ST HELENS PRIMARY

Friday 1st March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have another wet and wonderful week.

Year 5 have ventured to the Heights on Monday for their swimming as well as having the opportunity to visit the Bay for their first science lesson in a lab.

The highlight of the week has of course been the Wellbeing Day where the children were treated to a series of activities based in house groups.
This included the parachute game (building on team work), learning the importance of having a voice as well as more practical craft and PE activities.
They drew different eyes to represent different fruits and their house colours and participated in three-legged races in the hall.

Thank you to Mrs Maloney and staff for organising all the activities.

Also in class Sami has enjoyed his diary writing, Alba is loving the work on micro:bits, Cai always looks forwards to his maths work and Arabella is really looking forward to using the home corner which currently taking the form of a castle and fairy house

The children have been on great form as usual as demonstrated in the awards assembly. At the same event Luke brought in three swimming badges and certificates showing his progression in the sport over a few months.

February seemed to disappear rapidly and we have already reached March. I am sure we can look forward to four great weeks before Easter.

Child populations across the country are continuing to fall resulting in local councils considering what to do about the increasing surplus places available in schools.
On the island we have reached that time again.

Below I attach a letter from the local authority highlighting their dilemma and how best to solve the situation. It appears that some schools will have to close in the future.

I hope my attachment reflects the strengths of St Helens Primary School and will help to protect us from being one of the small schools who are deemed unviable and selected for closure.

50 Years Celebration 1pm – 5pm

On Saturday 16th March, we will be opening the school to celebrate its 50th year. There will be entertainment, tea and cakes, lots of memorabilia and hopefully lots of new and old faces who will pop in to see how things have changed since 1974.

Have a great weekend

Mr Wake

Isle of Wight Council

Directorate for Children's Services
Director **Ashley Whittaker**

28th February 2024

County Hall
High Street
Newport
Isle of Wight
PO30 1UD
Tel: (01983) 821000
E-mail: SandLBusinessSupport@iow.gov.uk
DX: 56361 Newport (IOW)
Web: https://www.iow.gov.uk/

Dear Parent/Carers,

You may be aware that on the Island we have too many primary school places. What this means is that we have too many primary schools for the number of children on the Island, and this situation is getting worse due to fewer children being born. This means we have to take action to address this situation as otherwise our school system won't be financially viable.

We already have schools who are struggling to manage their budgets causing deficits to start across our schools. The funding provided for schools is based on a class size of 30 children. Any less than this causes the school to be creative as places not filled are approximately £4,200 per pupil, meaning it becomes more difficult to fund the broad and balanced curriculum that enables children to thrive, fund additional support and offer enrichment activities.

Having really small classes causes additional workload for teachers as they have to plan and teach across a potential mixed age or key stage class, which can have a huge range of needs. This affects the standards the children can achieve and the ability to extend pupils even further.

Very small schools have to share multiple leadership responsibilities and as schools decrease in size, they still have the same overheads as a larger school, such as building costs, energy costs and maintenance costs.

As a council, we need to take action to ensure our school system can support all of the children on the Island for generations to come. We are due to launch a number of public events across the Island where we would like to hear your views on the future of our school system. Your views will then form part of our strategy to address the rising number of spare places eventually leading to a formal consultation next academic year considering all of our schools, and the potential to close some of them.

We will be supporting schools and families during this time with regular communication, and eventually transition plans for the affected schools and children. We want to ensure children retain their friendship groups as much as possible and realise this will be a period of uncertainty. However, we are working closely with headteachers and urge all families to join us at some of the events and make your voice heard. We have set up an email address to capture people's questions and concerns. It is strategic.planning@iow.gov.uk

I hope this reassures you that we are planning the process out and are listening to all stakeholders. We look forward to meeting you and discussing the future of our education on the Island.

Yours sincerely

Naomi Carter
Service Director – Education, Inclusion and Access

Since I have lived on the island, a number of schools have closed including St Boniface, Weston and Whippingham as well as Chillerton and All Saints in more recent times.
Due to low birthrates over a number of years, there is still an increasing number of surplus places in our schools at this current time.

The local authority intends to close more schools to balance budgets with small schools proving costly to maintain; on the island most primary schools are deemed to be small schools - one form entry and under.

However as we know there are many positives about St Helens Primary School. We may have few classes but we do not have small class sizes with the exception of our Explorers class. In fact Adventurers is at the maximum level of 30 pupils and some of our Key Stage 2 classes have exceeded 30 in the past with Discoverers reaching 36 just two years ago.

Ofsted recognise that we offer a broad and balanced curriculum and in fact regarded our personal development so high we achieved an outstanding grade in our inspection in October. Today we have Wellbeing Day highlighting just one of the many strengths on offer.

Our standards are high. Behaviour, attitudes, SEN provision, safeguarding, teaching and learning and leadership are all strong. In addition, in the recently published Year 6 SATs results, you will have noticed that St Helens achieved 3rd place last year (one point below second) achieving above national expectations in all areas.

As a community we need to focus on the positives. When the local authority began seeking views on the qualities and strengths of different island schools we must sell St Helens to the best of our ability.

Thank you

Mr Wake

Attendance week from: 19/02/2024 to 23/02/2024

Class	Attendance	Late Arrivals	Minutes Lost Through Lateness	Unauthorised Absences	Authorised Absences
Explorers	83.8%	1	45	0	21
Adventurers	98%	1	21	0	6
Discoverers	95.6%	1	50	5	6
Pioneers	91.9%	0	0	10	11

Although we strive for 100%, our whole school attendance for this week was 93.7% which is below 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.

THIS WEEKS AWARDS

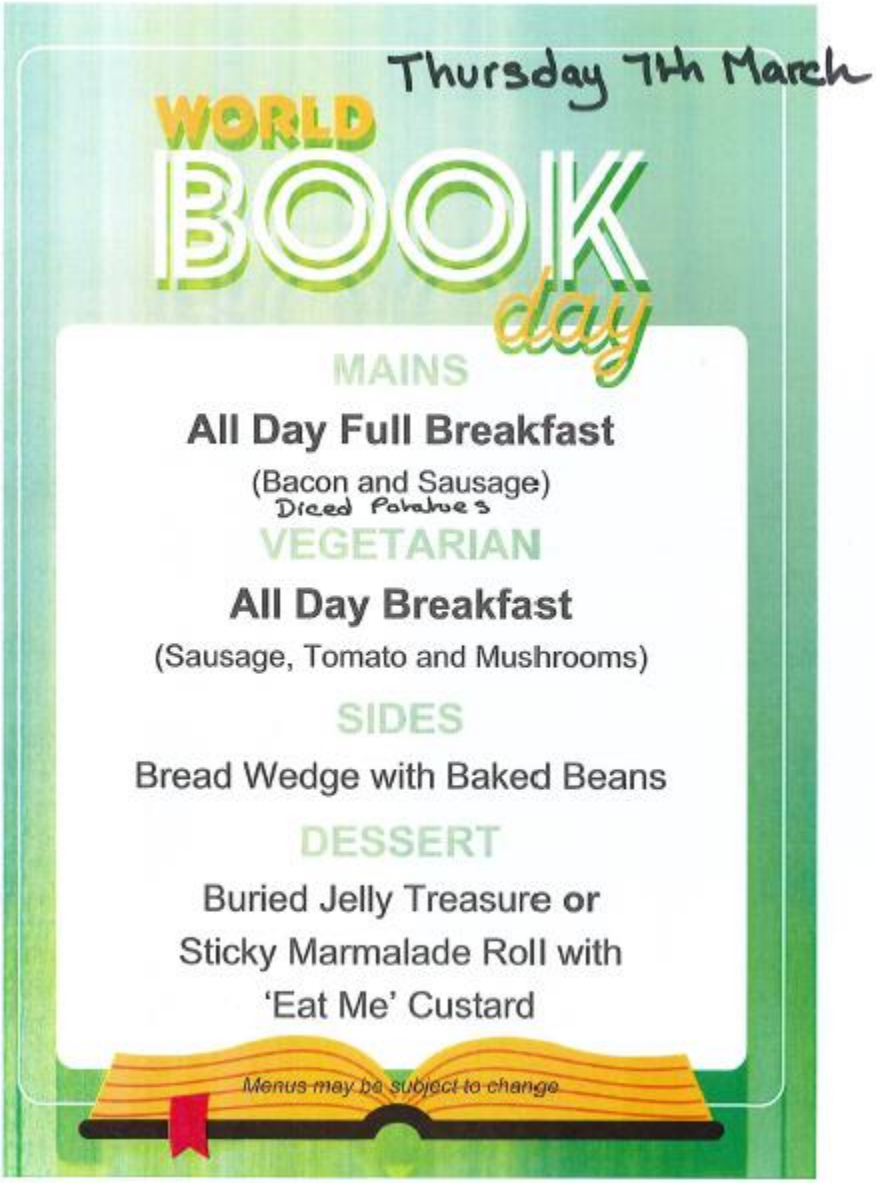
Class	Worker of the Week	Star of The Week
Explorers	Jamie	Ronnie
Adventurers	Oakleigh	Amelia
Adventurers	Oliver	William
Discoverers	Noah	Zach
Discoverers	Taylor	Logan
Pioneers	Sophia	Sami
Pioneers	Jarryd	Katy

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

Abbie age 9
Rowan age 11

School Dinner Menu (£2.75) per day or free to Reception, Year 1 & 2 pupils)

On ***TUESDAYS and THURSDAYS only,*** the children will be able to order baguettes - fillings cheese, tuna or ham.



Chartwells

WEEK 1

W/C: 30/10, 20/11, 11/12, 08/01, 29/01, 26/02, 18/03

AUTUMN/WINTER 2023

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
HOT SPECIALS	Cheese and Tomato Pizza Served with Potato Wedges	Classic Beef Burger Served with Potato Wedges	Roast Turkey Served with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Beef Bolognese Served with Wholewheat Pasta and Garlic and Herb Bread	Breaded Fish Fingers Served with Chips
	Stir Fried Vegetable Rice	Vegetarian Burger Served with Potato Wedges	Vegetable Pastry Rolls Served with Mashed Potato and Gravy	Vegetarian Bolognese Served with Wholewheat Pasta and Garlic and Herb Bread	Crispy Quorn Nuggets Served with Chips
JACKET POTATO	Jacket Potatoes with a choice of hot and cold fillings	Jacket Potatoes with a choice of hot and cold fillings, including Salmon Mayonnaise	Jacket Potatoes with a choice of hot and cold fillings	Jacket Potatoes with a choice of hot and cold fillings	Jacket Potatoes with a choice of hot and cold fillings
	Tomato Pasta Fresh, homemade tomato and basil sauce with penne pasta				
	All main meals are served with two vegetables				
DESSERT	Chocolate Brownie	Crispy Crackle Bar with Fruit	Original Flapjack	Carrot, Orange and Sultana Slice	Vanilla Ice Cream

PACKED LUNCH AVAILABLE
Ham, Cheese and Tuna Baguettes, available daily with veg sticks and fresh fruit or dessert of the day

AVAILABLE EVERY DAY
Water, salad, freshly baked bread, yoghurt & fresh fruit

Vegetarian · Oily Fish · Wholegrain · Fruityl · Nutritionist's Choice

Our menu is subject to change. Please be assured that all notified medical diets and allergy requirements will be safely catered for.

Chartwells

WEEK 2

W/C: 06/11, 27/11, 18/12, 15/01, 05/02, 04/03, 25/03

AUTUMN/WINTER 2023

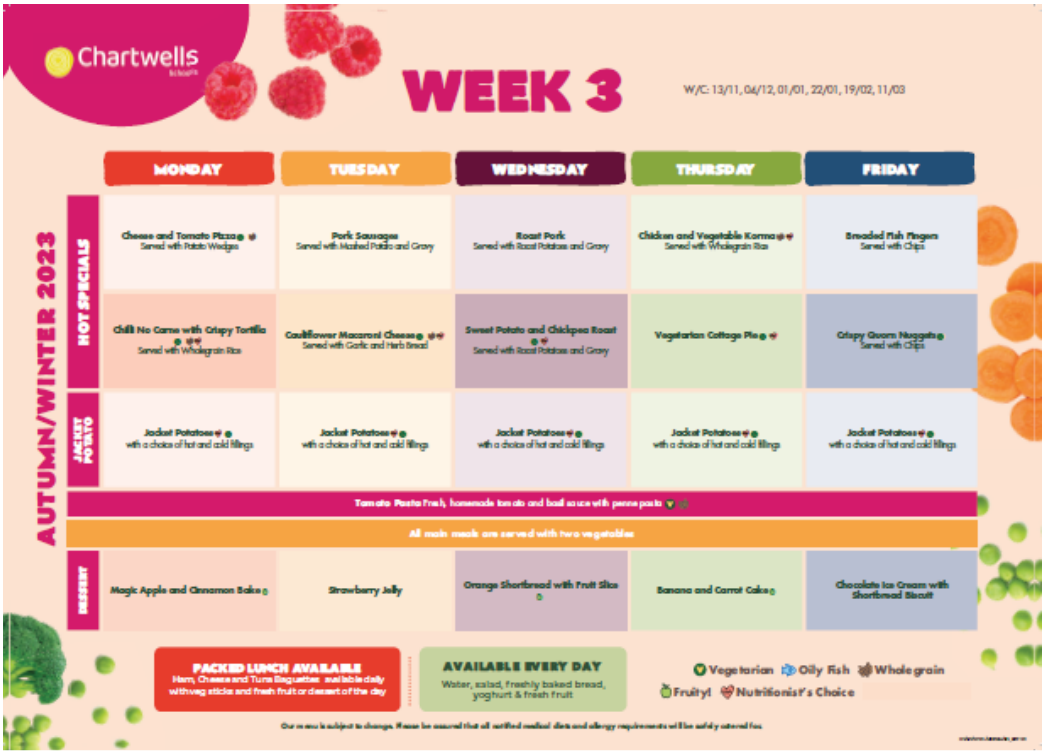
	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
HOT SPECIALS	Cheese and Tomato Pizza Served with Potato Wedges	Turkey Con Chilli Served with Wholegrain Rice	Roast Beef Served with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Sausage Pasta Bake Served with Garlic and Herb Bread	Breaded Fish Fingers Served with Chips
	Sweet Potato Curry Served with Wholegrain Rice	Macaroni Cheese	Cheesy Leek and Carrot Crumble Served with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Vegetarian Sausage Pasta Bake Served with Garlic and Herb Bread	Crispy Quorn Nuggets Served with Chips
JACKET POTATO	Jacket Potatoes with a choice of hot and cold fillings	Jacket Potatoes with a choice of hot and cold fillings	Jacket Potatoes with a choice of hot and cold fillings	Jacket Potatoes with a choice of hot and cold fillings	Jacket Potatoes with a choice of hot and cold fillings
	Tomato Pasta Fresh, homemade tomato and basil sauce with penne pasta				
	All main meals are served with two vegetables				
DESSERT	Apple Crumble with Custard	Crunchy Chocolate Biscuit	Chocolate and Vanilla Marble Cake	Carrot Cake	Strawberry Ice Cream

PACKED LUNCH AVAILABLE
Ham, Cheese and Tuna Baguettes, available daily with veg sticks and fresh fruit or dessert of the day

AVAILABLE EVERY DAY
Water, salad, freshly baked bread, yoghurt & fresh fruit

Vegetarian · Oily Fish · Wholegrain · Fruityl · Nutritionist's Choice

Our menu is subject to change. Please be assured that all notified medical diets and allergy requirements will be safely catered for.



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 The Bay kitchen.

Dates for Your Diary

Wednesday 6th March - Adventurers Wildheart Trust trip
Thursday 7th March - World Book Day
Monday 11th March – Staff Development Day – school closed to children
Wednesday 13th March – Walk the Wight school assembly
Saturday 16th March –St Helens Primary 50th Anniversary Celebration 1.00-5.00pm
Monday 18th March - School reports out
Tuesday 19th March - Parents Evening (KS2 only)
Wednesday 20th March - Parents Evening (all classes)
Monday 25th March - Year 6 CPR training
Thursday 28th March - Easter Service (details to follow)
Thursday 28th March - FOSH Easter Egg hunt (details to follow)
Thursday 28th March – School closes at 3.00pm for Easter holidays
Monday 15th April - School reopens at 8.45am for the Summer term
Monday 22nd April - Joanne Ryan Athlete Visit (with sponsored event)
Monday 6th May - May Bank Holiday – school closed
Monday 13th to Thursday 16th May – KS2 SATs
Monday 20th May - Class Photos with Cardwell & Simons
Friday 24th May - FOSH Colour Run (details to follow)
Friday 24th May - School closes at 3.00pm for half term
Monday 3rd June - School reopens at 8.45am for Summer term 2
Monday 17th June - RNLI Day

Monday 17th to Wednesday 19th June – Year 5/6 Residential trip
Friday 12th July - FOSH Summer Fayre
Friday 26th July - School closes at 3.00pm for Summer holidays

This Week's Class Updates

Explorers

We've had a very enjoyable week in Explorers!
The Children all enjoyed taking part in Wellbeing day yesterday. They said they enjoyed being with the older children in their houses and taking part in the different activities.

In maths this week the children have been exploring estimations and doubling. The Explorers enjoyed exploring doubling by designing a pattern on their dragon wings and doubling the pattern when they folded

them in half. In phonics we have been revising our phase 3 sounds, the children have enjoyed playing the bug club games on the board.

This afternoon we have been discussing St David's day. The Explorers have made their own daffodils using egg boxes and tissue paper. We have looked at some traditional welsh dresses and listened to the welsh national anthem as well as discussing ways people in Wales celebrate St David's day.

Adventurers

This week has been wet, windy & wild. Including today's insane hailstones, that drew a crowd at the window in pure awe.

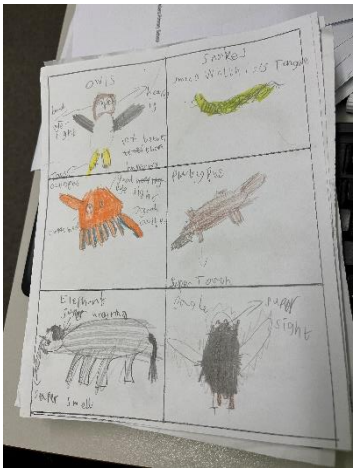
We've had a bit of an off timetable week, which has been a great deal of fun. On well-being day the class enjoyed being split into their houses. In our classroom we worked on designing our 2.5m talk lighthouse designs for the light trail of 40 lighthouses that will be displayed in Cowes and Southampton from July onwards. More info to follow.

The children have enjoyed continuing their work on our super hero themed book and are excited to work on their super hero puppets on Monday.

In maths they've made gorgeous number bond rainbow clouds for the classroom!

In science we've investigated the super hero sense powers that different creatures have- including the platypus with it's super touch, owls with their awful eyesight but 10x better than human sense of hearing.

Have a lovely weekend!



Discoverers

In English, Discoverers have been learning about the book Arthur and the golden rope.

In Science we have been learning about magnets.

In maths we have been learning time. On Wednesday we had Independent Arts in and we made Space Landers. In Art we have colouring in Easter decorations. In PE we learn how to barn dance with Mrs Royal.

In PSHE we are learning about prime. Is it good or bad?

By Luke and Emily

Pioneers

It was **Well Being Day Thursday 29th February 2024**

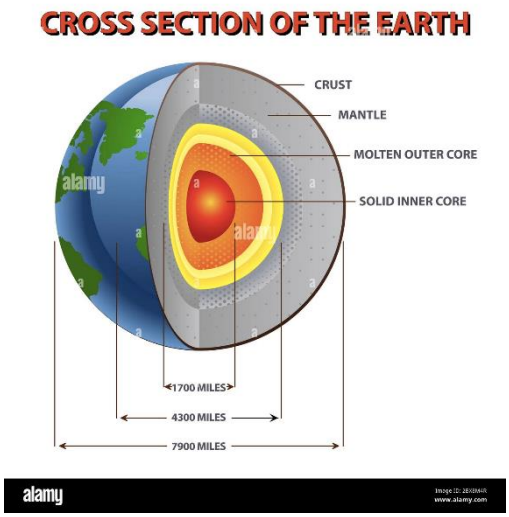
Well Being Focus themes were CONNECT and *My Voice Matters*

Four sessions around the themes
The children were split into houses so a vertical split in terms of age

As you know these days are an important element of our broader curriculum offer; in that they give the opportunity for the youngest to the oldest children to work together and be part of something bigger. The days attempt to improve their resilience, confidence, determination, enhance their creativity and allow opportunities for physical activity outside of PE.
I have included a couple of links, that you might like to watch.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oz1S66_pYTw
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UmrUV8v-KQg

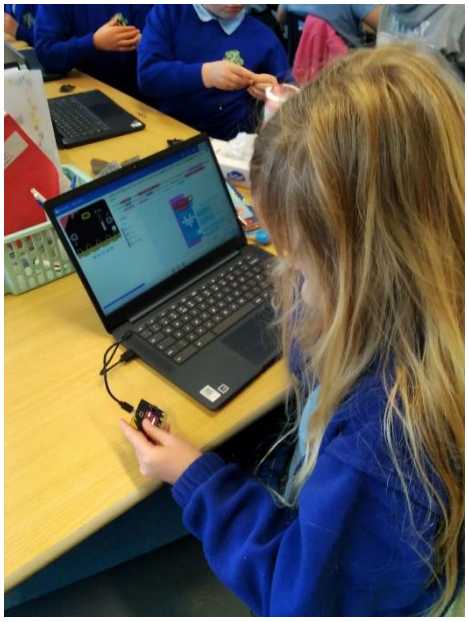
Staff	Miss Gorman Miss Callaghan Mrs Ferrier am	Mrs Sharp Mr Popple Mrs Royal	Mrs Jenvey Mr Enser Mrs Ferrier pm	Mrs Maloney Mrs Ashdown
Location	Adventurers classroom	Hall	Discoverers Classroom	Pioneers Classroom
Activity	CONNECT Lighthouse Designs	CONNECT Team Building and Physical Well Being activities	CONNECT Peach Art Exhibition collaborative art Eyes and Tessellating Squares	My Voice Matters

Our Voices Matter
St Helens Primary School



In Pioneers Class this week in our science lesson we were investigating whether different sugars would dissolve in different liquids. We were also exploring our micro bits and programming them to be pets, countdown timers and much more.

In geography we played a game to understand tectonic plate theory and the composition of the earth. See below for photos of some of the volcanoes from our recent Take Home Task currently displayed in the classroom.



Easter is coming…….

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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

St Helens

Village Fayre

Sunday 9th June 2024

COMPETITION!

We need YOU to create the covers of this year's Village Fayre programme!

The winning designs will appear as the front and back covers of the programme.

We will choose one design from KS1/EYFS and one from KS2. You can enter a design for each.

Front cover entries should include the words 'St Helens Village Fayre 2024'

PRIZES!

Each winning artist will receive a £10 gift card, a copy of the programme to keep and a framed copy of their design.

All entries must be on A4 paper, portrait orientation only please

Closing date is Friday 22nd March.

Winners will be announced on Thursday 28th March

PLEASE RETURN ALL ENTRIES TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE F.A.O MRS TAYLOR & ENSURE YOUR NAME AND CLASS IS CLEARLY WRITTEN ON THE BACK

St Helens Community Centre needs your help!

We are looking for a new team of volunteers and committee members to help us create a vibrant village hub.

Could you be our 'caretaker', or part of a team to help manage the site, liaising with local tradespeople to maintain the building?

Do you have ideas for fundraising, projects or improving our facilities? **How can we better serve our community?**

St Helens Community Centre

Could you manage the bookings, and customer contacts? Maybe you have IT skills and could assist with our online presence and publicity?

Come to our Open Evening on Wednesday 6th March at 7.30pm!

There will be cake and refreshments served.

Thank you!

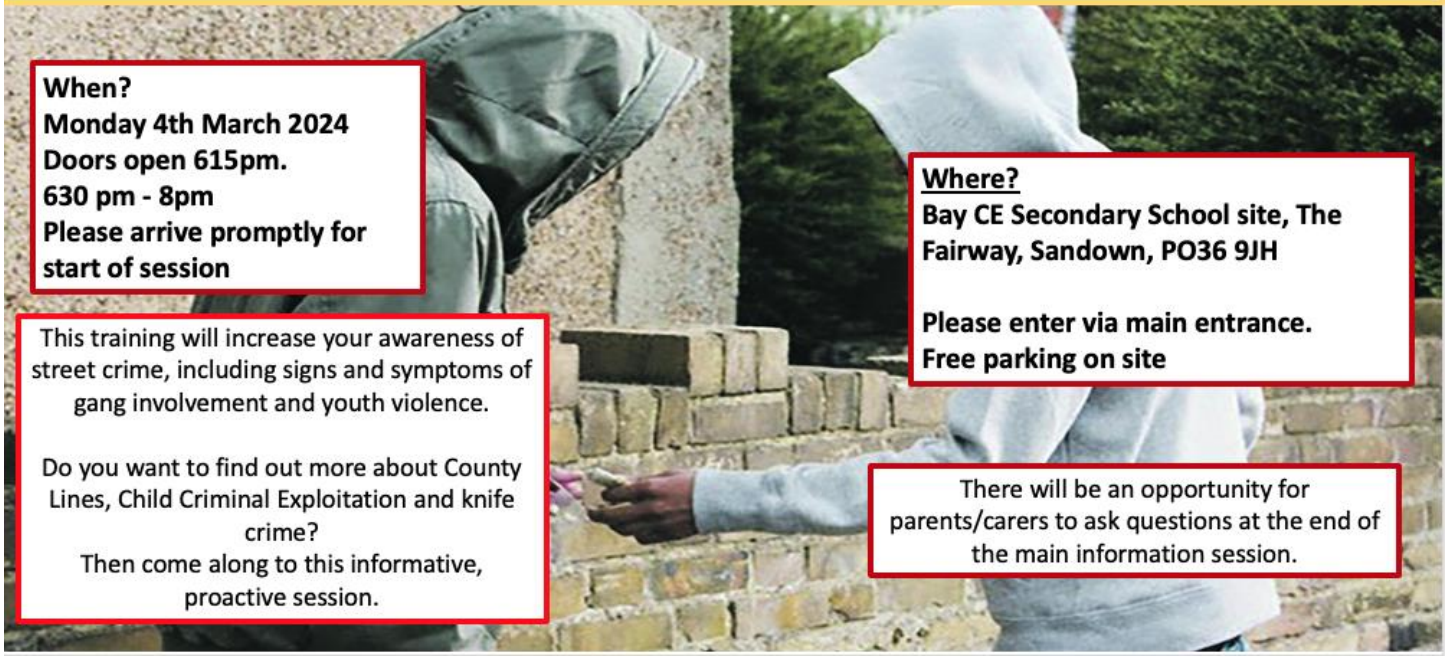
Could you be on a rota to help keep our building clean for groups to use?

'I had never climbed before. I was scared of heights. But I climbed and rang the bell all by myself and felt really proud of myself'
Poonam
2nd Bembridge Brownies
Contact: Louise Brace-girdle
loublackmore@hotmail.com
Brownies
Girls have nonstop fun, learning and adventure
for ages 7 to 10
At Brownies, we welcome all girls to explore their creative side, get out into the great outdoors and start to learn to look after themselves, others and the world we live in.
Girlguiding
Registered charity number: 306016
Join a local Brownies group girlguiding.org.uk/joinus

EASTER POTTERY CLUB
MONDAYS DURING THE HOLIDAYS
10AM - 12PM & 2PM - 4PM
25TH MARCH, 1ST APRIL, 8TH APRIL
SCULPTING
POTTERY WHEEL
POTTERY PAINTING
£25
WWW.ISLEOFWIGHTPOTTERY.COM

WE WANT YOU!
ARRETON CRICKET CLUB
Looking for a friendly & fun club to play cricket?
Just starting out and want to give it a go?
Everyone welcome age 5+
ECB trained coaches, equipment & great opportunities.
DYNAMOS CRICKET
ALL STARS CRICKET
For more information please contact us at
07837 664010
www.facebook.com/arretoncc
All-stars age 5-8
Dynamos age 8-11
U11 teams, U13 teams,
U15 teams, mens & womens

FREE Training for Parents and Carers living on and/or visiting The Isle of Wight
'EYES-WIDE'
Increasing your Awareness of Gangs, Youth Violence & Criminal Exploitation



When?
Monday 4th March 2024
Doors open 615pm.
630 pm - 8pm
Please arrive promptly for start of session

Where?
Bay CE Secondary School site, The Fairway, Sandown, PO36 9JH

Please enter via main entrance.
Free parking on site

This training will increase your awareness of street crime, including signs and symptoms of gang involvement and youth violence.

Do you want to find out more about County Lines, Child Criminal Exploitation and knife crime?
Then come along to this informative, proactive session.

There will be an opportunity for parents/carers to ask questions at the end of the main information session.

DOES YOUR CHILD ENJOY BEING ACTIVE AND HAVING FUN?

IS YOUR CHILD TOO YOUNG TO JOIN A TEAM?

DOES YOUR CHILD WANT TO BUILD THEIR CONFIDENCE IN A SPORTING ENVIRONMENT?

DOES YOUR CHILD WANT TO PLAY FOOTBALL BUT NOT IN A TEAM YET?

IF YOU'VE ANSWERED YES TO ANY OF THOSE QUESTIONS, WE'VE GOT THE PERFECT SOLUTION! WE PROVIDE A SAFE, ENJOYABLE AND NON-COMPETITIVE ENVIRONMENT WHERE CHILDREN CAN HAVE FUN WHILST DEVELOPING AND IMPROVING THEIR FOOTBALL SKILLS.

OURS AIMS ARE:

- TO ALLOW CHILDREN TO HAVE FUN THROUGH FOOTBALL
- TO IMPROVE CONFIDENCE AND SOCIAL SKILLS.
- TO LEARN AND IMPROVE BASIC FOOTBALL SKILLS. CONTROL, PASSING, DRIBBLING.
- TO DEVELOP AGILITY, BALANCE, CO-ORDINATION, SPEED (ABC'S).

Our fully FA qualified coaches have up to date First Aid training and are DBS checked. Each session will be packed full of fun games played in teams, and as individuals, to help children build friendships as well as independence.

To Book: Text your child's name, school, year group and parent name to 07594 389531

SANDOWN SUNDAY SOCCER

Sandown Soccer
Love The Game

INTRODUCING OUR
FUN FOOTBALL SESSION
AT THE BAY PRIMARY SCHOOL SANDOWN!

OUR FUN SESSION WILL BE:
*Every Sunday **10am-12pm***
at The Bay Primary School,
Winchester Park Road, Sandown.
£6 for the 2 hours per child.

To Book: Text your child's name, school, year group and parent name to 07594 389531

Find us on facebook
Sandown Soccer - Isle of Wight

DO YOU CARE FOR OR WORK WITH CHILDREN WITH SEND AGED 0-5 IN THE ISLE OF WIGHT?

Interested in improving your local early years services?

This collaborative programme brings together parents, practitioners and local decision makers to help improve outcomes for younger children with SEND and their families.

IMPROVE OUTCOMES | CO-PRODUCTION | INCLUSION
DIVERSITY | IMPROVE WELLBEING | BUILD RELATIONSHIPS

5 March and 20 March 2024, 10 am – 12.30 pm

Join us for a two part conversation

Register for your place on Eventbrite or scan QR code

WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

Tuesday 5 March 2024 - 9.30 am – 12.00 pm

WORKING WITH UNDER-REPRESENTED GROUPS

- Understand who are under-represented and under-served groups locally
- Challenges and barriers to reaching them
- Why is it important to work with under-represented groups in the early years?

Wednesday 20 March 2024 - 9.30 am – 12.00 pm

WELCOMING AND INCLUDING FAMILIES

- Building networks and inclusion
- Listening skills, communication, building relationships
- Co-production – designing services collaboratively with early years families

These workshops support Isle of Wight Family Hubs to improve outcomes and wellbeing for early years children with SEND and their families, with a focus on co-production, inclusion and supporting families from under-represented communities. It is funded by DfE and delivered through the Early Years SEND partnership.

Who are Contact?

Contact is the UK charity for families with disabled children. We give advice and information about any aspect of raising a disabled child, including help in the early years, finances, education, emotional and practical support.

contact.org.uk

Scan me for more information
or visit bit.ly/IoWWorkshops

contact For families with disabled children

ADULT LEARNING

International Women's Day

International Women's Day is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. **#Inspireinclusion**

Come and celebrate with us, workshops open to adults 19+ with one accompanied child over 10 years. Please note that only adult bookings and payments can made on our website, so please call us if you would also like to book for a child.

Sunday 10 March, 10.30am to 12.30pm, cost £10 adults/£5 children

Brush lettering
Learn the technique and apply it to make greeting cards.

Springtime wreath
Produce a decoration for your door or table.

Macrame bracelets
Create colourful bracelets with beads and decorations.

For more information and to book your place.
www.iow.uk/ACLcourses
01983 817280
acl@iow.gov.uk
Facebook IWCACL

5325COMP 2/24 LC

Isle of Wight Council

Would you like information on how to access additional support regarding your child's education?

Why not attend the Education & Early Help

Drop-in Session

Come and visit us at the Sandown Family Hub on 25th March 2024 between 1pm and 4pm.

To Contact Early Help team please call 01983 823171

To Contact Education & Inclusion Service 01983 823151

Isle of Wight Council

www.iow.gov.uk