



St Catherine's School & College

Specialists in Speech, Language and
Communication Needs

St Catherine's
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Autumn Term Week 1

11th September 2026

ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS



The Reader of the Week award has been
presented to:

Huxley

The Principal's Praise award has been
presented to:

Luke

The Behaviour For Learning award has been
presented to:

Freddie K

Fletcher

Cameron

Tanner

Sharman class



The Behaviour For Character award has been
presented to:

Harri

Maddie

Mathilde

Sam

Holden

Freddie FT

Sebastian

Malachi

Luis

Sonnie

Jessica

Ella

Dexter

Well done to all students who received
awards this week!



ATTENDANCE

6AMD - 98.41%

6ILP - 100%

6JG - 84.12%

6SAF - 82.54

Apollo - 94.44%

Neptune - 92.59%

Sharman - 97.18%

Orion - 90.74%

Pluto - 100%

Peake - 97.53%

Artemis - 92.59%

Saturn - 100%

Venus - 95.06%



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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

7th October - School student photos

14th October - College student photos



THE GROVE AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

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

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.



APOLLO CLASS

This week in Apollo class, the students have been learning about the Rainforest. We spent some time creating a 'reading corner' by painting the walls and creating a forest effect. The class had fun using rollers and large brushes. In PSHE, we thought about strategies that can help us relax when we are feeling anxious. We practised breathing techniques. Science was fun. We watched a short video about different animals in the Amazon Rainforest and then learnt some information about them. During Maths lessons, we are learning about place value and the importance of sequencing numbers in the correct order.

NEPTUNE CLASS

Neptune has settled brilliantly into their new timetable this week! Our topic this term is The Rainforest, and in Science and Geography we began exploring its unique plant life, wildlife, and what we hope to discover this term. In English, we used our summer photos to help us remember and write about our holiday adventures. In Maths, we focused on place value using tens and ones and ordering numbers up to 100. In PSHE, we reflected on our personal strengths and potential future careers that we might like. In PE, we learnt how to hold a hockey stick and pass the ball. Well done, Neptune, for a fantastic week of learning!

SHARMAN CLASS

This week in Sharman class, we have been working on a biography about the life of Helen Sharman. We found out that she was the first British person to travel in space and she visited the Mir Space Station in 1991 at the age of just 27! We really have blown Miss Cook's socks off with our reading ability and the way we have written everything we have read, in our own words. In Maths we are working on Place Value and have all exceeded expectations by completing every task we've been set with flying colours. In Science, we have been looking at the characteristics of animals in different groups. Our teacher was really impressed by our focus. It is safe to say we have settled really well and the summer holiday has clearly rested our brains to be super ready for the new academic year ahead.

ORION CLASS

In Maths, we have been learning about counting. We have been practising our good listening! We talked about light in Science and we went into a very dark room. We have been learning about the Stone Age in English, and we made hand prints. We learnt about how people made art years and years ago. Playing hockey has been fun in PE. We also put out a class wildlife camera and we found.... nothing!

PLUTO CLASS

We have settled back into school very well and are enjoying our new learning. We enjoyed learning about the planet Pluto and made a diorama of the solar system. In English, we looked at the front cover of our new book which was a picture of a boy and girl looking into a cave. The boy was wearing modern clothes but the girl was wearing clothes from a different era. We made a prediction about the book. In PE, we are learning how to play hockey and tag rugby. In ICT, we are working on a project. We have been able to choose something that we are interested in and will be making a presentation using Word and Powerpoint. In Maths, we are learning about place value and in PSHE we have been thinking about careers.



PEAKE CLASS

In Mr Harris' Maths group we recapped our previous learning on hundreds, tens and ones so that we could see what we remembered and if there are any areas we still want to work on. Mrs Williams' English group looked at a strange orange coloured picture and wrote about what we saw. It was a picture of a lot of broken objects, we gave ideas about what it could be. We found out it was a scrap yard. We wrote about what we saw and thought about what we could make from the scrap. In Science, we have been looking at some of the properties of light. In PE, we have started hockey. This week we looked at the equipment we need, how to hold the stick and practised push passes. These can be quite difficult because we don't swing the stick back but push it forward instead.

ARTEMIS CLASS

We have had a great first week back on our new timetable and have taken on the challenge of more challenging work. In Maths, we have started to learn more challenging work in Number, looking at place value to much higher numbers than before. In Humanities, we have started looking at British life in the 1940s and what it was like for young people. In Science, we have started to learn about the properties of light and sound and are looking forward to doing some experiments soon.

SATURN CLASS

In DT, we are making something new and exciting and we all were enthusiastic and come up with some amazing ideas especially William. In PE, we are learning hockey basics before we play a game. In PSHE, we have been looking at our mental well-being and how gratitude can boost it. In ICT, we have started a new Presentation project based on a topic of our choice. In English, we have started our new topic and it's the book 'Stig of the Dump', we are all looking forward to starting reading this. In Maths, we are learning about place value. In PE, we have been learning how to play hockey.

VENUS CLASS

First week of our new timetable and Venus have settled into the routine and as a class they are bonding well. In Therapy Intervention Groups (TIG), they seemed to enjoy the jobs and generally were enthusiastic about showing their own personalities. In PE, we looked at rugby techniques and hockey. We had a good science lesson learning about light sources and how they generate. In Art, we are designing and making stencils for our T-shirt designs and we looked at the Tee Mill website and designed a T-shirt on their website too. We also finished our class picture for Mrs Thompson's office (see below). We have all selected our club choices for tomorrow.



6SAF CLASS

This week 6SAF have settled in well and have been starting their new option subjects. They have been completing their baselines and getting used to how the college works. Last week they worked as a class to create a canvas for Jo Elliott's (Head of Sixth Form) office.

6JG CLASS

6JG welcomed the filmmakers and music recorders back in so that we could see a preview of the film that we created as part of the 'Listen Up Project' and also listen to the music that we recorded as part of this project before the summer break. We were very impressed with the work that we saw. We visited the Ventnor Heritage Centre to complete some research for our canvas and we completed our group canvas by each selecting something from the museum to complete a study on. We recreated images of events that had happened including the sinking of NV Volkerak and the sighting of the Titanic as it sailed past. We also investigated the fire service in the 1920s and the old Ventnor East and West Railway lines. We are working towards a deadline of half term for our Graphic Outcome in GCSE Photography. In Vocational we are starting two new units one on independent research and the other on performing a piece of music.

6AMD CLASS

Those of us who have chosen Science have been looking at genetic variation. We learnt about the discovery of the structure of DNA in 1953. In History, we have started to investigate the causes of World War One and identify who the major Powers in Europe were in 1914

6ILP CLASS

6ILP have made a great start to their term. We kept up to date with Island news by completing a detective project based upon current affairs. We were able to transport our thoughts to London and consider what art work we would create as we consider entering the 4th plinth project next year. We were able to create some interesting abstract sculpture ideas based upon our own personal interests. We practised our Math skills by taking part in a snooker and darts masterclass which encouraged us to employ doubles and triples as we added our final scores.

SCHOOL MENU

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

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

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

MUSIC TUITION TIMETABLE

A Music tuition timetable is being prepared for these lessons to begin again this year. We have been checking with students to see if they wish to start, continue or stop lessons. Please contact Mark Thompson, Music Teacher if you have any queries.

FUNDRAISING

Welcome back to the new school year! Fundraising has some exciting events planned, we have 2 spaces for The Great South Run on Sunday 18th October. If you would like to sign up please email Tanya on smitht@stcatherines.org.uk

Our annual Christmas Fair will be back on Saturday 12th December. We invite everyone to come along, with live music all day while you do some Christmas shopping.

If you would like to suggest a fundraising idea, we are always welcoming new ideas!

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

Fundraising Enquiries

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

ST CATHERINE'S CHARITY SHOP

What an amazing, busy summer I have had at the Charity Shop!

I have celebrated Fringe festival and Ventnor Carnival, in which I won an award for my Ventnor Deco window display, "best handmade"! The charity shop has had a record year in raising funds for the students of the school, and the start of this year is looking busy already.

"Secondhand September" is a time to raise awareness of the benefits of buying secondhand, and this year, I have concentrated on raising awareness that sustainable secondhand shopping, starts with bringing your own bag. "Remember, remember your own bag in September."

The heavier, plastic "Bag for life", is worryingly being used like fast fashion; being bought at the till at each shop, used once, and treated as disposable, with many of us forgetting to bring our own bags.

Pop by the shop and have a look at the bag for life dress I have made for the display in the window!

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





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supportenquiries@freedomcare.co.uk



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THE GREAT SOUTH RUN

FUNDRAISE FOR
ST CATHERINE'S SCHOOL

Run, make a difference
and help support children
and young people with
Speech, Language and
Communication Needs.

EVERY STEP
YOU TAKE
HELPS US MAKE
A BIGGER
DIFFERENCE.

BOOK A SPACE!



To book your place
or find out more,
please email:

smitht@stcatherines.org.uk

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

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AMIGO

Amigo is a social platform which purports to connect strangers from around the world – and, with built-in translation software, it reduces the expected language barriers. Focusing heavily on one-to-one chat, video calls and live streams, Amigo encourages its users to build up online relationships and unlock exclusive features such as private video and audio calls: essentially, the more that people chat, the more functions become available to them. This is an app designed with mature users very much in mind and is therefore definitely not recommended for children.

AGE RATING

18

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ONE-TO-ONE COMMUNICATION

While online chats and livestreaming are a great way to communicate with people that children can trust (such as friends and family), Amigo encourages users to connect with complete strangers and develop a friendship through private chats, calls and videos. This will be a clear red flag for most parents, due to the possibility of a child encountering inappropriate content or an online predator.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTACT

Within minutes of signing up for our trial of Amigo (and without using a profile photo), users of the opposite sex were messaging with suggestive statements such as "You're just my type" and "Let's have fun". While the app's stated intent is to help people build friendships, some users obviously seek to take those relationships in a more mature and amorous direction.

MEMBERSHIP COSTS

Like many apps that are free to download, Amigo's business model is centred on in-app purchases. Users are encouraged to pay for VIP membership – enabling them to send more messages each day and boosting their profile's visibility. People can also buy coins (again, for real money) which allow them to send virtual gifts and further increase the number of messages they can send daily.

LACK OF AGE VERIFICATION

Amigo makes no secret of the fact that it's for people aged 18 or above. There's no age verification, however, so a young person could simply sign up under a false date of birth. The app's algorithm claims to match users of similar ages (making them more compatible), but either the algorithm isn't very reliable, or most users have entered a fake age which doesn't correspond with their profile pic.

REWARDS FOR REPEATED USE

Amigo gifts virtual coins to users if they reply to messages within 10 seconds, while there are also daily rewards for posting comments, sharing a video, getting likes or simply opening the app. It also encourages increasing 'Intimacy Levels' with other users to unlock extra features: once someone's online 'friendship' reaches Intimacy Level 3, they can hold one-to-one video calls with each other.

Advice for Parents & Carers

MONITOR DOWNLOADS

As well as frequent catch-ups with your child about what they've enjoyed doing online, you could consider taking the additional step of physically checking their phone every so often to see which apps they've installed. The safest option could be to enable 'ask to buy' (Apple) or 'purchase approvals' (Android) on their device, meaning your authorisation is needed to download any apps.

RESPECT AGE RESTRICTIONS

Apps have age restrictions for a reason, and Amigo is very definitely a mature content platform. Given that many of Amigo's users apparently use a bogus date of birth, you might want to remind your child about the implications of setting up a fake profile – such as being exposed to messages and videos that make them feel uncomfortable or feeling pressured into chatting with strangers.

BLOCK, REPORT, DISCUSS

Many children already know that connecting with strangers online is dangerous, but it never hurts to refresh their memory. Whatever communication apps your child uses, make sure they're fully aware that if anything online makes them feel uncomfortable, scared or upset, then they can block the user responsible, report the content, take a screenshot as evidence and come to tell you straight away.

ACTIVE LISTENING

If your child does approach you with a concern, make time to stop what you're doing and actively listen. Let them talk without interrupting or showing any judgement, then discuss their options and the possible solutions: this empowers them and reassures them that you're there to be supportive. If the issue is one that has put your child at risk, however, you may wish to contact the police.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



[Source: https://apps.apple.com/us/app/amigo-chatrooms-real-friends/id55540554](https://apps.apple.com/us/app/amigo-chatrooms-real-friends/id55540554)



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