

## Party Time!

Dear Families,

### Reception Sing-a-long

Our Reception classes did a fabulous job with their Christmas Sing-a-long, both to Seashells, Queensgate and to families. The show was thoroughly enjoyed by all.



The children sang with confidence, told the Christmas story clearly and were just all so super cute!

These pictures have been shared with the County Press - so do look out for them!

A huge thank you for all the kind donations made at the family showing - all monies received will go straight into buying resources for the Reception classes.

### **Christmas Dinner**

A huge thank you to our team of cooks. They always provide lovely meals for the children all year round, but on Christmas dinner day they managed over 300 full Christmas dinners. Well done to them. The food was absolutely delicious. Thank you all for sending your children in with their Christmas jumpers, they looked absolutely fabulous!

### **Local Authority Visit**

Our visit from the Local Authority went well on Wednesday. They carried out a learning walk through the school, talked to our English and Maths leaders and also spoke to our Geography and DT subject leaders. They met with Peter Genari our Co-Chair of Governors. They also watched the whole school Christmas assembly and were most impressed with the singing and readings. Well done everyone!

### **Attendance Assembly**

Today we had our termly Attendance Assembly. I handed out a total of 170 cards. 57 children achieved their bronze award; This means their attendance was above 98%. 19 silver awards; This means 99% and 103 gold awards to children with 100% attendance. Well done to all those children. Please send your children to school next Monday and Tuesday.



### **Attendance**

**Whole School Attendance since September is 95.37%**

**Whole School Attendance this week is 94.42%**

**KS1 Class with best attendance this week is 1CE with 98.02%**

**KS2 Class with best attendance this week is 6LR with 97.78%**





## What's for dinner next week?

(Remember all Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children are entitled to Free School dinners.)



Monday 18th Dec	Tuesday 19th Dec	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Cheese and Tomato Pizza Served with Potato Wedges	Breaded Fish Fingers Served with Chips			
Sweet Potato Curry Served with Wholegrain Rice	Crispy Quorn Nuggets Served with Chips			
Jacket Potato or Tomato Pasta	Jacket Potato or Tomato Pasta			
Apple Crumble with Custard	Strawberry Ice Cream			



## What's for dinner next Year?

(Remember all Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children are entitled to Free School dinners.)



Monday 1st Jan	Tuesday 2nd Jan	Wednesday 3rd Jan	Thursday 4th Jan	Friday 5th Jan
<b>BANK HOLIDAY</b>	<b>INSET DAY</b>	Roast Pork Served with Roast Potatoes, two vegetables and Gravy	Chicken and Vegetable Korma Served with Wholegrain Rice	Breaded Fish Fingers Served with Chips
<b>BANK HOLIDAY</b>	<b>INSET DAY</b>	Sweet Potato and Chickpea Roast Served with Roast Potatoes, two vegetables and Gravy	Vegetarian Cottage Pie Served with two vegetables	Crispy Quorn Nuggets Served with Chips
<b>BANK HOLIDAY</b>	<b>INSET DAY</b>	Jacket Potato or Tomato Pasta	Jacket Potato or Tomato Pasta	Jacket Potato or Tomato Pasta
<b>BANK HOLIDAY</b>	<b>INSET DAY</b>	Orange Shortbread with Fruit Slice	Banana and Carrot Cake	Chocolate Ice Cream with Shortbread Biscuit



## Out & About

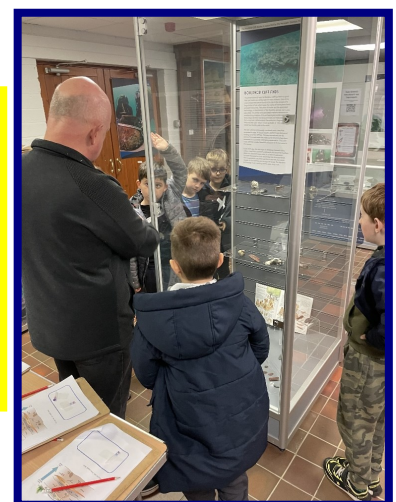
Next term our **Year 2** children will begin their topic about the history of flight. This week the **2KG** Out and About group visited Bembridge Airport to learn about how the airport is run, features of planes and how they vary and the different parts of a plane. The children were given a special opportunity to go inside one of the hangars to see the planes. They even got to take it in turns to sit in the pilot's seat, exploring the controls and finding out what they do.

"We went to Bembridge Airport and learnt all about planes. We saw 5 aeroplanes in the hangar, and a golf cart and a big tractor that cuts the grass runway. The tail of the plane has a rudder that make the plane move left or right, that is called yaw, the flaps on wings are called ailerons, they make the plane roll from side to side and the elevator at the back makes the plane move up and down. The air splits as it goes over and under the wing. The air going over the top of the wing has to go faster which makes the plane fly." Teddy 2KG



Our **Year 3** children have been learning all about the Stone Age this half term. On Tuesday afternoon, our **3AH** group visited the Shipwreck Centre and Maritime Museum. The children took part in a workshop where they learnt more about a Stone Age village that was discovered by divers near Bouldnor, Yarmouth. They explored how archaeologists are able to date objects that they find using stratigraphy and core samples.

"On Out and About we went to the museum at the Shipwreck Centre and we were learning all about maritime archaeology. We went into two groups. One group went to do a treasure hunt around the museum and the other group went to learn about the layers in soil called stratas. We learnt a story about Larry the lobster who discovered lots of Stone Age tools when he was building his house, under the sea, near Yarmouth. The Out and About trip was amazing, I learnt lots." Oliver C 3AH





## Out and About continued

On Wednesday, our final **Year 4** Out and About group visited Nettlecombe Farm. The children all enjoyed hand feeding the animals as they toured the farm, learning lots about each animal's teeth, diet, digestive system and feet (this tied into some of their recent Science work). Earlier this term in Geography, the children found out about the farming industry on the Island. They discussed how Nettlecombe Farm is not a commercial farm but the animals are kept as pets alongside nine holiday cottages, a fishing lake and yoga studio that all generate an income for the farm.

"We went to a farm and fed animals. We learnt that the reindeer's antlers fall off after Christmas and they grow new ones back every year. The goats just lick the food off your hand because they only have bottom teeth, just like sheep and cows. My favourite bit was feeding the chickens, letting them peck the food from my hands." Harley T 4BM

"My favourite part of visiting the farm was feeding the goats. They don't have top teeth. The alpacas were spitting at each and were having staring contest! The farm makes money by renting out cottages for people to stay for holidays, there's a fishing lake and they run yoga classes. They don't eat the animals on the farm, they are just pets." Logan F 4BM



The children in **Year 1** have been enjoying their topic about *toys* this half term. This week's Out and About team from **1SM** went on a mission to find Mog, a little lost cat (toy). The children found clues and used maps to hunt for the cat. The trail led them to the park, then south, along towards St. Mildred's church. They used compasses to navigate which direction to go in and successfully read the clues (practising their Phase 5 phonics). The group successfully found poor Mog, stuck up a tree in the church grounds!





## Christmas Tree Festival

A huge thank you to all the children and families that took part in the Christmas tree decoration competition! We were absolutely amazed by all the beautiful decorations that you created. Don't forget that our amazing 'eco' tree (with all your decorations on!) is on show at the St Mildred's Christmas Tree Festival this weekend, entry is free and they would love to see lots of families visiting.

## Out and About and swimming lessons in January

Next term Reception children will be going Out and About on a Tuesday morning and Year 1 will be going out on a Wednesday morning. Keep an eye on the newsletter each week in the new year to find out which week your child will be going out.

Swimming lessons will begin on Tuesday 9th January for Year 3's and Wednesday 10th January for all of our Year 5 children. The first session is assessment week to determine which group your child will be best suited to. It is worth checking over the holiday that your child has a swimsuit or swim-shorts that fit, ready for their first lesson.

## Royal British Legion - Poppy Appeal

Thank you all for supporting the poppy appeal this year. We have received the following message from the Royal British Legion:

*Thank you. Your support has made a real difference to those in the Armed Forces community. Without your efforts, we couldn't do the work we do. Thank you for supporting the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Together we raised £41.04. To find out more about how your donation helps, please visit [www.rbl.org.uk/poppyappeal](http://www.rbl.org.uk/poppyappeal)*





## Music at Queensgate



### Spring Guitar Lessons

We have spaces for four or five new guitar players to start lessons in the spring term. Lessons are on Friday afternoons and will begin on 5<sup>th</sup> January. The lessons are provided by Mr David Smith of the Wight Music Tuition Service and cost £8 for a 20 minute small group lesson. (10 lessons per term.) School still has plenty of guitars available for free loan if your child would like to learn.

If you want your child to start guitar lessons, please use this link to sign them up:

<https://iwmt.org.uk/apply-online/>

Please also email Mrs Webb at school - [wwebb@queensgateprimary.co.uk](mailto:wwebb@queensgateprimary.co.uk) so she can organise the new timetable and guitar loan forms.



### Piano Lessons and End of Term Progress Reports

Well done to all our children who have started or are continuing their piano lessons.

Mrs Camfield, the teacher, is in the process of emailing out progress reports to parents so do check your inboxes and spam folders if nothing has arrived yet.

There are spaces for more children to start piano lessons in the spring term. The lessons cost £8 for a 15min 1:1 lesson or £10 for a 20min 1:1 lesson. If your child would like to learn, please email Mrs Webb [wwebb@queensgateprimary.co.uk](mailto:wwebb@queensgateprimary.co.uk) and she will send you a sign-up form to complete. Lesson fees are due half termly and should be paid to Mrs Camfield before the start of the first lesson.

### Festival Choir Club

It's that time of year again! Queensgate are entered in the Isle of Wight Festival of Music Dance and Drama which takes place in March and we are going to see if we can win our lovely Newport Shield trophy back for the third consecutive year. Mrs Webb would love to see as many members of last year's winning choir back at club in the spring and is also looking out for new members.

Our only limit is the 28 children we can fit on the two school minibuses so look out for the Clubbly sign-up in the first week back.

Festival term is quite demanding and requires commitment from the children to attend Tuesday rehearsals and learning the words to the songs by heart but it is also a huge amount of fun. Choir is open to Years 3 to 6 but if we have any spaces it will be opened up to Year 2 children as well.



December 2023  
Christmas edition

# MHST Newsletter

iwont.mhst@nhs.net ~ 0300 365 4010

**Please note the MHST is closed on the 25th and 26th December 2023, and the 1st January 2024.**

Christmas is a time for giving; presents, cards, love and more. Giving can have a good effect on your mental health so this Christmas, why not try these ideas [Youth Trust](#) have highlighted (and some are free):

- Surprise someone
- Compliment someone
- Host a game night
- Volunteer with animals

For some, however, Christmas can be overwhelming; additional social events, less routine, more family gatherings. To help with these extra pressures, [Mind](#) have gathered some tips to help you cope over Christmas, such as:

- Include your regular routine as much as possible if this helps you.
- Be nice to yourself and do what is best for you.
- You can say 'no' to things that you don't find helpful.



Do more of what you enjoy this Christmas to improve your [wellbeing](#).

[Music](#) can lessen stress, and improve sleep.

[Talking](#) through your struggles with family and friends can help with Christmas struggles.

Have a break from [social media](#) as looking at others 'perfect' social media posts can make you sad.



mental  
health  
support  
TEAM

The Mental Health Support Team is a collaboration between the Isle of Wight NHS Trust, Barnardo's and the Isle of Wight Youth Trust





## Services here to help you

Counsellors available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, online or on the phone. For children, young people and parents. Call 0800 1111 or visit [childline.org.uk](http://childline.org.uk)

**childline**

ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME

Find the help and advice you need. You are not alone.

[youngminds.org.uk](http://youngminds.org.uk)

**YOUNGMINDS**  
fighting for young people's mental health

Whatever you are going through, call free at any time on 116 123, email

[jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org) or visit [samaritans.org](http://samaritans.org)

**SAMARITANS**

Call 111 and speak to a health advisor. A mental health advisor will call you back in a timely manner, based on your need. Alternatively, visit [111.nhs.uk](http://111.nhs.uk) and follow the online instructions.

**NHS**



## CHRISTMAS MINDFULNESS

TRACE THE RIBBONS ON THE TREE.  
TRACE UP & BREATHE IN.  
TRACE DOWN & BREATHE OUT.



## Mindfulness...

...is 'paying more attention to the present moment' as well as recognising what is happening inside and outside our bodies. Two main parts of mindfulness are focusing on our senses; tastes, smells, sounds, sights in addition to recognising our emotions and feelings as they are happening.

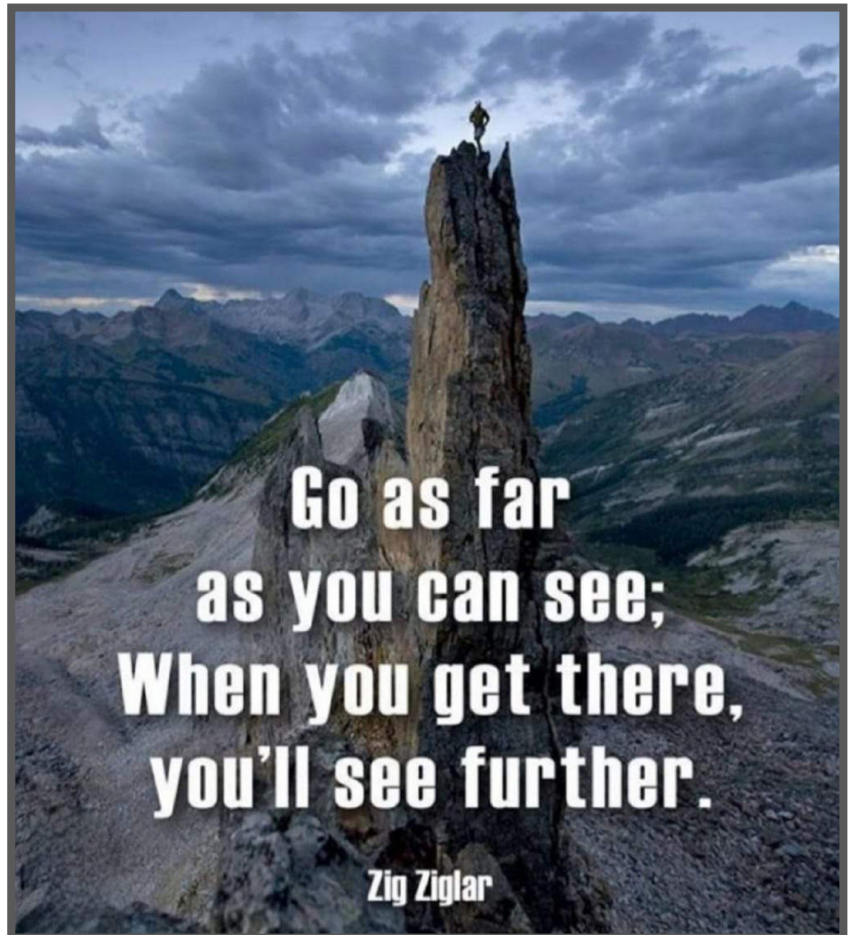
The OT Toolbox has created a Christmas mindfulness activity that can help to focus on one thought at a time as well as lessen anxious thoughts.

### Next Week

We are in school Monday and Tuesday next week. Tuesday is an off-timetable day and the children will be doing fun Christmas activities and party games, as well as watching the pantomime, Puss in Boots. On Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December the children may dress in what they would like to. Please ensure they are still warm and dressed in a way suitable for a school day.

### Next Term

The children return to school on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January at 8:40am. I look forward to seeing them then.



### And Finally...

#### Merry Christmas

Thank you to the Queensgate staff team and children for a wonderful term.

Thanks to families for all your support and engagement with a whole variety of events going on in school.



Best wishes,

Samantha Sillito

Headteacher







# SANTA'S GROTTO & CHRISTMAS CAROLS

SATURDAY 16TH & SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER 2023

11:00AM TILL 3:00PM

## A Fun Festive Weekend for the Whole Family!

- Come and meet Santa & his elves
- Say hi to his favourite donkeys
- Festive carriage rides around the Sanctuary with Robert & Murray the Pony

### Performances from -

- Melodic & Inspire Choir
- Roger & Joy
- Boogie Woogie
- Wight Harmony

£5.00 suggested donation for Grotto & Carriage Rides



- ✉ INFO@IOWDONKEYSANCTUARY.ORG
- 🌐 WWW.IOWDONKEYSANCTUARY.ORG
- ☎ 01983 852 693
- 🏠 CHARITY NUMBER: 1159886
- 📍 LOWER WINSTONE FARM, ST JOHNS ROAD, WROXALL, PO38 3AA

Would you like information on how to access additional support regarding your child's education?

Why not attend the Education & Early Help

## Drop-in Session

Come and visit us at the Ryde Family Hub on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024 between 09.30am and 12.30pm.



To Contact Early Help team please call 01983 823171

To Contact Education & Inclusion Service 01983 823151



### GET WINTER STRONG.

Get your flu and COVID-19 vaccinations. [www.nhs.uk/wintervaccinations](http://www.nhs.uk/wintervaccinations)

## From the Isle of Wight NHS Trust

### Children's COVID-19 Vaccination Appointments – Children's Outpatient Department, North Hospital

We are offering the following Children's COVID Vaccination Clinics for Ages 5-11, Ages 12-15 and Ages 16-17 in the Children's Outpatients Department, North Hospital, St Mary's (NOT the Hospital Vaccine Hub). Accessible parking is available in the North Car Park.

Appointments must be booked in advance, we are unable to offer walk-ins.

After the 15 December the NBS booking system will not be available until the Spring and so **please book appointments by calling 0300 561 0018**

Please note that Children are eligible if:

- they have an immunosuppressed disorder
- or have close family contact with someone who has an immunosuppressed disorder or have not had any COVID vaccination in the past.

All vaccines offered will be the Pfizer XBB.1.5 vaccines.

Upcoming Children's Vaccination Clinic times (more to follow in January):

- Monday 18 Dec 2023, 08:00 – 12:30
- Monday 22 Jan 2023, 08:00 – 11:00

For any information regarding Children's COVID vaccinations, please email the Hospital Vaccine Hub Team: [iownt.vaccine-hub@nhs.net](mailto:iownt.vaccine-hub@nhs.net).





Sandown Soccer - Isle of Wight

# SANDOWN SOCCER

at The Bay CE Secondary

**FOR CHILDREN AGED 4-11**

**Wednesday - Friday**  
**20th - 22nd December**

Mini-Soccer camp for children. Aiming to provide a fun and enjoyable environment whilst developing and improving players footballing ability!

**10AM - 3PM**

- ★ FA Qualified coaches with enhanced DBS and up to date first aid and safeguarding training.
- ★ Fun football games to develop agility, balance, coordination and speed!
- ★ Win medals by becoming Penalty, Keepy-uppy, Crossbar or Speed Champion as well as our Best Attitude, Most Improved and Future Star awards!
- ★ Take part in the Sandown Soccer World Cup where one team will be crowned **WORLD CHAMPIONS!!!**



Player of the day!

Win Player Of The Day trophies and t-shirts!

**5 hours of fun EVERY day!**  
10am - 3pm  
Inclusive football for ALL abilities!

Only £14 a day  
**Special Discounts!**  
All 3 DAYS - £39  
Sibling Discount available!

Have questions or would like more information?

Contact Lewis (Mr Mitchell)  
sandownsoccer@yahoo.com

07594 389531

**SANDOWN SOCCER**

Children are welcome to come for one day or for ALL the days!

Attend at least 3 out of the 3 days during the week and win a medal for all of your hard work!

To book a place text your child's name, school year, dates and your name to **07594 389531**



HOPE CHURCH  
EAST COWES

## JOIN US FOR

# CHRISTMAS FAMILY FUN

## THUR

**21 DECEMBER**

EAST COWES TOWN HALL  
2-4PM

CRAFT/LEGO  
BOUNCY CASTLE/FOOD

CHILDREN TO BE  
ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

HOPECHURCHEASTCOWES.COM

**FREE**

# CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

ST. MILDRED'S CHURCH, WHIPPINGHAM

14th - 16th December 2023  
11 - 3pm

17th December 2023  
12 - 3pm (4pm Carol Service)

FREE ENTRY  
All donations to local charities







The School Aged Immunisation Service has been in school for nasal flu vaccinations. If your child missed this but you would like them to receive it, it's not too late. There are community clinics available through until the end of January.

To access the consent form please use the link:

<https://bit.ly/3C4vuwR> or QR code:



Your school code is: 136008

Clinics available are:

Sat 9 <sup>th</sup> Dec	09:30 – 12:30	Ryde Bungalow Family Centre (next to Ryde Academy)
Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	09:30 – 12:30	East Newport Family Centre (next to Barton School)
Thurs 21 <sup>st</sup> Dec	09:30 – 15:00	Sandown Family Centre, The Fairway
Thurs 11 <sup>th</sup> Jan	15:00 – 17:00	West Wight Family Centre, Freshwater
Sat 27 <sup>th</sup> Jan	09:30 – 12:30	Enterprise House, Newport

(If the clinic does not appear as an option, it is full)

If you do not wish your child to be vaccinated and do not want to receive any further reminders, please use the link or QR code for the no consent form so that your child's record can be updated.

Please contact the school Aged Immunisation Service if you need any help or advice.

Email: [snhs.schoolagedimmunisations-iow@nhs.net](mailto:snhs.schoolagedimmunisations-iow@nhs.net) or Tel: 0300 123 5074



Prevent the  
spread  
of flu this  
winter



Protect your  
family

