



# THE SOLENT SCHOOLS

Autumn Newsletter | 11 November 2022



Today has been a day of reflection across our schools. Pupils have taken part in acts of remembrance in an age and stage appropriate way. I had the pleasure of leading the junior school assembly this morning, during which we took a look at the different ways in which people from all over the world mark this special day. Mrs Clark and Mrs Witt also took a wonderful group of pupils to attend the Armistices service at St Annes in HMNB Portsmouth. The children had decorated their own wreath, which they took along to the service.

Mrs Wilby Executive Headteacher



## Do you know a Solent Young Carer?

A young carer is someone who, often from an early age, takes on regular or ongoing care and support for another family member (usually a parent or sibling) with a physical or mental illness, a disability, or who is struggling with substance misuse. Young carers often have to assume a level of responsibility that would normally only be asked of an adult.

The Solent Schools worked alongside the Portsmouth Young Carers team back in 2020 to see what additional support we could offer to our young carers. This was then halted due to Covid restrictions. We are now ready to reignite this work!

From October 2022, schools have been asked to identify how many 'young carers' they have on roll. We, at Solent, think this is a fantastic change! This is due to the fact that it is now recognised that young carers can carry immense responsibility in providing care and support at home; but their own needs may remain 'hidden' from wider view. It is intended that this identification will support schools to understand their needs and to provide early help where necessary.

We believe that we are aware of most of our young carers, due to positive home school links, however we would like to make absolutely sure we have everybody covered. If you feel that your child might be a young carer then please [click here](#) to register their name. We will be working hard to see what Solent can offer to them.

## Attendance Excellence!

We have been so impressed with attendance at school so far this term that we have decided to shine a spotlight on those classes with the highest attendance each week. Classes will be celebrated each Monday during whole school assembly. This week the winning classes are...

1E with 98.2%

3H with 98.5%

There are now 5 further classes who are less than one % below these two classes. The race is on!

These 2 classes will be receiving £10 to spend on something nice for their classrooms. The class can choose to spend or save each time they win!





# SOLENT INFANT SCHOOL

## Week 1!



Our first week of this half term has been a busy one but we have loved welcoming in so many visitors into our school: our Pedal Power coaches in Year 1, our volunteers who have helped in classes, in the library and with Pedal Power, as well as the parents and carers who have attended our Service Families Meeting, Family Liaison Meeting and our curriculum workshops in Year 2. Next week, we are looking forward to another busy and exciting week as each class will be taking part in some extra outdoor learning opportunities around the theme of Fireworks.

Mrs Curthoys-Head of School SIS

## Early Years!

This week marks the start of our new learning topic 'Let's Celebrate'. We have begun by learning about the Celebration of Diwali—The Festival of Light. We have enjoyed creating Rangoli patterns, Mehndi hand designs, Diwali cards, and much more. Throughout the rest of the half term we will also be celebrating Bonfire Night, Remembrance and Christmas, along with a range of other exciting celebrations. What an fun filled half term it will be!



## Year 1

This week, Year 1 have taken part in Pedal Power with the Bikeability group. The children have learnt about bike safety, balance, and how to ride a bike safely. Despite the wet and windy weather, the children have remained excited and enthusiastic, and have thoroughly enjoyed the week! Our new theme for this half term is 'A Toy's Story'. This week we have explored toys we play with today and thought about the materials that they are made of.



## Year 2

After a lovely half term break Year 2 have returned to school refreshed and ready to start our new theme of Time Travellers and learning about the past. This week we have linked our learning to Fireworks and have been busy writing acrostic poems using super adjectives. We are also becoming shape experts in Maths so ask us about edges and vertices—you will be impressed with our knowledge! Our Art work is focussed on Frida Kahlo, a Mexican artist famous for her self portraits so look out for our self portraits in the coming weeks!

Fizzling flames flickering  
It's sparkling in the night sky  
Rockets zooms through the sky  
Everyone smiles and enjoys it  
wow Wooo oh!  
orange Fireworks sparkling in the sky  
Raring noises in the night sky  
Klidskop of colours  
Sparklers sparkle in my hand!







# SOLENT JUNIOR SCHOOL

## Week 1!



Well we can definitely tell that Autumn is here with the weather we have had this week! This morning our JRSOs were back out again and this time they headed over to the roads near the infant school. They noticed two things on their visit. First, the traffic flows better and more safely when the cars travel in the direction of Galt Road to Farlington Avenue (the unofficial one way system). Secondly, we understand that with this bad weather there is a temptation to park closer to the school however this means the roads get busier and the JRSOs are worried this will mean their journeys to school are not as safe. Their top tip is to park further away and walk in! This will help get your children's steps in for the day but will also mean you are more likely to arrive on time and safely. The JRSOs want to thank you in advance for your support with this.

Mrs Peterkin-Aldred-Head of School SJS



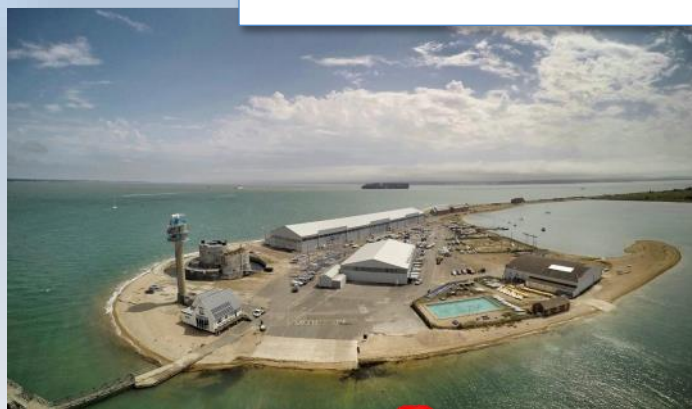
## Year 4

Welcome back Year 4 and what a term you have in store for you! Year 4 have returned to school after the half term and settled beautifully back into their classes, and have embraced all of this week's learning with enthusiasm. The children are excited at all of what lies ahead from this term, and are looking forward to their upcoming residential. Not only is there an excited buzz in the air for Calshot, our Christmas nativity has been selected and the children are beginning practising some of the songs and are looking forward to auditioning for part!

## Year 3

Year 3 have eagerly begun their new writing topic this week—Myths and Legends! It's been interesting to learn the difference between these two types of stories as well as listening to and finding out about different ones from around the world.

Most recently, we have explored mythical creatures and, using the ancient story of Pan Gu, thought about how we could use different creatures to tell our own stories about how the world was created. The children really enjoyed getting creative and came up with some amazing ideas!



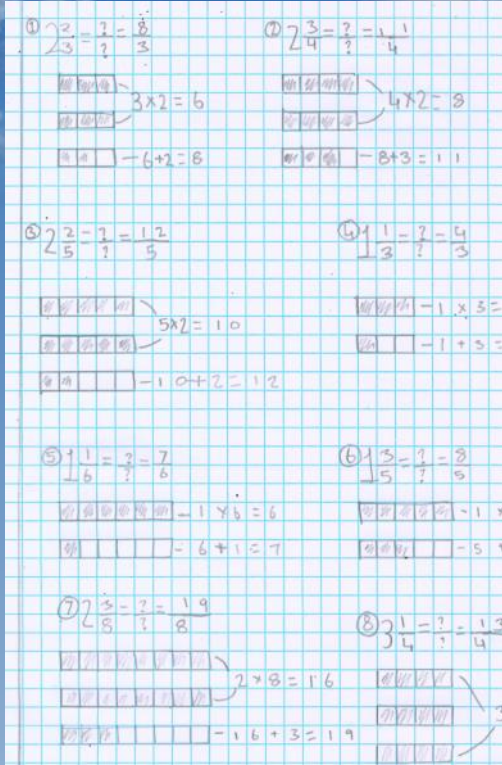




# SOLENT JUNIOR SCHOOL

## Year 5

This week, Year 5 have started their fraction topic exploring equivalent fractions. They have learnt how to draw bar models to show equivalent fractions and back this up with their times table knowledge, justifying and proving their answers. They have then extended their knowledge of how to convert between mixed numbers and improper fractions. They then represented this in different ways. Even though at times they have found this challenging, they have proved their amazing resilience skills by persevering. We are so proud!



## Year 6

Just before half term, Year 6 were treated to a new cultural experience as they celebrated Mayan Day! The workshop event (run by a Mayan warrior!), was tremendous fun and the pupils gained an interesting insight into the lifestyles and practises of the ancient civilisation. Pupils were able to participate in drama (re-enacting sacrifices and folklore), chocolate tasting, art workshops with Mayan artefacts, and a Mayan version of 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire!' They also learnt to count to 10 in Mayan—why not see if they can remember?







# SOLENT INFANT SCHOOL

## Week 2!

This week, each year group took their learning outside for one day and focused on the theme of Fireworks. Natural materials were explored, pictures were created and collaboration skills were practised. We were even lucky with the weather! Back in the classrooms, the children were able to discuss what they had learned using some challenging vocabulary. This, in turn, improved the quality of their writing. Look out for the whole school home-learning, this weekend, about helping a hedgehog!



Mrs Curthoys-Head of School SIS

## Early Years!

This week we have been learning all about Bonfire Night and Remembrance Day. We loved taking part in our Outdoor Learning Day, where we focused our learning around the theme of fireworks. We enjoyed making firework pictures using natural materials, sparklers with sticks and lots of other engaging activities. We also took part in a 2 minute silence on Friday for Remembrance Day. Our teachers were very proud of how respectful we were.



## Year 1

Year 1 have thoroughly enjoyed the outdoor learning they engaged with this week. The children went outside and made stick stars (you might see some hanging from the trees in the Orchard), created firework pictures using natural materials, and they went on a material hunt to see what they could find. In other lessons, the children started to read our new year group focus story 'Toys in Space' for English and they learnt about addition for Maths. It has been a great week!



## Year 2

This week, we have continued our learning about fireworks. On Thursday, we enjoyed an outside learning day with fireworks as our theme. We made fireworks with shapes and used specific shape vocabulary learnt in class. We used the beach area and with a variety of stones created sculptures of fireworks. We enjoyed using the orchard too and designed and created Mandala leaf art fireworks. We worked well with our friends, shared ideas, negotiated with each other, created wonderful things and were respectful of our environment.





# SOLENT JUNIOR SCHOOL

## Week 2!

Last week we welcomed Rev Gully back into our school assemblies! It was lovely to see him and I know that the children have missed listening to his stories. Rev Gully shared with us about Harvest and about modern day miracles. He spoke about how he learnt to bake bread during the pandemic and how each ingredient works together. As Rev Gully had arrived at school he had seen the range of items for Ukraine and was so impressed by the amount that was collected. The children were exceptionally well behaved in assembly and we are very much looking forward to welcoming Rev Gully back as we approach advent.

Mrs Peterkin-Aldred-Head of School SJS



## Year 3

Year 3 French lesson on 'Le Bleu'

Our year threes have been doing amazingly well at learning their French greetings so far this term but this week we have had a different focus. We have learnt all about 'Le Bleu' - The blue cornflower badge that French people wear on Remembrance Day, instead of the Poppy. The cornflower was chosen as it was one of the flowers that grew on the muddied war fields after WW1, alongside the poppies. There is a second reason that the blue flower was chosen - ask your year 3 children to see if they have remembered it!

Mrs Milne

## Year 4

In their English topic this week, Year 4 have been busy learning all about recounts. We have been focusing on the key features and learning how to identify them in different types of texts. Some of the features the children have been looking out for include events in chronological order, time conjunctions, fronted adverbials (punctuated correctly), introductions and conclusions. The pupils have loved identifying the features and have started the unit fantastically well! We are very excited to see the work they produce at the end of the unit!



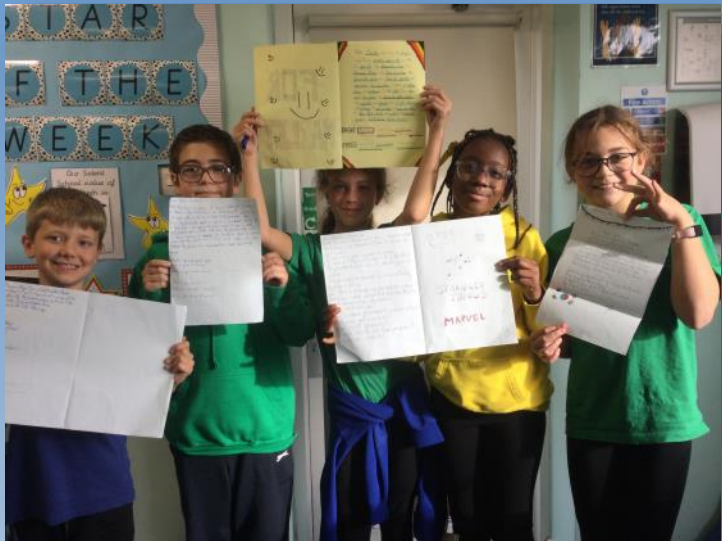




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## Year 5

This week, Year 5 were given a few images of poppy fields for them to have a go at writing a setting description. We discussed appropriate vocabulary choices for the children to magpie and created a success criteria as a class to inform their writing. The children produced some excellent pieces of writing and these were used in our recent parent workshop, to show the editing process we use in class. It was so lovely to see our parents back in school, working with the children to improve their writing.



## Year 6

This week our year six children were delighted to receive letters from their French penfriends. Our penfriends attend a school in the East of Paris, France. They were interested to see how different French handwriting is and find out many things that they had in common. This week, the children will start writing their replies in French, including some information about themselves. Fingers crossed for a speedy postal service and some replies back soon. Mrs Milne





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## Solent Helps Portsmouth Helps Ukraine

We are so proud of Skylar, Henley and Mrs Tod for all of their wonderful work batching up and sending off your donations. On Wednesday evening, they visited the Portsmouth Helps Ukraine centre to leave the doantions. The volunteers there were so very grateful for all that Solent are doing to support the chari-







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## Dates for the Diary!

All dates are subject to change where unavoidable.

### Autumn 2022

Weds 7th Dec	5.30—6pm Solent Schools Carol Concert
Thurs 8th Dec	Christmas Jumper Day
Thurs 15th Dec	Christmas Party, Lunch & Card Drop Day
Friday 16th Dec	Christmas Themed Non School Uniform Day

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

### Spring 2023

Tues 10th Jan	6-7pm Parent & Carer Curriculum Evening Mtg
Thurs 19th Jan	INSET Day
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**

Weds 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)

## Drop and Shop

We are really pleased to announce the return of our popular drop and shop at both Solent Infant and Solent Junior Schools. On these dates, you are invited to either bring along your second hand school uniform and exchange it for another piece, or come and browse the second hand uniform and leave a small donation for the items that you would like to take away. The dates for the rest of this term are:

Tuesday 15th November  
Tuesday 29th November  
Tuesday 13th December

We will be setting the dates for the Spring term later on in the year.



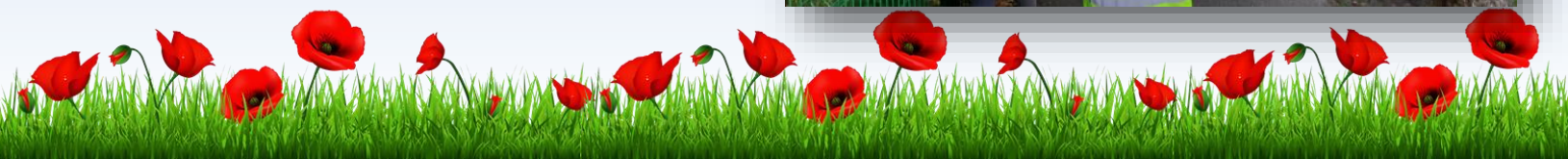
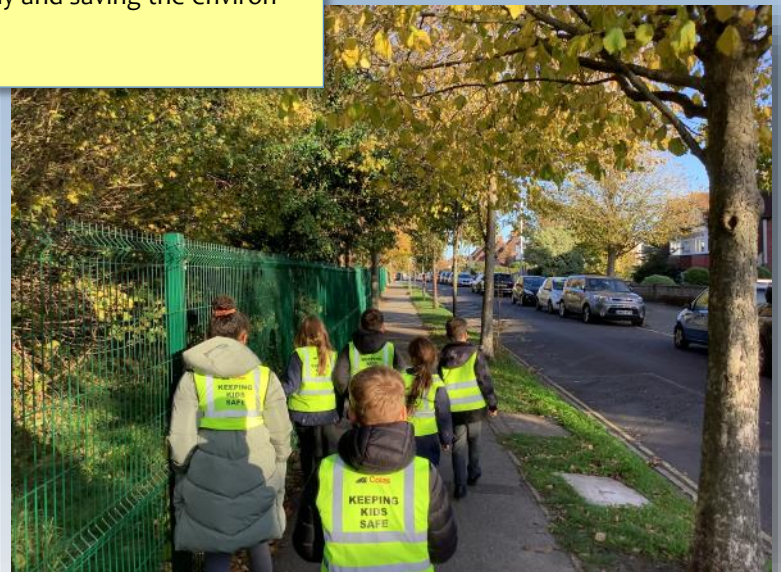




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Our Year 3 Junior School Road Safety Officers (JRSOs) have been out and about again. This week they have been taking note of anything they spotted that could potentially be of risk to our pupils. They noticed cars parked on double yellow lines, cars parked over driveways and even parked on the grass verge and pavement! On a more positive note, they took great pleasure in rewarding those pupils who have walked to school, helping to keep our school community safer, keeping healthy and saving the environment at the same time!







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Well Done... You've Been Spotted!

