



THE SOLENT SCHOOLS

Autumn Newsletter— 5 November 2021

This week we have been positively glowing! From the rosy cheeks of the infant school outdoor learning day, to the shining examples we took along to an event at Fratton Park, it is just great to be getting out and about again. Pupils and staff alike have launched into the second half of the Autumn term with energy and enthusiasm. We really do hope you enjoy reading about just some of the exciting events that have taken place around the Solent community this week.

Mrs Wilby Executive Headteacher

The value of the month for November is 'Respect'. We will be reflecting upon the British Value of 'Mutual Respect'.

All Different, All Equal

A group of Year 6 pupils travelled to Fratton Park this week to take part in the 'Show Racism the Red Card' event. Whilst there, they listened to inspirational stories from athletes and were given the opportunity to pose questions to two Portsmouth Football Club players Cherelle Khassal and Mahlon Romeo. We are very proud that Eni, in Year 6, asked the question of the day and was awarded a signed t-shirt as a prize!



Earlier in the week, we were very lucky to have received a visit from author, Nicki Maginn. Nicki came and shared her new book 'Fat Cat and the Chocolate Sandwich' with our Year 1 and Year 3 pupils. We were so very proud to have been acknowledged on Nicki's social media pages: *'I was so very welcomed by everyone at both Solent Infant School and Solent Junior School and the children in years 1 and 3 were absolute superstars! I had the BEST time chatting and reading 'Fat Cat' to them, it was such a privilege and so much fun!'* Nicki has very kindly left us a signed copy of her book for each of our school libraries.



SOLENT INFANT SCHOOL

This week, as well as launching into our new learning themes for this Half Term, we celebrated Outdoor Learning Day—in fact, we had so much fun and learnt so much that we ended up having TWO Outdoor Learning Days! We were very lucky with the weather and the children looked cosy in their warm coats, hats and gloves. Our Outdoor Learning fun included making Rangoli patterns with natural and man-made objects for Diwali, collecting sticks to make bonfire stacks, chalking colourful fireworks on the playground surface, creating firework dances and lots, lots more! The home-learning this weekend is shared across the Infant School—and includes the Teachers and LSAs too—so we hope you will enjoy taking part!

Mrs Curthoys—Head of School SIS

Early Years!

We were very impressed with how well-rested and enthusiastic the children came back to school from their half term break. We loved hearing all their exciting news! This week, we have been learning about a Russian artist called Kandinsky. When we looked at his artwork, we noticed that he liked using circles and colours. We used a range of circular objects and vibrant paint colours to create our own Kandinsky-inspired pieces of art. Well done, Year R!



Year 1

What a fantastic week the Year 1 children have had! On Wednesday, they had the lovely Nicki Maginn visiting and reading her story, 'Fat Cat and the Chocolate Sandwich'. On Thursday and Friday, they took part in the amazing Outdoor Learning Days. The children relished the opportunity to carry on their learning outside and be immersed in nature. From bark rubbing, to making shapes with stones, a great time was had by all! We hope you all enjoy taking part in the home-learning linked to this.

Year 2

Our theme for this half term is 'Time Travellers'. This week, Year 2 travelled back to 1605 and discovered why we celebrate Firework Night on November 5th. In English, we wrote acrostic poems about fireworks, and in Art we made wax resistant firework pictures. We were very excited to celebrate 'Outdoor Learning Day' where we created firework pictures with chalk and made frames out of natural objects.



SOLENT JUNIOR SCHOOL

With the focus of the World being on COP26, we have embraced this and are gearing up for our Switch Off Fortnight, which is starting on Monday 8th November. In assembly, each class was asked to consider what their “pledge” would be for conserving energy. Sometimes Climate Change can feel very overwhelming and almost so big it is beyond us as individuals, however, the focus of Switch Off Fortnight, is that every small change adds up to make a big difference. The children have considered how to conserve electricity and water and I am looking forward to meeting with the Eco Warriors next week to discuss what other plans they have for the school!

Mrs Peterkin-Aldred-Head of School SJS



Year 3

Welcome back Year 3! Here we go... Autumn 2; and what a fabulous Autumn Term we have ahead of us! In English, we will be exploring the mysterious worlds of Ancient Myths and Legends! From Mythical Creatures to Ancient Legends; we will have an opportunity to learn and write our very own alternative ending to a myth! In addition to that, we will begin to rehearse our **Christmas Carols**, which start **THIS WEEK!** Too early? NEVER! We are so lucky, as not only will we be learning our carols within class, but also during our Music lessons with the fabulous Mrs Wotton. Keep your eyes peeled for some more information about our Christmas Carol Concert within the coming weeks. Ho Ho Ho...

Year 4

This week, Year 4 had their much anticipated Nativity auditions. We had an overwhelming number of children audition, with a record number of 65 children signing up for a singing or acting role. All of the children are looking forward to taking part in the Nativity later this year, and learning all of the songs and dances!

Big reveal: This year, we will be performing the Christmas Nativity of 'Prickly Hay' towards the end of term!





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Year 5

This week in Maths, as part of our statistics unit, we have been exploring how to interpret timetables. We revised how to tell the time using analogue clocks where pupils were able to move the hands on their own individual clocks. We've also practised writing digital time using the 12 hour clock with PM and AM but also using the 24 hour clock notation. Once we had developed our confidence with time, we answered a range of problems involving bus, train, T.V and school timetables. We learnt how to work out the duration of an event, as well as how to find out the start or finish time of an event.

Year 6

This is the second part of our Autumn Term and the first of our Golden Child Assemblies. As usual, we have been spoilt for choice to pick a Golden Child as so many children have been amazing. From being conscientious and hard-working, to being enthusiastic and displaying great friendship qualities, the Year 6 children have shown themselves to be fantastic role-models!



Do you know of anybody (or do you have a child) who is due to start school, or move to Year 3, in September 2022? Our school tours are open and taking bookings! Please [click here](#) to be taken to the booking page for tours for prospective Year R parents and carers, or [click here](#) for prospective Year 3 parents. These links are also available on each of our websites.





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Parent & Carer Voice

At Solent we pride ourselves in our warm, caring and cohesive community. We are very grateful and proud of the fantastic families, governors and staff that make up this community. As such, we know how important it is to hear everybody's voice, because we know that you care! Last week, we asked you to feed-back about our latest round of parent and carer appointments via an online survey. Thank you very much to all those of you who responded. We will now use your responses to help shape our provision in the future so that it best meets the needs of our community.

The feedback has told us that

92% of respondents found it easy to book the appointment online.

One parent mentioned that it was difficult to book multiple appointments quickly enough which meant missing out on slots for one child. We will investigate further and see if there is a solution!

94% could see and hear the class teacher clearly. Those that couldn't found that the phone screen was too small or the issue was internet connection at the home end.

88% of appointments were on time.

41% would like online meetings in the future.

24% would like face to face meetings.

35% would like the option to choose each time.

Given this response, as soon as our risk assessment allows, we will begin to offer a choice of face to face or virtual parent appointments. We will definitely be bringing back 'work share' sessions and 'drop in' as soon as possible!

We also gave parents the opportunity to share any further comments regarding the parent appointment process. We have chosen just a few of the comments to share with you below.

'It would be really useful to have the parent appointment dates in advance each to help with organising work'

What a fantastic point! Please find the dates to the right.

Spring Term Parent & Carer Appointments
will be held on Monday 31st January &
Thursday 3rd February.

'I think the virtual appointments are great. It's so easy to book online and takes up a lot less time trying to get to and from the appointment physically. Have found them very positive experiences so far'.

'Face to face appointments are far better, hopefully seeing children's work beforehand too as this helps parents get a grasp of how they are progressing at school'.

'Thank you very much to all of the wonderful staff for their precious time!'



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Diary Dates

Monday 8th November	Switch Off Fortnight!
Thursday 11th November	Trip to Remembrance Service HMNB St Anne's
Thursday 11th November	SJS Eco Warriors Meeting with Mrs PA
Monday 15th November	Odd Socks Day!
	Anti-Bullying Week 'One Kind Word' begins
Tuesday 23rd November	SJS Mayan Theatre Visit
Monday 29th November	Year 4 go to Calshot Residential Trip
Wednesday 1st December	'Twinkle Trail' opens
Wednesday 1st December	Year 4 return from Calshot
Friday 3rd December	SIS School Council Meeting
Friday 3rd December	Year 2 Victorian Celebration
Wednesday 8th December 5.30—6pm	Christmas Carols at SIS for both schools
Friday 10th December	Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 17th December	End of Term Progress Reports sent home
Friday 17th December	Break up for Christmas Holiday!

Inset Days

Monday 28th February
2022

Additional Bank Holiday
Tuesday 3rd May

Friday 17th June 2022
Monday 20th June 2022

