



Headteacher: Mrs Rebecca Day



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Friday 30th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our OPAL Journey Begins!

This week has been an exciting week of audits, planning, grounds discussion, planning 'quick wins' and longer term projects, all with a focus on play. As the year progresses the school site will gradually change and areas will open up and provide lots of opportunities for collaboration, talk, problem-solving and increased social experiences for children. Keep your eyes peeled for more information...

🌿 Splashing into Adventure: Our New Welly Initiative!

We are thrilled to announce that we are working toward a goal of "Welly Boots for Every Child." Our mission is to open up the school's grassed areas for play all year round, ensuring our pupils have the space to run, explore, and play, no matter the weather! With new and exciting areas to be developed over a two year plan.

📌 How it Works

To make "all-weather play" a reality, we are asking that every child has a pair of wellies to be kept at school.
* Storage: Initially, wellies will be kept on pegs, so please provide them in a carrier bag. As the project grows, we are working toward installing dedicated outdoor welly-storage to make changing for break and lunch as easy as possible. You may also want to provide a change of tights, socks or school trousers for your child initially too.

- Seasonal Sensibility: During the summer or when the ground is dry, standard school shoes will, of course, be perfectly fine!
- Start Date: We will be introducing the children to these extended play areas starting Monday, 9th February 2026.

🔄 The "Welly Swap" & Donations

We know children grow fast! To keep this sustainable, we will eventually launch a Welly Swap Shop. To get us started, we need your help: If you have any outgrown wellies lurking in your cupboards at home, please bring them into the school office. We would love to give them a second life and ensure every child has access to the outdoors.

🌐 Stay Updated

We have added a brand-new OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) tab to our school website. We'll be uploading more information, photos, and progress updates as the weeks go by.

We can't wait to see the children enjoying the extra space and the benefits of outdoor play!

Please don't forget to complete 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

We will be resurveying over the next 12 -24 months to reevaluate the provision, therefore initial surveys are really beneficial. Thank you.

NSPCC Number Day 2026

On Friday 6th February, we will be holding our annual NSPCC Number Day. To celebrate, we will be having a focus on calculations and problem solving and the children will engage with a range of maths activities throughout the day. These activities will help to promote a love of maths and show children that it can be creative, exciting and enjoyable!



To mark the occasion, we are inviting children to dress up in a maths-themed outfit.

This could include:

- Dressing as a number
- Wearing clothes with shapes or patterns
- Coming as a famous mathematician
- Getting creative with maths-inspired accessories

There is no pressure to buy anything new, simple and homemade ideas are absolutely perfect. We are looking forward to a day of fun and

exciting maths and will share some photos of the day on class dojo and in the newsletter. Thank you for your continuing support. A £1 donation to the NSPCC to support the charity, would be appreciated.

Uniform

We have noticed that there are some non-uniform items creeping in recently. Please ensure your child has full school uniform for school, including PE kit on their PE days. Trainers should only be worn on PE days unless completely black. If you require any school uniform, please collect some from the school uniform bank in the entrance foyer. If you can't see the size you require, please ask at the office, as we may be able to help. Thank you.

Winchester Science Centre

Year 5 had an immersive and inspiring day at Winchester Science centre on Thursday, exploring different hands on science experiments. The planetarium was very popular as this was a 360 degree experience, getting the feeling of being in space! The rocket fuel experiment called 'Blast Off!' brought awe and wonder to the children, between moments of collaboration and creativity that led to scientific conclusions. The children were a real credit to the school, we are really proud of them and we hope you are too.

Attendance and leave of absence in term time

At school, every day is important. We quite often think of attendance in terms of percentages, and many communications are shared in this way, but for our children, it's really about connection and confidence. When a child is persistently absent (attending for less than 90%) it means they are missing two days a month, half a day a week, 19 days a year, it creates gaps in knowledge that can make them feel like they're starting a film halfway through, or missing an episode of something. Consistent attendance ensures your child doesn't miss out on the vital building blocks of reading and maths, but more importantly, it helps them maintain those precious friendships and the steady routines that make them feel safe and successful. We want every child to feel part of the team, and that starts with being in their classroom.

- Friendship First: Being at school every day helps children stay in the loop with their friends, reducing social anxiety.
- Building Bricks: Learning is like building a tower; if we miss the bottom bricks, the top ones become a bit wobbly!
- Big Habits: Good attendance builds the "can-do" attitude that will help them all the way through life and prepare children for their next steps and journey into work.

Did you know that missing just 10% of the school year (about 19 days) can make it significantly harder for a child to learn to read fluently by the end of Key Stage One.

National Year of Reading – Storytelling week

This year is the national year of reading. Get ready to turn up the volume on your imagination! As we dive further into the National Year of Reading, we are thrilled to promote National Storytelling Week 2026. This event is a joyful reminder that stories are our passports to other worlds; they allow us to step into someone else's shoes, find a moment of calm, and sharpen those essential literacy skills. Reading for pleasure is a real skill to nurture and develop as you find stories and genres of books to enjoy. Whether this be to read yourself or to share with others.

This year's theme is called "Soundtrack your story," which explores the magical connection between music and the spoken word. Every one of us has a unique musical narrative—whether it's found in:

- The songs we love and the music we dance to.
- The rhythms we feel or the soundscapes of our daily lives.
- The iconic soundtracks from our favourite films and games.

There are some ideas for storytelling games to play at home, at the bottom of the newsletter. Have some fun, enjoy some quality time sharing and laughing over some stories. Have fun ☺

Entering and Leaving School Rules:

Please remember the entering and leaving school rules when arriving at school and when going home. It is important we think about our own and others safety.



Entering and Leaving School Rules

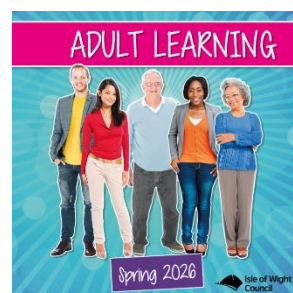
- **Wear the Correct Uniform**
Arrive in the right school uniform and shoes. Remember your PE day for wearing PE kit, taking earrings out and wearing hair tied up.
- **Arrive on Time**
Get ready at home in the morning so you arrive at school on time and ready to learn.
- **Mobile Phones**
Put your phone away before you enter the school gate.
Children must hand their phones into the classroom phone box.
- **Scooters and Bikes**
If you ride to school, push your bike or scooter once you're inside the school gate.
- **Use Paths Safely**
Always walk sensibly on the left-hand side of the path or corridor. No running!
- **Enter and Exit Calmly**
Walk calmly into and out of the classroom, showing you are ready to learn and be respectful.
- **Use Good Manners**
Say "Good morning" when you arrive and "Goodbye" when you leave.
Always use polite words.
- **Follow Morning Routines**
Start your day right by following your class's morning routine as soon as you arrive.
- **Be Respectful to Everyone**
Speak kindly and behave respectfully to all children, staff, and visitors on school grounds.

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 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			

Storytelling games to play at home

Try out these storytelling games at home with a family member or friend.

ABC story-making

Create a story together from thin air! You'll need two or more players. One person starts with a sentence beginning with "A," the next continues with a sentence starting with "B," and so on through the alphabet. Take turns adding sentences to see where your story goes.

Now, bring your story to life with sound. Can you add a rhythm, sound effect or background beat to match what is happening? Let the words become the soundtrack to your imagination!

Storytelling with real stories

Ask a friend or family member to tell you a story about their life. Prompt with questions, e.g., "What was the naughtiest thing you did when you were a child?" or "What is the funniest thing that's happened to you?" Then, tell the story to someone else, adding extra bits to make it more dramatic.

As you retell the story, think about the sounds that would go with it - laughter, footsteps, music from the time or even a dramatic drum roll. Think about the activity where you heard sounds on your walk and collected your own sound library. Use the sounds in your made-up tale to make the memory sing!

Story-making with objects

Collect 6-8 random small objects in a box or bag. You can use anything - a teddy, a coin or a fork. Take it in turns to pick an object without looking and use it to make up a story together. For example, if you take out a teddy, you could say, "Once upon a time, there was a tiny bear who..." Then, take out another object and decide what happens next: "Once upon a time, there was a tiny bear who found a shiny, gold coin. He picked it up and..." Build a story using all the objects.

As each object appears, think about what it sounds like in real-life, or what it might sound like in your imagination. Could the teddy hum a tune or could you say "mmmm" as if you're enjoying food when you pick up your fork? Layer these sounds to create the perfect soundtrack to your story.

Isle of Wight Parent Carer Forum



We want to hear from you – please provide your honest feedback

Your Voice Matters

Scan me



1

Are you a parent carer?

2

Do you have a child or young person aged 0-25 with additional needs or SEND?

3

We want to hear your lived experience.

Together, we can build a future where children and young people with SEND are understood, supported, and able to thrive.



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Isle of Wight Parent Carer Forum



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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CONSPIRACY THEORIES

Conspiracy theories are false or misleading beliefs that explain events as secret plots, often involving powerful groups. While once fringe, they are now more accessible through digital media, online influencers and because of algorithmic recommendations. The DfE guidance document, 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (KCSIE) explicitly recognises conspiracy theories as potential content risks. This guide will help parents and educators understand the risks, spot the signs, and build children's resilience to conspiracy theories.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

UNDERMINING TRUST

Conspiracy theories can lead children and young people to distrust democratic institutions and British Values, teachers, and even their own families and loved ones. This erosion of trust makes young people more vulnerable to extremist narratives by isolating them from reliable sources of information.

ONLINE ALGORITHM TRAPS

Social media platforms can often recommend sensationalist content. Once a child engages with one conspiracy-themed video or post, algorithms push more of the same, thereby creating an echo chamber that can intensify their beliefs.

MENTAL HEALTH IMPACT

Exposure to frightening conspiracy content, such as global plots, viruses, or government control, can fuel feelings of anxiety, paranoia, and hopelessness. For some young people, it can trigger prolonged distress or obsessive thinking.

GATEWAY TO EXTREMISM

Conspiracy theories can often overlap with extremist ideologies. Narratives that blame specific groups, such as politicians, scientists, or particular ethnic groups, can groom children in ways that foster hate, bigotry, and radicalisation.

CONFLICT WITH PEERS

Belief in conspiracy theories can lead to isolation or conflict at school. Children may struggle with peer relationships if they express these beliefs or become distrustful of others who disagree; sometimes, confrontation can even result in a strengthening of the belief in the conspiracy theory.

ERODED CRITICAL THINKING

Young people influenced by conspiracies may reject evidence-based learning. This risks undermining their academic progress and weakening their ability to think critically, assess risks, or engage in healthy debate.

Advice for Parents & Educators

I WANT TO BELIEVE

CREATE SAFE CONVERSATIONS

Don't mock or dismiss any questions that children and young people ask about conspiracy theories. Instead, create open, judgement-free spaces to talk. This strengthens trust and makes it more likely they will confide in you.

PROMOTE CRITICAL THINKING

Teach young people how to assess information critically. Encourage them to ask appropriate questions, such as: Who is telling me this? What evidence is there? What do other trusted sources say? Use real examples from current media to explain your answers and reasoning.

MONITOR DIGITAL BEHAVIOUR

Be aware of the content children are accessing, especially on platforms such as TikTok, YouTube, or Reddit. Use parental controls, but more importantly, maintain ongoing dialogue about online experiences and influencers.

REINFORCE RELIABLE SOURCES

Point children toward trustworthy and reliable sources of news and information in a variety of formats tailored to the young person's age. Build habits of verifying facts using reliable sources, and teach them how to spot misleading content.

Meet Our Expert

Brendan O'Keeffe is a headteacher and digital education consultant with over a decade of experience in education. As Director of Digital Strategy across multiple schools and an advisor to The National College, he specialises in digital safety, PREVENT, and pastoral care.



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

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



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



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

