. We think he looks very smart!

Dougal also spent some time in a transition group with some year 11 students whilst they chatted through what to expect when they go to college next year. He provided a welcome distraction when talking about any concerns about their new educational placement.



## COLLEGE SCOTTISH CURLING TOURNAMENT

As part of our activities for Cultural Diversity Day, we have been enjoying a Scottish curling tournament. We have been playing 3 games of 3 ends, each lunch time, and were left with 2 people to be in the final.

After a great final between Lydia and Ashton, Ashton took the trophy as the overall winner - well done!

We will be keeping the curling set at the College to have further games, and maybe the students will challenge the staff to a game.

## TUPPERWARE CONTAINERS

We are looking for clean, reusable Tupperware-style containers with lids. If you have any spare containers at home that you no longer need, we'd be very grateful for donations. These containers will be put to good use, and any size is appreciated as long as they are clean and in good condition. Thank you for your support! Please send donations in with your child or contact us if you have any questions.

## CRICKET FESTIVAL 2026

On Monday a group of students headed to Newclose cricket club for the Cricket Festival. The weather tried to dampen the day, but was not successful. Once the showers had cleared the students were able to get out onto the pitch to enjoy various cricket activities run by the Cricket Board and Carisbrooke College sports leaders. After lunch the students went back onto the cricket pitch and played cricket matches with other schools. The students did not let the weather ruin the day and had a fantastic time. They all did very well taking part in the games.



## FOREST SCHOOL



## CYBER/ONLINE SAFETY CREATIVE PSYCHOTHERAPY GROUP

During the summer term, all students will take part in a one-hour Creative Psychotherapy Online Safety session with their tutor group. These sessions are designed to help students develop confidence in navigating online challenges while promoting their wellbeing. Through a range of creative activities, students will explore strategies for staying safe online and managing the impact of the digital world on their emotional health. The sessions will be led by Rheanna Berryman (Movement Psychotherapist) and Sarah Kinsey (Art Psychotherapist).

If you would prefer your child/young person not to take part, please contact Sarah Kinsey by phone or email to opt out. Further information about our psychotherapy provision is available on the school website: <https://www.stcatherines.org.uk/speech-therapy-school/needs>

# NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Well done on all the lovely photography entries for the competition-they were great. We have 3 well deserved winners, our College student will receive a £5 Amazon voucher and the 2 school students will receive 1000 behaviour for learning points to spend in the school shop, or save them for a voucher at the end of term.



Animal Photography winner:  
Jaden with his beautiful red  
squirrel



Plants/ landscape winner  
William P with a photograph  
with great depth of field and  
unusual angle.

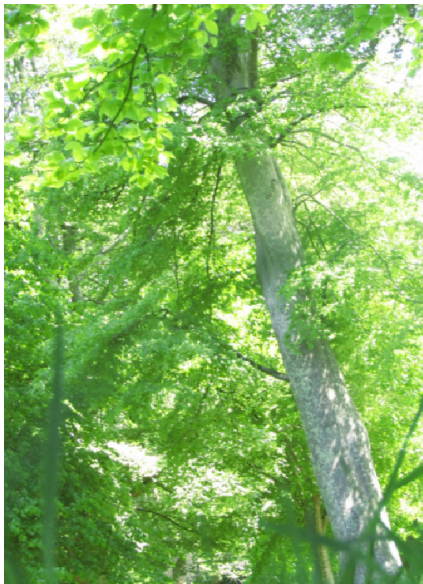


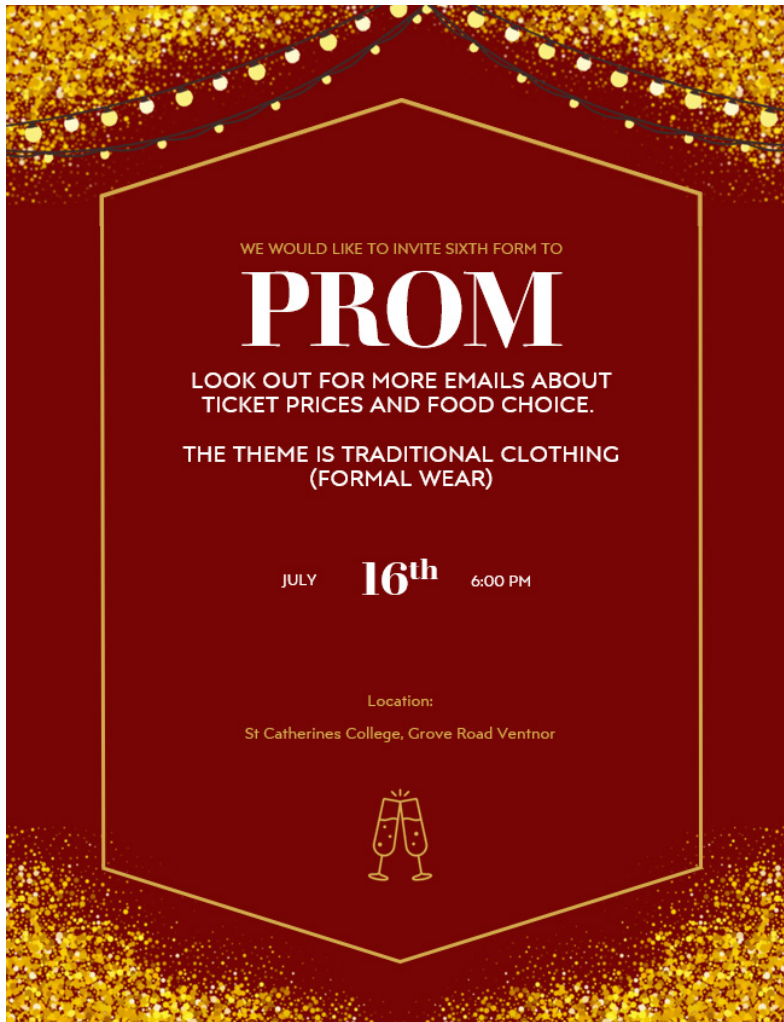
Close up plants and flowers  
winner : Charlie F's excellent,  
clear, close up of a plant.

We have also added some other notable entries from Nicholas, Jamie B, Jaden and Toby R on the following page.

Well done guys!

# NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION







# HARBOUR SAFETY DAY



A day of interactive maritime safety exhibits, demonstrations and family activities!

## Saturday 18th July 2026

Sugar Store at Shepards Marina  
10.00 - 16.00

**FUN FOR ALL AGES! FREE ENTRY!**

Meet local experts from island and Solent-based maritime safety organisations.

Explore the latest equipment, take part in hands-on activities and learn how to stay safe on the water.

Safety Equipment · Perfect for all ages  
Plus much more!




### Exhibitors

Cowes RNLI · NCI Coastwatch · Maritime Volunteer Service  
Flying Fish · Seasafe · Royal Life Saving Society  
St Johns Ambulance · Gosport Lifeboat · HM Coastguard  
HIOW Fire Service · Ryde Lifeguards · Alzheimer's Cafe

Do you like cakes?  
Do you like baking cakes?  
You could become the next Gordon Ramsey to help for the summer fair!!

Bring the cakes in on the morning of the summer fair which is the 26th of June.

If you are interested, let your teachers know and email Mrs Tilling. Please also be aware of Allergies (nuts, eggs, wheat)

**Abseil Down The Spinnaker Tower For St Catherine's School and College**  
**Abseil Dates available**  
**May - June - July - August**



**Fundraising Target £300**  
**Please email Tanya**  
**smitht@stcatherines.org.uk**  
**For more information**

**ALOHA**

**ST CATHERINE'S SCHOOL**

**SUMMER HAWAIIAN FAIR**

LIVE MUSIC - STALLS- RAFFLE- FREE ENTRY

**FRIDAY 26TH JUNE**

GATES OPEN AT 12:30PM  
FAIR CLOSSES AT 2:30PM

ST CATHERINE'S SCHOOL FIELD  
GROVE ROAD  
VENTNOR

ABILITY DOGS ONLY





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

0800 0851444

[supportenquiries@freedomcare.co.uk](mailto:supportenquiries@freedomcare.co.uk)



TRAINING  
SEA VIEW YACHT CLUB

## SATURDAY CLUB SAILING

FOR YEAR 6 STUDENTS

For young sailors with previous experience who want to take their sailing skills to the next level!

These sessions follow the same format as the Schools Sailing Programme. The aim is to further participants' sailing knowledge and skills.



### FOR YEAR 6 STUDENTS ONLY

Due to the high demand, sessions are only open to Year 6 pupils.



### PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE NEEDED

For children who have already completed, or taken part in, an RYA Stage 1 course or equivalent.



### LIMITED SPACES

Places are limited to just 24 participants per session. Book early to avoid disappointment!



### HOW TO BOOK

Email [sailingsupport@svyc.org.uk](mailto:sailingsupport@svyc.org.uk) to secure a place.



WE ASK FOR A £1 PER WEEK CONTRIBUTION towards the Seaview Sailing Trust charity that funds these sessions. (Further cost details are not shared with children.)



SEAVIEW SAILING TRUST

Registered Charity No. 1198176

### 2026 SATURDAY CLUB SAILING SESSIONS

SESSION 1	0900 – 1200	SAT 6TH JUNE 2026	SESSION 6	1300 – 1600	SAT 20TH JUNE 2026
SESSION 2	1300 – 1600	SAT 6TH JUNE 2026	SESSION 7	0900 – 1200	SAT 27TH JUNE 2026
SESSION 3	0900 – 1200	SAT 13TH JUNE 2026	SESSION 8	1300 – 1600	SAT 27TH JUNE 2026
SESSION 4	1300 – 1600	SAT 13TH JUNE 2026	SESSION 9	0900 – 1200	SAT 4TH JULY 2026
SESSION 5	0900 – 1200	SAT 20TH JUNE 2026	SESSION 10	1300 – 1600	SAT 4TH JULY 2026

### MORE SAILING OPPORTUNITIES

There are also several local clubs and centres offering sailing for young people:

- Brading Haven Yacht Club (Bembridge Harbour – St Helens end)
- Bembridge Sailing Club (Bembridge Harbour – Bembridge end)
- Royal Victoria Yacht Club (Fishbourne)
- Wight Water Sports (Sandown)
- Gurnard Sailing Club
- Tack4-Isle (St Helens Dwyer & Bembridge Marina)
- Yarmouth Sailing Club
- UKSA (Cowes, Arctic Road)

### NEW PARTNER



SEA SCOUTS

We have teamed up with the local Sea Scouts who can now support further sailing opportunities too.



DEVELOP SKILLS. BUILD CONFIDENCE. ENJOY SAILING!

## Parent and Caregiver Peer Support Sessions

11<sup>th</sup> June 2026 (9am – 11am) Cowes Family Centre

16<sup>th</sup> July 2026 (9am – 11am) Carisbrook & Gunville Church

16<sup>th</sup> September 2026 (9am – 11am) Ventnor Family Centre

16<sup>th</sup> October 2026 (9am – 11am) Sandown Family Centre

18<sup>th</sup> November 2026 (9am – 11am) Carisbrook & Gunville Church

13<sup>th</sup> January 2027 (9am – 11am) Carisbrook & Gunville Church

10<sup>th</sup> February 2027 (9am – 11am) Carisbrook & Gunville Church



Drop in for a chat, a cuppa and shared experiences

No booking needed



**Cowes Family Centre –**  
Love Lane, Cowes PO31 7ET  
**Carisbrook & Gunville Church**  
Gunville Road, Newport  
PO30 5LS  
**Ventnor Family Centre**  
Albert Street, Ventnor PO38 1EZ  
**Sandown Family Centre**  
The Fairway, Sandown PO36 9EQ

Isle of Wight  
**Neurodiversity**  
Team



# St Catherine's

Specialists in Speech, Language and Communication Needs  
School - College - Post 19

## Charity Shop

St Catherine's School Charity shop in Ventnor is looking for good-quality clothes, books, CDs, DVDs, games, jigsaws, bric-a-brac, and toys to sell to raise vital funds for St Catherine's School.

Please donate items to our Charity Shop  
Church Street, Ventnor

Charity Number: 288148

Speech & Language Therapy	Occupational Therapy	Sign Supported English	Residential and Day School
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Residential School & College



Education School & College

## St Catherine's School and College Summer Fair 2026

Can you support our Fundraising by donating a raffle prize for our Summer Fair?

Please email [smitht@stcatherines.org.uk](mailto:smitht@stcatherines.org.uk)

Thank You



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

## ISLE OF WIGHT BIOSPHERE FESTIVAL 2026

27<sup>th</sup> June - 5<sup>th</sup> July

[www.iwbiosphere.org](http://www.iwbiosphere.org)

Nature & community events across the whole island, celebrating our UNESCO Biosphere Reserve!

ISLE OF WIGHT BIOSPHERE

### Raffle Book Return Reminder

Before half term students came home with raffle tickets for the Summer Fair  
Please could these be returned to School or College  
Thank you



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School - College - Post 19

Ethel Dares  
WINGWALKING



# WING WALK EVENT

10<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST

SIGN UP NOW FOR THIS AMAZING CHALLENGE!

AT SANDOWN AIRPORT

In partnership with

Ethel Dares

[stcatherines.org.uk](http://stcatherines.org.uk)

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# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SPORTS BETTING ONLINE

Sports betting online involves placing wagers on real-world sporting events through websites, apps, and linked accounts. In the UK, licensed gambling is illegal for under-18s, yet young people may still encounter betting through sports coverage, social media, gaming spaces, friends, or adult accounts. With gambling content increasingly visible online, parents and educators should help children understand the risks, financial impact, pressure, and how to make safer choices.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### EASY ONLINE ACCESS

Online sports betting sites and apps are widely available and can be accessed through phones, tablets, computers, and, indirectly, gaming or social platforms. Some young people may attempt to bypass age checks using false details or someone else's account. Digital wallets, prepaid cards, and saved payment details can also make spending harder to notice, increasing the risk of discreet or impulsive betting.

### PEER AND INFLUENCER PRESSURE

Social media influencers, online tipsters, and sports content creators can make betting appear fun, profitable, or part of being a committed fan. Young people may feel pressure to copy this behaviour, especially when friends talk about odds, accumulators, or predictions during matches. Gambling advertising rules aim to protect under-18s, but children can still see persuasive betting content in online spaces.

### FREE BET OFFERS

Online betting platforms often use free bets, bonus credits, or 'risk-free' promotions to attract users. These offers can make gambling seem safe or low commitment, but they usually include terms and conditions that young people may not understand. A free incentive can lead to real spending, repeated deposits, or the belief that gambling is easier to control than it is.

### NORMALISING GAMBLING BEHAVIOUR

Online sports betting can make gambling feel like a routine part of watching sport. Young people may begin to see odds, predictions, and wagers as harmless entertainment rather than as financial risk. This can also blur boundaries with other gambling-like activities, including loot boxes, skins betting, or casino-style games, making later gambling feel more acceptable or familiar.

### ADVERTISING AROUND SPORT

Young people can be exposed to betting brands through sports broadcasts, social media, sponsorship, pitch-side advertising, and content linked to major fixtures. Repeated exposure may make gambling seem normal, glamorous, or expected as part of the sport. Without adult guidance, children may connect betting with excitement, loyalty, and success, rather than understanding that gambling is designed to make money from customers.

### CHASING WINS AND LOSSES

A winning bet can create excitement and encourage a young person to try again, while a losing bet may lead them to place another wager to win back the money. This is known as chasing losses. Because online bets can be quick, small, and available at any time, children may not recognise how rapidly repeated decisions can become costly and emotionally harmful.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### START EARLY CONVERSATIONS

Talk openly with children about how betting works, including odds, losses, advertising, and the fact that gambling companies are commercial businesses. Use examples they may recognise, such as betting adverts during football matches, influencer predictions, or online tipsters. Keep the tone calm and curious, so that children feel able to ask questions, share concerns, and discuss pressure from friends without fearing punishment.

### SET SAFER BOUNDARIES

Use device, app store, and bank settings to limit spending, block gambling transactions where possible, and require adult approval for purchases. Check payment histories for unfamiliar withdrawals, digital wallet use, or repeated small transactions. These safeguards work best alongside clear conversations, helping children understand that online payments are still real money, even when they feel quick, hidden, or invisible.

### EXPLORE ONLINE EXPOSURE

Ask which apps, websites, games, sports channels, and social media accounts children use around live sport. Betting content may appear through adverts, sponsorship, livestreams, tipster pages, or discussions between friends. Watching a match together can help you point out gambling messaging in real time and explain how it is designed to influence choices, normalise betting, and encourage spending.

### NOTICE AND SEEK SUPPORT

Look out for secrecy around devices, sudden interest in odds, requests for money, unexplained spending, mood changes linked to sports results, or late-night phone use. Respond with support first, then gather information and seek specialist advice where needed. Organisations such as GambleAware, Ygam, GAMSTOP, and the Gambling Commission provide information about gambling harms, education, blocking tools, and support routes.

### Meet Our Expert

Bubba Gaedert is a Senior Lecturer and the Head of Events at the University Campus of Esports. He is also the President and Co-Founder of the Videogames and Esports Foundation, a charity that supports safe and inclusive gaming environments. With over 25 years of experience in esports, education, and media, Bubba is a global leader in promoting positive gaming practices for youth and families.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website