



# St Helens Primary Newsletter

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2025



## Attendance

Week from: 08/09/2025 to 12/09/2025



Class	Attendance	Late Arrivals	Minutes Lost Through Lateness	Unauthorised Absences	Authorised Absences
Explorers	95.5%	0	0	2	3
Adventurers	96.4%	0	0	0	9
Discoverers	97.9%	0	0	0	7
Pioneers	99.3%	0	0	0	2

Although we strive for 100%, our whole school attendance for this week was **97.6%** which is **above** the national expectation of 95%.

In line with the school policy, **please inform the school every day of absence**, wherever practically possible, of the reason for their child's absence and the predicted date of their return.

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](mailto: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.

Attendance Matters



Every Child Every Day



## *This Week's Awards*



<u>Class</u>	<u>Worker of the Week</u>	<u>Star of The Week</u>
Explorers	Billie	Jaxx
Adventurers	Sam	Bella
Adventurers	Ocean	Marley
Discoverers	Raif	Ruby
Discoverers	Alena	Jude
Pioneers	Belle	Arlo
Pioneers	Logan	Charlie



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY



**15<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> September**

*Betty age 7*

*Starlah age 11*



### **Rotary Christmas Shoebox Appeal**

We still have spare boxes and leaflets in the school office if you wish to take part in this annual charity event.



## School Dinner Menu (£3.30 per day or free to Reception, Year 1 & 2 pupils)



**ARE YOU A WINNER?**

Every Thursday, check under your plate for a winner sticker!

1. Clear your plate
2. Check if you have a sticker
3. If you do, show a member of kitchen staff
4. Collect your prize

Chartwells Good luck!

Well done to this week's winners – Lola and Freddie!

### SPRING/SUMMER 2025 MENU



### WEEK 3

W/C: 06/05/2025, 03/06/2025, 23/06/2025, 14/07/2025, 01/09/2025,  
22/09/2025, 13/10/2025

		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
HOT DISHES	OPTION 1	Cheese and Tomato Pizza Served with Wholewheat Pasta	Sausage Hot Dog Served with Potato Wedges	Roast Gammon Served with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Chicken and Broccoli Pasta Bake Served with Garlic and Herb Bread	Fish Fingers Served with Chips
		OR	OR	OR	OR	OR
	OPTION 2	Veggie Chili Con Carne With Crispy Tortilla Served with Wholegrain Rice	Veggie Sausage Hot Dog Served with Potato Wedges	Roast Quorn Served with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Veggie Shepherd's Pie Served with Gravy	Quorn Dippers Served with Chips
		OR	OR	OR	OR	OR
	OPTION 3	Tomato Pasta Fresh, Homemade Tomato Sauce with Pasta	Tomato Pasta Fresh, Homemade Tomato Sauce with Pasta	Tomato Pasta Fresh, Homemade Tomato Sauce with Pasta	Tomato Pasta Fresh, Homemade Tomato Sauce with Pasta	Tomato Pasta Fresh, Homemade Tomato Sauce with Pasta
HOT DISHES ARE SERVED WITH TWO VEGETABLES AND FRESHLY BAKED BREAD						
DESSERT		Flapjack with Fruit	Coriander Tart	Oatie Cookie with Fruit	Vanilla Ice Cream	Crunchy Chocolate Mousse

 **BAKED POTATOES SERVED DAILY**  
With a choice of toppings

 **AVAILABLE DAILY**  
Fresh fruit, salad, yogurt and water

 **Chartwells**  
Schools

 Vegetarian  Vegan  Dairy Free  Wholegrain  Fruity!  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 Nettlestone kitchen.



## Dates for Your Diary



Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October (AM)

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February

School Nurse Clinic (9am-12pm) Appointments required

Cardwell & Simons School Photographer (individual & sibling photos)

Pioneers - Osborne House visit

School closes at 3:00pm for half term

School reopens at 8:45am for Autumn term 2

Flu Immunisation clinic with School Aged Immunisation Service

School closes at 3:00pm for Christmas holidays

School reopens at 8:45am for Spring term

School closes at 3:00pm for half term

Staff Development Day-school closed to children

School reopens at 8:45am for Spring term 2



### Help & Information



### Drop-in Sessions For parents of Early years children with emerging



**SEND**

Please scan the QR code for more information and to book

Come and join us for a friendly and informal drop in session, designed to provide support, advice, and a chance to connect with other parents and carers.

We often have Occupational Therapists and Speech and Language Therapists available to offer specialist advice.

10<sup>th</sup> September- Newport Family Centre

17<sup>th</sup> October- Sandown Family Centre

7<sup>th</sup> November- Ryde Family Centre

9<sup>th</sup> December- Newport Family Centre

9.30am - 10.30am or

10.30am - 11.30am







## **‘EYES-WIDE’**

### **Child Criminal Exploitation, Gang & Youth Violence Awareness, FREE Workshop for Isle of Wight Parents and Carers**

**Sat 27 Sept**  
**10:30am – 12:00pm**  
 (Please arrive promptly for start of the session)

This workshop is about street crime, including language, signs and symptoms of gang involvement.

Do you want to find out more about County Lines, CCE (Child Criminal Exploitation) and knife crime?

Then come along to this informative, proactive session for awareness.

**Isle of Wight College, Medina Way,  
Newport, PO30 5TA**  
 (Please enter via main entrance. Free parking on site.)

Run by Urban Pure Solutions  
 For more info please visit [urbanpuresolutions.com](http://urbanpuresolutions.com)

**The Isle of Wight College**  
 Your Future Starts Here

SCAN ME TO BOOK TICKETS

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

**Isle of Wight Secondary Colleges and 6<sup>th</sup> Form**  
**2025-26 Open Day/Evening dates**  
**(as at 14 September 2025)**

School/College	Date	Time
Carisbrooke College	29 September 2025	Year 6 open evening: 5-8pm
Christ the King College	18 September 2025	Year 6 open evening: 5.30-7.30pm
	06 November 2025	6 <sup>th</sup> Form open evening: 5.30-7.30pm
Cowes Enterprise College	1 <sup>st</sup> to 31 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	<b>Year 6</b> Open Month
	3 November 2025 – 8 December 2025	<b>6<sup>th</sup> Form</b> Open Month
Island Free School	11 October 2025	Y6 open day: 09.30-1pm
		Headmaster's Talks at 10am, 11am and 12noon
Lift Ryde	8 October 2025	Y6 Open Evening: 4-7pm Presentations 4.30pm and 5.30pm
	Open mornings	Book through Reception for an am slot

	6-9 October 2025 19 November 2025	6th Form Open Evening : 4-7pm
Medina College	23 September 2025	Year 6 open evening: 5-8pm
Ryde School	4 October 2025 7 February 2026	Y6 and 6 <sup>th</sup> Form Open Morning: 10-12.30pm
The Bay CE School	2 October 2025	Y6 Open Evening: 5-8pm
The Island VI Form	13 November 2025	VI Form open evening: 5-8pm
The Isle of Wight College	23 September 2025 15 November 2025 10 January 2026 7 March 2026	4.30-6.30pm Open Evening 10-2pm Open Day 10-2pm Open Day Open Day
The Priory School of our Lady Walsingham	n/a	Don't hold open days. Ring up to make an appointment for a show round. Marion Ahmed – Tel: 861222 or email: <a href="mailto:mail@prioryschool.org.uk">mail@prioryschool.org.uk</a>

- Please note St George's School is not offering open days. Places are allocated via the SEND department.

**Headteacher's**



**Update**

**Dear Parents,**

We have had a good week following in the same vein as previous weeks. Excusing the occasional lapse, teachers have been impressed with the way the children have settled into their new classes. In year 2 we welcome Freddie who will make a great addition to the class. We still have places for a small number of children to our younger classes.

In Year 5 and 6 they have enjoyed their new text The Lost Whale.

The Lost Whale is a 2022 children's novel by author Hannah Gold, illustrated by Levi Pinfold, about a lonely boy named Rio who forms a special connection with a whale named White Beak while living with his grandmother in California. The story follows Rio's quest to find White Beak when she goes missing, which helps him process his mother's illness and find his own place in the world.



They have been using boom whackers in music which I know have been popular.



In Adventurers they have enjoyed making and painting their whales and have used number lines and other equipment to count 1 and 2 digit numbers.

In Discoverers, they completed their amulets, began their new class text and continue to extend their understanding of place value in maths.



Marcy and the Riddle of the Sphinx is a new text for year 3 and 4 which I am sure they will enjoy.

It follows the story of young Marcy, who finds herself on a mission to save her father after he becomes trapped inside an Ancient Egyptian Sphinx. On her journey, Marcy must learn to overcome her fears and challenge evil as she encounters hieroglyphs, Egyptian gods and ancient tombs as she goes about her quest.....



I look forward to comparing their amulets with the ones shown here.

Explorers impressed in their first whole school celebration assembly. Reef told us about their phonics lessons and Nancy and Billie enjoyed using blackberries to make playdough. The new hall display shows how busy they have been with their exciting curriculum.

On a similar theme, the new PE and clubs display board help to display all the opportunities available to the children. We now have after school clubs every day this week. Music club and dance clubs made their start to the school year followed by cross country clubs and IT skills in the latter part of the week.

I understand more children have asked to join the music club which is great as the plan is to have a school choir to sing at events in the local community and possibly beyond.

The sun is finally out as I type so I hope everyone has a glorious weekend to look forward to!

**Mr Wake**



## ***This Week's Class Updates***



### **Explorers**

We have had a fun week in Explorers!

The children have enjoyed looking at the book 'All sorts of art' in phonics this week. This is another one of our wordless books. We have discussed the different types of art we could see and the techniques the artists are using. Focusing on the clay sculptor we talked about how we could use play dough to create our own faces - pinching, rolling, squeezing etc. the children then went away and made their own faces using different techniques.

This afternoon we have continued with this theme but linked it to our discussions about autumn. We walked up to our nature area and collected lots of different autumnal resources and then used these to create our own nature faces.

Today we have sent all the children home with their own reading book, this will be changed after they have read each book 3 times. All the children have enjoyed looking at their reading books, we encourage parents to read with them every evening to help build their confidence and



understanding. At the moment the children are exploring wordless books, each book has conversational prompts to help you.

Have a fantastic weekend!



## Adventurers

It's been another busy week in Adventurers class. We have been doing lots of writing using descriptive language around our class text *The Snail and The Whale*. In Maths, we have continued our place value work and learned how to apply that to addition. A small group of children moved onto using a 100 square to add 2 digit numbers together.

We have learned about the continents and oceans in Geography and had a great class discussion about why we have rules in school and at home.

Mrs Royal has mentioned how excellent their behaviour was in today's PE lesson, hopefully this can continue for both PE lessons during the week from now on.

Have a great weekend.



## Discoverers

This week has been full of wonderful writing and exciting Egyptian investigations.

In English the class explored front adverbials and direct speech. They also created their very own ancient character for use in their own narrative writing later on. Some of the description was incredible!! We loved all of their fantastic creations. Special shout out to Emily for her beautiful fuzzy creature with wings and William for describing his so well.

In maths the class have enjoyed the challenge of 3 and 4 digit place value and partitioning. We took it further towards the end of the week and explored problem solving with addition and subtraction. Shout out to Hollie for her brilliant maths work!!

In science the class learnt more about ancient Egyptian diets and explored their nutritional value. Rightly deciding that many Egyptians in the past would have had very poor diets (which was backed up by looking at their teeth last week).

In art the class painted their amulets and began to decode hieroglyphics to use later on when making their own canopic jars.

Their music about rainforests was fantastic and Mrs Allman enjoyed popping by and listening.

Break times have been challenging for all year groups- so next week stricter rules about football are coming in for everyone's safety and happiness.

Overall, we've had a wonderful week and can't wait to see how they continue to unpack their topics next week. Have lovely weekends and we'll see you on Monday.





## Pioneers

**Dear** parents and carers, this week in English we have been describing the workhouse and what it would be like to be in the workhouse or to be Jim Jarvis.

In maths we have been rounding numbers to the nearest 10,100,1000,10,000 and 100,000.

In Art we have been learning about JMW Turner or “the painter of light”, they called him.

In RE we learnt about the Pillars of Islam and this made me realise that Mohammed Salah’s name (my favourite footballer) is after the prophet Mohammad and that Salah means praying.

By Noah



**This week I really liked doing RE learning about the 5 Pillars of Islam and doing research on all the things that represent Islam. It was fun and very interesting to learn about what we did.**

**We also did Guided Reading and learned about the worst jobs for children in Victorian times which links to our history about the Victorians. By Barnaby**





## 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.



For the latest school updates & information

remember to look at the school website

[www.sthelenspri.iow.sch.uk](http://www.sthelenspri.iow.sch.uk)



### White-tailed eagles art exhibition

1st October -31<sup>st</sup> October 2025

Quay Arts Cafe

Mon-Sun 9am-5pm

Amazing art created by children from the Island's primary and special schools celebrating the reintroduction of White-tailed eagles on the Isle of Wight.



**FREE**  
White-tailed eagle family  
art drop in sessions  
Mon 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> Oct  
10am-3pm  
Quay Arts Seminar Room

Join Emma and Kay from the Wildheart Animal Sanctuary for...

- large scale mark making
- tile paintings
- artefact touch table
- Steve the WTE Puppet!



Kindly supported by



This drop-in is suitable for all ages.  
\*All children must be accompanied  
by a responsible adult\*



## **Best Start In Life**

As the new school year begins, the government is rolling out a range of initiatives to support families and give children the Best Start in Life. Prime Minister Kier Starmer has written a Plan for Change promise to give children the best possible start with 75% of five-year olds reaching a good level of development by 2028. Achieving this will take a joint effort from professionals and families alike. Locally, there's a wealth of information and resources available to support you.

Visit our Family Information Hub website to find out what's on offer for families that you work with. Please click the link [IW Family Information Hub](#)

To read the Prime Minister's letter to parents, please click on the link below

**<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2025/09/prime-ministers-letter-to-parents-and-carers-on-best-start-in-life/>**