



Headteacher: Mrs Rebecca Day



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Friday 23rd January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Exciting News: Our OPAL Journey Begins!

Following our announcement in the summer term, we are thrilled to officially launch the OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) project! This initiative marks a significant commitment to enhancing our children's daily experiences, as we believe that high-quality play is essential for every child's physical and emotional wellbeing.

Over the coming terms, we will be working closely with an accredited OPAL mentor and our dedicated key staff to transform our play curriculum. Our goal is to make playtimes and lunchtimes a core focus for development, ensuring they are as enriched and educational as time spent in the classroom.

What can you expect to see?

- **Creative Resourcing:** We will be introducing a wider range of materials and "loose parts" to spark imagination and collaborative play.
- **Expert Guidance:** Collaboration with OPAL professionals to refine our playground environment and support positive playground behaviour.
- **A New Play Curriculum:** A strategic approach to ensuring every child has access to diverse, playful, and inclusive experiences.

What You Might Hear at Home

As we roll out these changes, you may notice your children coming home with some very different stories about their day! You can expect to hear about them building elaborate dens, inventing new games with "loose parts" like crates and tyres, or working together to solve a "construction challenge" in the mud kitchen.

We are incredibly excited to see our playground evolve into a space of even greater creativity and fun. We look forward to sharing more updates with you as the project progresses!

We would appreciate you completing a short survey about play experiences as they are at the moment for your child. Please follow this link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdj1eTa9w3M1z-80oZNIiKQ0t2fMeyj_ergOR2bPJtHBTxuA/viewform?usp=publish-editor

Music

Last week, eight students represented Greenmount at a collaborative Young Sounds event held at Dover Park Primary. The afternoon was dedicated to musical exploration, specifically focusing on Djembe drumming.

Our students excelled, picking up complex rhythms and performing a song in Zulu with impressive skill. Beyond the music, it was a wonderful chance for our pupils to connect with peers from other schools. We look forward to welcoming the group to Greenmount this April, where our young musicians will reach a new milestone: performing with members of the National Youth Orchestra.

Important Update: Travel and Road Closures

Thank you for your continued patience regarding the road closures around the school. We truly appreciate the extra time and care you are taking to keep our community safe.

With the closures ongoing and the recent rainy weather, please allow a few extra minutes for your journey to ensure a timely arrival. Navigating these narrow roads is particularly challenging for larger vehicles and buses; your cooperation and patience help keep the traffic flowing smoothly for everyone.

If you are able to walk to school, we highly recommend it as the fastest and most reliable option at this time. Thank you again for your support and understanding.

Keeping Our Community Safe

As our school site becomes very busy during drop-off and pick-up times, we want to ensure the safety of all our students, parents, and staff. We kindly ask that all students and visitors dismount their bikes and scooters at the school gates. Please push your wheels carefully to and from the bike and scooter parks. By "walking our wheels" on school grounds, we can prevent accidents and keep our paths safe for everyone, especially our younger children. Thank you for your cooperation and for helping us keep our school a safe environment for all!

You'll be pleased to know the drainage repairs are also now complete so the path to the side of the car park is now fully operational. Thank you for your patience whilst this work was undertaken.

Attendance and leave of absence in term time

School is about more than just lessons; it is a community where students build lasting friendships and essential life skills like teamwork and reliability. Regular attendance helps our students feel a sense of belonging and ensures they stay connected to their peers and teachers. Every day counts! It helps children develop the habits and resilience they will need for life beyond the classroom.

If it is essential that your child needs to be absent from school during term time, please ensure that a Leave of Absence form is completed well in advance of the absence. Requests are considered on a case-by-case basis; however, consistency must be maintained to ensure fairness and equality for all families.

Every day of attendance is an important part of a child's learning journey. Please be aware that, during periods of absence, school staff or local authority staff may carry out home visits. If your child is absent, parents and carers are required to notify the school by phone or email before 9.00am on each day of absence. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Food Bank

We would like to extend a sincere thank you to a member of our school community for their recent and incredibly generous donation to our school food bank.

As a school, we take pride in regularly stocking the food bank to ensure our families have access to the support they need. However, the strength of our community lies in our collective effort. If you would ever like to contribute, please feel free to drop off items at the Main Office.

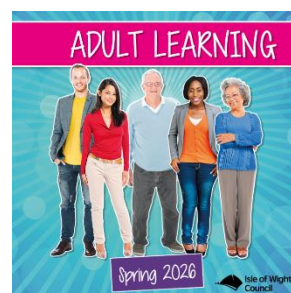
Your kindness makes a real difference to those around us. Thank you for your continued support.

School Meals

If you would like to apply for free school meals for your child, please come to the school office to complete a form, or please complete via the IOW Council weblink: <https://www.iow.gov.uk/schools-and-education/schools/free-school-meals/>

Adult Community Learning

Adult Community Learning are delighted to share their new programme of workshops and courses, for adults 19+ years. Whether it is ICT, English or maths, art, craft, health and wellbeing or careers advice, we have something for everyone. Check out what's on offer and book at www.iow.gov.uk/ACLCourses, or call us on 817280. Come and learn something new in a relaxed and informal setting, at The Learning Centre, Westridge, Ryde.



Please remember to send any personal achievements to me via Dojo, so I can add them regularly to the school newsletter.

I look forward to seeing your pictures and achievements. Thank you ☺

Dates coming up:

Week 4:			
Mon - Thurs	Y6 Mock SATs Week	Y6	This is another opportunity for the Y6 children to practice for their SATs that are in the summer term. These will take place in the morning each day.
Tues 27 th Jan	Flue Clinic	Catch up – those signed up	Flu clinic catch up session for anyone who missed the opportunity for the first session.
Thur 29 th Jan	Educational Visit	Y5	Science Museum Visit – Winchester Drop off at Ryde Pier at 7:20am please. Collect at Ryde Pier at 4:15pm. 😊 Please make contributions via Parent pay. Thank you.
Week 5:			
Mon - Thurs	Y2 Mock SATs Week	Y2	This is a first opportunity for the Y2 children to practice for their SATs that are in the summer term. These will take place in the morning each day.
Wed 4 th Feb	School Nurse Clinic	Any children and families	If seeing a school nurse would be beneficial to you, please see Mrs Jones to book an appointment. The school nurse can support with sleep, toileting needs, diet, etc...
Wed 4 th Feb	Young carers workshop	Young carers in school	Young carers in school to complete joint activities together with our young carer lead. A chance to build strong relationships and work together on something creative.
Fri 6 th Feb	Number Day	All children and staff	NSPCC Number day. Children can come to school dressed, wearing a number / mathematical based costume. How creative can you get? Suggested £1 donation towards a very worthwhile charity – the NSPCC. Thank you.
Week 6:			
Tue 10 th Feb	Internet Safety Day	All classes	Internet Safety Day – there will be plentiful learning and tasks based on core learning about keeping safe on the internet.
Fri 13 th Feb	Last Day of the half term	All children and families	Enjoy the last day of half term before enjoying the break with family and friends.
HALF TERM BREAK : Monday 16th February to Friday 20th February 2026			



Hampshire and
Isle of Wight Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust

PARENT ENGAGEMENT AND HEALTH PROMOTION DAY

Saturday 24 January 2026

Join our special event
dedicated to supporting
children's development
and wellbeing.



**THE RIVERSIDE
CENTRE, NEWPORT**



- ✔ Connect with experts
- ✔ Explore resources
- ✔ Take part in workshops

JUNIOR NETBALL



Isle of Wight Netball clubs
are welcoming new junior
members!

Clubs offer training and
competitive matches in the
Junior Isle of Wight League.



**GET IN
TOUCH!**

Solent Netball Club

Contact: **Chris Grimes** – 07969504734, cmg1504@gmail.com

Tuesday
Lift Ryde

Bee Netball
Years 1-6
5.30pm- 6.30pm

Years 7-10
6pm – 7pm



Shorwell Netball Club

Contact: **Ann Selby** – 07785750266, easelby47@gmail.com



Monday Ryde School (Winter) Lift Ryde (Summer)	Years 3-8 5.30pm - 6.30pm	Years 9-11 6.30pm – 8.00pm
Saturday Lift Ryde	Years 2 -10 9.30 – 11	
Thursday Christ the King	Shorwell Mini's – Years 1-5 5pm - 6pm	



The Footprint Trust

Isle of Wight's Energy Charity

**Want to cut your
home energy bills?**

FOR FREE HELP:

 info@footprint-trust.co.uk

 01983 82 22 82

 www.footprint-trust.co.uk

**Drop in: Newport Library every Monday
10:00am - 1:00pm**

Reg. Charity No. 1106024



The Nurturing Programme



If you have a child aged 3 to 13 years,
then this programme is for you.

The Nurturing Programme offers strategies to add to your parenting toolkit, giving you positive ways of helping children handle their feelings and behaviour.

We have 2 new courses starting in January at our Newport Family Hub

Wednesdays - 7th January until 18th March

(no session in February half-term)

9:30am till 11:30am

Or

Mondays - 12th January until 23rd March

(no session in February half-term)

9:30am till 11:30am



Please visit our website and complete the contact us form to register your interest:

www.isleofwightfamilycentres.org.uk/contact-us



For any questions or support booking on, please email iowfamilycentres@barnardos.org.uk or call 01983 529208





I.W. STORY FESTIVAL

NO BATTERIES REQUIRED

Gift-giving problems solved

Draw along with Rob!

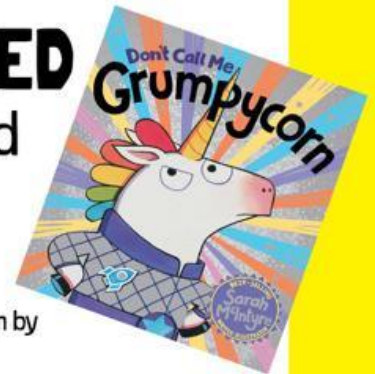


Stuck for present ideas?

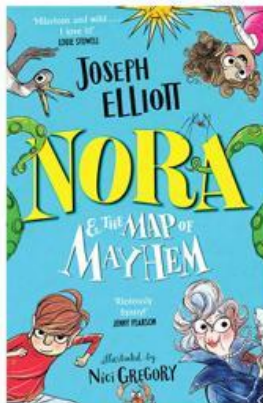
Brighten up the grey days of February Half Term by ordering tickets for the IW Story Festival!

A fantastic line-up of authors and performers will be visiting our Island from Thursday 19 to Saturday 21 February 2026. Tickets for this whole-family event are available now at iwstoryfestival.com or directly from the Box Office at Quay Arts, Newport.

Inspire your young readers and writers by meeting:

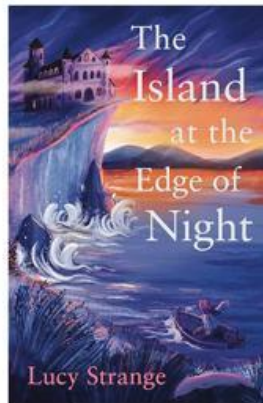


Joseph Elliott

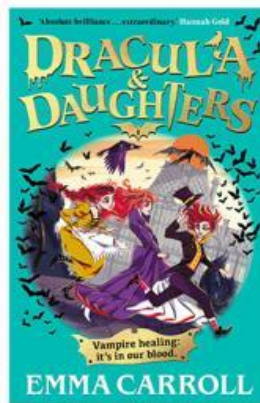


CBeebies, CBBC and Horrible Histories

Lucy Strange



Emma Carroll



Philip Reeve



Mortal Engines 25th year celebrations

Add a Christmas book by one of these icons of children's fiction.

Have your book signed at the Festival



Sarah McIntyre & Philip Reeve

Get the NATIONAL YEAR OF READING off to a GREAT START with the IW STORY FESTIVAL

Available from Medina Books Cowes, Waterstones Newport, and online retailers.

Proud to support The National Year of Reading 2026.

GO ALL IN.



iwstoryfestival.com