



# THE SOLENT SCHOOLS

Spring Newsletter 10 March 2023



Welcome to a bumper Spring edition of the Solent Schools' newsletter. Last week I had the pleasure of accompanying a very enthusiastic group of Year 2 children to the Portsmouth Schools Golf Festival. The day consisted of a range of activities that saw pupils test their golfing skills against other pupils. Their skill, determination and excellent sporting attitude saw them win joint second place. Thank you very much to Mrs Dallinger for organising a whole series of sporting events for our infant aged pupils, with golf just being the latest in a whole series!

Mrs Wilby Executive Headteacher



## Author Visit

Aisling Fowler, the author of the Fireborn series, came to visit our Y4, 5 and 6 children on Thursday 9th March. The hall was a buzz of excitement as Aisling arrived and it took no time to immerse the children into an exciting workshop of characters, settings and story writing ideas. Everyone involved, including our staff and Governor Karen Howe, said what an amazing experience it was and the children thoroughly enjoyed it. They all seemed to leave with lots of ideas for their own writing and hopefully have been inspired for their writing in the future. To top off a fantastic morning, queues of children visited the library afterwards to purchase one of Aisling's books and get it signed by the author herself. We were so grateful for the opportunity and can't wait to see if we can get another author in soon!





# SOLENT INFANT SCHOOL



Last week, to make the most of our World Book Day celebrations, we were authors and illustrators of our own class books. All of the books have had a connection with royalty. They have featured many of London's landmarks which we have remembered from our learning in Geography. Have you spotted the London Eye in the drawing? Once our stories are complete, they will be published and made into real books. We are very excited to see the end result and we may even send some of them to the palace for the royal seal of approval. We have enjoyed working together to create our class books and we look forward to sharing them with you.

Mrs Curthoys-Head of School SIS

## Early Years!

We enjoyed celebrating World Book Day last week. We have been working within our classes to create a story 'We're Going on a Crown Hunt' linked to the King's Coronation. It has been fantastic hearing wonderful ideas and all the children have been working really hard to think of some amazing adjectives to make our story more interesting! We then used our super creative skills to illustrate parts of the story.



## Year 1

Last week, Year 1 enjoyed celebrating World Book Day. As part of our celebrations we have written and illustrated our very own class book, this was very exciting! As a hook for our writing we read the story 'The Queen's Hat' and then explored what you can see and do in London. We also enjoyed using the puppet theatre to retell stories and designed our own front covers for wrapped up books. We love reading and listening to stories and had a great week!



## Year 2

We have thoroughly enjoyed the second week of our Dens and Dwellings learning theme! Last week, we impressed the adults with our super teamwork. We made dens using a variety of different materials, thinking carefully about the structure and how to make them suitable. Last Thursday, we had lots of fun celebrating World Book Day. We enjoyed taking part in a Story Swap and we created our very own class books. We used lots of exciting vocabulary and thought carefully about the coherence of our writing. We can't wait to be published authors!







# SOLENT INFANT SCHOOL

We were excited to welcome Mrs Spivey, the CEO of the de Curci Trust, into our school to support us with some curriculum monitoring. She was impressed with our Phonics learning, using the new Little Wandle programme, and also with the improvement in our mathematical thinking, by following the Maths Mastery principles. We shone a spotlight on Geography skills and knowledge, from Year R to Year 2, and were pleased to see these being built upon every year. Next week, it is British Science Week on the theme of "connections". Science Club have been trialling some investigations for us. Watch out for the whole school home-learning!



Mrs Curthoys-Head of School SIS

## Early Years!

This week we have been finding out about different farm vehicles. Did you know some tractors don't have tyres at all and instead use caterpillar tracks to move easily across soft muddy ground? We have really enjoyed looking at different types of tyre tracks and then used this to explore colour mixing. We used our 3 primary colours and then 'painted' with the tractors to mix the different colours! We found that yellow and blue make green and red and blue make purple. It was messy and lots of fun!



## Year 1

This week, the children of Year 1 have worked hard to understand and locate the polar regions and the equator. The children have learnt about the Arctic and Antarctic. In English, the children have drafted postcards to the Pilchard-Browns (the penguin family from our class story 'Poles Apart') inviting them to visit Portsmouth and its wonderful attractions. In Maths, the children have learnt about length and height. They understand that there are different ways to record measure.



## Year 2

Year 2 have linked their literacy and geography learning this week and have been exploring and writing about lions. We learnt about their habitat, appearance, diet and young and much more. We know a lot of facts about lions and wrote non-chronological reports. Ask us about this apex predator!

In PSHE, we read the book, 'Shine' and discussed similarities and differences between people. We then thought of ourselves and the things we are good at and the things that make us shine.





# SOLENT JUNIOR SCHOOL

It has been a very exciting few weeks at the Junior School. The learning opportunity that has probably brought most excitement to the junior School has been World Book Day, well Week! It has been wonderful to see the children all create their class book, bring in their home learning tasks, and share that love of reading with one another. We are looking forward to finding out who the children have all chosen to win from each class. It has been lovely to hear the buzz of excitement around the building in the afternoon during the showcasing of the home learning tasks. A huge thank you to Mrs. Pye and Miss. Hill for organising the event for the junior school community.

Mrs Peterkin-Aldred-Head of School SJS



The Golden Book is open every Friday at SJS! Last Friday, we celebrated this wonderful group of children.

## Year 3

There was corgi chaos in Year 3 last week. We enjoyed planning and writing a story in preparation for King Charles' coronation. In 3NS we have had evil Queens trying to steal royal jewellery, in 3AG the corgis have been breaking and hiding the coronation crown and in 3H the corgis have been going on a night time adventure. We cannot wait for you to be able to read our fantastic stories. Well done Year 3.



## Year 4

Last week, Year 4 started their super swimming lessons! Collectively, the classes displayed outstanding behaviour which was commented on by the pool staff. We are so so proud of them! We have, however, set our fabulous Year 4's a challenge. The challenge was, and is, to get changed quicker post swimming lessons. We have had a giggle amongst the year group and are now planning on competing against each other. We are so excited to continue with these lessons and would like to remind all Year 4 adults that Year 4 only need to wear PE kits on Tuesday's and Wednesday's. This will remain in place until the Easter Holiday, after that, we will revert back to Tuesday's and Friday's.







# SOLENT JUNIOR SCHOOL

## Year 5

Over the past few weeks, Year 5 have had their first of 6 sessions with Isaac from Hampshire Cricket! In session 1, the children practiced their catching skills and participated in a variety of different activities to develop this. They focused on using 'big hands' to catch the ball accurately and challenged themselves by using their less dominant hand to catch the ball as well. It was great to see all of the children so engaged in their sessions and the teachers enjoyed giving it a go themselves! We can't wait to update you over the next half term!



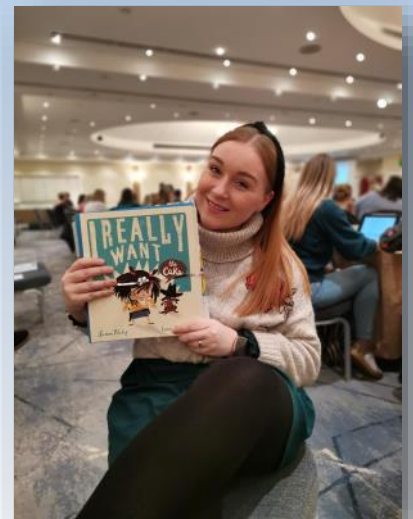
## Year 6

A super talented group of Year 6 children enjoyed the UNLOC Enterprise workshop, at the Guildhall, last Friday. They were tasked with creating their own company, selling socks. Each team had to design the product, investigate costs involved and then market the product - all in one day! In a Dragon's Den style, each company presented their product to the adults, who had the near impossible task, of choosing a winner. After much deliberation, JJGC Socks were chosen for their outstanding presentation and innovative product. Watch out for these future entrepreneurs!



## Reading Conference

Last week some of our teachers attended a Ready Conference organised by the Portsmouth Education Partnership. They had a great time finding out even more about how to support our pupils further with their reading. To top off a great day, Mrs Tobin won the Infant School a set of lovely new books!





# SOLENT JUNIOR SCHOOL

## Year 3

What a busy week since last Friday! We ended on such a high following on from our World Book Day Homework Gallery in the School Hall; using our counters to each select our favourite pieces from each Year Group—it was so much fun! And, a huge well done to our winners too! To then having our Holi festival rained off on Wednesday—we were so disappointed (but we still got to have cake). To then having lots of fun again with our Cricket Coach on Thursday. There is definitely never a dull moment in Year 3!



## Year 4

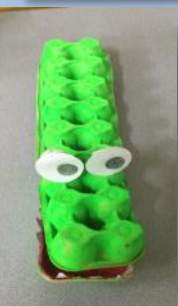
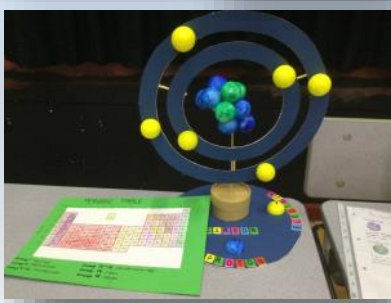
Year 4 have been continuing to work super hard on their sewing skills for their design and technology unit inspired by their History topic of The Romans! Year 4 will be creating their own Roman money containers. They have been practising using different stitches to secure and decorate their fabrics such as running stitch, back stitch, cross stitch and over stitch. The children have also been considering the design of their money container, and next week will use all their new skills to create their final product!

## Year 5

This week, year 5 finished off their World book week collaboration. Each class created their own 'Coronation gone wrong' story. It was a delight to watch such amazing ideas being generated and the teamwork skills were incredible. This was a challenge as for once we had to think about cutting down our writing and actually writing less! Each group then used their communication skills to make sure the story followed from one page to the next—something we thought as adults we would find challenging! Keep up the amazing work!

## Year 6

World Book Day in Year 6 allowed us to let our imagination and creativity flow. At first, a home learning challenge was set where we could produce our own masterpieces! We then had the opportunity to showcase these to the rest of the school at the end of the week. During the week of World Book Day, we also had a second task to complete. We had to create our own class story themed around royalty / the coronation. Each class worked together in teams to plan, draft, edit, illustrate and publish their part of the story. All our school values were demonstrated throughout this task and we are looking forward to seeing how our published books turn out.







# THE SOLENT SCHOOLS

## Spring 2 2023

## Dates for the Diary!

### Half Term Mon 13th—Fri 17th Feb

Mon 13th March	Science Week!
Mon 13th March	Y4/5 Boys Football Tournament Goals
Tues 14th March	2-2.45pm Family Liaison Meeting
Thurs 16th March	Y3 /5 Cricket Coaching
Mon 20th March	Y4/5 Football Tournament
Thurs 23rd March	Y3 & 5 Cricket Coaching
Fri 24th March	YR Farm Festival
Wb 27th March	Spring Term Progress Reports Home
Mon 27th March	Y1 Gym Festival
Fri 31st March	Y6 WWII Day

### 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)

## Potential Strike Action

The next round of potential strike action is due to take place on Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March. Please keep an eye out on your school email for all of the latest updates with regards to any closures.

## FSS Dates

### Friday 24th March

Junior School Disco (Y3 & 4 5-6.30pm, Y5 & 6 6.30—8pm)

### Friday 31st March

Easter Egg Hunt

### Friday 19th May

Summer Family Picnic Evening

### Friday 23rd June (Back up 30th June)

Movies Under the Stars

### Friday 14th July

Summer Fayre

## School Times

### SIS

Gates AM open	8.40—9.00am
Doors AM open	8.50—9.00am
Gates PM open from	3.05pm—3.30pm
Pupils out at	3.15pm

### SJS

Gates AM open	8.25—8.40am
Doors AM open	8.30—8.40am
Gates PM open from	2.50—3.10pm
Pupils out at	3.00pm

On occasion, there may be an unavoidable delay opening, in which case we appreciate your kind patience.



FRIENDS OF THE SOLENT SCHOOLS

## Solent Junior School Disco



Tickets cost just £3 per ticket for this event, so if you wish your child to attend, please click below by 5pm on Wednesday 22nd March. Please ensure you indicate which of the two sessions your child will be attending depending on their school year; a member of staff will check them into and out of the event.

[Book Tickets](#)

[Junior School Disco \(google.com\)](https://www.google.com)