



THE SOLENT SCHOOLS

Spring Newsletter 2022– 18 March 2022

We have all revelled in the opportunity to become Super Scientists this week. With the theme of National Science Week being 'Growth', we really have demonstrated how keen we all are to grow in our scientific skills, knowledge and understanding. We have noticed that this has been even more successful when coupled with our value of the month for March 'Teamwork'. We have worked in teams across the schools to rise to scientific challenges presented to us and problem solved together to find solutions!

Mrs Wilby Executive Headteacher

You Told Us & We Listened!

Two weeks ago, we asked you to provide some feedback in relation to a few questions about provision at the Solent Schools. We received responses from 45 parents and carers in total. Thank you very much if you took the precious time to take part in this survey. The feedback is presented below and will now be used to consider next steps. The next round of questions will appear in the newsletter next week!

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Don't Know
The school makes me aware of what my child will learn throughout the year.	16	25	3	1
There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school.	16	28	1	0
My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school.	6	24	13	2

Would You Like to Come Along on School Trips?

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 volunteer 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, residentials 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.



SOLENT INFANT SCHOOL



GROWTH

This week has been a celebration of Science as we participated in British Science Week and explored the idea of “Growth”. We have learned about what things grow, the conditions that they need to grow and how we can measure their growth. There have been lots of opportunities to take our learning outside into our outdoor classroom spaces—and Gardening Club made the most of their rainy afternoon to make their ‘gardening expert’ books and to plant some bulbs in pots. We will keep track of their growth over the next few weeks!

Mrs Curthoys—Head of School SIS

Early Years!

Year R have had lots of fun exploring the meaning of ‘Growth’ throughout Science Week! We have been learning all about different farm animals by matching the adults to their young, as well as finding out where certain food comes from such as milk, eggs & meat. We also enjoyed having a special visitor teaching us how a wheat seed grows and how bread is made! We loved kneading our own dough and taste testing white, brown and seeded bread—yum!



Year 1

Year 1 have had a great week and have enjoyed exploring ‘Growth’ as part of Science Week. On Monday, the Year 1 teachers decided to focus on Science all day! The children are very excited to come home with the sunflower seeds that they planted. Please keep the teachers updated with how they grow by attaching updated photos, via the Friday assignments on Teams! The children also took part in observational sketching of trees and flowers, as well as conducting investigations, in class.

Year 2

This week, Year 2 have thoroughly enjoyed exploring ‘Growth’ as part of Science Week. We have become super scientists! Our experiments have included, investigating human growth, exploring living things that grow around and near trees, digging for worms and even visiting Mars! We loved creating a creature that could live on the cold, dry, red planet. It was also great fun to be able to get outside and think scientifically!





SOLENT JUNIOR SCHOOL

This week has been an incredibly busy one at Solent Juniors! Year 3 went off on their first residential trip. The feedback from every adult has been how well behaved the children were and how much fun was had by all. Meanwhile in school, I have been fortunate enough to be able to visit each of our classrooms to support our monitoring of teaching and learning. All of the children were eager to tell me about the skills they were learning. Every classroom was bright, exciting to be in and captured the journey the children have been on so far this term. There were examples of excellent pieces of work that the children were incredibly proud of. I was proud too when I saw how hard each and every child was working. A credit also to the adults planning and facilitating this learning.

Mrs Peterkin-Aldred-Head of School SJS

Year 3

The past week has had a buzz of excitement in the air as our year group took turns to embark on their exciting adventure to Minstead! With 3H returning at the end of last week and 3C and 3AG completing their first school trip away this week, our Science topic of 'Growth' certainly has shone through. Our pupils have 'grown' as they have learnt a whole host of new skills; from personal responsibilities such as making their beds and tidying their dorms to learning about nature and the environment around us. We truly have had lots of fun and have created some wonderful memories to fondly look back on!



Year 4

This week at the Solent Schools was Science Week. The theme for Science week was all about Growth. Each teacher focused on a different activity around the theme of Growth. Miss Sweatman explored growth through stretching, and made slime, with Miss Cawthorne, the children designed a planet friendly burger, and with Miss Saunders, the children explored growth through life, and the children created their own nest for Gentoo Penguins. The children spent an afternoon with each teacher to complete the different activities and really enjoyed spending time in different classes, to think scientifically.





SOLENT JUNIOR SCHOOL

Year 5

As part of our year 5 movement art topic, this week pupils had a go at creating their own print-making stamper using cardboard and string. They thought about a particular action they wished to focus on and then drew their design onto the cardboard. Using string, they went around the outline of their character so that it was raised from the cardboard. They then added paint to the string before transferring the stamp to paper. They thought carefully about the position of their prints and the movement sequence they wished to create.



Year 6

Over the past few weeks, year 6 have been exploring materials. We have thoroughly enjoyed the practical nature of our investigations. We have been using our Scientific vocabulary to hypothesise, plan, predict, carry out and record a range of tests. We have explored thermal insulation by responding to a plea to find out how to best keep a hot liquid hot for someone opening a coffee shop and we have also been looking at the dissolvability of different materials in water and whether or not the changes we see are reversible.



Service Child Pebble Project 2022

The Solent Schools are taking part in the Service Child Portsmouth Pebble Project 2022. The aim is to draw eyes on a pebble to represent a Service Child in our school linked to the slogan 'Keeping an eye out for Service Children'. When complete, the pebbles will be displayed as an art installation around Portsmouth. This will lead to a CPD session in the Summer Term to help promote support for Service Children in Portsmouth schools.





THE SOLENT SCHOOLS

Sporting Success!

It has been wonderful being able to take our sports teams out and about again to compete and enjoy their sport with children from other schools. We have been so very proud of our pupils, who have demonstrated admirable determination and resilience in their game, as well as overwhelming positivity and great teamwork. Below are some photographs of our junior school football teams. In a few weeks time we are also looking forward to taking a group of infant school pupils to a gymnastics festival!

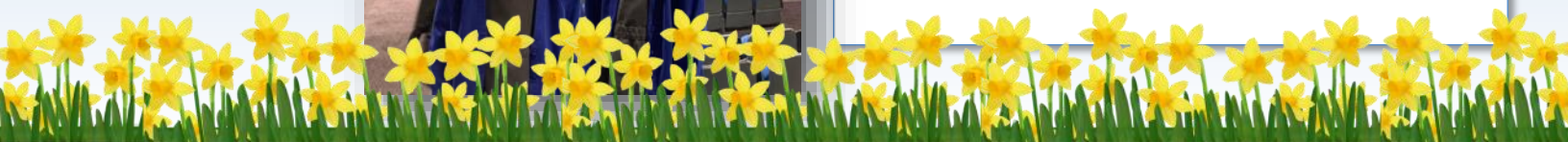


On Friday 18th March, our Year 6 boys football team took a trip to the Draper Tools Stadium, home of Havant and Waterlooville Football Club. They went to play in the 'National League Trust U11 National Competition'. They played 4 games winning the first three games 9-0, 4-0, 1-0. They went on to draw the fourth game 0-0. This took them through to the semi finals, where they were knocked out 0-1, with a last 20 second goal from the opposition. Well done team Solent! We now look forward to taking our Year 6 girls to the same tournament next week!



Simply Soundsational!

On Wednesday 16th March, Mrs Winslade took a group of Year 6 pupils to the 'Soundsational' event at Portsmouth Guildhall. The group formed part of a choir who performed alongside bands from secondary schools from around the city. This is the first time that Year 6 have been invited and we are really hoping that this is made a regular feature. Our Year 6 pupils really impressed us all with their tuneful voices, excellent mastery of the words and endless enthusiasm!





SOLENT JUNIOR SCHOOL

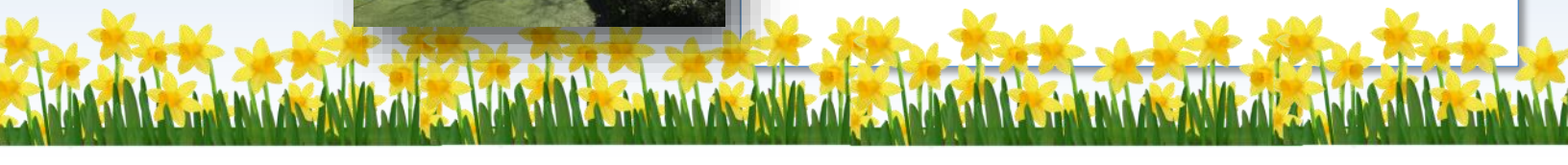
Junior School Playground

Earlier on this year, we shared an exciting new phase of site development involving the Solent Junior School playground. Just before the pandemic, we set about discussing how and where we might improve the play space to make it even more exciting and engaging for our pupils. Sadly, the pandemic meant that this work had to go on hold and it is only now that we have been able to resume discussions. We have now planned out the improvements for each of the areas within the playground. Below, you will find a photograph of each of the areas, along with a short description of how these will be developed.

Along the Western side of the main playground, we currently have a grassed area. This is used extensively when open. The area can only be used when the weather is fair and so is restricted to April to October when the weather is more favourable. This restricts its use greatly. Our pupils have told us that they would like some more 'calm space' within the playground area, where they are able to sit and chat, read or take part in calm playground games. This area is therefore going to be fenced off and artificial grass laid. There will be new boards along the brick wall with storage containers for equipment for the children to use. This will mean that the play space can be used all year round!



The main playground is currently a bare concrete space with old line markings. We know that we have many pupils who are keen and interested to play a range of sports at Solent. We have therefore taken this into account and will be having one side of this space dedicated to 'court games'. There will be new netball posts, as well as goal ends and basketball goals. The court ends will have cricket stumps included within them, meaning this will truly become a multi-purpose space. The old lines will be repainted. At the other end of this space there is a section of grass with benches where the pupils like to sit and eat, read or just chat. Much like the Western end, this can only be used in fair weather. The new plans include artificially grassing over this area so that it can be used all year round.





SOLENT JUNIOR SCHOOL

What Would You Like to See?

We currently have a simple and short 'trim trail' at Solent Junior School. Our pupils have told us that they find this trim trail restrictive and would like to see a far larger trim trail that challenges them and that they are able to use for extended periods of time during the school day. The current trim trail is still in good condition, so this will be kept, but extended along the Eastern side of the main playground. The new equipment will compliment what is already there but will need to add an extra dimension of challenge. We have the playground developers ready and waiting and would now like to hear what you would like to see as part of this trail. Below you will find a selection of equipment. Please look at these and rank them from most to least favourite. We will be finalising the plans at the end of next week, so make sure your vote is cast by Monday 28th March 9am at the very latest. We warmly invite infant school families to vote too!



Please take a look at these 5 pictures and rank them in order of preference with number 1 **being your most favourite** and number 5 **being your least favourite**. [Click here to cast your vote](#). We will reveal the results in a future newsletter!





THE SOLENT SCHOOLS

Dates for the Diary!

Monday 21st March

Wear Bright or Odd socks for 'World Down Syndrome Day'

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 & Waterlooville FC

SJS Year 5 Girls Football Event @ Goals

Week beginning 28th March

Year 5 Bikeability training

Friday 1st April

Easter non-school uniform day

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.



Friday 1st April will be a non-school uniform day in exchange for a £1 donation. All donations will go to the Friends of the Solent Schools and will be used to resource the Easter Egg Hunt that is taking place for all pupils on Thursday 7th April.

