



# THE SOLENT SCHOOLS

## Autumn Newsletter 16 September 2022

Welcome back to the start of a new academic year. I would like to extend an especially warm welcome to all of the new families who have joined us here in the Solent Community. I hope that you are all settling in well and enjoy reading our first newsletter of the year. The stories below provide just a taster of what has already been happening across our schools and will hopefully leave you all feeling excited about the academic year that lies ahead.

Mrs Wilby Executive Headteacher

### Early Years—Reception

Wow! What a fantastic first full week in school for our Year R children. We have been so impressed with how well they are settling in and they are making the transition from nursery to school so positively. They are beginning to develop new friendships and enjoying exploring their new learning environments together. We are thoroughly enjoying getting to know our new learners and we know they are going to achieve great things. Well done, Reception!



### Year 1

What a fantastic start to we have had in Year 1! We are so impressed with how well the children have settled in and picked up new routines. This week we have continued to enjoy our new book 'Supertato' and have been using adjectives to write interesting sentences to describe his features. As part of our 'Super Hero Me' theme, we have been learning to identify and name different parts of the human body. In Art, we have enjoyed experimenting with colour by mixing different colour paints.

### Year 2

The Year 2 children have made a super start to the Autumn term and all the adults are so impressed with how quickly everyone has settled back into school life. We have begun our new learning theme of 'Ahoy There!' and we have loved looking at everyone's holiday 'treasure'. We have been very busy learning all about mermaids and mermen and have used them as inspiration in our writing and art work!



What a fantastic start to a new school year and the Autumn Term! We have welcomed back our wonderful Year 1 and Year 2 children as well as welcoming our new and very excited Year R children. Everyone has been busy learning new routines, making some new friendships and finding out about this half term's learning. We are looking forward to using our brand new outdoor learning spaces, which are on each of the class balconies, and look forward to sharing our learning updates with you.



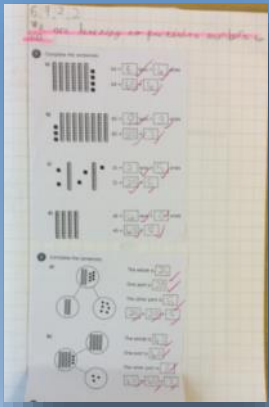
Mrs Curthoys—Head of School SIS



# SOLENT JUNIOR SCHOOL

Welcome back! I hope that you all had a wonderful summer, whether you stayed local or travelled. The children have all certainly come back refreshed and ready for learning. It was a delight to see them all in assembly on Monday morning, looking very smart in their uniform. I was very impressed with how the new Year 3 pupils have settled and are confident in sharing their ideas in a whole school assembly. We had allocated the top playground for the Year 3 pupils to give them a calm space away from the rest of the school. However, currently there are not many children using it, as they are all very eager to join the rest of the school on the bottom playground. I think this confidence just goes to show how successful transition was for them! A great start to the new school year!

Mrs Peterkin-Aldred-Head of School SJS



## Year 3

Wow, what a wonderful first week year three have had at the Junior School. They have settled in beautifully to their new surroundings and have quickly picked up lots of new routines and taken the whole week in their stride. We have completed lots of new learning already! We have kick started our maths learning with lots of learning on place value. We have looked at number lines and partitioning of two-digit numbers, and have been super impressed with the children's knowledge. In our English and Guided Reading, we have begun our new genre of poetry. We have started to discuss different types of poetry, and today the children have written beautiful poems about all their favourites things. Keep up the super work, Year 3!

## Year 4

Welcome back Year 4! The Year 4 teachers all incredibly proud of how our fabulous pupils have begun their Year 4 Journey! We have had a super week getting back into the swing of things. The children seem to have come back ready for all the challenges of Year 4, after leaving their Year 3 hats behind in July. The children are all working hard on improving their presentation and handwriting, and are keen to earn their pen licenses. We have also been reflecting on the past year and setting new goals and targets for the year ahead.



This week in Year 4, we have been applying all of our amazing poetry skills to create fantastic poetry about endangered animals. Linking to our Science topic, the children have chosen to write a poem about either a harpy eagle, mountain gorilla or a lemur. We have been absolutely blown away by the high standard of writing produced by our Year 4s. What an amazing first Big Write! Well done Year 4- we are so proud of you!



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## Year 5

What a fantastic start Year 5 have had this week! They have had great fun getting to know each other in their new classes whilst developing their teamworking skills. They started off the week delving into their new book 'Cosmic', using their inference skills to find out all about the main character Liam and his adventure to space. They then ended the week becoming very skilled at being able to manoeuvre their bodies to untie a human knot and make their way across the deadly swamp as a team! We are super proud of how you have settled!



Year 5 have also now started their Science topic 'Earth and Beyond'. They have used their research skills to aid their learning, by watching 'A Journey through Space'. We have been very impressed with the number of budding Scientists we have in the year group and we cannot wait to see what else they are going to produce this year! As well as this, year 5 have been working hard on their Place Value knowledge in Maths, understanding how to partition and order numbers. Keep it up Year 5.

## Year 6

There is nothing nicer than being able to see and feel the buzz emanating from our year 6 children at the start of a new school year. Even though many things have stayed the same, they are full of excitement for all the new things that they have discovered and can see. It is delightful to see them take on the role of being our oldest school community members and, in doing so, recognising that they are the ones who will set the example for our younger pupils. Welcome back year 6 and we hope that you thoroughly enjoy every minute of your final year at Solent!

## Uniform Reminders

A gentle reminder that pupils are not allowed to wear trainers to school. We ask that all pupils wear black school shoes, unless they are wearing their PE kits. Pupils should not be wearing any jewellery including friendship bracelets. The only exception is one pair of small studs. These will need to be either removed or taped over on PE days. Pupils should bring a coat to school every day.

Solent Junior School pupils should wear shorts on PE days. If it is cold, then these can be worn underneath tracksuit bottoms.

Please also make sure that all uniform is clearly labelled with your child's full name. Any lost property left at the end of term will be disposed of, used in the drop and shop or given to charity.

We will be operating a 'drop and shop' for second hand uniform again this year. We will share the dates for this in the newsletter next week.



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## Reminders

As we are at the beginning of the new academic year, we would like to share a few general reminders concerning lunches, health, wellbeing and medical protocol across The Solent Schools. We thank you in advance for your kind support and understanding!

## Illness and Attendance

We currently have children/adults in school with low/weakened immune systems and there are certain medical conditions that could severely compromise their health. Therefore we would respectfully request that you adhere to the following Government Health guidelines:

- If your child has sickness or diarrhoea, then we would advise that they are kept at home, returning to school 48 hours AFTER the last bout of illness.
- If your child is diagnosed with chicken pox, measles, flu or any other similar infectious childhood illness – that you keep your child off school and contact us immediately. We will then advise you of the Government recommended health guidelines for absence from school for your child.
- If your child is diagnosed with impetigo, please keep your child off school and contact us immediately. Your child can then return to school once the lesions have crusted and healed OR 48 hours after the onset of prescription antibiotic medication.
- Cold sores – please advise school.

If in doubt, always please ask the office!



## Medication

If your child had specific medication held at school last term i.e. inhaler, epipen, allergy medication. Please can you make sure that new medication has been returned to school and signed in on the appropriate permission form, if a new form is required. With any medication held at school, it is the parent's responsibility to ensure that the medication is in date and that there is a sufficient amount for their child's needs.

Any irregular medication needs to be brought into the school office by an adult and the appropriate permission for covering that week completed and signed. A new permission form will need to be completed for any subsequent weeks. Please note, medication should not come into school via the child's bookbag/bag.

## Inhalers

If your child has been diagnosed with asthma, please can a named asthma pump and spacer be brought into the school office. When this is brought in, we will ask you to sign a consent form, giving staff permission to administer your child's inhaler to them. We would also kindly request that you bring a copy of your child's asthma plan into school, so that we have all the information we need in order to care for your child.



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## Allergies

If your child is allergic to anything, please can you visit the school office to discuss this with them. They will give you a form so that you are able to detail all symptoms and the appropriate medication. If your child has an allergy and is having a school lunch, it is important that you have also shared this information with the school lunch provider. If you require their contact details please also ask at the school office.

## Lunches and Snacks

As we do have a number of children in school with nut allergies, we would like to kindly remind you that pupils should not be bringing into school any nuts, nut products or any food that lists nuts in the main ingredients. This includes Nutella based products, and some cereal bars.

As mentioned above, if your child has a food allergy OR intolerance then they will need to have a special diet in place before having a school lunch. Please see the school office for the appropriate paperwork if required.

## Reporting of Absence

If your child is absent from school then it is the responsibility of the parent/carer to notify school of the reason.

Solent Infant School - please use the 'Report Sickness' tab on the top of the school website or alternatively ring the school office on 9237 1073 by no later than 9.15am.

Solent Junior School - please ring the school office on 9237 5459 by no later than 9.00am.

## Pre-Ordering School Meals

**Solent Infant School** – School meals can be ordered online in advance via Pay360, don't hesitate to get in touch if you need help with registering. Even though your child is able to order their own lunch on a daily basis in class at registration time, we would very much prefer that all meals are pre-ordered at home as this saves a considerable amount of time in the classroom in the morning. Meals need to be ordered by midday on a Saturday for the following week at the latest.

**Solent Junior School** - School meals can be ordered online in advance via Pay360, don't hesitate to get in touch if you need help with registering. Your child is able to order their own lunch on a daily basis in class at registration time, a full menu will be on display in all classrooms, at the front desk in the office and on the school website.

## Site Security (Outside of main collection time)

**Solent Infant School** – access is via the pedestrian gate at the bottom of the school driveway where you will find an intercom linked to the school office. Please press the buzzer, wait for a response, then report to the school office.

**Solent Junior School**— access is via the main office entrance on the Western end of the site.

Once in the main office entrance, please do not release the door 'exit' button to let anyone else in, even if you recognise them. All visitors into the school building must be granted access independently by the office staff.



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## School Day Times

**Solent Infant School** – The doors into the classroom open at 8.50am and close at 9am, by which time your child should be in class ready for the register. The end of the school day is 3.15pm. The gates will be opened to allow access to the school site approx. 10 mins beforehand. Please note all entry and exit into the school site is via the gates leading up through the tunnel along Eveleigh Road. The pedestrian gate in the car park should only be used on each occasion if you have a buggy/pushchair, or a child with a bike or scooter. As this entrance is first and foremost a car park, we are limiting foot traffic in it for Health and Safety reasons.

**Solent Junior School** - The gates at the junior school open at 8.25am and close at 8.40am. The doors into the classroom open at 8.30am and close at 8.40am, by which time your child should be in class ready for the register. The end of the school day is 3pm. The gates open at 2.50pm and close again at 3.10pm. Any pupils in the lower school that are not collected will be taken to the school office. Parents and carers will then have to buzz the main door entrance to collect their child. Upper school pupils (years 5 and 6) are dismissed independently from their classroom at the end of the day without a parent or carer present unless otherwise agreed in advance with the class teacher.

Lower School (years 3 and 4) enter and exit via the car park gates and those in Upper School (years 5 and 6) enter and exit via the main office gates on the Western side of the school site.

## Parking

**We would always prefer our families to walk to school wherever possible. We understand that this is sometimes not possible and would ask that in this instance you park a distance away from school and walk the rest of the way. This is a far healthier option, as well as supporting us to keep our school community safe.**

### School Car Parks

We would respectfully remind all parents/carers that the school car parks are for staff only.

### Parking on the roads surrounding schools

Please can we remind you to be considerate when parking on the local roads and to not park across local residents' driveways causing an obstruction, even if it is for 5 minutes. Or on the double yellow lines, as this can cause an obstruction and for safety reasons also reduces visibility at the junction.

### Crossing Patrol

We are very lucky to have a crossing patrol on Farlington Avenue. Fiona has been crossing our pupils safely for a number of years now and always welcomes a cheery 'hello' as you pass by. Please respect Fiona by never crossing without her on different sections of Farlington Avenue. Her spot has been chosen as a safe space to cross between our sites.





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All dates are subject to change where unavoidable.

## Autumn 2022

Mon 19th Sept	School Closed
Tues 20th Sept	6-7.00pm Y3 Welcome Meeting
Fri 23rd Sept	2.30—3pm Y2 Parent & Carer Expectation Mtg
Mon 26th Sept	2.30—3pm Y1 Parent & Carer Expectation Mtg
Tues 27th Sept	9.15am or 6pm YR Welcome Meeting (1 hour)
Mon 10th Oct	Y1-6 Work Share (SIS 3.30—4.15pm SJS 3.15- 4pm)
Thurs 13th Oct	Y1-6 Work Share (SIS 3.30—4.15pm SJS 3.15- 4pm)
Mon 17th Oct	Parent & Carer Appointments (until 6pm)
Thurs 20th Oct	Parent & Carer Appointments (until 6pm)

### Half term Mon 24th Oct—Fri 28th Oct

Tues 8th Nov	6-7pm Parent & Carer Curriculum Evening Mtg
Weds 7th Dec	5.30—6pm Solent Schools Carol Concert

### Christmas Break Mon 19th Dec—Mon 2nd Jan

## Spring 2023

Tues 10th Jan	6-7pm Parent & Carer Curriculum Evening Mtg
Mon 30th Jan	Y1-6 Work Share (SIS 3.30—4.15pm SJS 3.15- 4pm)
Thurs 2nd Feb	Y1-6 Work Share (SIS 3.30—4.15pm SJS 3.15- 4pm)
Mon 6th Feb	Parent & Carer Appointments (until 6pm)
Thurs 9th Feb	Parent & Carer Appointments (until 6pm)

### Half Term Mon 13th—Fri 17th Feb

Tues 8th Mar	6-7 pm Parent & Carer Curriculum Evening Mtg
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### Easter Break Mon 3rd—Fri 14th April

## Summer 2023

Weds 17th May	New Family Open Afternoon (New Year R & 3 2023) 3.30—5.30pm
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### Half Term Mon 29th May—Fri 2nd June

Fri 16th June	Inset Day
Mon 19th June	Inset Day
Mon 3rd July	Open Work Share (SIS 3.30-5pm SJS 3.15—5pm)
Thurs 13th July	Pop in and Meet the New Teacher (SIS 3.30—4pm SJS 8.20—8.30am)

## Family Liaison Reps

We would like to resume our parent & carer liaison meetings. As such, we are seeking one parent or carer rep for each class to attend the meetings as a voice for that class. The meetings will be held once every half term and will be a mix of daytime / evening meetings to suit all attendees. All we ask is that the rep brings along topics for discussion on behalf of other parents and carers and that you are happy to respond to questions from the school as a voice for other families. We will ensure that other parents and carers know who you are. Your reward will include tea and biscuits, priority access to events and also a great opportunity to get to know a wider group of parents and carers, as well as senior leaders in school. If you would like to put your name forward for this role, please [click here](#) to complete a very brief jot form. **We still need reps for the following classes: Rec T, Rec DE, Rec G, 2MA, 4S, 5C, 5P, and 6S!**





# THE SOLENT SCHOOLS

The Summer Reading Challenge Winners' Event has been postponed and will now take place at Southsea Castle on SUNDAY 2 OCTOBER. This does mean there is even more time for families to get to their local library, complete the Challenge and receive their certificate and medal.

Families can also register online at:

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>



## Free Hockey lessons at Admiral Lord Nelson school

After School Club, Tuesday 4.15—5.15pm

Starts: Tuesday 20th September 2022

The after-school club will take place on the synthetic grass pitch at Admiral Lord Nelson on Tuesday evenings from 4.15 - 5.15pm where coaching will be headed up by Portsmouth HC's Director of Coaching, Alf Wimshurst. There will be **no costs** involved for players who take part and sticks can be provided as required.

Players are asked to make sure that they wear shin pads and appropriate footwear (no studs). They should also wear a gum shield to protect against accidents and warm clothing with a weatherproof top as the British weather can be unpredictable! Layers can always be taken off as players warm up.

If your child is interested, please get in touch with Alf Wimshurst: [alfwimshurst@gmail.com](mailto:alfwimshurst@gmail.com) and ask for a parental consent form.

