



THE SOLENT SCHOOLS

Spring Newsletter 2022– 21 January 2022

We have all had to become far better at managing change over the past few years and this week has once again been a reflection of that. As we continuously review our school risk assessment, the health of our pupils and staff remains at the forefront of our minds. As national measures begin to reduce, we will be updating you during the week, next week, with information regarding how this will affect the measures we currently have in place. We thank you in advance for continuing to support us in keeping our school community happy and healthy!

Mrs Wilby Executive Headteacher

Early Years!

This week, Year R have been having lots of fun learning all about making number 5. We have used our guided and independent explorations to discover which smaller numbers make up 5—the number bonds to 5! Using the Numicon, our five frames and our part-part-whole models, we have shown a growing understanding of how 5 is made. Our teachers were very impressed that lots of us could record our findings in number sentences too! Well done, Year R.



Year 1

Year 1 have been working hard in Art to develop their clay skills. They have been rolling, pinching, pulling and squeezing the clay to make mice. This has linked nicely to our theme this half term 'The Lion Inside' (our key English text). The children have been using adjectives in their writing to describe the characters from the book and have challenged themselves to use more exciting words!

Year 2

The year has only just begun and we have learnt so much already! In Maths, we have learnt about statistics. We have also learnt about perspective where we wrote some fantastic pieces of writing after reading Mini Grey's unusual take on the 'The Princess and the Pea'. Through our topic 'Castles and Dragons', we have learnt about the people who worked in a castle and painted some castle representations in the style of Paul Klee. We think the paintings are excellent. We hope you agree!



With our current focus on the theme of Aspiration, we have been thinking about how we can challenge ourselves in our learning. Year R have been using their coding skills to move the Bee-Bots around the journey mats as part of their Explorers theme and Year 1 have been improving their clay modelling skills: rolling, pinching and sculpting the clay to make some lifelike rodents. Year 2 have taken their inspiration from The Princess and the Pea story showing how dialogue can be shown in speech bubbles and painting watercolour castles in the style of Paul Klee! **Mrs Curthoys Head of School.**





SOLENT JUNIOR SCHOOL

As you found out in last week's newsletter, the value of the month is "Aspiration". This week in assembly, we have been discussing what aspirations the children in the school have. We have explored a range from chefs and graphic designers to conservationists! In assembly, the children have been asked to ask the adults at home and in school, what their jobs are, what they involve and also, when they were younger, did they have any other aspirations? So expect your child to come home with these questions! Each class was also asked for a top tip to help us preserve with our resolutions and goals. I am looking forward to hearing them, especially as we head towards the end of the month, when it becomes a little trickier to keep on going! Watch this space, as I may share them with you to give you all encouragement from SJS!

Mrs Peterkin-Aldred-Head of School SJS

Year 3

We love being active in Year 3! The children are really excited to have started football in P.E because they get to show off their athletic skills. We're also developing our team work and communication skills as we know that the even best footballers would struggle by themselves. We've been working on ball control, passing and receiving, turning and tackling. We can't wait to see how much we can develop these skills and I know that all the children would love to show their grown ups over the weekend!



Year 4

This term in Year 4, as part of our Science, we have been exploring all about magnets. So far, we have looked at whether larger magnets are stronger than smaller magnets, and have tested which materials are magnetic. We have also explored all about the North and South Poles on a magnet and looked at the terms 'repel' and 'attract' to discuss observations when looking at magnets. Finally, we have looked at whether magnets can exert non-contact forces that work through different materials. We look forward to doing more investigations as the term goes on!





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Year 5

As part of our Spring Term learning, the Year 5 children have been having swimming lessons every Wednesday afternoon at the Mountbatten Centre! Each class is split into three groups (based on the children's ability) and they have been practicing a range of different swimming techniques! The children have loved their lessons and continue to look forward to them each week! Here are the lovely 5P returning to school following their first swimming lesson!



Year 6

This week saw the launch of our new 'Reading Bingo' challenge for this half term. The enthusiasm the children have for reading and exploring new genres is always wonderful to hear. As our new topic is WW2, most of the children have decided to fulfil this one first. It has led to some great discussions about the validity of fiction texts set against a WW2 background and also how good no-fiction texts are. We have also included 'thrillers' in our Bingo this term - another new genre title for the children to become familiar with. **Remember the key to success here is completing a line, just like in a game of Bingo.**

The more that you read,
the more things you will know.
The more that you learn,
the more places you'll go.

Dr. Seuss



All the Best Miss West!

Today, Solent Infant School have been saying a fond farewell to Miss West (Rec DE LSA) who is off to begin her maternity leave. I am sure you will all join our staff community in wishing Miss West and her partner all the very best in the coming months. We look forward to updating you when we have any further news.



Welcome Mrs Curry!

We were very delighted to have welcomed Mrs Curry into the Reception DE learning support team last Monday. We hope that you have enjoyed your first week within the Solent Schools community!



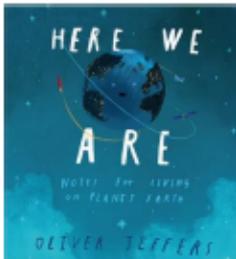


THE SOLENT SCHOOLS



Governor Writing Competition We Welcome You to Planet Earth!

Based upon the text: **Here We Are, Notes for Living on Planet Earth**



Solent Governors are very excited to launch the pupil writing competition for this term!

Just before Christmas, our pupils spent time exploring the book 'Here We Are, Notes for Living on Planet Earth' by Oliver Jeffers as a hook for this competition.

We know how much you value your learning space and the community you live in as well as caring for the environment and planet as a whole.

For this term's competition we are asking you to put pen to paper and imagine that there is a special visitor coming to planet earth. They have never been to planet earth before and so we are asking you to write them a letter to introduce them to our wonderful planet and provide some top tips about living here.

The letter should be no more than 200 words and must include your name and class. Once complete, please hand your entry into your class teacher who will send it safely to the Headteacher's office for the attention of the Governing Body.

The **closing date is Friday February 4th** and once the entries have been judged the winners will be announced and awarded their prizes in whole school assemblies before we finish for the half term holiday.

We will also be reading out some of the entries in whole school assemblies as the half term progresses.

So, put your pen to paper and get writing. Good luck!



Don't forget to like our Solent Infant School and Solent Junior School Facebook pages to keep up with all of the news as it happens! Or if you prefer Instagram, we have a brand new Solent Schools shared Instagram account too. If you have a spare moment over the weekend search 'The Solent Schools Portsmouth' and click follow! We will be regularly updating this page too from now on.

