



THE SOLENT SCHOOLS

Spring Newsletter 2022– 01 April 2022

Last week, we asked you to provide some feedback in relation to how happy and safe your child feels at the Solent Schools. Thank you very much to all those parents and carers who took the precious time to respond. We would now like to share the feedback with you. We have also chosen a few quotes from your contributions!

Mrs Wilby Executive Headteacher

What Did You Think?

Question—My child feels happy at this school
100% agreed with this statement

Question—My child feels safe at this school
All but one parent agreed. We have contacted this parent to discuss this further and take action immediately.

My daughter has really enjoyed her year thus far and settled in well with the wonderful support of her teacher and learning support assistant.

Lovely very nurturing school. The recent and ongoing pandemic has highlighted that the school and staff know how to keep our children safe. Thank you!

Something that concerns me is the air quality when dropping off and picking up, why do people have to stop as near as possible to school to drop their little one's off?

Staff have made themselves available to support when we have had concerns about any issues within the school with phone calls, meetings and updates .

My son is always smiling and happy when he goes into school in the morning and always smiling and happy when he comes out of school later in the day. I think that says it all.

I really miss being able to see learning that they have completed ...and to see them in their learning environment...would love to know if Solent have any plans to move towards this in the future.

We miss you all too and cannot wait to welcome you safely back into school. We have a number of face to face events planned for the summer term and will be sharing these with you after Easter! These are, of course, all subject to infection rates and risk assessments when we return!

Mrs PA and Mia (4A)



Thank you!

A huge thank you to all those of you who kindly donated to the Friends of the Solent Schools in exchange for a fun non school uniform Friday! All money raised will go towards providing an 'Eggstra Special' Easter egg hunt next Friday!





SOLENT INFANT SCHOOL

This week, we have had all kinds of weather so Gardening Club have checked that their newly sprouted Runner Beans are still safe under cover and Seal Class have been preparing and tending to the Vegetable Patch as we wait for the seeds to grow. We were very excited with a delivery of some log seating from the Friends of the Solent Schools - thank you! These will be put to good use in our outdoor learning spaces. Thank you also to everyone who has donated seeds, bulbs or flowering plants. We still have plant pots to fill so any donations will be gratefully received.



Mrs Curthoys - Head of School SIS

Early Years!

Wow! What a fantastic Farm Festival Day we have had in Year R. We were beyond excited to have our visit from the Mucky Bucket Farm and we adored holding, feeding, petting and grooming the animals. As well as the incredible animal friends, our teachers planned a whole farm-themed day for us. We had our own farm 'Snack Shack', explored a range of farm toys, had egg and spoon races, did welly wanging and practised a barn dance! Fabulous Farm Fun!



Year 1

YEAR 1 have been writing postcards this week to the Pilchard-Brown family, who are characters in the story 'Poles Apart'. They have been writing in the past tense so have had to remember those tricky 'ed' endings! The children have also been learning about capacity in Maths and investigating how many 'cups' of water each container held. Look out for the homelearning this week where they can show you all that they have learnt!



Year 2

The children enjoyed their PSHE work this week as we discussed what makes a good friend. We played a game to identify, 'a good friend' and 'not a good friend'. We recognised lots of great friendship qualities that we demonstrate every day.

In English, we enjoyed writing a fact file about the cheetah and in Maths, we read a variety of scales. Perhaps you could use your kitchen scales and measure various items in grams or use a plastic jug in the bath and measure in millilitres. Have fun reading scales!





SOLENT JUNIOR SCHOOL

It has been lovely to see the return of enrichment opportunities over the last half term. There have been a range of exciting after school opportunities for different year groups, such as the animation club run by Mr Washer for the Year 6 children, which has inspired some of our children to consider it as a career in the future. Mrs Wilby and Mrs Dinsmore have been excellent mini bus drivers, accompanying the children to football tournaments across Portsmouth and Hampshire. From the sound of it, the teams have been showing great teamwork skills! This week in Year 5, each class was lucky enough to have a workshop run by Lee, who developed the children's acting skills, whilst bringing Shakespeare's plays to life. It has been lovely to be able to have opportunities like these planned into the school day. It has also been lovely to have a buzz about learning back around the school.

Mrs Peterkin-Alfred-Head of School SJS

Year 3

April Mayhem in Year 3!

So today was April Fool's Day and Year 3 fully embraced the fun and laughter it brings. From a fake spelling test, spelling out 'You have been April Fooled' to 3H planting 'Doughnut Seeds' and Miss Hill having no one to look after her cat which meant poor little Gus had to come in to school!

We had such a fun morning and the children really were great sports when they found out at lunch time that it was all in the name of April fool's. Even though they'll have to wait another year to get us back! :-)



Year 4

This week, was our final week of Lego and Sewing club in Year 4. These clubs have had a Design and Technology focus, and have given the children an opportunity to let their creative sides shine. In sewing club, the children have been practising their sewing skills and have created amazing hand puppets as a final product. In Lego club, the children have been exploring STEM and have created cars powered by balloons, catapults and created replicas of famous tall structures and bridges. The children have all been very proud of what they have created during these sessions.





SOLENT JUNIOR SCHOOL

Year 5

This week has been an exceptionally busy week in year 5. Not only have children been learning about keeping safe on the roads during their bikeability sessions but they also took part in a Shakespeare workshop on Tuesday which was led by the company 'West End in Schools'. The children gained an insight into the play 'Twelfth Night' which they will be exploring in more detail after Easter. They developed their confidence and drama skills by re-enacting parts from the play. We would like to thank all those parents and carers who made donations to allow this wonderful opportunity to go ahead. Next week, pupils will be allocated parts in the play and will then bring home a short script to practise over the Easter break.



Year 6

Over the last few weeks, Year 6 have been exploring the 1941 Blitz on Portsmouth, using films, videos of those who lived through it and various recorded photos and reports. This in turn has formed the basis of their own News reports covering the events of the Longest Night. They have found looking at roads and buildings they recognise 'now' in a state of complete despair really fascinating. We are looking forward to reading their final pieces.



Don't forget to follow us on both Facebook and Instagram. We often upload photographs of events that are happening across the Solent Schools.





SOLENT JUNIOR SCHOOL

Keeping Solent Safe and Happy!



This week, Year 5 took part in Bikeability training. They took to their bikes on and around the local roads, learning how important it is to stay safe and be seen whilst riding a bike. The team that came into school to work alongside them were very impressed with the excellent skills and fantastic behaviour our pupils demonstrated. Well done Year 5!



Fun on the Farm!

Year R welcomed Muddy Bucket Farm to Solent Infant School for the day. We thought the farm quite suited our orchard! Perhaps we should write to our Governors to see how they feel about making this a permanent feature!





THE SOLENT SCHOOLS

Dates for the Diary!

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
Monday 4th April	Key Steps Gymnastics Festival (SIS)
Thursday 7th April	FSS Easter Egg Hunt
Friday 8th April	Year 6 WW2 Day

Monday 11th April—Friday 22nd April EASTER HOLIDAY

Monday 25th April	Return to School for Summer Term!
Monday 2nd May	May Day Bank Holiday—No School
Tuesday 3rd May	Additional School Bank Holiday—No School
Thursday 5th May	Showcasing Portsmouth Event
Thursday 5th May	Polling Day—School fully open
Wednesday 18th May	New to Year R and 3 Open afternoon

Friday 27th May	TSS Platinum Jubilee Celebrations
Friday 27th May	Break up for May Half Term!

Monday 30th May—Friday 3rd June MAY HALF TERM

Monday 6th June	Return to School for Summer 2!
Friday 10th June	SIS Whole School Trip to Marwell
Monday 13th—Friday 17th June	Arts Week
Monday 13th June	Showcasing Portsmouth Event at SIS
Friday 17th June	Inset—School Closed to all pupils
Monday 20th June	Inset—School Closed to all pupils
Friday 24th June	Class photograph day
Wednesday 29th June	Year 3 Disability Awareness Day
Thursday 30th June	Year 6 Disability Awareness Day
Thursday 30th June	Showcasing Portsmouth event at Guildhall
Monday 4th July	Summer Open Afternoon (work share)
Monday 4th July	Year R Gymnastics Festival (set group)
Week of 4th July	Progress Reports home to parents & carers
Week of 11th July	Year 6 Residential to Fairthorne Manor
Wednesday 20th July	Year 6 to Paultons Park

Friday 22nd July—Break up for Summer Holidays!

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.

