



THE SOLENT SCHOOLS

Spring Newsletter 2022– 04 February 2022

Springtime at Solent Means Growth and Getting Outdoors!

We began the term with a focus upon 'Aspiration' and growing ourselves, moving quickly onto Children's Mental Health week (7th—13th February) and a theme of 'Growing Together'. World Book Day (3rd March) is based upon our own secret text, with a growing twist, and finally National Science Week (11th—20th March) focusing upon 'Growth'. Do you think we might be spending some time outdoors? Below, you will find a short article which outlines some of the exciting environmental developments across the two schools.

Mrs Wilby Executive Headteacher

You Told Us & We Listened!

Last week, we invited you to take part in a uniform audit. We received a large number of responses and have collated these. They will now be taken, along with those from our pupils, to the next full Local Governing Body meeting on 15th February for further discussion. Below you will find a few data snips and extracts from the more popular parental and pupil responses.

- 98% of respondents found the Solent school uniform affordable.
- 100% felt our uniform guidelines were clear.
- 4% found the cardigans and jumpers too expensive.
- 'We would like the choice to wear a tie at SJS all year round rather than just in the winter'.
- 'Please can we have the option to wear a polo shirt and tie at SJS'.
- Long sleeve PE tops and school PE hoodies with the school logo on.

And finally our favourite responses from Reception DE:

- Max would like a dinosaur or car logo instead.
- Holly would like a matching hair bobble.



Last term, we announced an exciting new development that is about to take place at Solent Junior School. The development of the original Victorian school hall into an exciting new shared learning space. We asked you and our pupils to vote on what you felt the space would be best suited for and would have the most positive impact upon our school community. We had a draw! Responses told us that there was a split view between a 'Research Hub' and IT Suite (modern library) and a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths space). The working party have thought long and hard and think they have a design that will encompass both of these ideas! Watch this space for updates regarding this development.



Discussions are now well underway for the ongoing renovation of the environmental area at SJS. Many items have already been bought through funds raised by the FSS, with the next item on the list being an 'Amphitheatre'! The FSS will be raising funds for this in the coming year. At SIS, thoughts have turned to the magical pond area, which is also in need of a little spruce up! Again, we are hoping that this will be funded with monies raised by the FSS and will be the fundraising focus for SIS for 2022.





SOLENT INFANT SCHOOL

In the month of February, we focus our attention once again onto the Value of Friendship. This does not mean that we forget the other values but we think about how **Friendship** connects the other values together. We need to RESPECT each other's opinions if we are to be friends. We need to be RESPONSIBLE for our actions and learn how to resolve conflict. We need to use our TEAMWORK skills for FRIENDSHIPS to be successful. We need to PERSEVERE when there is a difference of opinion and ASPIRE to be the kind of friends who are accepting of difference. We often talk about giving each other Friendship Tokens: a smile, a compliment, being helpful, showing kindness. We will be looking out for Friendship Tokens being exchanged next week!

Mrs Curthoys - Head of School SIS

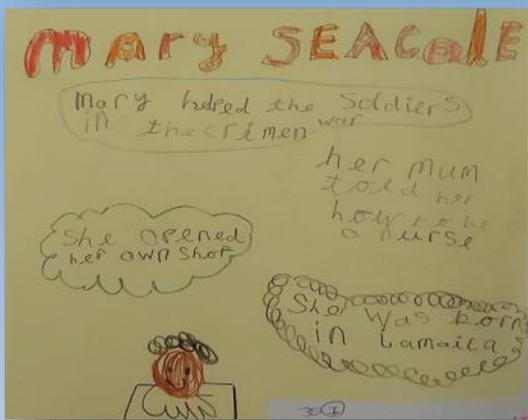
Early Years!

Reception are loving their Explorers theme this half term, especially learning all about our capital city of London. They were so enthusiastic that lots of children recreated London landmarks as part of their home learning over the weekend. We saw photos of the London Eye made from cake, Big Ben made from cardboard boxes and this amazing Lego Tower Bridge made by Zeke in Octopus Class.



Year 1

As part of our History learning and linked to our learning theme about bravery, Year 1 have been finding out about the life and work of the famous nurse Mary Seacole and how she helped the soldiers during the Crimean War. The children made amazing posters using some of the facts they learned. Ask them what they know about Mary Seacole and Florence Nightingale! In Maths they have been focusing on understanding Place Value using 2 digits numbers. They have been using practical resources to make and then pictorially record their work.



Year 2

In Year 2 this week, we have celebrated Chinese New Year - the year of the tiger. Class 2M have been learning from their expert and are beginning to learn some Chinese words.

In Maths this week, we enjoyed pattern and shape learning and were challenged to say what shape would be 10th or 15th in the sequence when only part of the pattern was shown.

In Art, we have enjoyed drawing our 'dragon eyes' and improving our sketching and observational skills.





SOLENT JUNIOR SCHOOL

In the month of February, we are revisiting the value of “friendship”. Each class has been considering the little things we can do, to show our friends we care. These things might only be as simple as a smile, compliment or being inclusive in a game but we all know what a huge difference they can make to anyone’s day. In school we call these small things, friendship tokens. It is important than when you are sharing friendship tokens they are genuine and heart felt. Over the month of February, we will be exploring different friendship tokens we can share with our Solent Community, to show how much we care and the impact this can have! I wonder how many friendship tokens you can share over the next month!

Mrs Peterkin-Aldred-Head of School SJS

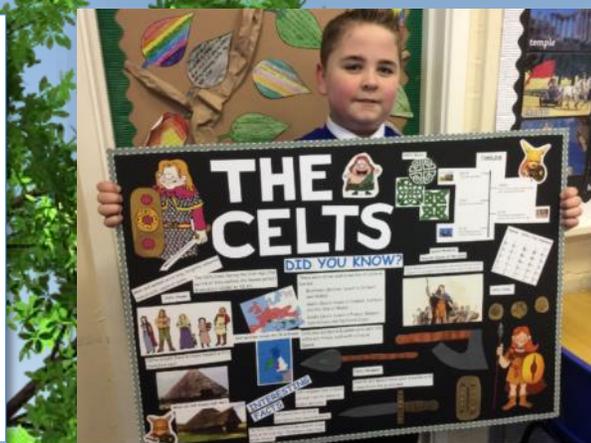
Year 3

Year 3 are really enjoying learning more about glaciers in our Geography topic, Ice ice baby. We’ve used laptops to investigate glaciers and find out what they are. Then, we used atlases to explore our world and find out where glaciers were most likely to form. We learnt about the water cycle and how it’s really important for our planet to survive. We even gained some new topic vocabulary like evaporate, condensation, precipitation and water vapour which also ties in with our Science! Our recent detective work has come up with a fact sheet on how glaciers are formed and that they actually move!



Year 4

This week, we have begun our new History topic, all about the Romans. To kick start this topic, the children produced a learning log piece of homework all about The Celts. As part of this topic so far, we have looked at chronology and timelines and have ordered key historical events from the Roman Era. We have also explored Roman and Celtic artefacts and have worked on developing our sketching skills, to create observation drawings. As the topic goes on, we will discover more about Roman Mosaics and will use potato printing to create our own!



Year 5

This week in English, the children have been busy learning about Beowulf, an Anglo-Saxon poem which was turned into a book by Michael Morpurgo. Year 5 have been busy re-writing the battle scene between Beowulf and Grendel’s mother, the Sea Hag! The pupils have been spotting the key features in a setting description: fronted adverbials; adjectives; adverbs and expanded noun phrases. They have been coming up with some amazing sentences to describe the battle, using their knowledge of SNOT (show, not tell) to convey how each of the characters is feeling.





THE SOLENT SCHOOLS

Year 6

Over the past few weeks, Year 6 have been learning something new as part of our 'Just 4 Fun' activities, and pupils can partake in an activity they may never considered and maybe even learn a new skill! The budding popstars in 6P have been learning to perform a rap from the song 'Enemy' by Imagine Dragons; 6W have been conjuring up their illusionist skills by learning magic tricks, and 6SW have been on a search for their inner zen, by learning the art of meditation.



Dates for the Diary!

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 4th April	

Monday 11th April—Friday 22nd April EASTER HOLIDAY

Monday 25th April	Return to School for Summer Term!
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Inset Days

Monday 28th February
2022

Additional Bank Holiday
for schools
Tuesday 3rd May

Friday 17th June 2022
Monday 20th June 2022

Thursday 3rd March is World Book Day 2022. This year marks the 25th anniversary of World Book Day and will take a 'Silver' theme. We love to celebrate our love of reading at Solent by engaging in this event and celebrating everything we adore about books and reading. This year, given the silver theme, we have decided to frame the day around a specific text. There will be no dressing up from pupils, but lots of exciting events have already been planned for them to take part in!