St Helens Primary Newsletter

Friday 23rd January 2026

Attendance

Week from: 12/01/2026 – 16/01/2026

Class	Attendance	Late Arrivals	Minutes Lost Through Lateness	Unauthorised Absences	Authorised Absences
Explorers	92.7%	1	28	4	4
Adventurers	98.8%	2	53	2	1
Discoverers	95.8%	2	60	7	7
Pioneers	95.6%	0	0	0	12

Although we strive for 100%, our whole school attendance for this week was **96.1%** 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 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

Class	**Worker of the Week**	**Star of The Week**
Explorers	J	Franklin
Adventurers	Sam	Tate
Adventurers	Ronnie	Nathanael
Discoverers	Dominic	Amelia F
Discoverers	Mabel	Alena
Pioneers	Harry	Noah
Pioneers	Atticus & Clara	Barnaby

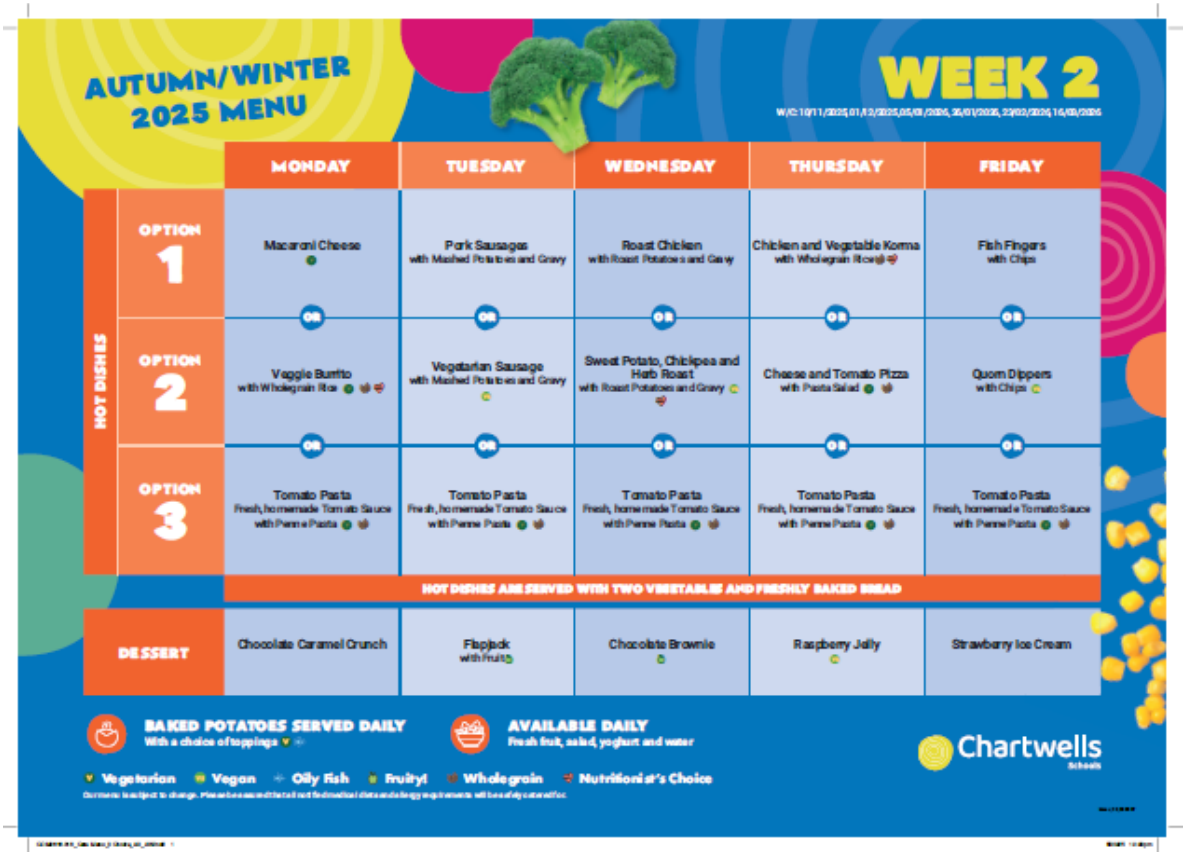
19th – 25th January

Mia age 9

Lizzie age 9

Noah age 5

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



AUTUMN/WINTER 2025 MENU

WEEK 2

W/C: 10/11/2025, 01/12/2025, 05/01/2026, 26/01/2026, 23/02/2026, 16/03/2026

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
HOT DISHES – OPTION 1	Macaroni Cheese	Pork Sausages with Mashed Potatoes and Gravy	Roast Chicken with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Chicken and Vegetable Korma with Wholegrain Rice	Fish Fingers with Chips
OR					
OPTION 2	Veggie Burrito with Wholegrain Rice	Vegetarian Sausage with Mashed Potatoes and Gravy	Sweet Potato, Chickpea and Herb Roast with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Cheese and Tomato Pizza with Pasta Salad	Quorn Dippers with Chips
OR					
OPTION 3	Tomato Pasta Fresh, homemade Tomato Sauce with Penne Pasta	Tomato Pasta Fresh, homemade Tomato Sauce with Penne Pasta	Tomato Pasta Fresh, homemade Tomato Sauce with Penne Pasta	Tomato Pasta Fresh, homemade Tomato Sauce with Penne Pasta	Tomato Pasta Fresh, homemade Tomato Sauce with Penne Pasta
	HOT DISHES ARE SERVED WITH TWO VEGETABLES AND FRESHLY BAKED BREAD				
DESSERT	Chocolate Caramel Crunch	Flapjack with Fruit	Chocolate Brownie	Raspberry Jelly	Strawberry Ice Cream

BAKED POTATOES SERVED DAILY – With a choice of toppings

AVAILABLE DAILY – Fresh fruit, salad, yoghurt and water

Vegetarian · Vegan · Oily Fish · Fruity! · Wholegrain · Nutritionist's Choice

Chartwells Schools

Chartwells Schools

MAIN MENU WEEK 2

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Macaroni Cheese	Pork Sausages With Mashed Potato and Gravy	Roast Chicken With Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Chicken and Vegetable Korma With Wholegrain Rice	Fish Fingers With Chips

Internal

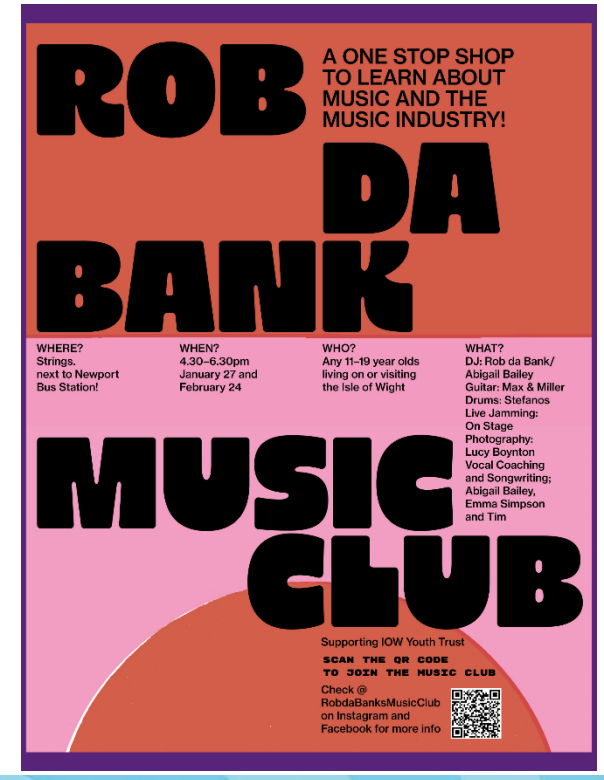
If your child would like the vegetarian option on a particular day, please can they let their teacher know so we can order enough portions from Nettlestone kitchen.

Dates for Your Diary

Friday 30th January	School Nurse Clinic 9:00am -12:00pm Please contact the office for an appointment
Friday 13th February	Whole school White-tailed Eagle workshop
Friday 13th February	School closes at 3:00pm for half term
Monday 23rd February	Staff Development Day–school closed to children
Thursday 5th March	World Book Day–Be your favourite book character!
Monday 16th-Friday 20th March	Scholastic Book Fair
Tuesday 17th March	Parents Evening – Adventurers, Discoverers, Pioneers
Wednesday 18th March	Parents Evening – all classes
Tuesday 24th February	School reopens at 8:45am for Spring term 2
Friday 27th March	School closes at 3:00pm for Easter holidays
Monday 13th April	School reopens at 8:45am for Summer term
Monday 4th May	Early May bank holiday-school closed
Tuesday 5th May	Staff Development Day-school closed to children
Friday 22nd May	School closes at 3:00pm for half term
Monday 1st June	School reopens at 8:45am for Summer term 2
Wednesday 10th-Friday 12th June	Year 5/6 Residential
Friday 24th July	School closes at 3:00pm for Summer holidays
Monday 27th July	Staff Development Day

Help & Information

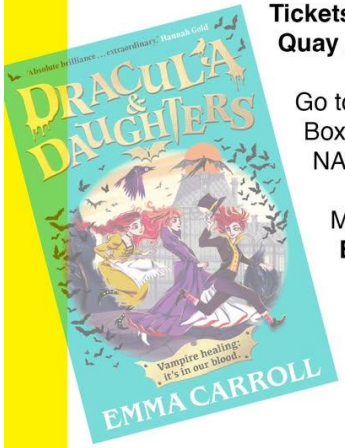
Family Help, Information & Activities



I.W. STORY FESTIVAL for children & families

GO ALL IN to reading with the IW STORY FESTIVAL

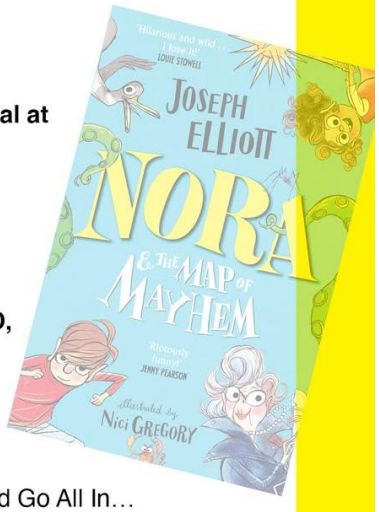
DURING FEBRUARY HALF TERM
Thurs 19 to Sat 21 February 2026



Tickets are already on sale for the IW Story Festival at Quay Arts in Newport.

Go to **iwstoryfestival.com** or visit the Quay Arts Box Office in person to be part of the NATIONAL YEAR OF READING 2026.

Meet favourite authors like **KIERAN LARWOOD, EMMA CARROLL, PHILIP REEVE, LUCY STRANGE** and **JOSEPH ELLIOTT**. Buy books at the MEDINA BOOKS stall and read your way into a world of new adventures.



Be inspired, make time, get comfortable and Go All In…

Not only authors but also story tellers, artists dancers and actors:
Draw along with **Rob Biddulph** or **Jules Marriner**
Learn new moves with the **Shree Dance Academy**
Listen to tales of sea monsters and mermaids with **Holly Medland**
Laugh at the antics of the Astrosaurs with **Steve Cole**
Write your own poems with **Adam Gaterell, Kathryn Rossati or Lottie Begg**
Catch a Book Witch with **Coppice Theatre** or
meet the Pugs of the Frozen North with **The Foundry Group.**

Pick up a programme from Quay Arts, any library and many other locations, or scan here:

Proud to support The National Year of Reading 2026. GO ALL IN.

IF YOU LIVE IT, READ IT.
GO ALL IN

THERE'S NOTHING QUITE LIKE SHARING A STORY

iwstoryfestival.com

Headteacher's *Update*

Dear Parents,

We have had another good week.

The week started with two visits from potential new parents and queries from others followed by an enjoyable awards assembly where children did their parents proud discussing their impressive work or demonstrating their star qualities.

Attendance remains high for most children with another week above 96%.

In class, Pioneers have created some great collages, been calculating fractions and percentages and treading the boards to complement their English work.

Discoverers have continued to enjoy their work on the Stone Age. References have been made to a famous settlement in Scotland. Some children are hoping that Mrs Rees would plan a quick trip to Skara Brae to experience the site first hand! The 1526 mile round trip may prove to be a little too challenging in the end.

In maths they have been working hard on multiplication. Many children are showing a good recall of their multiplication tables already.

With the MTC challenging year 4 pupils later in the year, it is important that children are supported at home to give them every opportunity to attain the pass mark if possible

	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	2
3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	3
4	8	12	16	20	24	28	32	36	4
5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	5
6	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	54	6
7	14	21	28	35	42	49	56	63	7
8	16	24	32	40	48	56	64	72	8
9	18	27	36	45	54	63	72	81	9
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	

Some may say that the key to memorising times tables is learning them in the right order. We start with the easy tables to build confidence and a good foundation - the easy times tables are the 10, 2 and 5 times tables.

Begin with the 10 times tables because they follow a simple, predictable pattern - the answer is always just adding a zero onto the number.

There's some debate as to which are easiest from here, but the 4 times tables and 9 times tables are usually next. The 4 times tables are simply doubles of the 2 times tables and the 9 times tables have a few shortcuts to help you learn them.

After this you could do the 3 times tables followed by the 6 times tables. Then finish with the 8 times tables and the 7 times tables, which are generally regarded as the most difficult.

The 11 and 12 multiplication tables should be learned last and separately

There are multiple strategies available to learn tables. For example, remind your child that 3 x 4 is the same as 4 x 3 - this effectively halves the number of table's facts. Each times table has a square number, 3 x 3, 7 x 7, etc. (See the red numbers in the tables grid above.)

In Adventurers they have been learning about different materials and their key properties e.g. rigid/bendy, rough/smooth.

In maths they have started work on multiplication and division - focusing on the core understanding of what x means
In computing - they have been navigating on the drive - creating folders and docs so they can move onto writing and editing in a doc.

PSHE is all about keeping safe.

In Explorers, they have loved adding patterns to paper and learning all about people who help them. In addition they have been learning all about the postal service which included a quick trip to the local shop to post a letter.

Next week will be full of great learning experiences. I always look forward to the assembly of course where I'm sure there will be some amazing awards to be proud of.

At the governors meeting this week we welcomed two new governors who instantly made an excellent contribution in their first outing. Thank you Mrs Allman and MrsTaplin.

Mr Searle, Mr Booth, Mrs Hendy, Mr Andre, Mrs Westmore and Mrs Searle together with the new members comprise an excellent group of governors who will continue to oversee the strategic direction of the school. Thank you for all their efforts.

<u>Library</u>

Our libraries are developing. The non-fiction library is fully labelled in alphabetical order which should make it easily accessible to the children. However I note a few gaps in some topics which I will look at filling with different funds the school have acquired or through other sources.

In the meantime if anyone has any good quality books available to donate in the following topics that would be appreciated to help fill up those spaces

Amphibians, reptiles, small mammals

Architecture and Buildings

Computing

Crafts and Hobbies including sports

Egyptians, Ancient Greeks, Romans, Prehistoric, Vikings

Polar regions, Mountains

Famous People

Buddhism

Christmas and Easter

Rock and Minerals

Electricity and Magnetism

Planet Earth, Forces

Have a tremendous week

Mr Wake

This Week's Class Updates

Explorers

Explorers have been busy this week. They went out to the local Post Office to post some important invitations. We also had a doctor from the local surgery come to school to tell us all about how they care for us if we are unwell. This was part of our people who help us topic. Next week we have a pharmacist coming to visit to tell us about their important job. We have looked at shapes this week, counting sides and corners or vertices and had a focus on number eight. We have been practising the sounds ch, sh, th this week and learning some more tricky words; he, she and my. The children have had fun making their own hand x-rays using black paper and cotton buds as bones. The children really enjoyed PE today, playing with the parachute in the hall, bouncing different balls on it and also swapping places in the circle by running underneath!

Adventurers

What a busy week it has been in Adventurers.

In maths we have started to look at multiplication using counters. Using arrays as our formal written method. We are also learning our 2, 5 and 10 times tables.

In English we have continued to look at the baker's boy and the great fire of London. With children looking to uplevel sentences using some of the key skills we have learned throughout the year.

In phonics the majority of children have been developing their phase 5 knowledge by looking at alternative ways of making the o sound (o, ow, oe, o_e).

In other subjects we have learned about William Caxton's invention of the printing press in history which we have replicated in our artwork to create printed artwork of tudor houses during the great fire of London. Science has focused on how materials have changed over time. Thank you to Mrs Grimes for bringing in some items for us to look at. Mrs Sharp has continued with her folk song music looking at Lavender's Blue this week.

Please can I remind parents to try to find time to read with your children at home and help them with homework if they need it. We do practise these spellings in school so all children know how to practise. Some may need reminding to get their homework books out to try.

Have a great weekend everyone.

Discoverers

This week has been pretty hands on. Plenty of role play, plenty of experimenting and plenty of learning.

In English we've been role playing as part of our Stone Age learning journey. The children pretending to be Om and Max and talking about coming through into our world. They're explored our classroom as if it was a new world and described different things without using their name.

In maths we've been exploring multiplication and division, solving word problems and using the grid method.

In science the class have been building circuits and exploring the differences between conductors and insulators and testing what other materials could complete our circuit. They've also formed a 33 child long human circuit to make a special light and sound bar light up and make noise.

In art they've finally created their canopic jars (from last term) and are very excited.

In music they've enjoyed ostinato and explored repeating patterns in music.

Without the wonderful Mrs Royal, Mrs Rees and Mrs Ferrier have stood in and enjoyed taking Yoga PE with the class.

Have a great weekend!

Pioneers

Maths- Yr. 5 were looking at different angles and trying to figure out how many degrees the angel. In Yr. 6 were finding out the measurement in triangles.

English- Yr. 5 and 6 were describing picture as if we were the character and writing how we were feeling by using show don't tell.

Geography- Yr. 5 and 6 were labelling different parts of a mountain and then describing what the words mean by using what we have learnt.

Art- Yr. 5 and 6 we started and finished are collages inspired by Megan Coyle. The pictures we collaged were rather a flying animal or an aircraft but some people did snails.

The lesson that we enjoyed the most was….science we were learning about the traits that an animal or human have inherited from its parents.

The lesson we learnt most from was…..English because we learnt more about Ernest Shackleton and his expedition to Antarctica.

Computing- yr 5 and 6 were learning how to create stop-go motion using clay. We also planned our shortstop go motion movie in groups of 2, 3 or 4 people.

By Taylor and Georgie

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