



St Catherine's School & College

Specialists in Speech, Language and Communication Needs

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

Tel: 01983 852722

Email: general@stcatherines.org.uk

Website: www.stcatherines.org.uk

Summer Term Week 9

19th June 2026

ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS

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

The Principal's Praise award has been presented to:
Toby R & Gwehona

The Behaviour For Learning award has been presented to:

Luke	Charlie F	Kristen
William L	Maddie	Cameron
TobyK	Jasmine	Joseph
	Apryl	



The Behaviour For Character award has been presented to:

Jim	Junior	Olivia
Keagan	Max WB	Luis
	Riley D	



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 - 97.22%
6JG - 73.61%
Austen - 88.89%
Bloom - 93.33%
Branson - 81.11%
Burton - 97.22%
Goldberg - 91.11%
Hopkins - 98.41%
Newton - 100%
Oliver - 92.59%
Packham - 73.61%
Radcliffe - 100%
Watson - 96.61%



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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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



BLOOM CLASS

This week in PSHE, we focused on personal data, consent and how to stay safe online by understanding what information should be kept private and the importance of online safety rules. The class produced some wonderful “privacy shield” posters to showcase their learning. In Maths, we continued our work on money, focusing on counting coins and comparing different amounts. In English, we continued with ‘The Tiny Seed’ and practised answering questions using “because” to give clear and detailed responses. In PE, we have begun practising for Sports Day as part of our athletics unit. This week, we focused on javelin. We also really enjoyed our mufti day on Tuesday, which raised money for the air ambulance. In the morning, they visited us to talk about the important work they do and why their service is especially vital for us living on an island.



RADCLIFFE CLASS

During PSHE this week we continued to learn about internet safety. We talked about ways we can keep safe online and what we should keep as private. The students are becoming more confident at knowing things they can share and not share online. The most important thing is to have a ‘trusted adult’ to ask when not sure. In English, we sequenced the story of the ‘Rainbow Fish’ and started to use nouns and adjectives to describe the fish. We are continuing to use real money during our Maths lessons. We are now adding different coins up to the value of 20p.



HOPKINS CLASS

In assembly this week we found out about a robot competition that our school took part in against seven other schools. Amazingly, we won the competition with Carisbrooke College. On Tuesday we wore mufti to raise money for the air ambulance and they came in to talk to us about how to make 999 calls. It was really interesting and we did a fun role playing activity. In Humanities, we are learning about coastlines in different regions and the similarities and differences between them. We recognised that the ocean is different in colour and temperature depending on the climate and proximity to the Equator. For Maths, we have been looking at direction and the language used to locate and move objects on a grid. We are continuing with building techniques to create a ‘sea-side’ display in Art and this week we created fish, using a range of chosen materials like: buttons, cellophane and glitter.



PACKHAM CLASS

In Music, we explored the element of Timbre. We also tried out a few different types of instruments and then completed some tasks showing how to make different sounds on some percussion. In English, we have been using time words such as firstly, next, then and lastly, to write instructions to an alien about how to make a sandwich. We have also written steps instructing how to make an omelette. During PE, we played football rounders. We separated into teams and took it in turns to be batters and fielders. We all worked well as a team and the end score was very close.

OLIVER CLASS

In Science, this week we have been researching and classifying living things that live in or near a river. In Humanities, we have continued learning new vocabulary associated with rivers and also continued making a model sized river which starts in the mountains and finishes at the sea. In Music, we are becoming more familiar with the musical notes on a stave and learning how to play the tune 'Happy Birthday' on the keyboard. In OT, we made some amazing burger chips and spaghetti bolognese. All students were outstanding. A visit from the air ambulance was informative and interesting. In Maths, we are looking at measurements and comparing data.



AUSTEN CLASS

During SRE, we learnt about relationships and who with and what is a healthy relationship and what is not. In SALT, we continued our 'Dungeons and Dragons' and we found some annoying gnomes and then luckily lost two of them which was a relief. We also are making our way down the courage path of the maze. In English, we are starting to write our own poems on subjects that interest us from the goats to the sycamore tree. The air ambulance visited us on Tuesday and it was very interesting how expensive it was to operate this emergency vehicle and equipment. In Maths, we are collating data and looking at where we walked last week. In Music, after practising playing 'Happy Birthday' we played 'Chopsticks' as a group. During PE, we played diamond rounders outside and it was a good competition. This week has been a busy week with lots of enthusiastic learning.

GOLDBERG CLASS

In Humanities, we are learning more about the water cycle and how it works and how we get clean water. During Maths, we are looking into measurements and after walking it last week we have an idea how far one kilometre is. In English, we are writing our own poems about beavers, guinea pigs and Laika (first dog in space). In PE, we played diamond rounders and practised some javelin throwing ready for Sports Day. We are learning 'Happy Birthday' and learning how to play

BURTON CLASS

In Music, we tried the 'China Jumps' group piece, then listened to a Chinese piece called 'Jasmine Flower'. We also learnt about Enharmonic notes. In English, we have finished our writing about Grandma from 'George's Marvellous Medicine'. George appears to have got his revenge on Grandma in many exciting ways! But where has Grandma gone? She seems to have disappeared. In Science, we have been keeping our bean diaries and observing how they have grown. We have also started to learn about photosynthesis. This is the process that plants use to create food and produce oxygen for us to breathe. In Humanities, we have been learning about estuaries and deltas and the animals that live on the mud flats.

NEWTON CLASS

In Music, we took different roles in the 'China Jumps' group, listened to a Chinese piece, learnt about enharmonic notes and continued with our Chinese compositions. In Science, we walked to the Downs and took photos of our original pictures from a month ago. We saw the goats and enjoyed a good stroll. In Humanities, we watched an episode of BBC 'Evacuees' and then continued with our work talking about historical characters.

BRANSON CLASS

In Music, we played a vocal music game, learnt about enharmonic notes and played a China Jumps group piece. In Science, we went on a walk to find out what plants had changed since the Spring and took photos. In Humanities, we are doing a presentation about our favourite animal. In PE, we did discuss and shotput and practiced the correct technique. One student did work experience this week at the Maritime Museum at Arreton Barns.

WATSON CLASS

We've been working on a 'Lord of the Flies' stop motion including props and scripts. Fingers crossed we finish it. We have also been making and decorating cakes in OT in preparation for the Summer Fair. On Thursday we are going to Shanklin to buy ingredients to make cakes for the Summer Fair. In PSHE, we are continuing to make CVs and cover letters for our Profile Folders. In Science, we have been looking at the male and female reproduction of plants. In Music, we are doing 'China Jumps' on Chinese instruments.

6JG CLASS

During PSHE, we looked at online safety and looked at scenarios considering the actions that we could take. In Photography, we have continued with our Album Artwork project and are in the development stages, taking photoshoots and editing these. This week we met with the filmmakers and creative team to begin discussing our ideas for the Listen Up Project. Next week we will look at cameras and plan how our film will go.

6AMD CLASS

Another busy week for our group! We continued planning the College Picnic we are hosting on Tuesday 30th June for all College students and staff. On Tuesday, we were invited to visit the RNLi station in Bembridge, following our fundraising efforts back at the Spring Fair. We had a full tour, went on the lifeboat and had a talk about what the RNLi does. We also learnt how to stay safe at sea, including how to float and how to signal for help in the water by raising one arm and making a fist with our hand. In our speech and language therapy sessions, we have looked at communities: what these are, which communities we are part of, and how different communities can support us in different ways. This has taught us that there are networks of support in our life that will continue beyond St Catherine's. In Life Skills (occupational therapy provision), we are still working on making our own packed lunches. For some of us, this has meant cooking and trying new foods. Thursday was our work experience day. We all have placements in the school, some of us are helping the maintenance team, others are teaching and one student is helping in the kitchen.



6ILP CLASS














































6ILP commenced the week of hard work by presenting their photographic exhibition to the other College students and staff, this was our contribution to Nature Photography day. During Math, sessions we talked about money matters and considered exchange rates; should we go on holiday to different countries. We then were able to examine what different countries have to offer a tourist and what capital city we would be flying into. We were able to create some ordered repeat patterns as well as creating some interesting animations using Playmobil characters. During English, sessions we were able to consider different ways of approaching a problem, breaking down a code and contrasting emotions in animation.

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.

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 went to Italy last week. The students found some facts that were very interesting and built the Tower of Pisa. We tried pizza, spaghetti bolognese and tiramisu made by our Final's mum. This week we are venturing to Spain and hoping to do a little Spanish culture, maybe with a little dance and music. Tapas will be served.

BEACH SCHOOL CLUB

We had an amazing session at Monks Bay, exploring the coastline and as the tide was out we got a chance to look at some of the marine life in rockpools. We made some cool beach art with treasures we found on the shore and the odd sandcastle of course! Some interesting things we found were cuttle fish bones (their shell really), mermaid purses (ray egg sacks) and many types of rocks and shells.



COLLEGE CHESS TOURNAMENT

Nicholas is running a college chess tournament starting this week. We have been practicing and improving our tactics, and look forward to starting our games.

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.

FOREST SCHOOL

A very busy week with students working hard on their Wild Passport skills. Oliver focused on shelters this week, working as a team and using lots of problem solving skills to erect tent camps. Hopkins continued to work on their formal shelter and knot skills including ridge line and pole lean to. They followed the 'Forest Knot Trail' to practise a range of knots. Packham continued to work on their log men, they have spent a lot of time and effort on this project and they are nearly finished- we can't wait to start using them in woodland casualty scenarios!



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

We're delighted to share some exciting news from one of our staff members at St Catherine's. Their band, Audio Ghosts, has been invited to perform at this year's Isle of Wight Festival! The band will be taking to the Electro Love stage at 3:00pm on Saturday, and they're looking forward to seeing plenty of friendly faces in the crowd. If you're heading to the festival, why not stop by and show your support?

Congratulations to Audio Ghosts on this fantastic achievement, and we wish them an amazing performance!



Flu Vaccine

The NHS School Age Immunisation Service are planning the roll out of the 2026 winter flu vaccination programme to all year groups. The service offers the flu vaccine between September and December. You will receive an email, with details on how to complete the online form, for your child to receive the vaccine in school.

Flu can be a very unpleasant illness for children and young people. High vaccine uptake reduces the risk of flu spreading rapidly in school settings. This helps ensure they remain well, do not miss school days and continue to learn. Vaccinating children also helps protect others who are at higher risk of getting seriously ill from flu, such as babies, anyone who's pregnant and older people.

The vaccine is given as a painless nasal spray. An alternative porcine free injection is offered to those who cannot have the nasal spray.



Vaccines offered to secondary age students during the spring and summer term include:

Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

HPV vaccine is offered to boys and girls in year 8. This vaccine protects against different types of cancers in the future.

Meningitis ACWY (MenACWY)

Meningitis vaccine is offered in year 9. This vaccine protects against four different strains of bacteria (groups A, C, W, Y) and protects against Meningitis and Sepsis (blood poisoning).

Tetanus, Diphtheria and Polio (3-in-1) booster vaccine

The 3-in-1 booster vaccine is offered in year 9. This vaccine protects against serious and potentially life-threatening diseases and provides long lasting immunity against these specific conditions.

Community clinics are available during the school holidays for missed vaccinations.

Find out more about the vaccine programmes and our contact details here: [School Age Immunisation Service - Hampshire - Parents: Health for Kids](#)

**AN EVENING OF TRADITIONAL STORYTELLING
by the Island Storytellers**



**UNDER THE
TREE**

**Friday 3rd July 2026
7pm Rylstone Gardens
Shanklin**



Free but donations welcome for
St Catherine's school

ISLE OF WIGHT FESTIVAL 2026

**St Catherine's School
at
The Isle of Wight Festival
Penny Lane
18th - 21st June**

Come along and see us at
The Isle of Wight Festival
and support our fundraising stall

***Tuck Shop * Soft Drinks * Face
Painting***

Face Glitter * Hair Glitter

Kids' Snack Boxes




WE WOULD LIKE TO INVITE SIXTH FORM TO

PROM

LOOK OUT FOR MORE EMAILS ABOUT
TICKET PRICES AND FOOD CHOICE.

THE THEME IS TRADITIONAL CLOTHING
(FORMAL WEAR)

JULY **16th** 6:00 PM

Location:
St Catherine's College, Grove Road Ventnor



PROUDLY HOSTED BY NEW CARNIVAL

Design & Illustrations by KoodoCo

Mardi Gras

new carnival

SCAN FOR PROGRAMME

FOLKTAISTIC ISLE: STORIES, MYTHS & LEGENDS

SATURDAY 4TH JULY 2026

FROM 3PM RYDE ISLE OF WIGHT

ONLINE PROGRAMME & MAP NEWCARNIVAL.CO.UK

IW Mardi Gras is all about hand made costumes, designs by the children, increasingly using sustainable materials

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND RYDE ISLE OF WIGHT WIGHTLINK

GO ON THE GO CAN YOU HEAR US?

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

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

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 CLOSES 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](#)
www.freedomcare.co.uk

0800 0851444

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 AYC Stage 1 course or equivalent.

LIMITED SPACES

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

HOW TO BOOK

Contact sailing@seaviewyachtclub.org.uk to book a place.

£1 WE ASK FOR A £1 PER WEEK CONTRIBUTION towards the Seaview Sailing Trust charity that funds these sessions. (The first £100 of costs are not shared with children.)

SEAVIEW SAILING TRUST
Registered Charity No. 109676

SESSION	TIME	DATE	SESSION	TIME	DATE
SESSION 1	0900 - 1200	SAT 6th JUNE 2026	SESSION 6	0900 - 1200	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	0900 - 1200	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:

- Beeding Haven Yacht Club (Beeding, Horsham - 30 Miles out)
- Bournemouth Sailing Club (Bournemouth - Bournemouth)
- Royal Hove Yacht Club (Hove, Brighton)
- Single Pointe Yacht Club (London)
- Gosport Yacht Club (Gosport)
- Swanage Yacht Club (Swanage)
- UKIAA (Various Areas)

NEW PARTNER

SEA SCOUTS

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

DEVELOP SKILLS. BUILD CONFIDENCE. ENJOY SAILING!

Parent and Caregiver Peer Support Sessions

- 11th June 2026 (9am – 11am) Cowes Family Centre
- 16th July 2026 (9am – 11am) Carisbrook & Gunville Church
- 16th September 2026 (9am – 11am) Ventnor Family Centre
- 16th October 2026 (9am – 11am) Sandown Family Centre
- 18th November 2026 (9am – 11am) Carisbrook & Gunville Church
- 13th January 2027 (9am – 11am) Carisbrook & Gunville Church
- 10th 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

Thank You



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

ISLE OF WIGHT BIOSPHERE FESTIVAL 2026

27th June - 5th July

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



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



St Catherine's
Specialists in Speech, Language and Communication Needs
School - College - Post 19

Ethel Dares
WINGWALKING

WING WALK EVENT

10TH AUGUST

SIGN UP NOW FOR THIS AMAZING CHALLENGE!

AT SANDOWN AIRPORT

In partnership with
Ethel Dares

stcatherines.org.uk

07983 852722

smitht@stcatherines.org.uk

What Educators Need to Know about INVOICE FRAUD

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Invoice fraud, including payment diversion fraud, occurs when criminals deceive you into paying a fake invoice or redirect a genuine payment into their own bank account. Fraudsters may impersonate suppliers, intercept emails, or send convincing invoices to prompt urgent payment into fraudulent accounts. It is one of the most common and costly forms of financial crime affecting individuals, businesses, and schools.

COMMUNICATIONS CLAIMING URGENCY

Communications that claim to be urgent or highlight late payments may be a key sign. Fraudsters often apply pressure to rush decisions and stop checks. Take a moment to verify the request using trusted contacts before making any payment.

CHANGES TO BANK DETAILS

Receiving messages saying a regular supplier has changed their bank account details can be a warning sign. Fraudsters may impersonate contacts to redirect payments. Always verify changes first using known supplier contact details.

DISCREPANCIES AGAINST PREVIOUS INVOICES

Be wary of invoice details that don't match authentic, previously issued invoices, such as amounts, reference numbers or contact names. Fraudsters often alter small details to avoid detection. Always query any differences using your supplier's contact details.

MINOR EMAIL CHANGES

Look out for slight changes to a supplier's email address, such as extra characters or spelling differences. Fraudsters often use similar looking addresses to appear genuine. Always check the sender carefully and verify any concerns using known contact details before responding or making a payment.

UNEXPECTED PAYMENT REQUESTS

Invoices or payment requests for goods or services you do not recognise can be a warning sign. Fraudsters may send false invoices hoping they will be paid without question. Check records and confirm with the supplier before processing any unfamiliar request.

UNUSUAL LANGUAGE OR TONE

Messages with unusual wording, grammar or spelling compared to your usual supplier communications may indicate fraud. Criminals often copy legitimate messages but may not match the usual tone or style. The rise in artificial intelligence (AI) means errors are no longer as common or obvious. Be cautious and verify the request if anything seems out of place.

Advice for Parents & Educators

VERIFY BANK DETAILS

Always confirm any change to a supplier's bank details before making a payment. Use a trusted phone number or a long-standing contact you have used before, not the details provided in the request. This helps ensure you are dealing with a genuine supplier and prevents payments being redirected to fraudsters.

CROSS-CHECK INVOICES

Compare new invoices with those previously issued by the supplier in question. Check key details such as amounts, bank details, reference numbers and contact information. Differences may indicate fraud, so always investigate and verify anything that does not match before making a payment.

DUAL PAYMENT APPROVAL

Ask a trusted person to review and approve high-value payments. A second set of eyes can help spot unusual details or warning signs that might otherwise be missed. This adds an extra layer of control and reduces the risk of errors or fraudulent payments being processed.

REPORT FRAUD QUICKLY

If you suspect fraud, act immediately. Contact your bank using 159 or their official number and report it to Report Fraud online or by calling 0300 123 2040. Keep all emails and documents. For more guidance, or to register for counter fraud alerts, see DfE counter fraud guidance. You can find the invoice fraud leaflet on the National Crime Agency website.

Meet Our Expert

Evan Williams is a counter fraud manager at the Department for Education. Having led the function there for many years, he now focuses on continual improvement, communication, and innovation. He proudly oversaw the growth of the counter fraud team during the pandemic, having worked in counter fraud for 16 years since starting his civil service career with the National Crime Agency back in 2010.



#WakeUpWednesday

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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