St Helens Primary Newsletter

Friday 9th January 2026

Attendance

Week from: 15/12/2025 to 19/12/2025

Class	Attendance	Late Arrivals	Minutes Lost Through Lateness	Unauthorised Absences	Authorised Absences
Explorers	67.3%	0	0	4	30
Adventurers	85.4%	0	0	12	26
Discoverers	73.3%	0	0	16	72
Pioneers	75.6%	1	20	10	56

Although we strive for 100%, our whole school attendance for this week was **76.6%** 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 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

Attendance Superstars

December

Levi
Jessica
Raif
Abbie
Arabella H
Lizzie
Violet
Ronnie
Oakleigh
Oliver
William Tr
Luke W

Teddy
Margaux
Arlo F
Rowan
Mia H
Logan K
Franklin
Charlie P
Sam S
Ryan
Albie
Kevyn
Zach

Noah
Arlo D
Barnaby
Logan G
Charlie H
Ria
Reggie
Harry
Eleanor
Noah T
Ruby
Isabella

Attendance Matters

Every Child, Every Day

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

5th - 11th January

Cai-Wyn age 11

Micah age 11

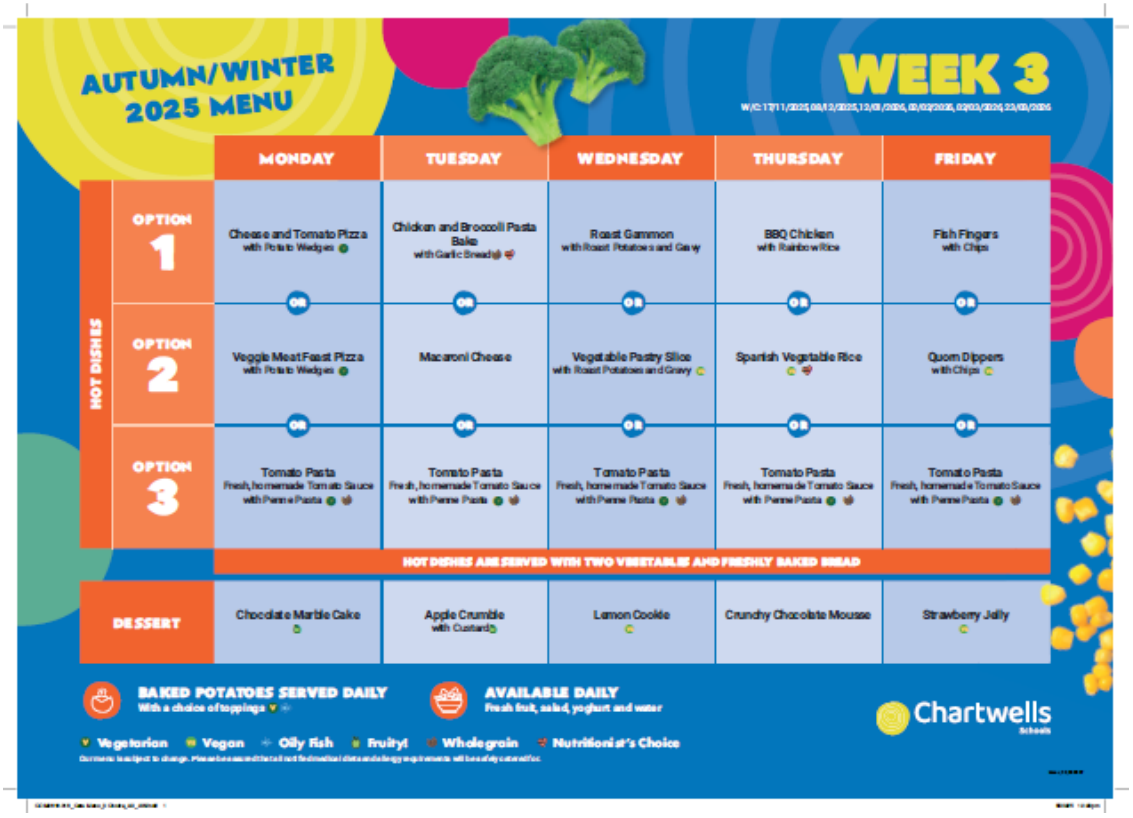
Mrs Pierrepont

FOSH AGM

The FOSH AGM will take place at The Vine on Tuesday 13th January at 5:00pm.

All are welcome.

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



AUTUMN/WINTER 2025 MENU

WEEK 3

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
HOT DISHES – OPTION 1	Cheese and Tomato Pizza with Potato Wedges	Chicken and Broccoli Pasta Bake with Garlic Bread	Roast Gammon with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	BBQ Chicken with Rainbow Rice	Fish Fingers with Chips
OR					
HOT DISHES – OPTION 2	Veggie Meat Feast Pizza with Potato Wedges	Macaroni Cheese	Vegetable Pastry Slice with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Spanish Vegetable Rice	Quorn Dippers with Chips
OR					
HOT DISHES – 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 Marble Cake	Apple Crumble with Custard	Lemon Cookie	Crunchy Chocolate Mousse	Strawberry Jelly

BAKED POTATOES SERVED DAILY – With a choice of toppings

AVAILABLE DAILY – Fresh fruit, salad, yoghurt and water

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

Chartwells Schools

Chartwells Schools

MAIN MENU WEEK 3

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Cheese and Tomato Pizza With Pasta Salad	Chicken and Broccoli Pasta Bake With Garlic Bread	Roast Gammon With Roast Potatoes and Gravy	BBQ Chicken and Rainbow Rice	Fish Fingers With Chips

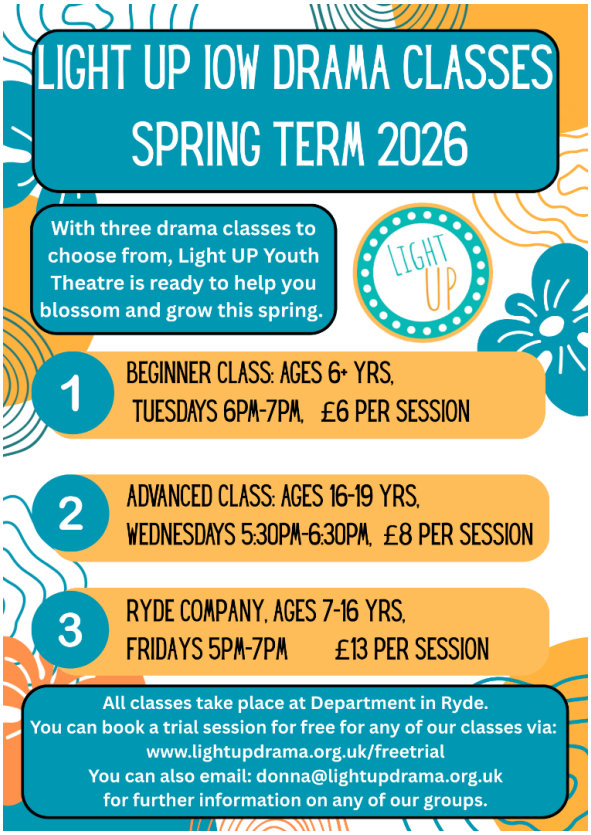
Internal

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

Tuesday 13th January	*FOSH AGM, 5pm The Vine*
Friday 30th January	*School Nurse Clinic 9:00am -12:00pm*
	Please contact the office for an appointment
Friday 13th February	*School closes at 3:00pm for half term*
Monday 23rd February	*Staff Development Day–school closed to children*
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*
Friday 24th July	*School closes at 3:00pm for Summer holidays*
Monday 27th July	*Staff Development Day*

Family Help, Information & Activities



Headteacher's *Update*

Every challenge you face is shaping you, sharpening you, preparing you for the version of yourself you haven't met yet. Progress can be slow, messy, and frustrating, but every step forward—no matter how small—counts.

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to a brand-new term. We hope everyone enjoyed a restful break and is ready for an exciting start to the year.

After a very unusual end to the autumn term, with so much absence, the children have returned healthy and raring to go. Well done to the children who achieved 100% or nearly 100% attendance last term.

This week we have almost achieved perfect attendance. Well done to everyone. It has been noted however, that a small number of children are often late. Please can I remind you that children should arrive at school to begin registration at 0845 promptly?

Our focus this term is curiosity, kindness, and building confidence in every child. We're looking forward to seeing what they achieve.

Next week, Pioneers have their stem session to look forward to – glider challenge – which sounds really exciting and I will certainly be popping in to witness the exciting occasion for myself.

Clubs will be starting and include computing, KS2 dance, music and gymnastics. I hope there are lots of takers as these are wonderful opportunities. The singers enjoyed their Christmas visit to the Elms in December and The KS1 and Early Year dancers put on a fantastic display to parents on Tuesday to conclude all their efforts. Thank you singers, dancers and adults who have supported these clubs.

The term will be full of exciting challenges for the children with a full range of exciting activities and some excellent training opportunities for the staff.

Our intention is always to provide a safe learning environment full of interesting opportunities where the children work to the best of their ability, behave well, treat others with respect and achieve well as they can

In assembly some children shared their aspirations and personal goals for this year following on from a short video called Never Lose Hope, about a young dog who enters canine university full of aspirations. Needless to say, despite a numbers of challenges, obstacles and fails, perseverance pays off the puppy succeeds in the end.

Happy birthday to Mrs Pierrepoint who has reached a 'milestone in her personal timeline'

💬 Reminders for Families

- **Please ensure all clothing is clearly labelled.**
- **Children need a water bottle in school each day.**
- **PE kits should remain in school all week.**
- **If your contact details change, please inform the office.**

Have a wonderful weekend

Mr Wake

This Week's Class Updates

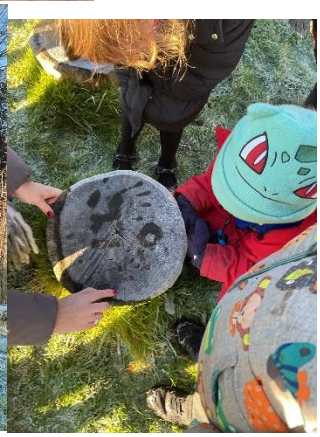
Explorers

It has been so lovely to see the children back this week! We have started our topic about people who help us, but have also explored elements of Winter, going on a cold walk outside looking for ice and frost and exploring ice balloons and what happens when you sprinkle salt on them and if they stay out of the freezer. We used lots of good words to describe how they felt before and after we put the salt on. The children made some beautiful frosty pictures for our display board too.

We looked at our next 'No Outsiders' book with the theme that we can like different things and still be friends with each other.

We have done some revision of phase 2 sounds and tricky words and started phase 3 sounds with /j/ and /v/ this week. We have also investigated the number 7 this week and different ways we can see 7 items, make seven using two numbers and how to write it. We loved using numicon for our investigations.

We have also got a bulb that we are growing in the classroom, hoping that it will grow into a beautiful amaryllis! We will see how much it grows each week.



Adventurers

What a busy week it has been,

We have been doing lots of addition and subtraction in maths. Using part whole models and bar models. Ending the week with a mini test that all children tried really hard and did really well with.

English has focused around our new book Vlad and the great fire of london. We have dug deep into key terms such as adjectives, verbs and time adverbials. This is such a hard skill for Year 1 and 2 children but they are doing so well and it has really improved their writing.

In our other subjects we have been focusing on a lot of tricky spellings in phonics, PSHE has been about the importance of sleep, science has been all about different materials and history involved creating a timeline of key people and events in British history.

Have a great weekend everyone

Discoverers

What a wonderful, albeit windy, week. We've started our new topic: The Stone Age, and everyone seems equally as enthralled as they were with Ancient Egypt. As an update: I will be sending home a letter inviting parents and carers into school on Friday 30th January, as we will be showcasing the classes Egyptian work & creations. I wanted to do this before Christmas, but numbers were low due to seasonal illnesses, so we postponed. I'd also like to remove the 30+ mummified bananas from on top of my fridge... Full details to follow!

In Science we have been exploring electricity and making electrical circuits. Ruby loved seeing if she could add a second light source to hers. Daniel was a dab hand at connecting wires.

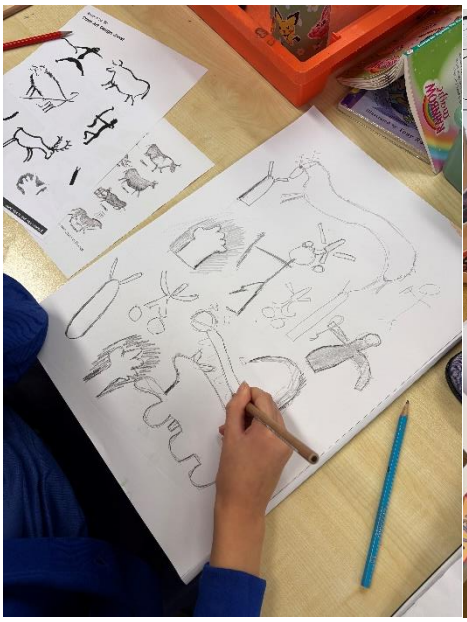
In Maths we have been using digital and analogue clocks! Please, please, please if you get the chance, can you also be pointing out the time and discussing this at home too? We love working with time, but we find that they can easily lose this new skill if it's not in everyday life. So we would adore it, if they were also practising at home. Specifically at recognising; quarter to, quarter past, past, to, etc.

In English we have started Stone Age Boy and the children have enjoyed making predictions about the text, and learning more about Stone Age norms. The children will be working towards writing a narrative where a stone age child comes into our world and experiences our norms.

In Art the children have been creating mixed media cave paintings, as we will also be focussing on the Stone Age as our creative source. The children have adored layering their different mediums to produce cave worthy creations.

We've had a lovely start to the new term and can't wait to see what the rest of 2026 brings!

Have a great weekend,



Pioneers

In English we started a new book called Ice trap and tried to guess what the book was about by looking at a picture of the front cover term and learnt about extreme weather illnesses.

In Maths, year 5 we are learning to subtract pairs of fractions and in year 6 we have been subtracting fractions with LCD.

In PE we've been doing hockey and gymnastics

In art we have been learning about Megan Coyle and did a front term cover and made our own collage using card

In geography we have been learning extreme environments and coloured a world map in the way the environments are in the world.

in french we were counting to 20 and multiples of 10 and money.

In computing/dt we made our own flipbook and zoetrope

In guided reading we have been doing a worksheet about the myth of Beowulf.

Made by Taylor and Arlo

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