



# THE SOLENT SCHOOLS

Spring Newsletter 2022– 11 March 2022

## Calling all Volunteers!

We have really missed being able to invite parents, carers and other family members into school, out on school trips and to volunteer at special events, such as sports days, over the past couple of years. You make such a difference to us here at school and we are so very excited to be able to welcome you back again very soon. Since we last welcomed volunteers into school we have made some changes in relation to our safeguarding protocol.

This new system is now up and running and ready to be used. In the future, we will be holding a bank of volunteers for the duration of the time that their child is at the Solent Schools or for as long as they wish to volunteer. At the point of transition from Solent Infant to Solent Junior School, we will ask your permission to transfer this information over. As such, you will only need to complete the volunteer application process once. Whenever we are looking for parents and carers to support us by volunteering regularly in school, on school trips, residential or for special events such as sports days and dance performances, we will approach those who are stored within the 'volunteer bank'. We will not be able to use anybody who is not in this 'volunteer bank' as they won't have had the necessary safeguarding checks in place.

Before adding an individual to the 'volunteer bank', we will ask them to complete our volunteer process including a volunteer application form along with other safeguarding checks. This information will then be stored and retained for future use.

If you would like to be added to the 'volunteer bank' please [click here](#) to complete an initial expression of interest. We will then be able to set you up a 'volunteer profile' within school. You will only need to do this once whilst your child(ren) attend the Solent Schools, so long as you give us permission to share your information between the infant and junior school.

Mrs Wilby Executive Headteacher

*'Mindfulness club makes you forget about the world for a while'*

*'Coming to mindfulness club makes me happy and relaxed'*

*'It's calm and its nice to relax for a while'*

*'I like the calming of the meditation and it's fun'*

Quotes from Year 6 attendees

## Mindfulness Club

March has seen the start of a new well-being themed club at Solent for our year 6 pupils. It has grown out of our focus upon recognising how to find coping strategies and ways to 'just stop and simply be'. Mindfulness club runs once a week and allows those attending to experience meditation, explore the idea of gratitude journals, try a little yoga, listen to soothing music and explore how breathing can help us to regulate our feelings and emotions.



## You Told Us & We Listened!

Last half term, we asked you to let us know what you felt about the school uniform. We then shared the results with you. This week, we are interested to know how you feel about communication between home and school. Most importantly we would like to know whether you feel you know enough about what your child will learn during the year and also whether you feel that there is a good range of subjects and clubs available. Please take part in our survey by [clicking here](#) and completing a quick questionnaire! Many thanks in advance for the precious time taken in doing this. Your responses are taken and used to shape future school improvement. Due to the original link being inactive, this questionnaire will remain live until Thursday 17th March.



# SOLENT INFANT SCHOOL

This week saw the return of our school-based after school clubs. Years 1 and 2 took part in Forces Friends, Sewing and Craft, Choir and Gardening Clubs. Thank you to Mrs Churchill for donating some summer-flowering bulbs to Gardening Club. These will be planted over the next few weeks. The children have already planted some Runner Bean seeds and are excited to see them grow. Next week is Science Week with the theme of "Growth" so I am sure that our Gardening Club experts will enjoy telling their classmates about what seeds need to grow. If you are potting up your own tubs this weekend and end up having a spare bedding plant, please bring it in for our Gardening Club members to plant in our playground tubs. Thank you for your support.

Mrs Curthoys-Head of School SIS

## Early Years!

This week, we were very excited to begin our second PE session, on Tuesday mornings, with our teachers! We had lots of fun playing warm-up games in the hall and discovered how to keep ourselves safe in our 'Space Bubbles', as we travel around the hall. We used the quoits this week and investigated all the different places we can balance these on our bodies. Finally, we practised throwing and catching them. We cannot wait for more PE next week!



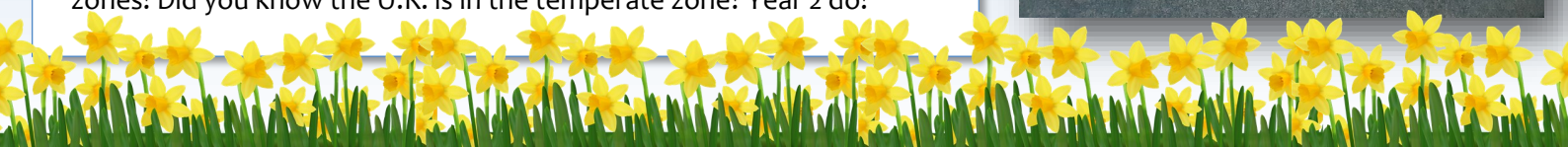
## Year 1

Year 1 have enjoyed our first week of our new theme 'Poles Apart'. We went on an expedition around the playground and found a lovely surprise in the beach area: a postcard, some binoculars and a book were left for us by the characters in the story! In art, we watched a video about a little boy who improved his drawing by acting on feedback from one of his peers. We all drew a fish and then drew it again, paying extra attention to detail! We also learnt how to use a ruler to measure length in Maths. Can you find some things at home that could be measured with a ruler?



## Year 2

Year 2 have been learning about time! So far, we have developed our understanding of o'clock, half past, quarter to and quarter past times. All the children have been trying hard to make sure they place the hour and minute hands the correct way round. Although, correcting any mistakes with this has been all part of the fun! In other subjects, Year 2 have been writing about our focus text 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' alongside learning about our planet's different climate zones! Did you know the U.K. is in the temperate zone? Year 2 do!







# SOLENT JUNIOR SCHOOL

This week in assembly, we had a lovely special guest join us virtually...Reverend Gully from Farlington Parishes. Even though he can't come into school to join our assemblies, it is lovely that he is still able to be a part of our community. He discussed Lent and the importance of it in the Christian faith. As part of Lent, the children were asked to consider if there was anything they would be giving up or trying harder on. I have received some lovely ideas from some of our children related to giving up sweets and chocolate and sharing more smiles. One contribution did make me really chuckle and that was the idea of trying to give up vegetables for Lent...my response was 'nice try but they are too good for you!' I wonder if any of our families at home are marking Lent and if so how?

Mrs Peterkin-Aldred-Head of School SJS

## Year 3

On Wednesday afternoon we bid farewell to 3H as they departed for their Minstead residential trip. They were all smiles as they boarded the coach. We can confirm that they have all now returned safely to school, just as happy, if not a little more tired!



## Year 4

Yesterday, we created our own Roman mosaics! This term, we have learnt all about Roman artefacts and mosaics. We have spent time sketching artefacts and creating our own mosaic designs. Once we were happy with our border and centre design, we were ready to complete our final piece. We used paints and potatoes to print out of our mosaic design, using the potatoes to print tiny squares. We carefully thought about using muted, dull colours, like the Romans, and also thought about designing images linked to the Romans, like shields, pottery and different animals. Today, we finished off our mosaics and evaluated our artwork!



## Year 5

### Super Soils!

As part of our current Science topic (Rocks and Soils) the children conducted an experiment to test each soil's water absorbency. The children were given a selection of eight different soil types that they would test to identify the soil that absorbed the most water. They conducted this experiment using measuring cylinders, filter paper, funnels, syringes and stopwatches. We then made sure we recorded our results at different time intervals of 2, 6 and 10 minutes! Overall, Year 5 loved investigating this!



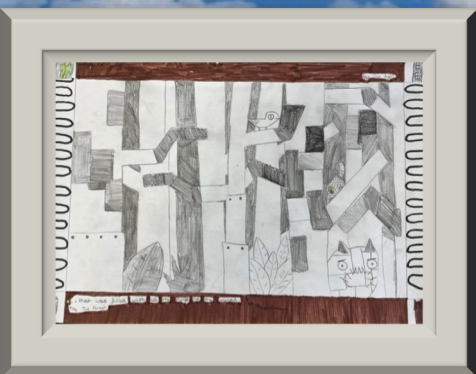




# THE SOLENT SCHOOLS

World Book Day in year 6 allowed us to let our imaginations run wild . We shared the beautiful book 'The Tin Forest' and explored the ideas associated with things everyone wanted and the things no one wanted and what a tin forest might look like. We then looked at the work of Henry Rousseau and the way in which he manipulated both colour and size in his jungle paintings, despite never having been to a jungle. Finally we chose either a Tin Forest or a Forest of hope to draw/sketch using the quote from the book as inspiration.

Year 6



## Extreme Readers Rule!

We have been incredibly impressed with the enthusiastic response to the "Extreme Reading" Home Learning task at SIS. You have shown us that you love to read and that you love to read in some adventurous places!







# THE SOLENT SCHOOLS

## Dates for the Diary!

Wednesday 9th March	Year 3 Minstead Residential (staggered class departure and arrival).
Wednesday 16th March	Year 6 Soundsational at Guildhall
Wednesday 16th March	Year R Farm Workshop
Thursday 17th March	SJS Boys Football Event at Havant & Waterloo FC
Friday 18th March	SJS Girls football tournament @ Goals
Friday 18th March	
Week beginning 21st March	Year 5 Bikeability training
Wednesday 23rd March	Year 6 singing @ Guildhall
Thursday 24th March	SJS Boys football tournament @ Goals
Friday 25th March	SJS Year 6 Girls Football Event @ Havant & Waterloo FC
	SJS Year 5 Girls Football Event @ Goals
Week beginning 28th March	Year 5 Bikeability training
Friday 1st April	Muddy Bucket Farm visiting Year R
Friday 1st April	Year R Farm Festival Day
Week beginning 4th April	End of term progress reports emailed out
Thursday 7th April	FSS Easter Egg Hunt
Monday 4th 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

Additional Bank Holiday  
for schools  
Tuesday 3rd May

Friday 17th June 2022  
Monday 20th June 2022

We can now confirm that the first two days of the academic year 2022-2023 have been set as Inset days. These dates are:

**Thursday 1st September**  
**Friday 2nd September**

Children (Except new Year R pupils) will return to school on Monday 5th September.



## Let's Have a Healthy Snack Time

All classes across the Solent Schools are given an opportunity to eat a healthy snack from home at some point during the morning. Please remember that these snacks can only be either a piece of fruit, vegetable or hard cheese (no processed cheese such as cheese strings).

