



Headteacher: Mrs Rebecca Day



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**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Buddy Bench**

Over the last couple of weekends the grounds maintenance team have been very busy installing a new Buddy bench for the playground. This is a wonderful new asset for the playground and one we hope will benefit many children.

This has been incorporated into the new quieter area of the playground, which we hope to enhance as the year progresses, ideally with outdoor bean bags, a reading shed and quieter games to play.

The PTFA are busy with lots of fundraising ideas to help enhance the outside space of the school as a collaborative project with the school.



### **Mother's Day / Special Person Day**

Huge thanks to the PTA for spending time today working with groups of children to choose, wrap and label gifts for a special person. Children all put great thought into the task they were doing, thinking of what they would like to give to say a "Thank you" for what this special person has done for them throughout the year. It a really lovely day and one that we will look to repeat again. Have a look at a few photographs on Class Dojo, when they go live (without giving away any secrets that might have been wrapped!)

### **Sponsored Slide:**

The sponsored slide takes place next week on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April. Each child will slide during the day and will come home with a slip indicating how many slides they have completed. We then ask you to return the sponsorship form and any money to school following this event. Thank you. We are hopeful that this will be a really fun and entertaining day for the children too.

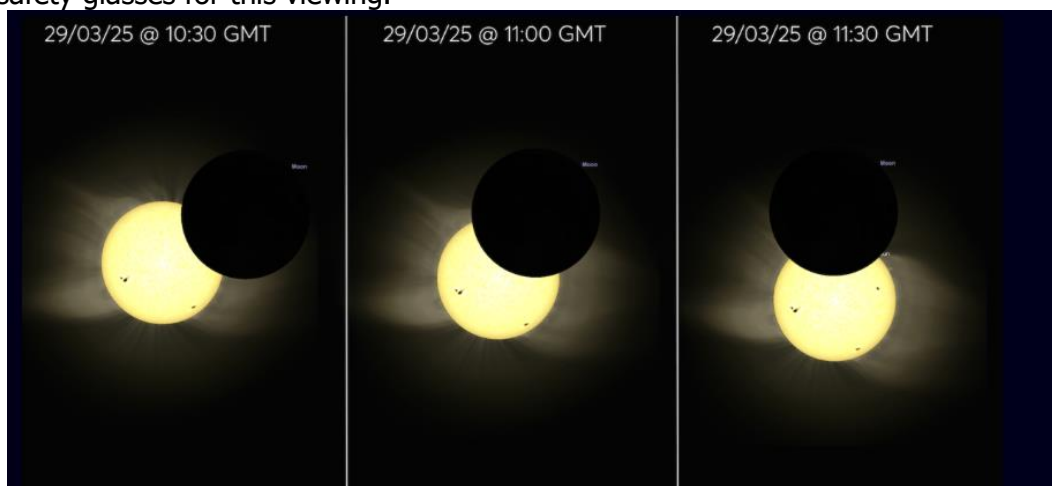
### **PTA Car Boot Sale**

On Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May – Greenmount will be hosting a car boot sale. You are welcome to attend as a stall holder or a buyer on the day. If you are interested in saving a space in the car park please pop to the office, who will be more than happy to take your booking and your £5 selling fee.

For those attending on the day to look for a bargain, which may range from clothing, to toys, to plants, etc... the sale running is open from 9am until 11am. There will be refreshments available – Bacon butties, teas, coffees and various other things. We do hope you'll pop along and visit us. 😊

### **Partial Solar Eclipse**

Astronomy enthusiasts are in for a treat this weekend as a partial solar eclipse graces the skies. On Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> March, the Moon will pass between the Earth and the Sun, partially obscuring the Sun's disk from view. Across the UK skywatchers will see varying degrees of coverage. The eclipse starts just after 10am when the Moon begins to move in front of the Sun and ends just after 12:00 when the Moon leaves the sun disk. Of course, we would encourage people to watch this moment, however please be cautious. Ensure you have appropriate safety glasses for this viewing.



### **Sports this week:**



On Monday afternoon, 14 children went to Ryde Academy to play in a Ryde Cluster Netball Tournament. For many of the children, this was their first ever experience of netball and they made huge improvements in every game they played. One team ended up finishing 6<sup>th</sup> place overall and the other team went undefeated for the whole tournament - so ended up winning the whole event. The team that won has now qualified for the Island Finals in May. Well done to every child that participated and thank you to those parents that came to support.

### **Mobile Phones:**

Every child that brings a mobile phone to school, will be asked to hand their phone in to the class teacher in the morning. Each child is provided with a zipped pouch to put their phone in, which is then stored in a classroom box. This box is then taken to the school office, where all items are stored securely during the day. At the end of the day, the phones are redistributed to children before they leave school. For any sporting events the mobile phones remain with the class teacher or event lead, until the end of the session. Phones should then not be used until the children are offsite at the end of the day. Thank you for reinforcing these rules with your child at home and supporting the class teachers with reinforcing these processes. This is for everyone's safety.

We have been made aware of instances of online safety concerns, involving WhatsApp groups. The content of which is inappropriate. We are in close contact with the PCSO, who will be delivering a workshop in school for parents and carers around this. We will keep you updated about the day and time of this. However in the meantime, please ensure that you permit your child access to WhatsApp, which is a 13+ App, please ensure you regularly check the chat contents, to ensure the appropriate safeguarding of your child. It is our job as parents and carers to keep children safe, which includes online too.

### **Clock Changes:**

Don't forget the clocks change this Saturday night. They go forward one hour, so unfortunately it is one hour less in bed! See you all on Monday, as usual for the gates opening at 8:30am. Thank you.

### **Medicines and Health Needs**

If your child requires medication whilst at school, prescribed or unprescribed, please ensure that this is brought straight to the school office and a medication form is completed.

- Prescribed medication may be antibiotics for an infection or illness, or it may be prescribed medicine for an underlying health condition.
- Unprescribed medication may be because your child has woken up feeling slightly under the weather and has had a dose of calpol or other medication to help them feel better. This may need readministering during the day, therefore would need to come into school.

It is important this is not on the child's possession but is signed in at the office and we are aware of dosage requirements, including the day and time of the last dose etc.

Your child may require a lip balm in the winter months if they have sore lips, and whilst may not be direct medication may contain allergens for other children. We therefore need a short form completing to ensure we monitor everything we hold within school. Thank you in advance for your understanding in this very important matter.

### **School Meals:**

Thank you to the many families that are fully engaged in the school meal booking system. We hope that now this is a couple of weeks into the term, everyone is getting used to the system and things are becoming easier to manage. If you have any issues with this, please do come to the office and the staff will be more than happy to help you.

It is important when making meal choices that the children contribute and know what they are having each day. The meal choices are confirmed via the register first thing in the morning, and then the catering staff cook to order and prepare the right quantities of each food option. This all helps to avoid food waste. Please ensure your child chooses their meals with you, so they can let you know the options they like and dislike for the menu. Thank you for supporting us with this.

### **Dates coming up:**

Date	Event	Year Group	Details / Special Arrangements
<b>Week 6</b>			
Mon 31 <sup>st</sup> Mar	Educational Visit	Pre-school	Preschool visit to Amazon World – Unicorn Class
Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Visit	Y6	Salvation Army Workshops to Y6
Thurs 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	Educational Visit	Pre-school	Preschool visit to Aspire Soft Play – Pixie and Unicorn Class

Thur 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	PTFA Event	All children	Sponsored Slide... sponsor your child to see how many slides they can do in one minute! Please see the sponsor Form for more details. We will let you know on the day how many slides the children have completed.
Fri 4 <sup>th</sup> April	Last Day of term	All children	The Last Day of the Spring Term for all children and families.
<b>SPRING TERM / EASTER BREAK</b> <b>Mon 7<sup>th</sup> April to Fri 18<sup>th</sup> April 2025</b>			
<b>Week 1:</b>			
Mon 21 <sup>st</sup> Apr	Bank Holiday	All children and staff	Bank Holiday – Easter Monday – school closed today. See you all tomorrow ☺
Tues 22 <sup>nd</sup> Apr	Welcome Back	All children and staff	Welcome back to the Summer Term. School starts back today. ☺
Thurs 24 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Educational Visit	Y5	Winchester Science Museum
Thurs 24 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Educational Visit	Gnome and Niffler Classes	Naturezones Educational Visit
Fri 25 <sup>th</sup> Apr	MHST Workshop	Y6	Exam Stress Workshop led by the MHST (Mental health Support Team)
<b>Week 2:</b>			
Mon 28 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Educational Visit	Centaur Class	Naturezones Educational Visit
Tues 29 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Educational Visit	Sphinx Class	Naturezones Educational Visit
<b>Week 3:</b>			
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup> May	Car Boot Sale	Everyone ☺	First ever Car Boot Sale at Greenmount ☺ To book a selling space, please see the school office.
<b>Week 4:</b>			
Mon 12 <sup>th</sup> to Thurs 15 <sup>th</sup>	SATs	Y6	Statutory SATs tests for all children in Y6. Breakfast for all children every morning ☺ Every day attendance is <b>essential</b> for every child.
Mon 12 <sup>th</sup> May	Workshop	Preschool	Parent and Carer Barnardos Workshop.
Fri 16 <sup>th</sup> May	Visit	Y6	Visit to Tapnell Water Park
<b>Week 5:</b>			
Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Last day of half term	All children, all classes	Last Day of half term. Usual collection at 3pm.
<b>HALF TERM BREAK</b> <b>Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May</b>			
<b>Week 1:</b>			
Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> Jun	Welcome Back	Everyone ☺	First Day of the Final Half term
Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup> Jun	Inset Day 3	School closed	Development Day
Fri 25 <sup>th</sup> July	Y6 Leavers Assembly	Y6 children and families	Y6 Leavers Assembly
Fri 25 <sup>th</sup> July	Last Day of the summer term	All children, all classes	Last Day of term. The day will end at 3pm as usual. There will be no picnic event this year.
Mon 28 <sup>th</sup> July	Inset Day 4	School closed	Development Day
Tues 29 <sup>th</sup> July	Inset Day 5	School closed	Development Day

More dates to follow soon... ☺



# **JOIN OUR PTFA!**

Greenmount PTFA have a  
vacancy for the following  
position

## **Vice Chair**

The position of vice chair involves  
working closely with the chair,  
including running meetings,  
organising and volunteering at  
events and of course deputising in  
the absence of the chair.

**Suits team players who  
are highly organised**

**for an informal chat or to find  
out more please contact us**

email: [pta@greenmount.iow.sch.uk](mailto:pta@greenmount.iow.sch.uk)





YOUR  
SCHOOL  
LOTTERY

  
Greenmount  
Primary School

# WE'VE LAUNCHED A LOTTERY

Buy your tickets now to  
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- Tickets cost just £1
- All profits go to our school
- Local cash prize every week
- Chance to win the £25,000 jackpot!



To start supporting, visit:

[yourschoollottery.co.uk](https://yourschoollottery.co.uk)

and search for: Greenmount



The logo for Youth Trust is located in the top left corner, featuring a stylized speech bubble containing the word "youth" in a colorful font and "trust" in a blue font. The background of the entire poster is a vibrant teal color with a large, circular cutout showing a group of diverse children of various ethnicities and ages. They are all smiling and cheering with their arms raised. In the background of this cutout, there is a corkboard with colorful clothespins and a hand pointing to a poster on a wall. The poster has several sections with text, including "WHAT SERVICES WE OFFER", "HOW TO CONTACT US", and "OUR SERVICES ARE FREE".

“youth trust”

# OPEN MORNING APRIL 10TH 2025

Please join us for a fantastic opportunity to:

- ✓ Meet our dedicated team
- ✓ Discover the services we offer
- ✓ Take part in a creative activity

Isle of Wight Youth Trust  
114 Pyle St, Newport PO30 1XA  
10.00am - 12.00pm

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about **BLUESKY SOCIAL APP**

AGE RESTRICTION  
**13+**

With an App Store rating of 17+ & Google Play rating Mature

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

While Bluesky has been around since 2019, it's suddenly taken off in a big way thanks to a significant exodus from X (formerly Twitter). Indeed, it looks and behaves a lot like Twitter before Elon Musk bought the platform. Bluesky has been touted in recent months as a safer, more open-minded alternative to X – but like any social media site, it still has its share of risks.

### NO PRIVATE ACCOUNTS

While most social networks allow accounts to be private, at the time of writing, all Bluesky accounts must be public. The development team has indicated this might change in the future, but the app is built on a public-first protocol. If private accounts are ever introduced, it may only be in a limited way – such as through the implementation of group chats.

### INTERACTIONS WITH STRANGERS

Every account being public means that anyone can be contacted by anyone else. While users don't have to respond and can easily block people and move on, it does mean that youngsters are at particular risk of being conned by scammers, messaged by predatory adults or exposed to others with ill intentions. These hazards can be compounded by the fact that Bluesky doesn't require its users to provide their real name.

### TROLLING AND BULLYING

While Bluesky currently feels a lot friendlier than X seems to have become, its lack of private accounts means that there's nothing to stop users from trolling and cyberbullying younger people. While accounts can be blocked and reported, a persistent bully could simply create a new profile, potentially making their victims feel unsafe in continuing to use the app.

### DANGEROUS MISINFORMATION

Established news organisations have fact-checking and editing processes, but social networks have no such controls and can often serve as breeding grounds for misinformation and disinformation. Bluesky will possibly be no different once it reaches a certain size, and children may not have the critical thinking skills to tell fact from fiction – or to discern an informative, honest user from a malicious one.

### ADULT TARGET AUDIENCE

Bluesky isn't designed with children in mind, and there aren't many parental controls on the platform. In an interview with the BBC, Bluesky's CEO originally said that the app would only allow users aged 18 and above to sign up, but a spokesperson later clarified its age restriction as 13+. This could imply the app was originally meant for an adult audience and suggests that making the platform more child-friendly might not currently be a priority.

### RAPID GROWTH

At the time of writing, Bluesky seems calm in comparison with other social networks where moderation is lax and the atmosphere toxic – but that's due at least in part to its smaller community. The app has recently been adding as many as a million users per day, and if that continues, there'll be more unpleasant users to handle, and moderators could struggle to maintain the pleasant environment Bluesky is currently known for.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### USE THE ADULT CONTENT FILTER

Bluesky doesn't have much in the way of parental controls, but there are content filters which can hide sexual and graphic imagery. These are enabled by default for underage accounts but can be manually turned on in the 'Moderation' section of the app's settings. The 'advanced' Bluesky Moderation Service lets you restrict content even further, hiding – for example – self-harm content, extremist rhetoric, and even rude posts.

### ENCOURAGE BLOCKING AND REPORTING

Another tool that Bluesky uses to ensure a decent experience is muting and blocking accounts. The former prevents you from seeing a specific user's content, while the latter stops them from seeing yours. If a child is encountering trolls or bullies on the platform, encourage them to use this function, while also reporting the offenders to help make the platform a nicer place for everyone.

### LOOK OUT FOR FAKES

Impersonation is a problem on all social networks. While the consequences are usually benign, imposters sometimes attempt to scam or groom children by pretending to be a popular influencer or online personality. Bluesky is unique in that it can be connected to official domains, with users' handles linking to other sites; while this isn't widely used right now, it could be a reliable way to verify celebrities and public figures in future.

### KEEP AN OPEN DIALOGUE

As with all social media platforms, moderation and content filters can only do so much; it's highly likely that a child will eventually face something unsavoury. For that reason, it's important to make sure that young people are aware of the risks and know how to handle the technology if anything they see on the app makes them feel unsafe or uncomfortable.

### Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/bluesky-app>

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Naturezones

Wise Owl Holiday Club

8 - 14 yrs



Come and have a great time outdoors! Go on a nature safari, look for wildlife in our ponds, woods and meadows. See if you can charm worms out of the ground. Get creative in our guided art sessions and try some crafts using willow and other natural materials. Play games based around wildlife and tackle a challenge! Various different fun activities during each session.

**EASTER Dates**

**Thursday 10th and 17th 10am - 1.30pm**

£5, including lunch.

Funded by Heritage Lottery

**MUST BOOK** - Limited places

Full details on booking form

Where: Blackwater

[www.naturezones.org.uk](http://www.naturezones.org.uk)



# NATUREZONES

Wildlife Field Study Centre



Giving nature a helping hand



## Easter Happenings

Easter Wreath  
making  
Workshop £12



### Easter Scurry

Egg Hunt—find the rabbits and  
claim your egg

Adult £8, Concession £6 Child £4 includes  
sweet treats—under 4's free and cuppa and  
cake for adults/concessions

Where—Blackwater

Scurry April, Sun 13th, Thur 17th, Sat 19th, Sun 20th

Wreath Workshop Sun 13th, Thur 17th

**PLEASE BOOK**

[WWW.NATUREZONES.ORG.UK](http://WWW.NATUREZONES.ORG.UK)



wildheart  
animal isle of  
sanctuary wight



# Wild Art Club

**Animal themed art sessions for young people aged 8 - 14 years old.**



Selected Saturdays  
**14.00 - 15.30**  
See our website for more information and to book your place

Meet our amazing rescue animals and new people!  
Try out a range of art techniques that can benefit mental health and wellbeing.



Sessions will be guided by Emma, our brilliant Learning and Discovery Assistant!

- Draw, paint and collage our amazing animals
- Have a go at model making
- Create your own animal themed sketch books



**£5 per person, per session**





# FREE Easter Cricket Sessions



## Venues

Barton Primary School – Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April

Dover Park Primary School – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April

St. Francis Primary School – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April



### FREE ALL STARS CRICKET

9.00 - 11.30am each day

For Children in Key stage 1

All Stars Cricket provides a fantastic first experience for your child. The session will be fun, active and develop the skills needed to play cricket.

Scan QR Code  
to book



### FREE DYNAMOS CRICKET

12.00-3.00pm each day

For children in Key Stage 2

Dynamos will provide your child with all of the fundamental skills they need to play cricket.

Take part in countdown cricket

Scan QR Code  
to book



**Booking is Essential please Email: [psscld@gmail.com](mailto:psscld@gmail.com)**

**OR Scan the QR for the registration form**

### Staffing:

All Coaches are experienced in working in Island Schools, have an enhanced DBS, first aid and attended safeguarding training.

### What to Bring:

Plenty to drink  
Wear suitable clothing for physical activity.  
Warm Clothing for outside activities

For more information

Email Andy Day – [psscld@gmail.com](mailto:psscld@gmail.com) or phone/text 07970009509



wight  
music  
tuition



Working in partnership with the  
Isle of Wight Music Education Hub



## ***Instrumental & Vocal Music***

## ***Lessons in Schools***

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*\* as part of an 'initial access' class*



**Apply online at:**  
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