



THE SOLENT SCHOOLS

Autumn Newsletter— 26 November 2021

As the weather turns a little chilly and Christmas fever begins to slowly spread, we are beginning to turn our thoughts to our celebrations and special events within school. They may look a little different this year but nonetheless are as fun and exciting as usual. We are bracing ourselves for a busy few weeks ahead!

Mrs Wilby Executive Headteacher

The value of the month for November is 'Respect'.

Your Voice Matters!

Last week, we asked you to get involved in a consultation regarding the conversation of our current 'Art Room' and 'Library' at Solent Junior School. This consultation closed today. We will be revealing the results in our SJS assembly and newsletter next week. This week, we would like to know how you feel about the current Covid measures in place across our schools. We have recently received correspondence from a few parents concerned about the infection risk when dropping off and collecting children and would like to see if this level of concern is wider spread. Please [click here](#) to contribute by answering a few questions and sharing any ideas you may have.

Collins Big Cat Relaunch

Earlier this year we were lucky enough to secure whole school access to Collins Big Cat eBooks to help us through an extended period of remote learning and whilst places like the library were closed. We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that we still have access to this wonderful resource and you should have, by now, received an email with the original letter (sent out in January) with a comprehensive guide to using the site and your child's log in details. It's a really good way of trying out different texts at the click of a button, especially if you're running low on reading material and need something there and then. It's also super interactive and eye catching so give it a try, especially if you struggle to get started with a paper book.

This isn't something that we intend to replace the reading of 'real books' with – quite on the contrary. We want you to enjoy as many types of reading as possible and the love of a good book to snuggle up with is something we think you all should enjoy doing! But, we also know that sometimes you might need a helping hand with something else too.

So, if you haven't logged in yet, give your emails a quick check and give it a try. Maybe give one of the books a go each week to get you started and take it from there. There are so many to choose from we're certain there'll be something for everyone to enjoy!

Happy reading!



Fantastic Friends of the Solent Schools!

Please watch out for letters being emailed home today from the Friends of the Solent Schools (FSS). These are very important letters as they are sharing information regarding two new and exciting Christmas events, 'The Christmas Colour Raffle' and 'The Solent Schools Twinkle Trail'. We were overwhelmed with the number of advent entries this year. We believe that it was the highest number ever! Judging has now taken place and the winners will be revealed each day throughout December during assembly and also in the shop window at Northwoods Estate Agents, Havant Road, Drayton. Finally, don't forget to order your Christmas Cards by Tuesday 30th November. Further details can be found on the letter that was sent home yesterday.



SOLENT INFANT SCHOOL

This week, we have been excited to hear the children singing Christmas songs and the festive sound has travelled down the corridors to bring a little Christmas sparkle to everyone! Our Year R classes have been practising their Nativity plays and getting very excited about their special Angels and Shepherds Day, Year 1 have loved making their own "lift-the-flap" Kipper stories and Year 2 have channeled their inner artist to produce some fantastic self-portraits. We are all looking forward to the first of the Christmas decorations going up next week and the return of our Christmas postal service: the postbox will be in the playground for Christmas Cards from Wednesday, 1st December to Wednesday, 15th December, during the morning school drop-off.

Mrs Curthoys-Head of School SIS

Early Years!

This week the children have been rehearsing for their first school Nativity! They have really enjoyed going on the stage and performing the songs and telling the story. On Friday, Reception had their 'Angel and Shepherd' dress-up day which was lots of fun and the adults in school dressed up too! We then recorded our performance of the Nativity and our wonderful singing. We cannot wait to be able to share it with everyone!



Year 1

Year 1 have continued last week's theme of Kindness with their home learning and have shared lots of ways they are kind and helpful at home, from making cookies for Grandparents, to tidying their rooms. The Year 1 team feel very lucky to have such kind and helpful children in their classes! As part of the Year 1 Toys theme, they have made lift the flap pictures based around the story of 'Kipper's Toy Box'. The children have used a range of skills including designing, folding, cutting and sticking.



Year 2

We have been enjoying our 'Time Travellers' learning theme. This week, we have been finding out about a famous Victorian writer called Lewis Carroll and enjoyed the beginning of his story, 'Alice in Wonderland'. We have looked at portraits of Queen Victoria and have started to create our own King or Queen self-portrait! We were inspired by the life and work of Frida Kahlo who was a Mexican painter known for her many portraits.





SOLENT JUNIOR SCHOOL

This week, there has been a huge emphasis on the first hand experiences that Solent uses to promote the children's love of learning. In Year 6, they were lucky enough to have a Mayan Day on Tuesday and from the sound of the workshops in the hall, a great time was had by all. This really brought the topic alive for the children. Year 3 have been excitedly preparing for their sandwich making next week. The children have been thinking about their ingredients and the skills they will need when making their sandwiches. I am hoping this might promote some budding chefs in the year group. Not to mention the excitement currently in Year 4, as they prepare for their residential to Calshot. We all have our fingers crossed for good weather for them!

Mrs Peterkin-Aldred-Head of School SJS

Year 3

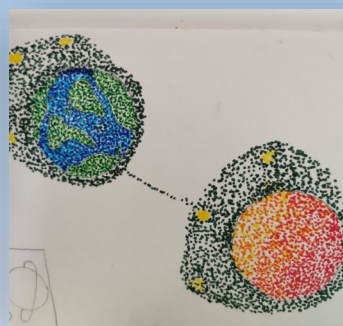
Year 3 are getting excited as their new DT topic begins; designing and getting ready to make their very own sandwiches! In order to prepare for this, Year 3 are also developing and refining their writing skills as they begin exploring instructions in their English lessons; coming together as a class to create a huge book of recipes for making a wonderful range of delicious, healthy sandwiches! This week, the children have been busy designing their sandwiches and will be coming home with their own personalised list of ingredients! Delicious!

Year 4

We cannot believe how quickly Calshot has come around! The children are so excited for our trip next week, and we cannot wait to take them!

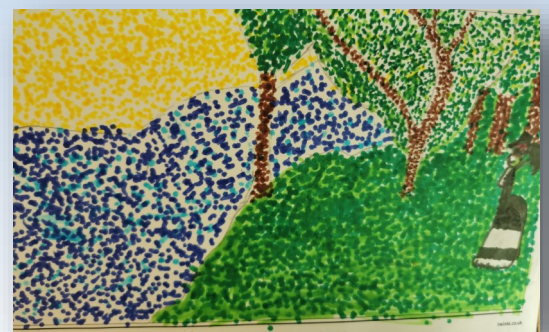
A few reminders:

Please ensure that all children bring their bedding—this **must** include a pillow and pillowcase, a single fitted sheet and a sleeping bag or duvet and duvet cover. This can be packed in their suitcase or in a separate, labelled bag. The children will need lots of warm clothes and layers. It will be chilly at Calshot so lots of warm clothes are essential. We aim to board the coaches at approximately 9am. If you wish to wave your child off, then please can we ask that you wait on the opposite side of the road from school, so we can board the children quickly and safely. We cannot wait to see you all ready on Monday morning. Please leave suitcase outside of your child's classroom, neatly over to one side, so they are not causing any obstructions.



Year 5

In our Art lessons this term, we have been exploring the technique known as pointillism where small, distinct dots are applied in patterns to create an image. The pupils have learnt to position dots close together in order to create a darker tone and further apart to create a lighter impression. The children explored the work of Georges Seurat and even had a go at emulating his painting 'A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte'. They are now in the process of creating their own space-inspired pointillism piece of artwork.

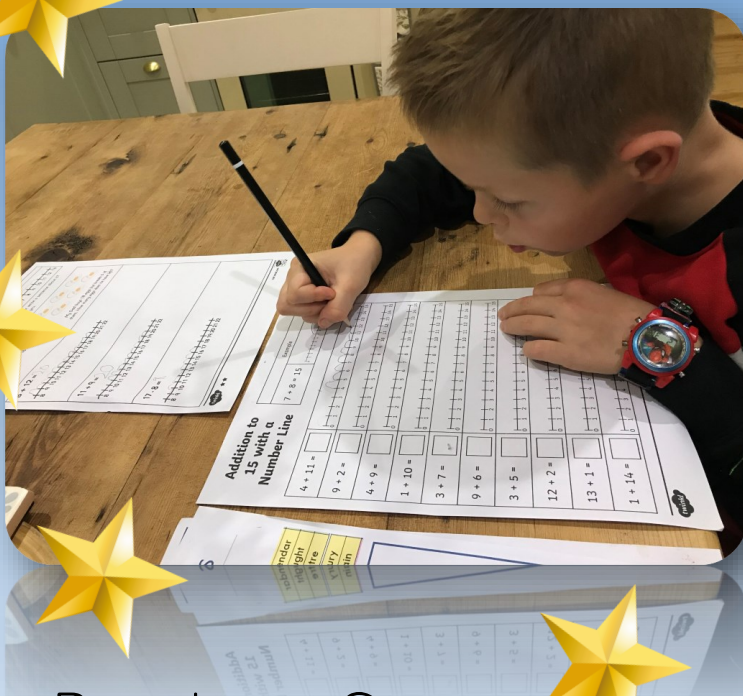




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Year 6

Year 6 have been treated to a new cultural experience this week as they celebrated Mayan Day! The workshop event (run by a Mayan warrior!), was tremendous fun and the pupils gained an interesting insight into the lifestyles and practises of the ancient civilisation. Pupils were able to participate in drama (re-enacting sacrifices and folklore), chocolate tasting, art workshops with Mayan artefacts, and a Mayan version of 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire!'



Remote Learning Stars!

Over the past couple of weeks, we have been celebrating and awarding pupils at Solent Junior School with a 'Remote Learning Award'. The criteria for winning the award included aspects such as regularly visiting the class Teams page, completing home learning, submitting on time and putting a good amount of effort into all elements of home learning. Not a mean feat! Congratulations to the following pupils, all of whom have simply shone!

Year 3

Anna (3C)
Oakley (3H)
Sophie (3AG)

Year 4

Mabel (4A)
Toby (4SW)
Olivia (4S)

Year 5

George (5F)
Elana (5S)
Daisy (5P)

Year 6

Samuel (6P)
Caelan (6SW)
Harry (6W)



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Diary Dates

Friday 26th November	Twinkle Trail Entries open!
Monday 29th November	Year 4 go to Calshot—Residential Trip
Monday 29th November	Colour Hamper Raffle donations open
Wednesday 1st December	Year 4 return from Calshot
Thursday 2nd December	Year 3 Christmas Carol Recording
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—Virtual
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!
Tuesday 4th January	Back to School—Spring 1!

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.



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

If your child is self isolating, has Covid symptoms or you need to report a LFD or PCR test result, please ensure you use the normal school communication route. The best way to contact the school is via email (using the contact us tab on the school website) or by leaving a message on the school answer phone. Any urgent messages should always be phoned in, rather than emailed.