



# THE SOLENT SCHOOLS

Summer Newsletter 3 May 2023

We cannot possibly begin this weeks newsletter without saying huge congratulations to the wonderful Solent Junior School Dance Live team, who came first in the grand final last Thursday evening. Their delivery was outstanding, as they danced their socks off, competing against 5 other very strong schools. The performance was seamless from end to end, but would never have been possible, without the dedicated team of inspirational adults that were behind the scenes. On behalf of our whole school community, I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Mrs Brook, and her team of volunteers, who gave up so much of their precious time to afford our pupils this wonderful opportunity. As one family rightly commented to me on the night 'this experience is something that our children will never forget and will treasure forever'. Watch out for the full 'cut out and keep' Dance Live supplement in this weeks newsletter (page 4 onwards).

Mrs Wilby Executive Headteacher



## Year 2 & 6 Solent Stars

Only four days to go until Tuesday the 9th May, which marks the start of the Year 2 & 6 SATs period. We are so proud of all our pupils' resilience, hard work and positive attitudes in the lead up to this. They have continued to work so hard throughout each day and have shown that they are more than capable of producing their best work when they put their mind to it and believe in themselves.

The moment  
is **NOW**.  
NOT tomorrow, OR  
Yesterday  
or **SOMEDAY**.  
Right here. Right now  
THIS is YOUR moment to  
**SHINE**.



A POEM FOR YEAR SIX



BY SPARKY

DON'T GET STRESSED.

JUST DO YOUR BEST.

REMEMBER YOU'VE BEEN BLESSED  
WITH SKILLS SATS CAN'T TEST.



# SOLENT INFANT SCHOOL



With all three year groups learning about growing, the children have been busy exploring the outdoor areas, finding minibeasts, looking for signs of Spring and naming the different plants that are growing. Having more toys and resources out at lunchtime play has been a real hit and our Year 2 Play Leaders have been doing a great job of encouraging everyone to be more active. Mr Mason and Mrs Eades participated in some fantastic training about Outdoor Learning, this week, at the Gilbert White Centre and have come back with some exciting new ideas. Our next whole-school outdoor learning day is on Friday, 26th May.

Mrs Curthoys-Head of School SIS

## Early Years!

In Reception, we have continued our learning about life-cycles. We have shared our existing knowledge and thought of some brilliant questions that we would like to research throughout the topic, such as "Why are some caterpillars hairy?"

The caterpillars are growing really well and we think they will begin making their chrysalises soon.



## Year 1

Our theme for this half term is 'Potty About Plants' and Year 1 have been excellent plant researchers! In English, we have been busy collecting information about sunflowers. We have been thinking about a sunflower's appearance, how it grows and finding out some interesting facts. Did you know that the middle of a sunflower is made up of over 2000 tiny flowers? In Science we have been learning about the different parts of a plant, and in Art we used pastels to draw sunflower pictures.



## Year 2

Year 2 have learned a great new word in Science-**Hydroponics**-which is growing plants in water but without soil. Can you imagine such a strange thing! We have 'planted' beans in water and are predicting if they will grow or not. Ask us what happens.

Our home learning this week was all about looking for growing things outdoors and our teachers have been super impressed with the great photos we have sent in for our corridor display. Bluebells and seedlings are popping up everywhere!







# SOLENT JUNIOR SCHOOL

Around the SJS site, you may have noticed some planters have appeared! The Eco Warriors were made aware of their arrival a couple of weeks ago and are very excited to be looking after them. As a school, we were identified as being in a flood risk area and so offered the planter free of charge to support this. They have been supplied, along with the plants, by Southern Water and Rescue 2. As an eco-conscious school, we were more than happy for the installation. I think you will agree, they look very nice in our playground!

I hope that you all have a lovely bank holiday weekend and enjoy the sunshine, when it finally decides to make an appearance.

Mrs Peterkin-Aldred-Head of School SJS

## Year 3

Year 3 have had an exciting start to their week preparing for their Ancient Egyptian Themed dance with Mrs Brook in their PPA session on Monday. Plans are already well underway with the Pharaoh nominated and voted in for each class and ideas swirling for showing what 'A Day In The Life Of An Ancient Egyptian' would be like. The dance will depict their ancient lives from dawn until dusk with the all-powerful Pharaoh reigning over them! Once all the preparations and practises are complete, the final performance will be filmed and shared with you at the end of the Summer Term so keep your eyes peeled!



## Year 4

This week in Year 4, we have been busy practising our times tables ready for our times table check in June. The children have enjoyed using the website 'pinpoint times tables' to simulate the real test. We have been recording our very first score and working hard to improve upon it daily. The pupils have persevered and shown resilience when calculating, even though some of them have found only having 6 seconds given to answer each question a little tricky! Well done Year 4, we are very proud and know you will be amazing in June!



## Year 5

Last week, Year 5 finally got to go on their long-anticipated Winchester Science Centre trip! Everyone had an amazing day, getting hands-on with the interactive exhibits (the current show theme is 'sound'); learned how to conduct an investigation into effective heat-shielding materials and optics for the James Webb telescope; and explore the replica space station. The most memorable part of the day was the opportunity to visit the Planetarium and take an exciting virtual trip through the Solar system to investigate each planet along the way!

# Dance Live Special!

## Dreaming Through a Lens

### The Dance Live Journey Begins

Our Dance Live journey began in the summer of 2022 where we asked Year 2-6 what they would like their theme to be about.

Roll on 8 months later and over 120 hours of rehearsals; music editing, LED screen content, prop making, costume sourcing, hair and make-up trials and we were ready!

On Wednesday 22nd February the team performed their dance to the whole of the junior school as a 'dress rehearsal' before the competition date.

The buzz and excitement listening to their comments as they watched in awe made all the hard work worthwhile.





# Performance Review—Tessa Year 6

## Dance Live dress rehearsal

On Monday 20<sup>th</sup> of February Solent  
The Junior school the dance live dress  
rehearsal was performed the title was 'dreaming  
through a lens' and it certainly was a dream!  
They had it timed down to perfection: costumes,  
hair, make-up, choreography, and music. Steven was  
in character, the clappers definitely clapped  
with style and the idiannais were adventurous.



I loved it, it was fun, colourful and  
bright, the hair and makeup team worked magic  
miracles and the backstage were lightning fast!  
It was fantastic and definitely a winner!



The story made total sense and was woven  
into a tapestry of beauty and fun. The performance stills  
were amazing: every dancer was smiling and played their  
part. It ran like clockwork and the time was time to shine!

I would recommend it, be part of it and make a difference in  
dance. Definitely ★★★★★.



# Dance Live Special!

## Dreaming Through a Lens

Performance Review—Evan Year 6

### Dance Live dress rehearsal

On Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February Solent junior performed their dance live dressed rehearsal to the rest of the school.

I watched the dance live rehearsal and saw the performance of Steven Spielberg's life story of how he was going to give up making films but proceeded to carry on and become famous.

I thought the performance was good as there was a lot of movement and no problems with it at all, they all stayed in character and ~~as~~ in my opinion it was perfect.



All the props were used as they should be, all the hair, make up and face paint was really good. The costumes really showed what film it was. Same with the music. And the performance skills were really good as no one forgot what to do.

I would definitely recommend to watch Solent Junior's dance live as I enjoyed the whole performance. I would give Solent Junior School 5 stars!

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# Dance Live Special!



## Performance Day Arrives!



On Friday 24th February, we took the team to the Guildhall.

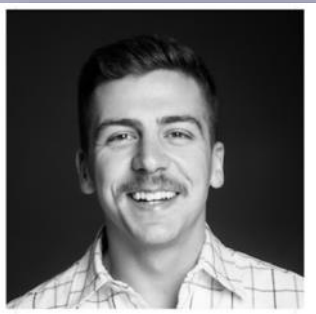
We got to run through our dance twice—this is called a technical rehearsal where our lighting and videographer get to practise their role and where the dancers get to practise their dance on the Guildhall stage for the first time.



After our run through the children got chance to watch and support other schools plus also having fun whilst the backstage team were busy prepping hair and make-up in our dressing room.

At last it was our time to perform and they were fabulous! I have never heard an audience applause whilst watching a dance Live performance and they did it three times through our dance!

## The Judges Verdict



Hello....all I can say really is 'WOW' you should have heard us judges up here whilst that performance was going on...we were gasping. (rounds of applause) What I liked most about it was the cohesiveness of everything, you used the screen, you had the costumes. You had this amazing attention to detail to everything you did throughout the whole piece and it was an absolute pleasure to watch. All of the LED content, matching it on the stage...honestly, I'm blown away by your performance...I am lost for words!  
Callum Bowman

# Dance Live Special!

## The Announcement!

A huge congratulations to our team! We won 3 awards; winner of the evening, LED screen content and technical award.







I felt very nervous and scared as I stepped across the stage. The lights came on and the music played and I felt really happy seeing all the parents. It was one of the best experiences ever when we won the heat.

Olivia C 5P

# Dance Live Special!

## T Shirt Competition!

In September we set Solent Children a task for designing our team t-shirt for our team to wear on the day of their performance. This is the final result. We were blown away by the fabulous ideas that we didn't choose one, we amalgamated a few designs together,





# Dance Live Special!

I loved how the judges were smiling back at us when we were performing and I loved being on the stage!

Hollie Y 4F

The thing I enjoyed most about Dance Live is the experience of dancing on the guildhall stage.

Arthur W 5P

## And so the Dance Live Journey Comes to an End...

Thank you....

A huge thank you to our team this year—without a team there wouldn't be a Dance Live performance.

Thank you to the children for giving up their clubs to commit to this competition.

Thank you to Lorna Earle and Louise Slade who are part of our creative team and talented choreographers. Kate Barfoot and Becky Cornick for giving up their evenings/ weekends. Mrs Peddell and the 'Gang Show' for their amazing costumes!

Mr Burnett for his amazing editing skills with our music and LED screen content.

A huge team of parent helpers who made props, costumes and were there to help on the day with hair and make-up;

Mrs Immins, Mr and Mrs King, Mr and Mrs Marsh, Mrs Constable, Mrs Gray, Mrs Needham, Lucy Mengham, site team, the junior admin team and the Brook family!

Mrs Brook (Dance Live Lead, PE & Sport Lead SJS)

## Or So We Thought...!



On Thursday 27th April, We Danced Our Socks Off in the Final....



AND WON!!

Huge congratulations to the Dance Live Team! Your performance and dance was simply stunning and this was recognised by all of the judges. It shows that all of your hard work and dedication to rehearsals paid off. Thank you to Mrs Brook and her outstanding team for their creative vision and hard work. The buzz around school has been amazing and we can not wait to formally acknowledge it with the whole school. We hope that you all now have a very well-deserved rest. Congratulations again to you all!

