



Mr Kirby's Weekly News

Dear Dover Park Family,

I hope you've all had a productive week. As we approach the upcoming break, there is a lot to celebrate—and a few things to tidy up. Here is your weekly update on everything happening around the school.

Parent Evening Booking System

First, I would like to offer a sincere apology regarding the launch of our new parent evening booking system. We are aware that many of you experienced technical glitches, ranging from being unable to secure a slot to the frustration of double-bookings. We know how precious your time is, and we're working closely with the provider to iron out these kinks. Thank you for your patience while we get this sorted.

Half Term Book Challenge

Looking for some half-term inspiration? Monkton Arts is running a fantastic Book Challenge for our pupils! This is a wonderful opportunity for children to get creative, with the chance to win prizes and even have their work displayed in a professional gallery. We would love to see as many entries as possible. Please bring any completed work back into school after the break and we will ensure it's delivered safely to the team at Monkton Arts. Mr Gregory, our English leader, has provided some further info about this great opportunity, below:

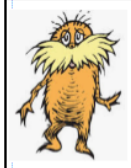


Half Term Book Challenge

Over half term we would like you all to rise to one (or both) of two challenges set by the Monkton Arts Gallery.



1. Write a short book review for a book you would recommend to other children in your class. Give a short overview of the story and possibly illustrate it.

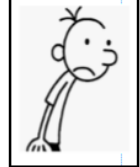


2. Produce a picture/illustration from the best bit of a story you have read or have had read to you. This can be in the form of a painting, collage etc



Some entries will be displayed at the gallery or online. Prizes will also be awarded for best bits.

Entries must be submitted to class teachers on Monday 23rd February.



Good Luck

Equality and Right Advocates

As a school, we are passionate about equality and ensuring children understand the importance. Our Year 5 and 6 Equality and Rights Advocates have been busy making a real difference this week. They visited Gurnard Primary School to collaborate with peers from across the Island, sharing ideas on how to drive equality in our schools. To round off their day of equality fun, they headed to 'Department' in Ryde to explore the exhibition and learn more about the importance of LGBTQ+ History Month. They represented the school brilliantly and came back with some truly thoughtful insights.



Careers Week

Last week was an absolute whirlwind of inspiration for Careers Week. The children took part in workshops led by Wonderfell and the Isle of Wight South Coast Music Partnership, alongside special assemblies and classroom sessions. It was fantastic to see them exploring the vast range of skills they might need for the future. Whether they're interested in the arts, tech, or trade, the goal was to show them that the sky is the limit.



Chartwells: Sticker on a Plate

Our caterers, Chartwells, are bringing back the popular 'Sticker on a Plate' competition! During lunchtime, lucky stickers will be hidden on the underside of random plates. If your child finds one, they'll be in with a chance to win a prize. It's a simple bit of fun that always adds a layer of excitement to the school hall! You've got to be in it to win it!

Community Offers and Discounts

We are very grateful to one of our parents for highlighting some fantastic opportunities for local families:

Historic Royal Palaces: Qualifying families can visit several iconic UK palaces for just £1. You can find out more and book via this link: <https://www.hrp.org.uk/one-pound-tickets/>



Wightlink Fares: For families in receipt of Universal Credit, Housing Benefit, or Council Tax Support, Wightlink offers a discounted fares scheme to help with the cost of travel. Full details are available on their website: <https://www.wightlink.co.uk/special-offers/discounted-fares-scheme>



The Importance of Homework

Our teachers carefully match every task to the work being done in class. By revisiting these concepts at home, children move their knowledge from short-term memory into long-term memory—embedding what they have learned. Beyond the academics, completing homework helps children build the independence and routines they will need for secondary school and their future careers.

Finally, please keep up the daily reading at home. It remains the single most impactful way to support your child's progress across every subject. Thank you for your continued partnership in their learning!



Special Educational Needs Feedback Form

The Isle of Wight Parent Carer Forum (IWPCF) is a parent-led organisation representing families of children and young people aged 0-25 with Additional Needs, also known as Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND).

The IWPCF works with the Local Authority and Integrated Care Board to represent parent carers' views in decisions about services across Health, Education, and Social Care. They are not a support or campaigning group.

They would like to hear from parent carers about their experiences of local support and services. Please take a few moments to share your feedback by scanning the QR code on the poster or using the link provided.

<https://forms.gle/P5m93cYfJz5TZsBm7>

LEARNING

Year 6 were investigating symmetry in different patterns that they had created using squares. As the investigated, they had to find and develop a strategy for finding all possible combinations of squares.



Year 5 enjoyed a wonderful visit from the fantastic Wonderfell Theatre, they ran a captivating workshop and spoke about possible creative career opportunities. This week, we have learned what a protractor is and how to use one - the children have all been a little surprised at how specific they have to be. In literacy, we have continued building atmosphere in



have with us-



our writing and even explored using semicolons!

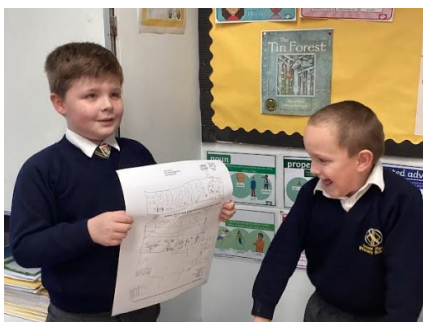


This week the were sequencing locks in French.

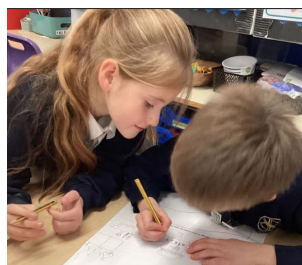


children in Year 4 the story of Goldi-

Year have this the



3 a



were lucky enough to visitor in week from Southamp-

Year 2 had a visit from Nurse Dave who spoke to them about his job. He talked about what he does each day in his role as a nurse and the children enjoyed looking at some of the equipment. This was a great link to our history work on Florence Nightingale as the children enjoyed comparing what hospitals were like in the past compared to today.



This week Year 1 have been busy following instructions in English. After realising it can be important to organise ideas into a sequence, they wrote their own steps on how to make a sandwich. The children realised quite quickly how important it was - if they didn't have bread in their first steps, they



couldn't spread the butter or jam!



Reception were really weather and enjoyed a

lucky with the sunny afternoon



Well done to the Year 6 basketball team who took on 10 teams and winning most games securing them a spot in the final!

9th February —Year 4 DT Workshop (please note this has changed from Art)

13th February—Break Up for Half Term

23rd February—Children Return to School

23rd February—Breakfast Bonanza (breakfast for every child)

13th February — Year 2 Assembly

4th March —Year 6 Music Workshop

12th March —Year 2 DT Workshop

16th March — Year 4 Music Workshop

19th March —Year 5 Assembly (please note change of date)

20th March — Easter Egg donation — Dress Down Day

26th March — Year 1 Assembly

27th March —Easter Egg Tombola

4th May —Year 5 Music Workshop

14th May — Year 4 Assembly

20th May — Year 1 Music Workshop

21st May — School Disco

22nd May — Reception Music Workshop (please note change of date)

5th June — Year 3 Parent Workshop

19th June— Whole School Teddy Bear Picnic 12:15-1:00



Reader of the Week

Year 1— Phoebe

Year 2— Leo

Year 3— Haiden

Year 4— Olivia

Year 5— Morris

Year 6— Alfie

Hot Chocolate Friday

Year 1— Ellie

Year 2— Ella

Year 3— Etta

Year 4— Isabelle

Year 5— Oscar

Year 6— Remy

Cloakroom Award

Year 4



Well done to Amelia, Phoebe and Vaishnav who have achieved sporting awards outside of school.



ARE YOU A WINNER?

Every Thursday, check under your plate for a winner sticker!

1. Clear your plate
2. Check if you have a sticker
3. If you do, show a member of kitchen staff
4. Collect your prize



THE ISLAND'S GOT



Talent

East Cowes Town Hall

Sunday 1st March 2026 | Time TBC

HOSTED BY

CHRIS QUINTON

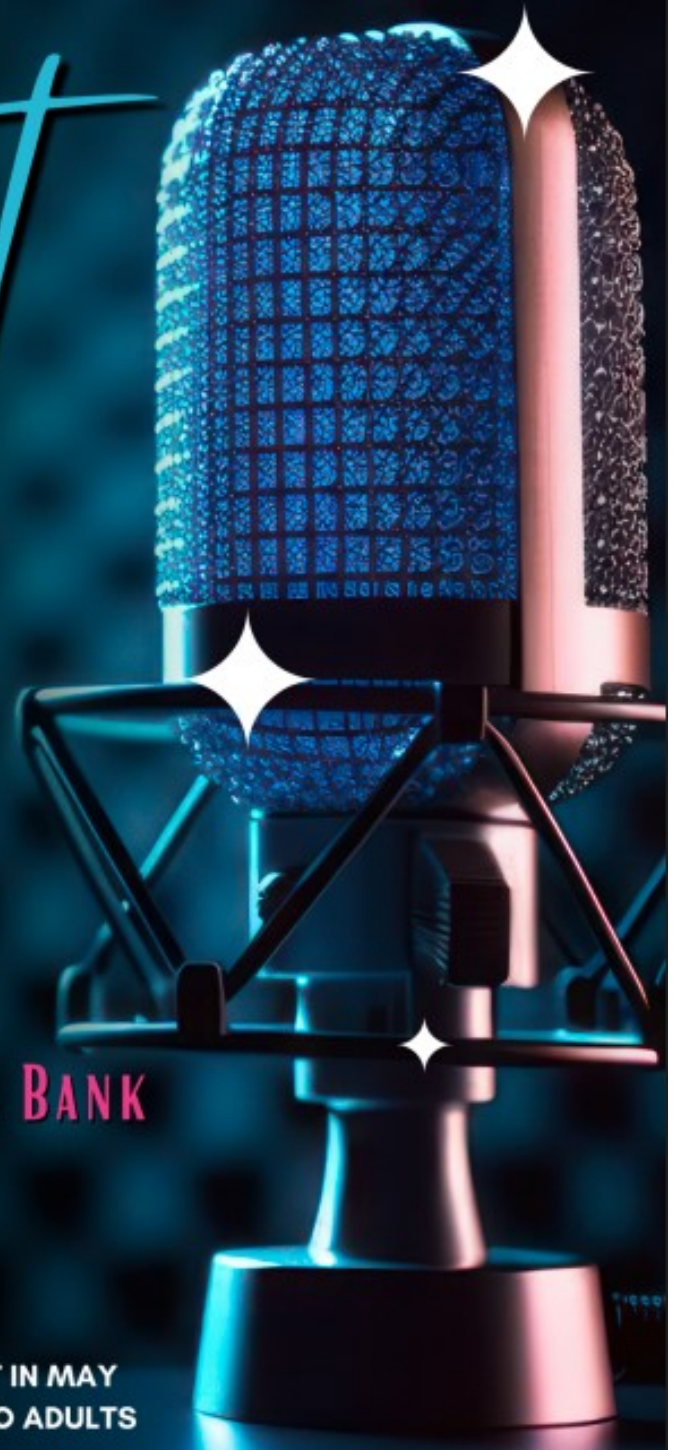
JUDGES

NIGEL HARTLEY | ROB DA BANK

HANNAH BREAR & *Di* Jam *ROKI*

WIN YOUR MOMENT TO PERFORM AT THE
COWES FRINGE MOUNTBATTEN GALA NIGHT IN MAY
OPEN TO TALENTED PERFORMERS AGED 8+ TO ADULTS

Applications & Ticket Details available at www.cowesfringe.com



APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN

JUNIOR BAKE OFF

WWW.APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK

AGED BETWEEN 9-15 AND WANT TO GIVE
YOUR BAKING SKILLS A GO?

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!



LAST CHANCE TO APPLY 15TH MARCH 2026

A Slice of SEN



Drop in sessions for parents and carers (children and young people welcome)

Come and join Isle of Wight SEN Support for chat, support, meet other parents, share experiences, signposting and cake!

Friday 30th January 2026

12.30pm - 2pm

Newport Family Centre

Wednesday 11th February 2026

12.30pm - 2pm

Ryde Family Centre

Friday 27th February 2026

12.30pm - 2pm

Newport Family Centre



Follow us at <https://facebook.com/iwsensupport>

email us at: help@iwsensupport.org



SMALL MUSEUMS · BIG ON HISTORY!

HALF-TERM ACTIVITIES

NO NEED TO BOOK



CLAY DAYS

- Create a unique Roman-inspired self-portrait in clay
- Decorate your artwork with your name in Latin



Above: Copper alloy coin of Constantine I

CREATIVE COINS

- Craft an embossed foil metallic masterpiece!
- Discover and handle coins from across history and be inspired by symbols and portraits.



Above: Silver Penny of Athelred II

- £1 per person
- 10am to 2pm
- Monday 16 February
- Wednesday 18 February



- £1 per person
- 10am to 1pm
- Tuesday 17 February
- Thursday 19 February

Cypress Road,
Newport,
IW, PO30 1HA

01983 823433
iow.gov.uk/museums
museums@iow.gov.uk

Guildhall, High Street,
Newport, IW, PO30 1TY



Isle of Wight
Council

Events organised by the Isle of Wight Heritage Service

Making Relationships Work for Professionals

Wednesday 28th January
9.30-11.30am Online

This training introduces:

- the key findings from Gottman research
- what actually predicts relationship success or breakdown
- practical ways professionals can support parent relationships

Book Now



lovemattersiow@gmail.com



LOVE MATTERS
REAL RELATIONSHIPS CONNECTION CARE

Supporting Parent Relationships



The Gottman Institute
A RESEARCH-BASED APPROACH TO RELATIONSHIPS

Funded by
Isle of Wight Council

Bringing Baby Home



The Gottman Institute
A RESEARCH-BASED APPROACH TO RELATIONSHIPS

A 5 week series of webinars for parents with babies to stay connected in this time of change

What will you learn?

- What "successful" couples do to keep love alive after children
- How to grow in friendship
- Practical ways to manage stress
- How to regulate conflict so you grow together & not apart
- Nurturing intimacy & Creating your unique family



"A couple's emotional connection provides the foundation for a child's development"

John Gottman



Fully Funded & Online
To book scan QR code or email:
lovemattersiow@gmail.com

Book Now



LOVE MATTERS
REAL RELATIONSHIPS CONNECTION CARE

A not-for-profit organisation supporting all relationships at all stages. Providing workshops & 1:1 support for parents, children, families, couples

Making Relationships Work

Webinars for parents who want to renew & strengthen their relationship



- "How can we reconnect emotionally after years of focusing on the kids?"
- "How do we handle feelings of resentment or frustration that may have built up over time?"
- "How do we maintain meaningful conversations that don't revolve around parenting?"
- "Can we really keep the spark alive without feeling guilty for taking time away from the kids?"

4 ONLINE EVENING SESSIONS



- Session 1: What makes relationships last?
- Session 2: Renewing Your Friendship
- Session 3: How conflict can be a place of connection
- Session 4: Sharing your hopes & dreams for the future

Thursdays from 22nd January 8pm
Online (cosy up on your sofa solo or with your partner)
To book email: lovemattersiow@gmail.com

LOVE MATTERS
REAL RELATIONSHIPS CONNECTION CARE

Supporting Parent Relationships



Funded by
Isle of Wight Council

The Gottman Institute
A RESEARCH-BASED APPROACH TO RELATIONSHIPS

PRIVATE 1:1 or 1:2 RELATIONSHIP SUPPORT

LOVE MATTERS
REAL RELATIONSHIPS CONNECTION CARE

Informal & practical tools inviting you to experience a closer & more satisfying relationship



With Katie, Gottman Trained Relationship Educator

@lovemattersiow
07772192815

More info

www.facebook.com/lovemattersiow
lovemattersiow@gmail.com



Funded by
Isle of Wight Council



The Gottman Institute
A RESEARCH-BASED APPROACH TO RELATIONSHIPS



Find out how KOOOTH can help your children access Free Mental Health Support



WHAT IS KOOOTH?

Kooth is a free, safe, and anonymous online platform where young people can access mental health support whenever they need it. Delivered in partnership with the NHS, Kooth is available to anyone between the ages of 11-25



ACCREDITED

Providing NHS services



bacp Accredited Service

COME TO AN INFO EVENT, KOOOTH ARE VISITING

Weds, January 21st

5.15 - 6pm St Margarets Hall

Anyone who wants to know more about how the service can support is welcome! Inc. professionals who support children. Refreshments provided.



HELP @ KOOOTH

Resources (24/7): Articles, mood tracking, journals, and peer support are always available.

Live Chat/Messaging: Available weekdays 12 PM-10 PM & weekends 8 PM-10 PM.

Anonymous & Safe: A secure space for emotional wellbeing support.



FREE

WHAT MAKES KOOOTH SPECIAL?

Anonymous & Safe

Kooth is safe - it's a fully moderated platform where users can seek help without anyone knowing who they are. Every comment, article and support chat is checked by professionals. If something is flagged as a concern, we reach out to the person.

Trusted

Kooth is accredited by the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP), and delivered through the NHS. Young people can be confident they will receive high-quality, professional care from real people, not robots.

Accessible

The service is fully mobile-accessible, allowing users to access support from their smartphones or tablets, making it convenient for on-the-go help. You can use Kooth on the go, at home, or whenever you use. Using live text chat is just like sending text messages.



CHILDREN

If you can, it is really good to talk to a trusted adult, this could be parents or adults at school or youth club.

Look out for your friends too & encourage them to talk to someone aswell as you. Tell an adult when you are concerned. It is to help...

If you don't feel able to talk to someone, which would be best: then you can sign yourself up to KOOOTH, free & anonymously! I can help if you aren't sure how. How to is shown below

GOT A PROBLEM? NEED ADVICE?

FEELING LOW | **RELATIONSHIPS** | **BULLYING** | **Eating disorder**

Being abused | Self harm | Sexuality: gay, lesbian or just confused

Need writing or voice recording services for young people

KOOOTH.COM IS A FREE, ANONYMOUS, CONFIDENTIAL WEBSITE WHERE YOUNG PEOPLE CAN GO FOR HELP.

→ Single chats
→ Booked 1:1 sessions
→ Themed message boards and info more

97% of our users prefer online counselling so visit www.kooth.com

How to sign up

- 1 Visit our website
- 2 Click on the 'Get started' button on the homepage
- 3 Choose your age and location from the drop down menus
- 4 Select the year and month you were born
- 5 Click on the gender, ethnicity and background that most closely describes you
- 6 Create an anonymous username and secure password
- 7 Let us know how you'd prefer to be contacted about health from the drop down menu
- 8 Select 'Next Step' to complete your registration

Where to find us

KOOOTH.COM
FREE ONLINE SUPPORT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

I really appreciate the help! I've got 3 messages to read. It's good to know you are not alone & get support from other children & adults.

It was good to have my first message on the site. It was a good starting point to me.

FEED BACK FROM KOOOTH USERS



Family Assist
Solent



Hampshire and
Isle of Wight Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust

Helping to keep your child healthy

The Isle of Wight 0-19 Team is made up of Health Visitors, School Nurses, Community Nurses, Associate Practitioners and Administrators.

We use our skill mix team to ensure that all families are offered mandated health contacts for needs assessment, advice and support.

Please see Family Assist for additional support information.



If you have any questions or would like to speak to a Health Visitor or School Nurse, please ring the 0-19 duty desk on **0300 123 5224**





**PLEASE
DON'T PARK**

**ON DOUBLE
YELLOW LINES**