



ST HELENS PRIMARY

Friday 7th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been great to welcome back the children after a great Christmas break. The children have settled into school very smoothly and it has been great to see such positive attitudes when I visit classrooms, during assembly time or when I speak to the children throughout the day. My Year 6 group on Friday morning were a pleasure as usual.

The teacher comments below confirm what I have seen with very positive remarks about the way in which the children have returned to school.

Explorers Sparkle castle and Royal ball sound fascinating though I'm not totally convinced the name for the castle was actually conceived by a child.

I have loved the superhero theme in Adventurers which has spanned a number of subjects including Art, Music and English.

Discoverers have produced some great work across the curriculum and I know Stone Age Boy is a text that they will thoroughly enjoy as you can tell from the blurb below.

'Step back 15,000 years as a modern boy enters a Stone Age village and learns a few prehistoric tricks of the trade. One day a boy falls down a hole, and an amazing thing happens — when he wakes, he's in a camp full of people wearing animal skins!'

Pioneers have also produced some great work. Shackleton is an enjoyable book and the DNA sweet-based models was an inspired idea. After a group of pupils showed me their models, I know they reluctantly had to eat them...I can't actually recall anyone volunteering to let me be the taster!

Despite the continued threat of covid, attendance has been very good with minimal absence in some classes. Well done everyone.

Covid 19 Update

The government continues to manage the risk of serious illness from the spread of the virus. The Prime Minister announced on 27 November 2021 the temporary introduction of new measures as a result of the Omicron variant and on 8 December that Plan B,

set out in the [autumn and winter plan 2021](#), was being enacted. These measures are precautionary, while the variant is tracked and assessed. As a result, we are reflecting these measures in this guidance for parents. This advice remains subject to change as the situation develops.

COVID-19 continues to be a virus that we learn to live with and the imperative to reduce the disruption to children and young people's education remains.

Our priority is for schools, colleges, childminders and nurseries to deliver face-to-face, high-quality education and care to all children and young people. The evidence is clear that being out of education causes significant harm to educational attainment, life chances, mental and physical health.

We have worked closely with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and the United Kingdom Health Security Agency (UKHSA) to revise this guidance.

The main messages from this guidance are:

- nationally, education and childcare settings are open, and attendance is mandatory (for schools) and strongly encouraged (at childminders, nurseries and colleges)
- the [Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health](#) has made it clear that the overwhelming majority of children and young people still have no symptoms or very mild illness only
- updated advice on tracing close contacts and isolation to reflect the changes to isolation rules
- continuing to take regular rapid tests will help you to identify infections early and reduce transmission
- your nursery, school or college no longer trace close contacts - close contacts will be identified via NHS Test and Trace
- children and young people aged under 18 years 6 months who usually attend school, and have been identified as a close contact, are not required to self-isolate
- your child no longer needs to remain in a consistent group ('bubble')

Have a great weekend.

Mr Wake

Explorers

Explorers have had a brilliant first week back at school. This week they have been very busy changing their role play area into a castle and have decided to name it 'Sparkle Castle'.

We have seen lots of dressing up, dragons and even a dark forest appear outside the castle.

We have looked at the different parts of a castle and what they are called, some of the children made a moat for the castle by cutting paper into strips and colouring it in blue to represent water.

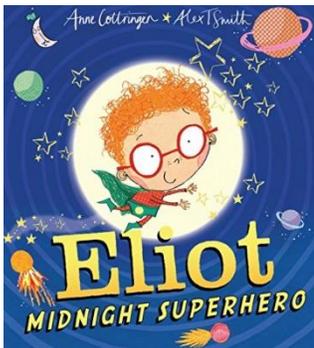
The children have been very busy writing invitations to each other for their Royal Ball in a few weeks time and planning what food they would like to eat. We have been looking at different 2D and 3D shapes and making model castles from them using a variety of materials.

I have been really impressed with the children's reading. Reading at home regularly with your child and practicing sounds really does make the difference, thank you for such brilliant work.

With this cold weather we have been experiencing the children were very excited to tell me, that they had seen ice on cars and grass on their way to school. We decided to go for a walk around our field to see what else might be covered in frost. Sam was the first to spot a leaf covered in frost, they were all very intrigued at the pattern the frost had created on the leaf. When we got back into class we realised we had probably made a mistake by not putting our wellies on...we all had very damp feet. Whilst our socks were drying on the radiator, we discussed why they were wet and how frost occurs. The children then drew frosty pictures, William decided to draw the frosty leaf he had seen. Have a lovely weekend.

Adventurers

It's been a super start to the Spring term. The children loved dressing up as super heroes on Tuesday. They couldn't wait to complete the challenges in the afternoon which included an obstacle course, super statues, parachute games (goodies and baddies of course!) followed by comic kids yoga to calm down! I was amazed by the children's flexibility, Thomas could hold his body weight in the spider pose. Mrs Yardley and I tried, however we clearly ate too many treats at Christmas and failed miserably!



In English we started our new text called Elliot the midnight superhero. On Tuesday the children described their own super powers and on Wednesday we created our own inventions. We loved Finn's idea of a goo gun which will shoot out super sticky ice glue which freezes the baddies in place! Next week the children will create posters about these inventions.

In Maths we have focused on improving the fluency of number bond knowledge. Year 1 worked on their number bonds to 10 and Year 2 worked on their number bonds to 20. We are looking for quick recall of these facts and later an understanding of how the knowledge of number bonds can support addition and subtraction of 2 digit numbers and beyond.

The children enjoyed finding out about Stan Lee in art, we watched Youtube clips about his life and how he came up with the superhero characters such as the Hulk and Spider-Man. What an amazing imagination - we agreed that he definitely was super! Inspired by him we started to investigate bold primary colours and painted our own superheroes outfits which the children then stuck their own faces onto. We have a great class display of super children!

Mrs McDougall started to work on some super hero music and also linked this to phonics by clapping out the syllables in different names eg sup-er-man.

Inspired by the chilly week and ice forming outside we read Jack Frost on Friday. We discussed the changes in the weather and how ice is formed. The children then created a character description based on the story.

It was great to see the children in the hall doing Gymnastics on Wednesday with Mrs Shenton. They were very excited to see the climbing equipment out, listened carefully to the safety talk before the start of the session and really grew in confidence by the end of the class.

In phonics we have started to work on plurals in Year 2 and alternative spellings for ai in Year 1. Reading books have been sent home today, please ensure you continue to read daily as this has a positive impact on your child's progress and confidence at school. We are looking forward to working with the children this spring term.

Discoverers

Mrs Leslie -Firstly, I would like to say thank you for all the lovely cards and gifts I received from the children for Christmas. It was very kind and much appreciated! It's been so lovely to see the children again and hear about their Winter holidays and all the fun they've been having.

We started our new English learning journey based on 'The Stone Age Boy' by having an art and craft session. The children made a 'Stone Age Me' using photographs of their faces and designed a Stone Age outfit. They also made collage woolly mammoths.

In Art, we have been looking at the artist Banksy and looking at his 'Cave Painting' that mysteriously ended up in a museum along with cave paintings from the Stone Age.

In RE, the children have been describing the concepts of good and evil using examples and looking at words associated with good and evil.

In Maths, the children have using base ten equipment to make three and four digit numbers. We looked at the terminology of digit and value. For example: what is the digit in the tens column in 3452? (5) What is the value of the digit in the tens column? (50).

It's amazing how much learning we have managed to fit in to just two days! Please could the children make sure they have their library bus books in school next week as they will be given an opportunity to change them. Thank you!

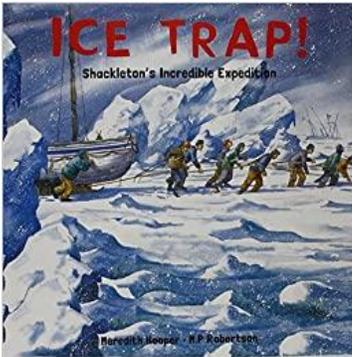
Mrs Allbrighton- As always - a wonderful end to the week in Discoverers class.

Year 3s and Year 4s had different work to do in Maths. They have been working on number and place value this week. Year 3 had to solve number problems relating to hundreds - using their fluency, problem solving and reasoning skills to answer increasingly more problematic questions. Year 4 worked on solving problems such as previous and next multiples of 10, including rounding whole numbers to the nearest ten. Both year groups answered questions such as - are they correct or incorrect? Well done everyone.

In English, the children annotated two characters on Thursday and did some role-play activities on Friday, based on our text driver - the Stone Age Boy! They had their first P.E. lesson on basketball on Thursday and researched topic-related vocabulary to the Stone Age period in History. The children were so engaged in our ICT lesson and it was really lovely to see! They enjoyed using the Scratch app to: change their backgrounds; instruct their animal's directions and change their animal's pitch. A very well done everyone!

Pioneers

Hello and Happy New Year to everyone,



This week in Pioneers we have begun reading and working with a new book *Ice Trap!* in our literacy learning journey which is directly linked to our geography topic of Extreme environments. We are focusing on Antarctica and Ernest Shackleton's heroic expedition across this continent in the early part of the twentieth century.

*August, 1914: Shackleton sets off from England with a team of explorers to walk across the Antarctic and study the icy depths of this little-known and forbidding continent. Sailing through some of the most perilous seas, the Endurance becomes trapped in the deadly pack ice of the Weddell Sea. When the Endurance is eventually crushed between the vast bulk of two floating icebergs, the men are forced to abandon ship and make the dangerous journey across the crushing sea in lifeboats. They reach relative safety on the uninhabited Elephant Island, but an even greater peril faces Shackleton and five other members of the crew... An incredible real-life story of perseverance, resilience and cooperation in the face of adversity, *Ice Trap!* makes Shackleton's most perilous expedition accessible to a new generation of readers.*

This week on Wednesday, was coincidentally 100 years since Shackleton's death on 5th January 1922 and in the news it was reported that a violin has been made from floorboards salvaged from his Edinburgh house.

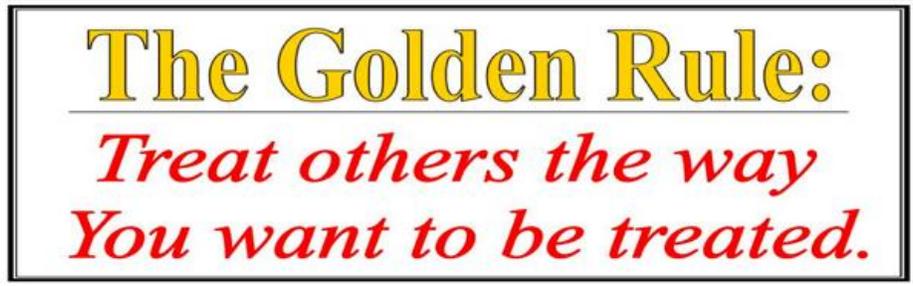
In Maths we have been focusing on understanding counting forwards and backwards through zero with negative and positive numbers. The rapid fall in temperature on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday morning was great to illustrate this in a real life setting.



Our Science topic this half term is Evolution and inheritance and as a hook into the subject we have this week created some DNA models from sweets. These models helped us to understand the structure of DNA and we learnt some facts of how many cells there are in the human body; an amazing 37 trillion. The children have also been discovering and considering what traits are inherited from their parents.



In RE the class are considering the “Golden Rule,” understanding what it is this week and whether they can detail examples of it occurring in their lives or in the news.



In PSHE we are considering the nature of being a Global Citizen and how we should care for the planet in terms of our attitudes and actions.

On a final point, Thank you very much for all my Christmas cards and presents. I really do appreciate the thoughtfulness that went into this and I had a lovely time opening them with my family.

Attendance week from: 13/12/2021 to 17/12/2021

Class	Attendance	Late Arrivals	Minutes Lost Through Lateness	Unauthorised Absences	Authorised Absences
Explorers	99.3%	0	0	0	1
Adventurers	96%	2	110	2	6
Discoverers	95.2%	0	0	10	3
Pioneers	97.4%	0	0	0	7

Although we strive for 100%, our whole school attendance for this week was 96.7%, which is above the national expectation of 96%

If your child is too unwell to attend school please contact us to let us know. You can phone on 872442 or email us on admin@sthelenspri.iow.sch.uk If you let us know by phone please can you put the reason for your child’s absence in writing when they return to school otherwise the absence will be marked as unauthorised. We are required to ask you for this in order to follow the Local Authority attendance procedures, and if we don’t receive a letter or email we have to follow it up.



We would like to wish a very 'Happy Birthday' to the following children who celebrated their special day this week:

Alba age 8
Cai-Wyn age 7
Alex age 11
Micah age 7

BURGER SHACK

20/01/22

Tasty Mains
Chicken Fillet Burger
OR
Incredible Burger
(Vegan)

With Chips

Scrummy Veggie Sides
Sweetcorn and BBQ Baked Beans

Yummy Dessert
Chocolate Orange Cake
with
Chocolate Sauce

£2.15

Don't forget, school meals are free for all children in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2!
To sign up for this tasty theme day menu, please speak to your school.

School Dinner Menu (£2.15 per day or free to Reception, Year 1 & 2 pupils)

	HOT SPECIALS...	DAILY FAVES...	WEEK 3	WC: 13/09/04/10/25/10 15/11/06/12/27/12 17/01/07/02/28/02
MONDAY	Macaroni Cheese ✓ Traditional Mac N Cheese, delicious macaroni in a creamy cheese sauce Veggie Sausage and Mash with Gravy ✓ Veggie sausages and mash with rich gravy	Jacket Potato ✓ With a choice of fillings Tomato Pasta ✓ Fresh, homemade tomato and basil sauce with penne pasta	SIDES Peas and Carrots	POKAFUD! Oatie Biscuit with Fruit Slices
TUESDAY	Hot Chicken Sandwich Sliced chicken breast in a floury bap with lettuce Veggie Balls in Tomato Sauce with Pasta ✓ Delicious veggie meatballs in a tasty tomato sauce with pasta	Jacket Potato ✓ With a choice of fillings Tomato Pasta ✓ Fresh, homemade tomato and basil sauce with penne pasta	Sweetcorn and Broccoli	Apple and Carrot Yoghurt Muffin
WEDNESDAY	Roast Pork with Roast Potatoes & Gravy Tender roast pork served with fluffy roasties and tasty gravy Butternut Squash and Potato Pastry Slice A chunky butternut squash and potato slice	Jacket Potato ✓ With a choice of fillings Tomato Pasta ✓ Fresh, homemade tomato and basil sauce with penne pasta	Carrots and Cabbage	Strawberry Ice Cream
THURSDAY	Beef Meatballs in Tomato Sauce with Pasta Delicious beef meatballs in a tasty tomato sauce with pasta Veggie Lasagne served with a Bread Wedge ✓ Delicious sheets of pasta layered with veggies and tomato sauce	Jacket Potato ✓ With a choice of fillings Tomato Pasta ✓ Fresh, homemade tomato and basil sauce with penne pasta	Green Beans and Sweetcorn	Chocolate Sponge Cake
FRIDAY	Golden Fish Fingers and Chips Crispy fish fingers with summery chips Soft Taco and Chips ✓ A soft taco shell filled with a yummy veggie tomato chili	Jacket Potato ✓ With a choice of fillings Tomato Pasta ✓ Fresh, homemade tomato and basil sauce with penne pasta	Baked Beans and Peas	Creamy Peach Rice Pudding

Please contact us with any questions on 01983 550500.

Chartwells

Food Super Heroes Menu

YOUR FAVOURITES available every day

OUR NEW MENU chosen by our parents and children

£2.15

ISLE OF WIGHT
THREE WEEK MENU
AUTUMN/WINTER 2021

Chartwells

		WEEK 1 W/C 20/02/2019 01/11/22/11 03/12 03/01/24/01 14/02				WEEK 2 W/C 04/02/2019 05/11/20/11 20/12 10/01/21/01 21/02				
MONDAY	HOT SPECIALS... Macaroni Cheese Traditional Mac N Cheese, delicious macaroni in a creamy cheese sauce Vegetable Burrito Wrap A soft wrap filled with lightly spiced veggies and rice	DAILY FAVES... Jacket Potato with a choice of fillings Tomato Pasta Fresh, homemade tomato and basil sauce with penne pasta	SIDES... Green Beans and Sweetcorn	PICK A PUDD! Raspberry Ripple Ice Cream	MONDAY	HOT SPECIALS... Cheese and Tomato Pizza with Dough Balls Cheesy tomato topped pizza slice Veggie Bolognese Yummy veggie Bolognese with pasta	DAILY FAVES... Jacket Potato with a choice of fillings Tomato Pasta Fresh, homemade tomato and basil sauce with penne pasta	SIDES... Carrot Sticks and Cucumber Sticks	PICK A PUDD! Flapjack with Fruit Slices	MONDAY
TUESDAY	Allegra's Chicken Filo Pie with Mashed Potato A delicious light filo pastry topped chicken pie Allegra's BBQ Beans served with cornbread Tangy BBQ beans served with cornbread	Jacket Potato with a choice of fillings including salmon mayo Tomato Pasta Fresh, homemade tomato and basil sauce with penne pasta	Peas and Broccoli	Brownie	TUESDAY	Sausage and Mash with Gravy Sausage and mash with rich gravy Allegra's Oodles of Noodles Delicious noodles with tofu and veggies	Jacket Potato with a choice of fillings Tomato Pasta Fresh, homemade tomato and basil sauce with penne pasta	Broccoli and Peas	Peach Shortbread Pudding & Custard	TUESDAY
WEDNESDAY	Roast Gammon with Roast Potatoes & Gravy Tender roast gammon served with fluffy roasties and tasty gravy Sweet Potato and Chickpea Roast with Roast Potatoes and Gravy A chunky sweet potato and chickpea roast	Jacket Potato with a choice of fillings Tomato Pasta Fresh, homemade tomato and basil sauce with penne pasta	Carrots and Cabbage	Shortbread Biscuit with Fruit Slices	WEDNESDAY	Roast Chicken with Roast Potatoes & Gravy Succulent roast chicken with fluffy roasties and tasty gravy Creamy Vegetable Pie with Roast Potatoes and Gravy Creamy vegetable pie with a cheesy shortcrust topper	Jacket Potato with a choice of fillings Tomato Pasta Fresh, homemade tomato and basil sauce with penne pasta	Cabbage and Carrots	Raspberry Yoghurt Cake	WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY	Beef Bolognese A classic Italian Beef Bolognese in a yummy tomato sauce Butternut Squash and Tomato Bake with Rice A delicious butternut squash and tomato bake served with rice	Jacket Potato with a choice of fillings Tomato Pasta Fresh, homemade tomato and basil sauce with penne pasta	Broccoli and Sweetcorn	Berry & Peach Oaty Crumble with Custard	THURSDAY	Beef Lasagne with a Garlic & Herb Bread Wedge A classic Italian layered pasta dish with beef mince Mild Chickpea and Potato Curry A tasty mild chickpea and potato curry	Jacket Potato with a choice of fillings Tomato Pasta Fresh, homemade tomato and basil sauce with penne pasta	Green Beans and Sweetcorn	Fruity Chocolate Brownie	THURSDAY
FRIDAY	Golden Fish Fingers and Chips Crispy fish fingers with scrummy chips Meat-free Nuggets and Chips Crispy Quorn nuggets with their fave sauce - ketchup	Jacket Potato with a choice of fillings Tomato Pasta Fresh, homemade tomato and basil sauce with penne pasta	Baked Beans and Peas	Orange, Sultana & Carrot Cake Slice	FRIDAY	Golden Fish Fingers and Chips Crispy fish fingers with scrummy chips Tomato Veggie Burger and Chips A scrummy tomato veggie burger in a soft bun	Jacket Potato with a choice of fillings Tomato Pasta Fresh, homemade tomato and basil sauce with penne pasta	Peas and Baked Beans	Vanilla Ice Cream	FRIDAY

- Vegetarian
- Oily fish
- Wholegrain
- Fruity!
- Nutritionist's Choice

Water, salad, freshly baked bread, yoghurt & fresh fruit
Available every day!



If your child would like the vegetarian option on a particular day, please can they let their teacher know so we can order enough portions from Bembridge kitchen.

Dates for Your Diary

- Tuesday 1st February – Fire Service visit (Yrs 1,2,5,6)
- Thursday 17th February – Wellbeing Day
- Friday 18th February – School closes at 3.00pm for half term
- Monday 28th February – School reopens at 8.45am

Textile Bank

Don't forget that we have a textile bank where you can donate unwanted **clothes, belts, paired shoes, bags, hats, (in a tied bag)**. The donated items will be collected and weighed fortnightly and the school will receive 20p per kilo towards our funds. **Donated items (bagged please) should be left near to the front entrance of the school. Please let the office know you have left items!** ***Please do not donate duvets, pillows, cushions, household textiles, soiled rags, curtains, blankets as the recycling company will deduct the cost of disposing of these items from our overall total raised.***

Remember to look at the school website for the latest school updates and information at www.sthelenspri.iow.sch.uk

The Adult Community Learning Spring Programme of courses and workshops is now out. We offer learning opportunities for adults who live on the Isle of Wight and are aged 19 upwards. Our wide range of courses can help you get new skills and re-connect with learning, or help you follow an interest, grow in confidence, achieve a qualification, or prepare for employment.

- Arts and crafts workshops
- Online courses
- ICT (Information Communication Technology)
- Maths and English Functional Skills
- Careers appointments

For more information check out our website pages www.iow.gov.uk/ACLCourses or contact us acl@iow.gov.uk or 817280