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

Autumn Term Week 7 — 13th November 2026

ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS

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

The Behaviour For Learning award has been presented to:

6ILP
Finley
Millie
Sharman class
Peake class
Artemis class
Eric
Max N
Jaden
Cosmo
Henley
Fletcher

The Behaviour For Character award has been presented to:

Jim
Kayan
Lukas
Luke
Selene

Well done to all students who received awards this week!

ATTENDANCE



6AMD - 92.06%
6ILP - 81.48%
6JG - 95.24%
6SAF - 96.3%
Apollo - 100%
Neptune - 98.41%
Sharman - 97.22%
Orion - 100%
Pluto - 77.78%
Peake - 93.83%
Artemis - 81.48%
Saturn - 93.65%
Venus - 100%



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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

20th November Mufti Day

APOLLO CLASS

Our week started off with looking at a first aid box and remembering what is inside it, following on from last week. Everyone remembered items such as plasters and wipes. This week's lesson was all about dealing with minor cuts. We talked about applying a wipe to the cut, wearing gloves and then applying the plaster. In Maths, we have started to work on subtraction. We enjoy working with objects to help us take them away. We have started to use number lines to show our take away sums. We had fun in science, drawing around our bodies and labelling our body parts.

NEPTUNE CLASS

This week, we have been learning about nurses in history, specifically Florence Nightingale. We have learnt about the jobs that nurses do and how important they are. We are lucky enough to have our own nurses in school so we took a visit to see them. We went with questions to ask them and we were so impressed with all their knowledge about how to help us. They showed us some of their equipment they use and told us stories about when they both worked in the hospital. In English, we are writing an explanation about how poison dart frogs survive. We have been learning how to identify the past and present tense and how to write questions. As we were lucky enough to see some on our trip to Amazon World, we knew lots of information already!

SHARMAN CLASS

In PSHE this week, we began talking about healthy relationships, what these look like and how they can be achieved. This supported the theme of our assembly on anti-bullying and 'breaking the silence'. In English, we have looked at the features of a postcard and drafting, then we are writing our own one as if we have visited the Amazon rainforest. We will use all the knowledge we gained about the Amazon last term, to complete this. In Science, we continued to learn about different microhabitats as well as the different mini beasts that can live in the different microhabitats. In Maths, we have been working hard to do addition and subtraction of numbers using exchange as well as not having to exchange, although we found it a little bit tricky, we did not let that stop us from trying.

ORION CLASS

In English and Geography, we have been learning about the polar biome. We have been learning about what the weather is like in the polar regions and what clothes you would need to wear. We have also been learning about the animals that live there. In Maths, we have been learning about 2-D shapes and how to tell them apart by counting the sides and the vertices. In Science, we had a special visitor come in to tell us all about white-tailed eagles. We learnt where they live and how we can help protect them. We even wrote acrostic poems to describe the eagles. In PE, we have continued to practise our basketball skills, learning how to do different passes.

PLUTO CLASS

In Forest School this week, we started to plant some new tree saplings around the car park area, we hope these will grow well to create a small hedgerow which will be good for wildlife. In Science, we have been learning about shadows. In English, we have started to look at the features of a non-fiction book. In Maths, we have continued to learn about addition and subtraction. Some of us have started to visit the 6th Form and have enjoyed our transition days. In Humanities, we have finished researching a tectonic event and have presented our information.

PEAKE CLASS

In Music, we continued learning about different genres. This half-term we are looking at Rock music. In Humanities, we finalised our WJEC piece on 'What Britain was like during WW2'. We then produced a powerpoint on Winston Churchill and Franklin D Roosevelt. In ICT, we completed evidencing our powerpoints. During English we are looking into time conjunctions and expanding noun phrases. We also started to summarise text, picking out the important information, which is harder than you would think. In Maths, we worked on the 3 times tables. We found out that we can work out if a number is in the 3 times table by adding the digits of that number up. In Science, we attended a talk from the Wildheart Animal Sanctuary about the WhiteTailed Eagle re-introduction project that they are involved in and we did a lesson all about sunlight.

ARTEMIS CLASS

During English we are looking into time conjunctions and expanding noun phrases. In Science, we are beginning to learn about refraction and reflection and how white light is made up of 7 different colours - without even realising, this is something we see each time we have seen a rainbow! In Humanities, we have moved on to learning about important people in WW2. We have found out that Winston Churchill was one of the first people to wear a onesie - it was made out of red velvet! Also Queen Elizabeth trained as a mechanic and drove lorries in the war.

SATURN CLASS

In PSHE, we looked at what characteristics are valuable when applying for jobs and we had to think about what we would like for our future. During Art, we continued to look at our artists and start to sketch some of the pictures to do with how our artist drew. Charlotte's is absolutely amazing and is very proud of it. In our Therapy Intervention Groups, we looked at our idea to sell T-shirts and created our designs.

VENUS CLASS

In PSHE, we looked at Remembrance Day and what happened on the 11th November and why we wear a poppy in respect of the war veterans. During PE, we continued learning our badminton structure and played a small team game at the end. In ICT, we continued our work looking at B-Tec and what we need and what we can do to progress. In Therapy Intervention Groups, we looked at our idea to sell T-shirts and created our designs. There has been some amazing class work this week and good listening skills. Elliott has stood out in Maths for some tricky work.

6SAF CLASS

In English, this week we have been working on our use of features in tests. In Vocational, we have been working on our 2-D art image and also finding out about skills and qualities in relation to jobs for our progression plan. This week we have been looking at food spoilage and how bacteria can affect our food. We discovered the Danger Zone and how it can help bacteria multiply. We are now looking at recipes we can make to use up food that is starting to spoil.

6JG CLASS

This week in English we have been organising features. We have also looked at books and resources we may want to add to our library. In History, we have been looking at trench warfare and trench life. Looking at what was in a trench, some of them had elbow rests and ammunition shelves. They also had duck boards to stand on to stop them getting trench foot. We have also started to create our class careers board and have been researching as a group for our fortnightly focus. This week we have selected Animal Care as the course we are investigating. In Applied Science, we are continuing with our assignment called 'Prevention or Cure' all about the causes and either preventative measures or cures for different diseases.

6AMD CLASS

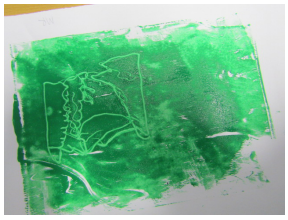
This week in English, we explored how writers use organisational features to make texts more engaging, easier to understand and easier to navigate. We identified examples in books, magazines and posters before creating our own posters to showcase what we have learnt. In History, we are learning about life in the trenches in WW1. In Maths, we are studying angles and shapes. In Cooking, we are planning recipes to make banana bread or bread and butter pudding. In Music, we are studying about Chuck Berry and The Beatles. In Combined Science, we have begun an extended writing project all about stem cells and their uses and issues.

6ILP CLASS

In our very wet Forest School session this week, we stayed cosy in the hut and started to explore tool use, we looked at using a range of tools safely and started some craft projects. Students returned to their monoprinting workshop. We experimented using Bob Ross as a starting point and inspiration. We produced some pleasing line work as a result. We were able to continue our Rhyme words, which have now developed into full poems. We were able to push on with our computer unit, selecting popular photographs and carrying out subtle edits to improve their appearance. During our Maths workshop we considered coordinates and located where treasure was buried.







COLLEGE REMEMBRANCE DAY ART PIECE

Toby wanted to mark Remembrance Day and he, Keagan, Aaron and Tim created this lovely art piece for the common room, Summer, Halle and Sophia made the poppies.



WHATSAPP GROUPS

Dear parent and carers,

I need to highlight once more ongoing concerns about school WhatsApp groups. These are becoming regularly inappropriate in content and causing distress and conflict. Please can I urge you to regularly monitor your child's phone and what groups they are in. Students are being added to groups and unless settings are changed, anyone can do this.

We educate our students regularly on how to stay safe online, however, we are growing increasingly concerned about the level of online safety concerns that are being raised outside of the school day. I urge you to take steps to keep your child safe. Thank you for your support.

To ensure your child cannot be added by anyone to a group, please follow the steps below:

Steps to Change Group Privacy Settings

1. Open WhatsApp on your phone.
2. Go to Settings:

Android: Tap the three dots (menu) in the top-right corner, then tap Settings.
iPhone: Tap the Settings gear icon in the bottom-right corner.

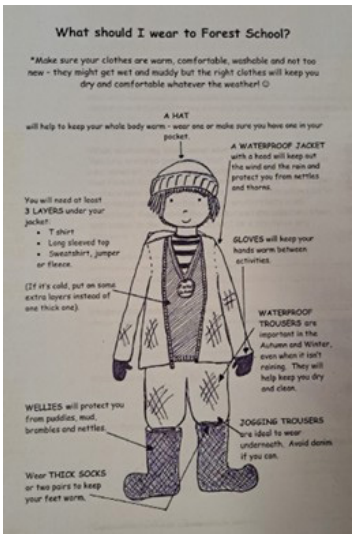
3. Tap Privacy.
4. Tap Groups.
5. Choose one of these three options:

Everyone: Anyone (including unknown numbers) can add you directly to groups.
My contacts: Only people saved in your phone's address book can add you directly.
My contacts except...: Lets you pick specific people who cannot add you directly. (Tip: If you select My contacts except and choose all your contacts, nobody can add you directly without sending an invite first.)
Save your changes by tapping the checkmark or Done

Kind regards,
Jenn Walker
Vice Principal and Designated Safeguarding Lead

FOREST SCHOOL CLOTHING GUIDE

As the weather is getting colder here is a guide to clothing. Having suitable clothing helps students stay comfortable outside, protects from weather, scratches and stings and helps them to access outdoor sessions comfortably.



We have a selection of waterproof trousers, jackets and wellies for student use. If you have any problems accessing suitable clothing please don't hesitate to contact me at: atkinsa@stcatherines.org.uk
Alison Atkins (Forest School Leader)

Suggested Autumn / Winter Clothing List

Layers of clothing: vest, t-shirt, jumper or fleece
Jogging bottoms / leggings
Socks
Sturdy shoes/ trainers / wellies
Hat and gloves
Waterproof jacket

Classes doing Forest School this term: **Neptune, Pluto, 6ILP**

SUCCESSFUL LAUNCH OF YOUTH CLUB!

The launch of St Catherine's brand-new Youth Club was a huge success, with an amazing turnout of around 20 students of all ages joining us for our first session!

There was no shortage of fun, laughter and excitement as students explored the fantastic range of new games and activities on offer. From pool and table football to video games, arts and crafts and drumming, there was something for everyone! For those looking for a more relaxed space, our chill-out area provided the perfect opportunity to chat with friends, enjoy some board games and unwind. With so much on offer, everyone could find something they enjoyed.

A huge thank you to everyone who came along and helped make our first session such a fantastic success. We can't wait to welcome everyone back for more fun every Monday from 3:30pm - 5:00pm

Want to book your young person into the Youth Club?

We'd love to hear from you! To find out more or book a place, please contact us at:

the-grove@stcatherines.org.uk








HTP OPEN DAY

The next open day for the HTP apprenticeship College is Saturday 21st November from 10 am – 12.30 pm.
Parents can either book a slot using this website https://www.htp.ac.uk/open-days/ or just turn up.

SCHOOL PHOTO UPDATE

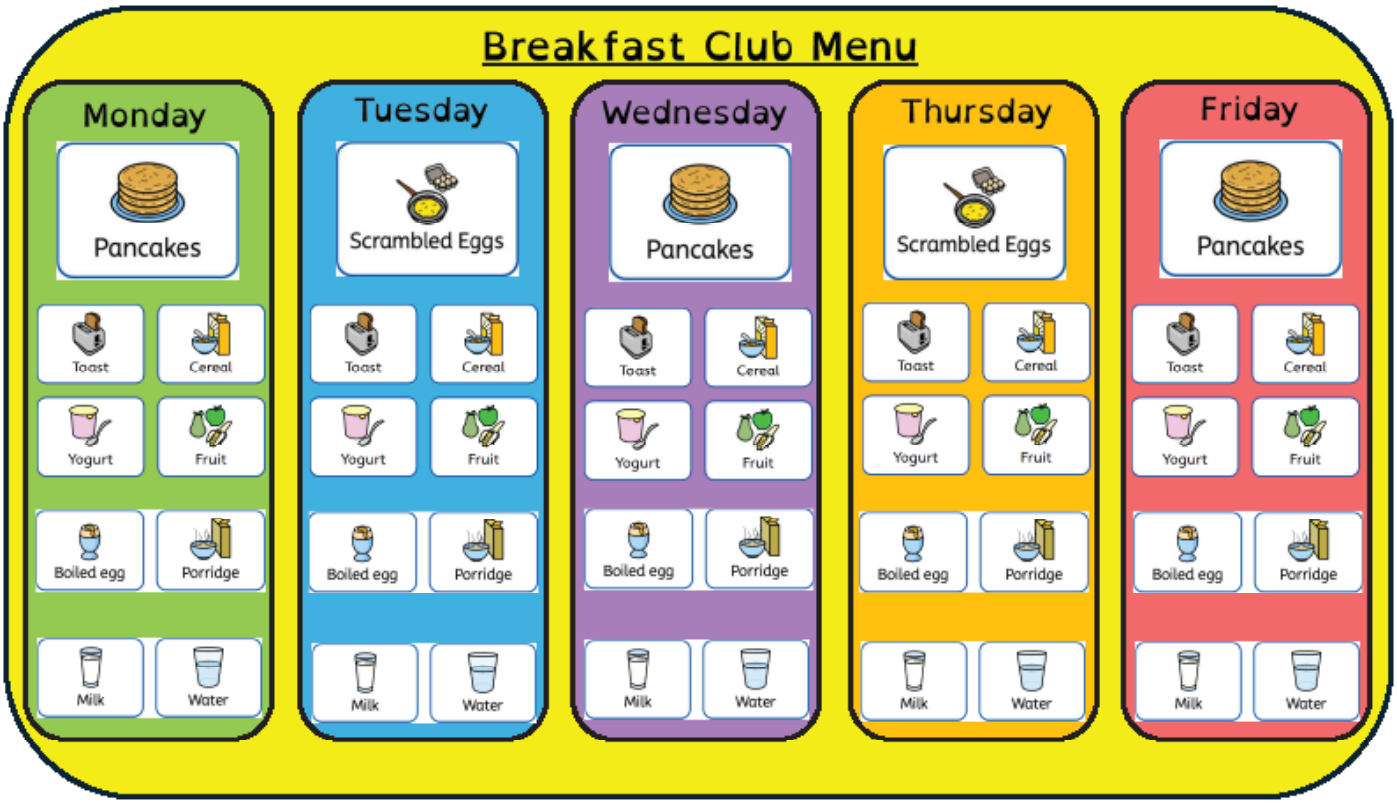
School photo proofs and order forms will be sent out before the end of the month.

RAFFLE TICKET REMINDER

This is a quick reminder that all raffle ticket stubs, money, and any unsold tickets need to be handed in by Friday, 11th December. This gives us plenty of time to get everything sorted before the draw takes place on 12th December.

ANAPHYLAXIS REMINDER

We are now required to follow new national legislation regarding allergy safety and anaphylaxis management. To ensure the health, safety, and wellbeing of all our students, please remember not to bring any food or other items into school or college that may contain nuts. We ask that you carefully check the labels of all packed lunches, snacks, and classroom supplies before sending them in. Thank you all for your continued cooperation and for helping us maintain a safe, inclusive environment for everyone in our community.



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.

FUNDRAISING

St Catherine's School and College warmly invites you to support our Christmas Campaign, a heartwarming initiative that brings our community together in faith, remembrance, and goodwill. This year, we are offering the opportunity to buy a Red or Gold bauble to place on our Chapel tree, with a message or dedication to a loved one, a current or former student, or someone held in loving memory.

Through this campaign, we hope to raise vital funds for St Catherine's and reach our target of £1,000. Your generous gift will help us continue to nurture the life of our Chapel and strengthen the spirit of celebration and reflection that defines this special season.

We invite you to make a minimum donation of £5 and then email smitht@stcatherines.org.uk with your donation details. Once your message has been received, our team will be in touch to arrange your bauble choice and message, including colour and name.

Please join us in making this Christmas Campaign a heartfelt expression of gratitude and support. Our Chapel will be open on 10 December 2026 for a visit and carol service, and we would be honoured to welcome you in sharing this moment of celebration and hope.

https://www.justgiving.com/page/christmasbauble?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL



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 School & College

MCM CONSTRUCTION

St Catherine's School

CHRISTMAS MARKET

Saturday 12th December

St Catherine's Church

Church Street, Ventnor

10:30am till 4pm

Free Entry
Raffle
Christmas Shopping
Live Music
Games
Special Guests

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

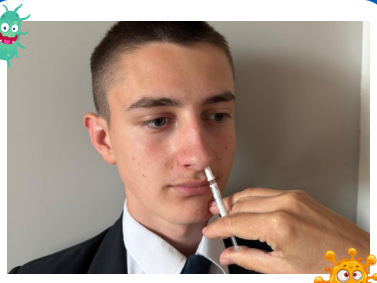
Isle of Wight Neurodiversity Team

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

School Age Immunisation Service

NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

Your child's Flu vaccine is due



FLU: 5 REASONS TO GET PROTECTED AGAINST FLU

1. Protect your child - The vaccine will help protect your child against flu and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia.
2. Protect you, your family and friends - Having the vaccine will help protect more vulnerable friends and family.
3. No injection needed - The nasal spray is painless and easy to have. (A porcine free injection is available)
4. It's better than having flu - The nasal spray helps protect against flu and has been given to millions of children worldwide and has an excellent safety record.
5. Avoid costs - If your child gets flu, you may have to take time off work or arrange alternative childcare

The Immunisation team will be in the school on:

08/10/2026

09/12/2026

School Code

CW118226

For more information, visit our website:
www.healthforkids.co.uk/hampshire/annual-nasal-flu-vaccination-programme/

Our personalised care addresses your child's specific needs while building practical life skills, communication abilities, and independence.

freedom care group

Professional, caring support tailored to children with additional needs. Our experienced Personal Assistants help develop skills, build confidence, and enjoy life to the fullest.

Specialist Support for Children with Additional Needs

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

Have your say



All-age autism strategy consultation

We want to hear from you

We are working together to create a strategy for the Isle of Wight. This is a plan for how services, communities and organisations can better support autistic people of all ages.

The consultation closes on 31 December 2026

Complete it online at www.iow.gov.uk/autism

Isle of Wight Council

St Catherine's

Specialists in Speech, Language and Communication Needs

School - College - Post 19

OPEN!

Our charity shop may look closed, but we are open!!!

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

Ofsted Outstanding Provider
Residential School & College

Ofsted Good Provider
Education School & College

NHS
Hampshire and
Isle of Wight Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust

School Age Immunisation Service - Parent Newsletter

Annual Flu Vaccination Programme

All children are eligible to receive the flu vaccine. Parents and carers are sent a link to the online consent form between September and November, ahead of the school vaccination session.

The vaccine is usually given as a nasal spray. For children who cannot have the nasal spray due to medical or religious reasons, a porcine-free injectable vaccine is available. Details about how to request this are included on the electronic consent form.

Why should I get my child vaccinated? Flu is a highly infectious illness that children can catch and spread easily. For many children, flu can be very unpleasant and may lead to complications such as ear infections, bronchitis, or pneumonia. In some cases, it can result in serious illness requiring hospital treatment.

Vaccinating your child not only helps protect them from flu but also reduces the spread of the virus to others who may be more vulnerable to serious illness, including babies, pregnant women, older adults, and those with long-term health conditions.

What if my child misses their school vaccination session? If you provide consent for your child to receive the flu vaccine and they are absent on the day of the school session, you will automatically receive an email inviting you to book an appointment at a local community clinic, ensuring your child still has the opportunity to be vaccinated.

It's not too late to complete the consent form. Even if your child's school vaccination session has already taken place, submitting a form now will allow you to book an appointment at a local community clinic.

For contact details and further information about the School Aged Immunisation Service and the vaccination programmes offered, please visit:

https://www.healthforkids.co.uk/hampshire/collections/school-age-immunisation-service/

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

ADVERTISEMENTS AIMED AT CHILDREN

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Children are particularly vulnerable to the persuasive effects of advertising because of their still-developing critical thinking and impulse control skills. Children are regularly and passively exposed to advertising online, whether through influencers, paid advertisements, or sponsored content. Although 92% of 12–17-year-olds felt confident recognising online advertising, only 37% correctly identified sponsored adverts in search results.

INFLUENCER MARKETING

Influencers are an increasingly prominent part of children's online experiences, with four in ten 3–17 year olds who watch online videos reporting that they watch influencer content as entertainment. Influencers can appear credible, relatable, trustworthy and aspirational. Although seven in ten 12–17 year olds recognised a paid partnership, some believed products were promoted because influencers liked or thought they were 'cool'.

PARENTAL PRESSURE TO PURCHASE

Children's exposure to online advertising can pressure parents to buy products they see advertised. When told no, children may feel upset, treated unfairly or left out when comparing themselves with peers. With children potentially seeing up to 40,000 adverts a year, parents cannot meet every request. This can lead to arguments and put strain on family relationships.

UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

Advertising often focuses on the positive effects of a product, which can create unrealistic expectations among young people. Children may be particularly susceptible to these claims when they do not recognise the persuasive intent behind them. They may be more likely to believe that a cream will 'transform' their skin, clothing will help them fit in, or protein powders will quickly build muscle. Repeated exposure to adverts such as beauty content can normalise unrealistic expectations and create material dissatisfaction or body image concerns.

HARMFUL ADVERTISING

Children can encounter online advertising through games, videos, social media and links, meaning they may see content that is inappropriate for their age. This can include products or messages that influence attitudes towards body image, health or behaviours such as gambling. Repeated exposure to beauty content can normalise adult-oriented beauty routines and psychological pressure.

UNINTENDED PURCHASES

Online advertising can encourage young people to make purchases. Ofcom found that 58% of 8–17 year olds had spent money online, with 27% saying adverts encouraged them to spend and 22% influenced by influencer content. Despite this, a third of the children regretted an in-game purchase, while almost half said they were unclear about what they were buying. This can lead to children spending more than intended or making purchases without fully understanding the cost or product, adding pressure on parents to spend.

LACK OF ADVERTISING TRANSPARENCY

Advertising is not always obvious to children, particularly when influencers promote brands, products or services without clearly stating that it is an advert, or when advertising is embedded within entertaining content and uses positive language. Children may not realise that the adverts are promoting something, making the recommendation seem more trustworthy and more influential.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TEACH CHILDREN HOW TO SPOT ADS

Help children to recognise when content is trying to sell them something. Teach them to look for signs such as '#ad', 'sponsored', 'paid partnership' as well as promo codes or product links attached. Explain to your child that these adverts can be embedded within videos, social media posts, games or influencer posts and are not always obvious to identify. Helping children recognise these advertisements can make them less likely to be influenced by them.

ENSURE PAYMENT DETAILS ARE LOCKED DOWN

Avoid saving your bank card details on children's devices, games or apps wherever possible. This can help reduce the risk of children making accidental or impulsive purchases following seeing an advert. Check the purchasing settings on games and social media accounts and use parental controls or purchase approval settings where possible. Talk to your child about the importance of asking before making a purchase online.

DEVELOP CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS

It is important to encourage children to question what they see online rather than automatically believing it. Encourage them to stop and think before clicking. Have them ask themselves, 'Why am I seeing this?' and 'What are they trying to get me to want/buy?'. Remind them that adverts and influencers only highlight the positive aspects of a product. By developing these skills, children will begin to recognise, question, and respond to manipulative marketing practices.

ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION

While it is important to set age restrictions on games and social media, inappropriate adverts can still slip through. Talk regularly with your child about adverts or influencer content they see online. Open communication makes it easier for your child to come to you if they have any questions about products or inappropriate content. It also helps you understand what your child is being exposed to online and where they may need support.

Meet Our Expert

Dr. Claire Sutherland is an education consultant and digital safety expert, with a background in primary teaching. She combines her PhD research in cyberbullying with hands-on experience, delivering impactful digital wellbeing workshops and policies for schools across Australia and now in the UK.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

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