

THE SOLENT SCHOOLS

Autumn Newsletter— 03 December 2021

This week has seen our value of the month switch from 'Respect' to 'Perseverance'. This focus has been carefully planned to coincide with the festive period. As we work our way through the term, with so many exciting events happening, it can be quite exhausting. We have so many more exciting learning opportunities to come yet that this focus encourages us to remember to pause, refresh, refocus and persevere!

Mrs Wilby Executive Headteacher

We Need You to Twinkle!

The FSS have launched a new event the 'Solent Twinkle Trail'. Thank you to all those of you that have already entered. We are still looking for more entries and would like to encourage all of our families to enter their houses. Your decorations may not feel like they are all singing and dancing, but that doesn't matter! The aim being, to provide a fun, healthy activity for the pupils of our school, whilst raising valuable funds to spend within our schools. You could also win a £50 voucher! So, don't delay, enter your house today by [clicking here](#)! Full details on the back page.



Forces Friends enjoyed learning about the meaning of Christingles and making them. These kits were Generously donated by 'Aggies'.

Your Voice Matters—Covid Measures

In our newsletter last week, we asked you how you feel about the current Covid measures in place across our schools. We have received some really positive suggestions from parents and carers and are currently investigating implementing some of these ideas across our sites. The data collated so far has told us that:

- Solent Infant School. Do you think parents and carers should be asked to wear a face mask when on the infant school site? **Yes 33%** **No 67%**
- Solent Junior School. Do you think parents and carers should be asked to wear a face mask when on the junior school site? **Yes 44%** **No 56%**
- Solent Infant School. Do you think it would be helpful to re-introduce a one way system on the infant school site? **Yes 40%** **No 60%**
- Solent Junior School. Do you think it would be helpful to re-introduce a one way system on the junior school site? **Yes 56%** **No 44%**
- Would you like to see the return of a staggered start and finish time to reduce congestion during these times? **Yes 38%** **No 63%**

Given the rise in cases across our schools, we have decided to leave this consultation open until the end of term. Please [click here](#) to contribute, if you have not done so already. by answering a few questions and sharing any ideas you have.



SOLENT INFANT SCHOOL



This week, we have seen the start of the Advent season and also the start of our new Schools' Value focus for December: **Perseverance**. With 2 weeks to go until the Christmas Holidays, with the colder weather and the darker mornings, this is a super time to be thinking about resilience, keeping on going and not giving up! We know that some learning can be tricky and there might be some things that we do not understand... yet! We are getting better at practising, practising and practising some more. Can you talk to your child about some new learning that you found tricky and what you needed to do to get better at it?

Mrs Curthoys-Head of School SIS

Early Years!

In Reception, we have continued our learning all about celebrations. Our focus this week has been 'The Celebration of Life.' We have loved seeing all of the children's photos and hearing about how their birth's were celebrated by their families and friends. This learning will continue next week when we look at how Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus.



Year 1

This week, Year 1 have been working hard in Maths to develop our understanding of Place Value using the teens numbers. We have used lots of different resources to make the numbers practically and to show we really understand the 'value' of the different digits. We have also been busy making party hats so that we can write instructions for Year R (our audience for writing) explaining exactly how to make one. We have to use 'imperative' verbs and that means we can be bossy!



Year 2

Year 2 have had a fantastic Friday celebrating a 'Victorian Christmas' as part of our Autumn ii learning theme. The children came to school dressed as Victorian school children. The outfits were great and they really looked the part. The teachers had fun dressing up too. We all enjoyed taking part in some Christmas traditions that stem from the Victorian era. We decorated the Christmas tree, sang carols, printed Christmas cards, made cornucopias and played parlour games!





SOLENT JUNIOR SCHOOL

The excitement has continued around the building this week and it has been lovely to see all of the children engaging in their learning. At the beginning of the week the school was very quiet, as we had Year 4 out on their residential. On their return, the feedback from staff, parents and children was that it was a huge success and all had a wonderful time! Today, Year 3 have been getting very excited about making their sandwiches. Year 6 are gearing up for their slipper making over the next two weeks. I cannot wait to see the final products Year 3 and 6! The skills they are using in the lessons are transferrable to home, so please encourage the children to make you a sandwich or repair items with their sewing skills! If you are lacking in ideas for Christmas then this might be helpful!

Mrs Peterkin-Aldred-Head of School SJS

Year 3

We're all feeling really festive as we jump into December and Year 3 are showing this by putting the finishing touches to their Christmas carol performances. The enthusiasm and excitement is palpable and all the children are really looking forward to their final performance. They've been practicing very hard! All this singing is punctuated by learning how to write our own instructions to help us make our own healthy sandwiches in Design and Technology. We're going to be making our own packaging too! Keep an eye out for next weeks news letter to see how we got on!



The value of the month for December is 'Perseverance'



Year 4

Wow, what an amazing week it has been for Year 4! They had the most wonderful Residential Trip away to Calshot. The children took part in a range of activities, including Skiing, Rock-climbing, Archery, plus field trips into the New Forest and exploring the wildlife on Calshot Beach. They represented the school amazingly well and have gained a huge amount of independence skills, by being away from home. We are so proud of Year 4 for having a go at new activities and giving them their all. I'm sure they'll all ready for lovely, relaxing weekend after a busy week!

Year 5

This week in Year 5, we have been looking at area and perimeter. During Maths, the children went outside to draw various shapes with different perimeters. The children had great fun measuring out and chalking their shapes onto the playground. They then checked each others work using peer assessment.





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Year 6

Year 6 have been reading a new book in their English lessons called 'The Dog That Saved Christmas.' Whilst it links very well to this time of year and provides some very festive feels, the main aspect that the pupils are studying in more depth is that neuro-diverse people can struggle at this time of year. The main character - Jake - is different from the other kids at school. He struggles when routines change and people's emotions are so hard to understand. Christmas can be even worse and often the festivities are just too much to bear. But when Jake finds a little dog lost in the street he unlocks a connection he's never had before. The pupils are loving the book and are currently making up poems to perform to the rest of their class about Jake's feelings.

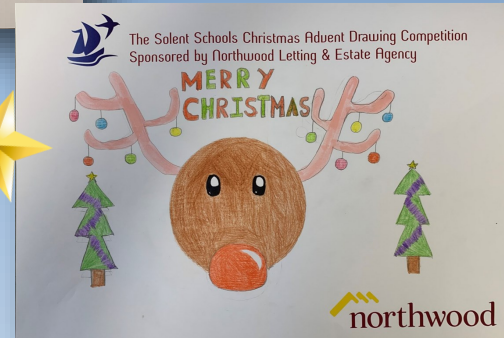


1st December Jessica 4SW



2nd December Dovydas IRS

3rd December Emily 5S



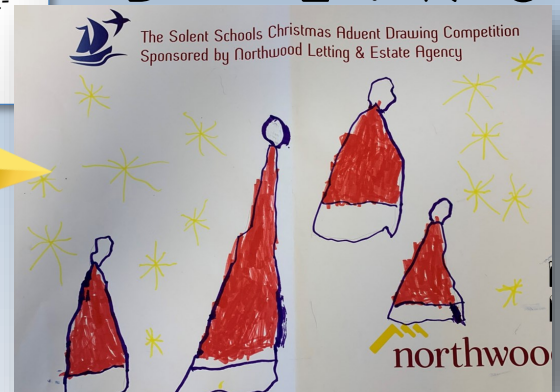
Advent Winners!

We have had a lovely start to the month revealing our advent competition winners each day in assembly. Each of these pupils have won an amazon voucher, sponsored by Northwoods, to spend as they wish. If you would like to see the pictures in situ, then pop on down to Northwoods on the Havant Road, as they reveal a picture a day.

5th December
Amaya 2M



4th December Ezekiel Rec G





THE SOLENT SCHOOLS

Diary Dates

Wednesday 8th December 5.30—6pm
Virtual

Christmas Carols at SIS for both schools

Friday 10th December

Christmas Jumper Day

Friday 10th December

Year 4 Nativity Recording

Friday 10th December

'Twinkle Trail' opens

Wednesday 15th December

9.30am Live Raffle Draw

Friday 17th December

Christmas Themed Non-school uniform

Friday 17th December

End of Term Progress Reports sent home

Friday 17th December

Break up for Christmas Holiday!



Christmas Jumper Day!

This week, you will have received a letter detailing all of the exciting events happening at the Solent Schools over the Christmas period. On Friday 10th December, we will be taking part in the 'Christmas Jumper Day' being run by Save the Children. We are inviting parents and carers to offer a small donation for Save the Children and have set up a Just Giving page for ease. You can access this page by [clicking here](#) or using the QR code below.



We now have extra spaces on our newly expanded map!
If you live anywhere within the Solent Schools catchment area then come and join

The Solent Schools Twinkle Trail!

NEW
EXPANDED
MAP!



ENTER
NOW!



Just £5 to enter with the chance of winning a £50 voucher! All proceeds go directly to our schools to fund extra magical resources!

All we ask is that you have your house decorated between 10th & 24th December and display an A4 sized letter in a place where it can be seen from the pavement.

Inset Days

Monday 28th February
2022

Additional Bank Holiday
Tuesday 3rd May
(added nationally as an additional schools bank holiday)

Friday 17th June 2022
Monday 20th June 2022