



# St Helens Primary Newsletter

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2025



## Attendance

Week from: 10/11/2025 to 14/11/2025



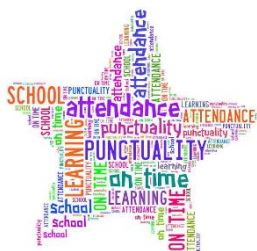
Class	Attendance	Late Arrivals	Minutes Lost Through Lateness	Unauthorised Absences	Authorised Absences
Explorers	97.2%	1	15	0	3
Adventurers	82.7%	0	0	2	43
Discoverers	97.6%	1	25	4	4
Pioneers	97.7%	2	30	0	6

Although we strive for 100%, our whole school attendance for this week was **93.5%** which is **below** 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	Andreas	Franklin
Adventurers	Mia	Reggie
Adventurers	Jamie	Eleanor
Discoverers	Noah	Lila, Oakleigh
Discoverers	Rosie	Mia
Pioneers	Frazer	Harry
Pioneers	Micah	Atticus



# **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**



**17<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> November**

*Mabel age 9*



## Being a Governor at St Helen's Primary School

The first question most people ask themselves when considering if it's right for them to join the Governing Body is: "Do I have the time?"

The time that you can give to the role is really flexible. At St Helens the full Governing Body (FGB) meets 6 times a year, usually on Wednesdays at 5.00 p.m. Dates for the following year are set at the last meeting of the academic year in July, although these can be adjusted, for example, if you know you will be away.

The majority of Governors are also members of one or more sub-committees - the Strategy committee or the Finances and Resources committee; which usually meet between FGB meetings. All governors are welcome to attend both sub groups. We aim to keep FGB meetings to around an hour and a half and committee meetings between an hour and an hour and a half.

In addition, Governors are part of an ongoing monitoring process to help ensure that the school can remain on track to support and encourage all pupils to achieve

.Governors are linked with specific subject areas, most usually alongside their individual areas of interest or knowledge.

All new governors are linked with a mentor or buddy that they can go to for information or advice or to shadow during visits.

All Governors are welcome to attend the Awards Assemblies, currently on Mondays at 2.30 p.m. - it's a good way to see all the children together and for them to recognise you around the school.

The next question that often arises is: "What could I bring to the Governing Body?" Parent Governors or Co-opted Governors, who also happen to be parents are in an exceptional position to not only want the best for the school, but also the best for their own families. Not every Governor needs to have an educational background, other skills and time can be equally important. Occasionally it can be challenging where a conflict of interest can occur but there are lots of avenues for advice.

St Helens school is a part of Governor Hub - when you become a member of the Governing Body you will be given a log-in and information on how to access the area. From Governor Hub you can access Governor training and past and future FGB minutes and associated papers. The hub contains lots of useful information and links to relevant government legislation and changes. All governors use governor hub to update any declarations of interest, to agree to, and continue to uphold governor standards and to register a continuing understanding of the government's document Keeping Children Safe in Education.

The Governing Body is made up of both parent and co-opted governors as well as members of the school community. Co-opted governors may also be parent governors who have been voted onto the governing body, whereas parent governors are usually elected by parental ballot. It is the responsibility of all governors to work together to support the school improvement plan and to uphold the governor's code of conduct with the well being of pupils and staff paramount.

## Being a Parent Governor at St Helens Primary School

Parent governors are in a unique position on a governing body. Not only do parent governors have to work in the best interests of the school, but they have to balance this with their natural desire to see the best outcomes for their own child(ren). The aim of this part is to offer advice to new parent governors on their specific role and suggest ways of handling some of the tricky situations which may arise.

As a parent governor it will sometimes feel that you have to know everything about the school, but can't talk about it; you have to be on everyone's side; if you don't do paid work, people imagine that you have loads of free time.....and you have to be able to juggle all these expectations. As a parent you will already be an expert juggler, but developing your role as a governor will take time.

You are not alone! There is advice, help and support you can tap into....and reading this leaflet is the first step.

Parent governors are well placed to understand parents' views and

to remind the governing body how matters being discussed affect parents;  
People (and Governors) can hold differing viewpoints - How you vote on any decision is up to you;  
As a parent governor you are in a good position to help the governing body to communicate effectively with parents; and are equal in status to all other governors.

Parent governors are not expected to gather the views of other parents and take them to the governing body or simply expected to represent the interests of parents; neither are they a link between parents and the governing body and are also not expected to vote as instructed by other parents.

So what are the good bits about being a parent governor? - You will learn a lot and develop new skills! The role is a very privileged and responsible one with the opportunity to make a difference, not only to your children but for children in years to come.  
In addition, you have the opportunity to make a difference for other parents, and to influence the way in which school works with them.

The best way to fulfil your role:

- ◆ Attend governing body meetings regularly and play an active role in any groups that are formed and support decision-making.
- ◆ Learn all you can about the school.
- ◆ Consider how the governing body communicates with parents? Could you help them to improve links?
- ◆ How accessible is the school – how easy is it for parents to go into school to discuss things with Mr Wake or teachers? Could you give feedback to help the school to be more open and welcoming?
- ◆ How accessible are the governors – do parents ever get the opportunity to meet with governors; do they know how to get in touch with Matt Searle (joint Chair) or Gary Booth (joint Chair) if they need to? Could you encourage the governing body to be more visible?
- ◆ Learn how the school handles complaints and read the complaints policy. If another parent approaches you with a complaint, advise them to speak to Mr Wake.
- ◆ Be approachable to other parents, but make sure you are clear about your role.
- ◆ Always represent the school positively.
- ◆ As a governor you are one of a group and must never act alone.
- ◆ Always support the decisions of the full governing body. Have your say on decisions in meetings and vote in the way you wish; but then support the outcomes of votes – even if you disagree with them.
- ◆ Always, always, always observe confidentiality. You will get to know a lot of highly sensitive and confidential information – don't discuss it with anyone who is not a governor. Remember, a governor can be suspended for serious breaches of confidentiality.

How you can help individual parents

From time to time you may be approached by other parents asking for help, or wanting to make a complaint about something the school is, or isn't doing.

- ◆ Make it clear you can't act for the governing body.
- ◆ Don't raise expectations that the school will "put it right" – there may be underlying issues or background that you don't know about.
- ◆ Keep an open mind – there are at least two sides to every story!
- ◆ You may need to explain why the governing body has made a decision in a certain way, so be prepared.

What to do if you experience a conflict between being a parent and being a governor.

This can happen – especially if you think the governing body is making decisions which you feel will adversely affect your child(ren).

- ◆ If a difficulty arises, take a step back and think things through as objectively as you can.
- ◆ If you are concerned, talk to Mr Wake or to the chair of governors - Matt Searle.
- ◆ Make sure you don't break confidentiality when discussing your concerns outside governing body meetings.

Where to get help, advice and support

- ◆ From other governors.



- ♦ From Mr Wake.
- ♦ From Matt Searle or Gary Booth - chairs of governors.  
[matt.searle@sthelenspri.iow.sch.uk](mailto:matt.searle@sthelenspri.iow.sch.uk)  
[gary.booth@sthelenspri.iow.sch.uk](mailto:gary.booth@sthelenspri.iow.sch.uk)
- ♦ From the clerk to the governing body.  
[alison.starnes@sthelenspri.iow.sch.uk](mailto:alison.starnes@sthelenspri.iow.sch.uk)
- ♦ The governing body will provide a mentor or “buddy” to help you through the first few months.
- ♦ Attend the induction training offered by the Local Authority and/or Governor Hub and any opportunities the school provides. (see the Governor Training Programme)



## St Helens Primary Football News



Thank you to Mr Enser for the match report and photo

Having earned their spot in the final stages of the Pokémon Cup, the Under 11 boys football team competed in Cowes with outstanding teamwork and determination throughout.

With impressive victories of 2-0 and 1-0 against Niton and Holy Cross and goals coming from Teddy, the boys team entered the semi-final top of the group to face off against Newchurch, the runners-up from the opposing group.

Unfortunately, due to a mix-up which saw Newchurch field an extra player during the first half, resulting in a 2-0 lead, the team had an uphill task for the second half. Undeterred, the team remained resolute, managing to close the gap to 2-1 and coming ever so close to an equaliser on more than one occasion.





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



AUTUMN/WINTER 2025 MENU		WEEK 1 WED 09/11/2025, THU 11/2025, FRI 12/2025, SAT 13/2025, SUN 14/2025, MON 15/2025				
		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
HOT DISHES	OPTION 1	Cheese and Tomato Pizza with Potato Wedges 🌱	Beef Bolognese with Wholewheat Pasta 🌱	Roast Pork with Roast Potatoes and Gravy 🌱	Chicken and Vegetable Pie with Potato Wedges 🌱	Fish Fingers with Chips 🌱
	OPTION 2	BBQ Vegetable Wrap with Potato Wedges 🌱	Vegetarian Bolognese with Wholewheat Pasta 🌱	Roast Quorn with Roast Potatoes and Gravy 🌱	Cheesy Vegetable Hotpot 🌱	Quorn Dippers with Chips 🌱
	OPTION 3	Tomato Pasta Fresh, homemade Tomato Sauce with Parme Pasta 🌱	Tomato Pasta Fresh, homemade Tomato Sauce with Parme Pasta 🌱	Tomato Pasta Fresh, homemade Tomato Sauce with Parme Pasta 🌱	Tomato Pasta Fresh, homemade Tomato Sauce with Parme Pasta 🌱	Tomato Pasta Fresh, homemade Tomato Sauce with Parme Pasta 🌱
HOT DISHES ARE SERVED WITH TWO VEGETABLES AND FRESHLY BAKED BREAD						
DESSERT		Crunchy Apple Slice 🌱	Strawberry Shortcake Mousse 🌱	Apple Crumble with Custard 🌱	Chocolate Ice Cream 🌱	Oat Cookie 🌱

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

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

🌱 Vegetarian 🌱 Vegan 🌱 Oily Fish 🌱 Fruity 🌱 Whole grain 🌱 Nutritional at's Choice  
 Our menu is subject to change. Please note we do not use artificial colours or flavours in our food.



### MAIN MENU WEEK 1

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Cheese and Tomato Pizza With Potato Wedges	Beef Bolognaise With Wholewheat Pasta	Roast Pork With Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Chicken and Vegetable Pie with Potato Wedges	Fingers and Chips

Internal

**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



Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December

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

Whole school Cinema Trip

Flu Immunisations 2<sup>nd</sup> session

KS1 Nativity Dress Rehearsal 2pm

KS1 Nativity Performances 2pm & 5.30pm

FOSH Christmas Fayre 3-5pm

Christmas Parties - Early Years/KS1 - A.M.

KS2 - P.M.

Father Christmas visit

Chartwells Christmas Dinner

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



## Help & Information



**NOV**  
**28**

**Riverside Centre, The Quay,  
Newport, Isle of Wight**

**11am - 1:30pm**

**PARENTS & CARERS INVITED**

**Meeting the needs of neurodivergent  
children and families**

If you are a parent of a neurodivergent child living on the Isle of Wight we would love to hear from you.

During the session we will encourage open discussion with some open questions. We hope that you will help us understand what having an early support pathway is like for you, and how it might have supported your family and child. Also if you have had experience with ND-Profiling we would like to hear from you too.

We will organise a lunch and coffee/tea and will try our hardest to make you feel comfortable and listen to your perspectives. There are also child care arrangements should you want to bring your child.

We are Group of researchers at the University of Portsmouth doing independent research on early support. We want listen to your stories and summarise them anonymously to feedback to the Council, the NHS and you! As a token of appreciation we will also offer you a voucher to be used for online shopping!

**CONTACT: [IRIS.NOMIKOU@PORT.AC.UK](mailto:IRIS.NOMIKOU@PORT.AC.UK)**





Free Parent Webinars – Book Now for 2025/2026



Delivered by the Isle of Wight NHS Neurodiversity Multidisciplinary Team

Support your child's wellbeing, behaviour, and development with expert-led webinars designed for parents and carers. These sessions are free to attend and cover a wide range of topics relevant to families navigating neurodivergence, emotional regulation, and everyday routines such as sleep issues.



Topics include:

- Navigating Neurodivergence
- Breakthrough Behaviour
- Feel Without Fear
- Re-establishing Routines
- Child to Parent Violence and Aggression
- Sleep
- Accepting Adolescence
- Seasonal Sensory Awareness



Flexible Booking:

Webinars are available throughout 2025 and 2026. Choose a session that suits your schedule and needs - there's no expectation to participate so you decide if you have your camera/microphone on or off!



How to Book:

Please refer to the flyer for full details. You can book directly by emailing [katrina.austin1@iow.gov.uk](mailto:katrina.austin1@iow.gov.uk) to join any of the webinars. All webinars

are delivered online via Teams. A link to the webinar will be sent to you 24 hours prior.

## 2025/2026 Webinar Overview

Isle of Wight  
**Neurodiversity**  
Team



Navigating Neurodivergence	Breakthrough Behaviour	Feel Without Fear	Re-establishing Routines	CPVA (Child to Parent Violence and Aggression)	Sleep	Accepting Adolescence	Seasonal Sensory Awareness
<p>Understanding Neurodivergence Through the Child's Perspective:</p> <p>Explores the lived experiences of neurodivergent children, with a focus on ADHD and Autism. This session highlights how traits may present uniquely in different individuals and offers inclusive, strengths-based strategies to support regulation, connection, and wellbeing. Emphasis is placed on seeing the world through the child's lens, honouring their ways of thinking, feeling, and interacting.</p>	<p>Exploring the Science of Behaviour Through a Neurodiversity Lens:</p> <p>Introduces compassionate frameworks for understanding behaviour as communication. Topics include the iceberg model, window of tolerance, Maslow's hierarchy of needs, and the assault cycle, all explored in ways that respect individual differences in regulation, sensory processing, and unmet needs. The focus is on building insight and empathy to support co-regulation and connection.</p>	<p>Exploring Supportive Parenting in the Context of Anxiety:</p> <p>Considers how different parenting approaches can influence anxiety-related behaviours, with reference to Bowlby, Baumrind and Ainsworth's foundational work on attachment. This is not a parenting course, but an opportunity to reflect on how our caregiving styles may interact with neurodivergent experiences and shape emotional development across life.</p>	<p>Exploring the Power of Predictability and Supportive Boundaries:</p> <p>This session highlights how consistent routines and clear, compassionate boundaries can create a sense of safety and autonomy for all family members. Together, we'll explore different types of boundaries and co-develop practical, flexible strategies to introduce or reintroduce structure in ways that are tailored to each individual's needs and strengths.</p>	<p>Understanding Child-to-Parent Distress Responses:</p> <p>An overview of behaviours such as aggression explored through the lens of perceived unmet needs, emotional regulation and relationships. Includes practical tools like safety planning, the communication wheel, de-escalation strategies and key concepts such as Dan Siegel's flipping the lid. Emphasises compassionate, strength-based support for both children and caregivers.</p>	<p>Supporting Restful Sleep in Neurodivergent Children:</p> <p>Explores gentle, flexible strategies to nurture healthy sleep patterns, with insights informed by guidance from the Southampton Sleep Clinic. This session recognises the diverse sensory, emotional, and cognitive needs that can influence sleep, and offers practical, compassionate approaches that honour each child's unique rhythms and experiences.</p>	<p>Embracing the Adolescent Journey:</p> <p>Exploring the natural evolution of identity, brain development, emotional regulation, and how to offer strengths-based, inclusive support</p>	<p>Navigating Seasonal Sensory Experiences:</p> <p>Explores how transitions, traditions, and celebrations such as Halloween, Bonfire Night, and Christmas can influence sensory processing and regulation. This session reflects on the impact of increased sensory input during these times and offers inclusive, sensory-friendly strategies and alternatives that consider individual needs and promote comfort, connection, and joy.</p>



## 2025/26 Webinar Schedule (Autumn Term)

<u>Navigating Neurodivergence</u>	<u>Breakthrough Behaviour</u>	<u>Feel without Fear</u>	<u>Re-establishing Routines</u>	<u>CPVA</u> (Child to Parent Violence and Aggression)	<u>Sleep</u>	<u>Accepting Adolescence</u>	<u>Seasonal Sensory Awareness</u>
4th September 9:30am	9th September 9:30am	11th September 9:30am	16th September 9:30am	18th September 9:30am	23rd September 9:30am	25th September 9:30am	
30th September 9:30am	2nd October 9:30am	7th October 9:30am	9th October 9:30am	14th October 9:30am	16th October 9:30am	17th October 9:30am	17th October 11:30am
4th November 9:30am	6th November 9:30am	11th November 9:30am	13th November 9:30am	18th November 9:30am	20th November 9:30am	25th November 9:30am	27th November 9:30am
2nd December 9:30am	4th December 9:30am	9th December 9:30am	11th December 9:30am	16th December 9:30am	18th December 9:30am	19th December 9:30am	19th December 11:30am

Please email [katrina.austin1@iow.gov.uk](mailto:katrina.austin1@iow.gov.uk) to join any of the webinars noted above. All webinars are delivered online via Teams. A link to the webinar will be sent to you 24 hours prior.

**Isle of Wight  
Neurodiversity  
Team**



## 2025/26 Webinar Schedule (Spring Term)

<u>Navigating Neurodivergence</u>	<u>Breakthrough Behaviour</u>	<u>Feel without Fear</u>	<u>Re-establishing Routines</u>	<u>CPVA</u> (Child to Parent Violence and Aggression)	<u>Sleep</u>	<u>Accepting Adolescence</u>	<u>Seasonal Sensory Awareness</u>
6th January 9:30am	8th January 9:30am	15th January 9:30am	20th January 9:30am	22nd January 9:30am	27th January 9:30am	29th January 9:30am	n/a
3rd February 9:30am	5th February 9:30am	10th February 9:30am	12th February 9:30am	24th February 9:30am	26th February 9:30am	27th February 9:30am	n/a
3rd March 9:30am	5th March 9:30am	10th March 9:30am	12th March 9:30am	17th March 9:30am	19th March 9:30am	24th March 9:30am	n/a

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**Isle of Wight  
Neurodiversity  
Team**



## 2025/26 Webinar Schedule (Summer Term)

<u>Navigating Neurodivergence</u>	<u>Breakthrough Behaviour</u>	<u>Feel without Fear</u>	<u>Re-establishing Routines</u>	<u>CPVA</u> (Child to Parent Violence and Aggression)	<u>Sleep</u>	<u>Accepting Adolescence</u>	<u>Seasonal Sensory Awareness</u>
14 <sup>th</sup> April 9:30am	16 <sup>th</sup> April 9:30am	21 <sup>st</sup> April 9:30am	23 <sup>rd</sup> April 9:30am	28 <sup>th</sup> April 9:30am	29 <sup>th</sup> April 1:00pm	30 <sup>th</sup> April 9:30am	n/a
5 <sup>th</sup> May 9:30am	7 <sup>th</sup> May 9:30am	12 <sup>th</sup> May 9:30am	14 <sup>th</sup> May 9:30am	19 <sup>th</sup> May 9:30am	21 <sup>st</sup> May 9:30am	22 <sup>nd</sup> May 9:30am	n/a
2 <sup>nd</sup> June 9:30am	4 <sup>th</sup> June 9:30am	9 <sup>th</sup> June 9:30am	11 <sup>th</sup> June 9:30am	16 <sup>th</sup> June 9:30am	18 <sup>th</sup> June 9:30am	23 <sup>rd</sup> June 9:30am	n/a
2 <sup>nd</sup> July 9:30am	7 <sup>th</sup> July 9:30am	9 <sup>th</sup> July 9:30am	14 <sup>th</sup> July 9:30am	16 <sup>th</sup> July 9:30am	21 <sup>st</sup> July 9:30am	23 <sup>rd</sup> July 9:30am	n/a

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**Isle of Wight  
Neurodiversity  
Team**



The Regulation and Engagement  
Support Team (REST) Parental  
Consent Form



Thrive Parental Consent Form



## Family Help, Information & Activities



### LJR Christmas Sports Camp

FREE HAF Spaces available for Families Entitled to INCOME RELATED FREE School Meals – APPLY HERE:

Dates:  
Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec - World Cup - 10am - 2:45 pm  
Tues 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec - Multisports - 10am - 2:45 pm

Broadlea Primary Lake

Ages 5 - 13

SCAN ME

£12.50 per child a day for those not eligible for free school meals. Please use the QR code.

# LIGHT UP IOW YOUTH THEATRE



## RYDE COMPANY 7-16YRS @DEPARTMENT

### WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT?

- DRAMA GAMES
- IMPROVISATION AND CHARACTER WORK
- PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES
- DEVISING
- SCRIPT WORK
- MEET NEW PEOPLE
- LOTS OF CREATIVE FUN

Term Time Weekly  
Fridays 5pm-7pm  
Scan the QR code  
to book your free  
trial





## SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE TO SHINE

# LIGHT UP IOW YOUTH THEATRE



## BEGINNERS CLASS RYDE

### WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT?

- DRAMA GAMES
- IMPROVISATION AND CHARACTER WORK
- MAKE NEW FRIENDS
- LOTS OF CREATIVE FUN

IDEAL FOR ANYONE WANTING  
TO TRY DRAMA OR  
DEVELOP THEIR DRAMA SKILLS

Starting Tuesday  
11<sup>th</sup> November  
Weekly 6pm-7pm  
Ages: 6+  
@Department  
£6 per class





Scan the QR code to book  
a free trial  
Email: [donna@lightupdrama.org.uk](mailto:donna@lightupdrama.org.uk) for more information

# ISLE DREAM OF A WIGHT CHRISTMAS FAYRE

**30<sup>th</sup> November 2025** ❄️  
**11 am - 4 pm**  
**Medina Leisure Centre**

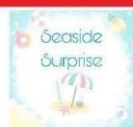
- Over 70 stalls
- Santa Visit
- FREE Parking
- & More!



Raising Money for  
**AIM**  
Autism Inclusion Matters

Santa includes a good quality gift £6.50 per child.  
 Booking is advised via our FB Page or Email to  
[Isledreamofawightchristmas@hotmail.com](mailto:Isledreamofawightchristmas@hotmail.com)

**Cinnamon**




## ATTENTION ALL YOUNG ASPIRING MUSICIANS!



JOIN THE ULTIMATE MUSIC  
COMPETITION!

READY TO SHOW OFF YOUR SKILLS AND HAVE FUN?  
 WHETHER YOU'RE A ROCKSTAR OR POP SENSATION,  
 THIS IS YOUR CHANCE FOR FAME!

LET'S ROCK AND ROLL!

**No Experience Required!**  
**Open to All Musicians!**



<https://iwmdmf.org.uk/>





Celebrating 97 years of the Isle of Wight Music, Dance & Drama Festival

## CALLING OUR TALENTED ISLAND CHILDREN!

**7TH – 21ST March 2026**

If you have NEVER sung, danced or acted on stage, our Festival is for you. Live your dream!!

You may win a trophy or a medal. You will be given a certificate and notes on how to better your performance. Entry fee: £6.50

Any instrument, Pop, Musical Theatre, Disney, Rap, or Speech & Drama, there's a place for you to shine!

Open to children and adults. Experienced or Novice.

VENUES IN RYDE - ENTRIES OPEN UNTIL 16TH DECEMBER

USE QR CODE



OR <https://iwmdff.org.uk/>



**NHS**  
Isle of Wight  
NHS Trust



## Join our Military Family Community

The Isle of Wight NHS Trust is creating a network to bring the Island's military children together for memory-making events.

Come join the adventure and help us build a community where everyone belongs!



Join the community today!

Scan the QR code to sign up or email [iownt.iwveterans@nhs.net](mailto:iownt.iwveterans@nhs.net)



**BEE NETBALL BUZZERS**  
AGE 5-7 & FLIERS AGE 7-9  
IOW RYDE ACADEMY  
TUESDAYS  
5.30pm-6.30pm

Contact:  
Chris on 07969  
504734 or  
[cmg1504@gmail.com](mailto:cmg1504@gmail.com)

Contact: [carey.mccormick@englandnetball.co.uk](mailto:carey.mccormick@englandnetball.co.uk)



## OUR Beeliefs



**Bee proud.**

Bees are proud of their efforts and love their game.



**Bee fair.**

Bees play fair and treat others as they would like to be treated.



**Bee friendly.**

Bees welcome anyone who wants to play netball.



**Bee strong.**

Bees are independent and determined and always try their best.



**Bee together.**

Bees work for the team and support everyone.



**Bee yourself.**

Bees are true to who they are and let other people be who they are.





### **Dear Parents,**

I'm sure there are many parents who have often thought about being a school governor. Please read the information above from one of our existing governors that highlights, in detail, what the role entails. After reading the information, please contact the office to express your interest.

Thank you to all the generous cake donations. The children were of course very excited to have a treat at break time.

Please note of course, that as a school, we wish to promote a balanced healthy diet in normal circumstances in line with our Peach Award. As we all know high-sugar foods can be very tempting but

*'they often lack essential nutrients, and can displace more nutritious foods vital for a child's growth and development. It is best to offer sweets as occasional treats, not as a regular part of their diet, and to provide plenty of water, fruits, and other healthy options instead.'*

At the end of the last week, the Pioneers boys represented the school successfully with two more victories and a draw to maintain their unbeaten record. Sadly the draw meant they narrowly missed out on a place in the finals (on this occasion).

This week has of course been another very busy week which has featured a number of events for both children and staff.

This has included the successful MHST workshops and the Whole school Wellbeing Day. It is always fun watching the children interact with different peers in less familiar situations. Mrs Grimes's group interacted with pebbles, Mrs Sharp and friend kept them active in the hall and in other classes there I witnessed anti bullying and road safety, art and music-based activities.

Thank you to Miss Gorman and Mrs Pierrepoint for organising the events.

There has also been plenty of staff training as we strive to improve as a school including maths, safeguarding and SEN.

Pioneers pupils have continued to assist with the new library areas with the nonfiction library and Key Stage 1 and Early Years area in the main building and a fiction library being prepared in the Olive Branch.

Christmas is fast approaching with the nativity just round the corner. This is always a treat and will be my third and final occasion where my own daughter is involved. Naturally I am looking forward to the occasion.

### **Christmas Fayre**

The Fayre is also just three weeks away. Fortunately we have a number of parents and children (and staff) volunteering to support the event. There have been plenty of donations already but please keep them coming.

There will be a bric a brac stall, sea glass pendants on sale, chocolate tombola, toy stall, musical

entertainment and hopefully lots of cake and face painting and of course a raffle draw. We also have a few new events including:

- (i) Children-only room where children can select a present for a special one
- (ii) Wine or water. Will you win a seasonal tipple, bottle of wine/alcohol or bottle of tap water?
- (iii) Cracker pick. Will you find £10, £5 or a chocolate coin?
- (iv) Select the name of the reindeer/elf correctly and win a quality friend (a reindeer and elf) for many Christmases to come
- (v) Guess the number of presents in the sack and win the lot (worth over £70).

I am delighted to say that two of our year 6 boys will be on offer to draw a portrait or sketch for a nominal fee.

In the side rooms there will be lots of games including pin the nose on the reindeer, marble race (I am the current winner) , guess the number of sweets, hook the Christmas soldier, snowball toss and well as craft activities such as decorating biscuits, making reindeer food, making slime. All for just 50p a go.

In Adventurers there will also be a range of free craft activities for those who enjoy their art as well as a toy sale and the famous chocolate tombola.

Next week we will continue the fun featuring the whole school cinema trip, second hand uniform sale, the visit from the school nurse, visits from prospective new parents , the numerous clubs on offers and much, much more.

**Have a marvellous weekend**

**Mr Wake**



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



### **Explorers**

Wow, what a great week Explorers have had this week. The children were very excited to see some little flakes of snow falling on Wednesday, perhaps the first time they have seen any. Sadly it didn't last long, but was exciting nevertheless. Yesterday, the children experienced their first ever Wellbeing Day and we were so proud how well they coped with moving classrooms, being off timetable and spending time with the older children, who looked after them beautifully. They really developed their independent skills - well done Explorers!

There has been lots of phonic learning this week too. The new sounds on Bug Club have been /o/, /c/, /k/ and /ck/. They noticed that three of these letters say the same sound, but look different and appear in different places in a word.

In maths, the children have been focusing on counting accurately, objects up to 10, but also recognising when there are 1, 2, or 3 items and not having to count them each time. They have also been matching numerals to the numicon plates and putting numbers in order - A fab week of learning Explorers!



## Adventurers

What a busy week it has been in Adventurers.

The week started with a diary write about Dr Morley's expedition to find the elusive giant arctic jellyfish. In maths we looked at doubles and using that to help addition.

Nativity has been a big focus in the afternoons with a couple of run throughs of the script and song practise.

Miss McDonald has lead the PSHE and art lessons this week. PSHE revolving around why we follow the rules and Art focusing on textures.

The children thoroughly enjoyed wellbeing day where they were able to work with other children from around the school in a range of activities.

Thank you to all the children who have completed their week 2 homework. There is only a small number of children who are yet to do any homework. Hopefully they will be able to complete week 3 before it is due on Thursday.

Have a great weekend



## Discoverers

What a week!

Some really fantastic things happened this week and everyone got stuck in.

Maths- the children looked at shape, symmetry and regular and irregular shapes.

English- they planned out and started to write their newspaper reports on the 99 children who were lucky enough to win a sleepover at the British Museum.

Thursday was wellbeing day! And the school completed a carousel of various activities. With myself they enjoyed creating weather wheels and comparing emotions to the weather. They also used handbells to perform Christmas songs, undertook road safety awareness and enjoyed some yoga and mindfulness!

We didn't get a chance to create our canopic jars this week in art- so please can you make sure your child has a large yogurt pot with a lid OR a Pringles style tube and lid for next Friday.

Have lovely weekends!



## Pioneers

On Monday, in English we wrote in the character of Rakov ( the Russian soldier in the Wolf Wilder). In Maths we were multiplying a 4-digit number by a 2-digit number, In science we made electrical circuits (wire,bulbs and switch), in Art we were learning about William Morris and making a front cover of our new learning journey in his style.

On Tuesday, in RE we are learning about Muslims and in Music we were learning a South African song called 'put your gumboots on!' (and the same as Monday in English and Maths).

On Wednesday , in PE we played a game of tag rugby or cats vs mice and we had the mental health team.

On Thursday we had wellbeing day we went round the activities in house colours.

On Friday we did a SPAG and maths reasoning test and in PSHE we learnt about discrimination.  
By Logan and Taylor

## Wellbeing Day







## 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)**