



THE SOLENT SCHOOLS

Spring Newsletter 2022– 28 January 2022

Welcome to the end of week four, whether you are learning in school, or have been restricted to learning from home! As we motor through the Spring term, it has been wonderful to see just how our pupils are thriving within our school community. This week, we have had the pleasure of visiting classrooms around SJS to witness just how our pupils are being challenged in their learning. We were incredibly proud to have seen that, not only are they being brilliantly challenged by the adults, but they are also confidently challenging themselves! Well done Solent Junior School. Next it will be the turn of SIS. I cannot wait to see what challenges they have to offer!

Mrs Wilby Executive Headteacher



Have Your Say!

In 2016, we reviewed our uniform guidelines and made some changes. One of these changes was to implement a shared uniform between the Solent Schools. This was to avoid parents and carers having to buy additional uniform when their child moved from infant to junior school. The DfE have now introduced some new guidance asking schools to review their uniform policy. Whilst we feel that our policy already meets all the points raised in the guidance, and do not propose any changes, we would still like to take this opportunity to 'check in' with our school community and ensure our uniform is still fit for purpose and affordable to our school community. As such, we are opening a uniform audit for a week. If you would like to contribute, please [click here](#) to answer a few short questions. We will let you know the outcome after our Local Governing Body meeting on 15th February where we will be proposing any changes. If you would like a reminder of our current uniform guidelines please [click here](#) to be taken to the school website.

We know that many of you have been watching the roof developments at SJS with great anticipation. Having experienced significant delays in completion (originally due to complete in August 2021!), we are incredibly pleased to be able to share that the end of the road is clearly in sight. The scaffolding is beginning to be taken down and we expect the final tile to be laid within the next couple of weeks. Our reward for being so patient is a beautiful new, shiny, safe and watertight roof! This has however left us with a rather scruffy patch at the front of school. Watch this space as we will be running a design competition for our families to design the new landscaping for the front of the school!



We are delighted to be able to confirm that we have a new site development about to begin at each of our schools. At Solent Infant School, work will be during the Easter holiday, when a fencing team will be on site replacing the entire front fence and fitting some new automated car park gates. This will make our infant school entrance so much safer. Once this work is complete, the team will move over to Solent Junior School, where a brand new perimeter fence will be fitted. In addition to this, the junior school will also have automated gates added to the car park entrance. Much like the full roof replacement, and new office space at SJS, this work is a result of being an academy and having successfully bid for capital funds from the government run 'Condition Improvement Fund' (CIF).





SOLENT INFANT SCHOOL

Despite some chilly mornings this week, there has been the promise of Spring on its way. We are now planning some exciting changes to our outdoor learning areas to make them more accessible, throughout the day, for all of the classes. We will also be looking at planting up all of our pots and planters with the Eco Warriors and Gardening Club after the Half Term break—we would be grateful of any donations of bedding plants from Monday 7th March onwards to help us make the outdoor areas look colourful and welcoming. In addition to this, we will be improving other areas like The Beach, The Meadow and The Minibeast Area, ensuring that there are class sets of resources stored safely for lots of outdoor learning opportunities.

Mrs Curthoys—Head of School SIS

Early Years!

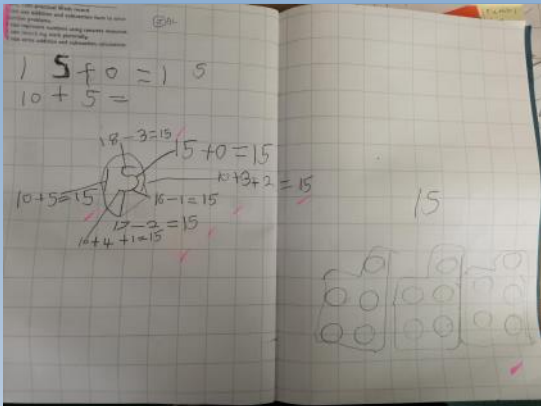
Year R have been super explorers this week and have been finding out information/facts all about our Capital City, London! We have enjoyed... learning new songs about London, role-playing in outdoor learning, discovering facts about The Queen, finding out about different landmarks in London (and building some in our construction area), as well as London fact writing in literacy. Well done Year R on a fantastic week of learning and exploring!



Year 1

Year 1 have continued working on their addition and subtraction skills, this week. They have been thinking about different ways of making a number, using mental calculations and practical resources. Take a look at some of their fantastic work.

The children also really enjoyed making card beds for their clay mice. They discovered that the shorter-legged beds were stronger than the longer-legged beds. What super evaluations! Well done Year 1!



Year 2

In PE this half term, Year 2 are participating in Gymnastics. This week we enjoyed using the equipment to practise our point and patch balances. In Literacy we have been reading a new book called 'The Dragon Machine' by Helen Ward. We have been working hard on our comprehension skills and answered both literal and inferential questions about the story. In Maths we have continued to learn about 2D and 3D shapes.





SOLENT JUNIOR SCHOOL

As we approach the end of January, every class across the school came up with some top tips to help us persevere with our goals and aspirations. These top tips included: look at people who encourage and inspire you, practice little and often, break down the goal into smaller more manageable steps, try new things, have positive quotes up to remind you to keep going and be patient. There was also a very perceptive top tip related to how we talk to ourselves. The advice was to talk positively to yourself. Think about what advice you would give a friend and how you would speak to them. Above all, my favourite top tip is to set yourself a smaller goal for each month and to reward yourself with a treat once you achieve it! I am in favour of rewards and think this might be something we all adopt to help us persevere!

Mrs Peterkin-Aldred-Head of School SJS



Year 3

As part of our learning in Maths this week, Year 3 have been working with money. From identifying the value of each type of coin, to problem solving, the children have really enjoyed the practical element of this topic. We have been counting coins, converting between pounds and pence and adding and subtracting amounts. Do not be surprised if any members of year 3 begin emptying out piggy banks as they have loved using the coins to simulate exchanging money.

Year 4

This week, in English, we have started a new topic called 'Imaginary Settings'. In this topic, we will explore weird and wonderful, imaginary worlds to inspire both our Reading and Writing. So far this week, we have begun to read extracts from Harry Potter, Narnia, The Wizard of Oz, and more! We have also developed our vocabulary by focusing on the use of expanded noun phrases, exciting sentence starters and figurative language. This week, the children have written a setting description of Neverland and have used their rich and varied language choices to bring the imaginary setting to life!



Year 5

As part of our year 5 Science topic on rocks and soils, pupils were given the opportunity to explore 15 different rocks. The children were given information about the three main rock types: sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic and they tried to see if they could use the information they had to work out which rocks belonged to each category. We learnt some new scientific vocabulary to help us describe the rocks and then tried to use words like 'lustrous', 'porous' and 'dense' when we played a game of guess my rock. We ended the lesson by selecting 5 different rocks to sketch and describe.



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Year 6

This week saw the pupils take part in their second '**MOCK SAT WEEK**' in preparation for the actual SATs in May. The children have all worked so hard and have been very keen to show off all their learning by answering questions in English and Maths from their whole time at the Junior school. Their main challenge was to '**beat themselves from last time**' and they sure tried their hardest to do just that!

Their positive attitudes, self-belief and determination to improve has provided a real learning 'buzz' all along the year 6 corridor and they have shown us just how mature and senior school ready they are becoming! Well done Year 6, you should be very proud of yourselves - Team Solent certainly are ;)



**KEEP
CALM
IT'S ONLY
SATS**



A Very Fond Farewell!

Today, we have said a sad farewell to Mrs Paton, who is the Learning Support Assistant in 1L. She has worked at Solent Infant School for 16 years and supported many of our pupils, the oldest of whom are now at University or in employment. Mrs Paton will be relocating to the beautiful coastline of Somerset and we wish her all the best for her move.

Mrs Wallis will be the Learning Support Assistant in 1L from next week. She has been popping into school this week to get to know the children and the class routines. We would like to extend a warm Solent welcome to her and we are sure that she will enjoy being part of the 1L Class team.



Please don't forget to attend your parent and carer appointment on Monday 31st January and Thursday 3rd February. As the appointments are only 8 minutes long, it is important that you join the Teams meeting on time. To avoid delays, we would advise checking that you are familiar with how to do this as soon as possible, so that you are able to iron out any technical difficulties. We hope that you enjoy celebrating your child's successes with them!

On Monday, one pupil from each of our families will be bringing home a special ticket for Havant and Waterlooville Football Club. This ticket has been kindly provided to our pupils as part of a community scheme being run by the HAWKS. If you attend a National League home game at West Leigh Park, children get in free and their accompanying adult only pays £6!

Please remember that our prevention measures in school remain in place. We politely request that all adults wear face coverings (unless exempt) when entering the school site. Please also socially distance and respect those around you.

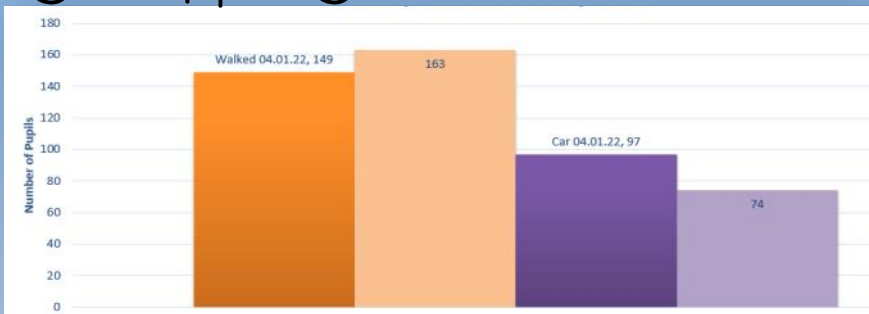


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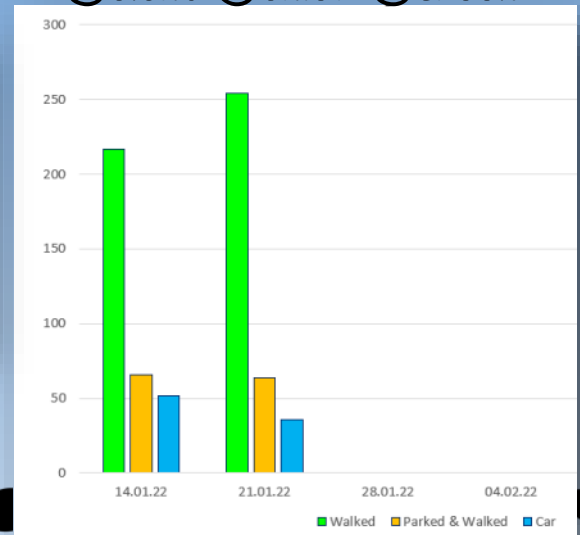
Why Not Enjoy a Relaxing Walk to School?

During assemblies at the Solent Schools, we have been reflecting upon the impact our actions can have upon our environment. We have also been discussing ways in which we can help ourselves to remain physically and mentally healthy. The theme for these assemblies has been 'Keeping Solent Safe and Healthy'. We know that by walking to school, we are having a positive impact on both our health and the environment and so we have set ourselves the challenge of walking to school as much as we possibly can. Each week, we have been carrying out a survey across the schools to see if we can increase the number of pupils who walk (or park a distance away from Solent or Evehgh Road and walk the rest) each week. So far we have been very successful, as you will be able to see from the data below! Our pupils have become so engaged, that they have made some suggestions of their own. Pupils at the infant school have suggested having a daily 'I've been spotted walking to school' award, where a 'spotter' randomly sticks a sticker on someone they have spotted walking to school. What a fantastic idea Solent Infant School! We will be tasking our Junior Road Safety Officers at SJS with putting this plan into action.

Solent Infant School!



Solent Junior School!



Out With Stranger Danger and In With Clever Never Goes

Since November, when the days began to draw in, we have also been discussing how to stay safe near the road and also in our local community. We have once again been using the materials from 'Clever Never Goes' to support our message and help our pupils to stay safe. If you haven't seen these materials before then [click here](#) to access the website. 'Rather than fearing the worst in everyone they don't know, Clever Never Goes helps children to recognise specific situations that are unsafe and gives them the tools to respond'. We will be continuing with this focus in assemblies for the rest of this half term.





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!





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Dates for the Diary!

Monday 31st January	Parent & Carer Appointments (on Teams)
Thursday 3rd February	Parent & Carer Appointments (on Teams)
Week Beginning 7th February	Place2Be Children's Metal Health Week
Friday 11th February	Year 3 Holi Festival
Monday 14th February	SPARK Dragon workshops Year R and 1

Monday 21st February—Friday 25th February HALF TERM HOLIDAY

Monday 28th February	INSET day
Tuesday 1st March	Return to School for Spring 2!
Wednesday 2nd March	Year 4 start swimming!
Thursday 3rd March	World Book Day (no dressing up!)
Wednesday 9th March	Year 3 Minstead Residential (staggered class departure and arrival.
Wednesday 16th March	Year 5 Bikeability training
Week beginning 21st March	Year 5 Bikeability training
Week beginning 28th March	End of term progress reports emailed out
Week beginning 4th April	FSS Easter Egg Hunt
Thursday 7th April	Key Steps Gymnastics Festival (SIS)

Monday 11th April—Friday 22nd April EASTER HOLIDAY

Monday 25th April Return to School for Summer Term!

Inset Days

Monday 28th February
2022

Additional Bank Holiday
for schools
Tuesday 3rd May

Friday 17th June 2022
Monday 20th June 2022



Both of our sites are dog free zones. This includes 'dogs in arms'. Please respect our school community by leaving your beloved pooch at home, rather than bringing them into school.

Twinkle Trail Winners!

Thank you very much to all those of you who took part in the FSS Twinkle Trail 2021. The FSS received so many positive emails thanking them for organising the trail and requesting that they run it again, that they are already planning for 2022! We are absolutely delighted to announce that the winner of the best decorated house (as voted for by our Twinkle Trailers) was house number 23, entered by Mr Booth. We also presented a live draw in our Feelgood Friday assembly and can also announce that the lucky entry pulled from the hat was Mr Lord. Congratulations to both of our lucky winners. The FSS will be in contact next week to organize collection of your prizes.