



THE SOLENT SCHOOLS

Summer Newsletter 26 May 2023



It has been an incredibly productive half term across the Solent Schools. Last week, senior leaders had the absolute pleasure of visiting many of our classrooms participating in lessons, talking to pupils about their learning, and reviewing the learning journeys presented in their books. Our overwhelming conclusion was that all of our learners, both adults and children, simply love learning! This was an incredibly rewarding exercise and one which I wish you could all take part in alongside us!

Your Feedback Matters to Us!

Over the past few weeks, we have asked you to share your feedback with regards to our school curriculum. On page 2, you will find the outcome of this audit. We had 20 responses in total. We are have our fingers crossed for a larger response this time, so that are discussions are representative of a wider range of families.

This week, we would like to invite you to feedback to us about home learning. Please [click here](#) or scan the QR code below to respond to a short questionnaire. This questionnaire will close on Thursday 8th June at noon, when we will be collating all responses and sharing with our stakeholders.

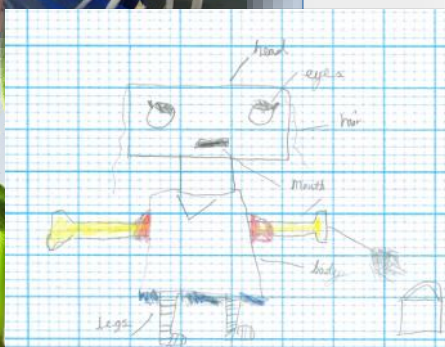
Mrs Wilby Executive Headteacher



Year 2 are Growing!

The Year 2 children have really enjoyed 'Our Growing World' theme this half term. We liked watching our beans grow over the last five weeks. We were amazed with the one that grew in the cupboard! We compared how the beans had grown in four different locations and wrote about the best conditions for growth. The Andrea Beaty books inspired us to write a persuasive letter to Dyson so they could back us financially to help us create new inventions. We were very imaginative and creative!

Don't forget that you can follow your child's curriculum, and view their current knowledge organisers, by visiting their Year Group web page on the school website.





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Your Feedback Matters to Us!



For each of the following questions, the most popular answers have been listed and ordered by popularity!

Why did you choose to send your child to Solent?

Recommendation, The Ethos , Academic Achievements.

What are the particular strengths of our schools?

Academic Standards, Behaviour of Pupils, Inclusive Nature of School , Quality of teaching.

What Key Attributes do you think children should have when they leave primary school?

Be confident, articulate & caring individuals , Co-operation, problem solving & resilience, Achieve the expected standards in English and Maths.

Do you think we need to give greater emphasis to any particular subjects?

Science , PE , and Art & Design.

Does your child particularly enjoy any subjects at school?

Maths and PE, closely followed by Science, Art and Design, Computing and Reading. Then came Writing & History.

Does your child particularly dislike any subjects at school?

Writing had a split vote between most and least favourite subject (a little like Marmite!) Maths was chosen by a few as least favourite. All other subjects only received two or less votes.

Do you feel that we have the correct number of trips and visitors linked to learning themes & topics?

Yes 11/20 No 9/20

We will be taking all of the responses and using them to review the academic year and set our priorities for 2023-2024.

Below, you will find some of the further comments that were left by parents and carers.

Wonderfully Inclusive!

More visitors, especially authors, as they can be inspiring. Or artists!

I think it would be good to see a wider range of clubs and sports teams for the younger junior pupils.

More Year Group Trips would be great!

The school and the team are doing a wonderful job. I couldn't have asked for a better school thank you for all you do!



SOLENT INFANT SCHOOL



Our Half Term has ended with a busy, final day: we have had our Governors' Shield Awards and an Outdoor Learning Day on the theme of Water. As always, the children have been enthusiastic and successful in their learning; they have embraced the challenge of working collaboratively with others in a different context to the classroom. I hope you have plenty of opportunities to get outdoors, this Half Term break, and to enjoy this wonderful, summery weather.

Mrs Curthoys—Head of School SIS



Miss Morris, Mrs Curthoys and Mrs Wilby are so proud of the Infant School Student Councillors. They attended a Governors meeting and were asked questions. They asked the Governors questions too such as, 'how much money does our school have?' The Councillors answered questions thoughtfully and listened very carefully. The Governors were very impressed with you – well done!





Early Years!

Year R have thoroughly enjoyed our topic 'Get up and Grow' this half term, where we have focused on many different life cycles - focusing mainly on the life cycle of a butterfly. We have carefully looked after our very own caterpillars and have observed closely how they have changed. We were so excited when they turned into cocoons and were even more excited this week because they are now beautiful butterflies! Have a wonderful, relaxing half term break!

Year 1

This week, Year 1 have continued to tell the story of the 'Three Billy Goats Gruff'. The children have worked hard to write using adjectives and connective words. In Maths, the children has learnt about direction and position. Learning their left and right was particularly tricky, but they got there in the end! They might like to practise this over the half-term break. In other subjects, the children made islands to show physical and human features and how specific things are regarded as special.





SOLENT JUNIOR SCHOOL

As I said last week, where has this half term gone to! It may have been a short half term but we have packed in so much learning. Last week it was lovely to welcome our new to Year 3 families into school for the Open Evening. Everyone looked very excited and eager to find out more about the juniors. I now have a new challenge...to try and remember the names of everyone I have met! There are lots more transition events coming up very soon, including buddy visits, which I know the Year 5 children are very excited about! I can not wait to meet you all and to welcome you all in to the Solent Junior Community. Now all that leaves me to do, is to wish you all a wonderful half term. Make sure you all enjoy the beautiful weather. Well done for all of our hard work this time. Rest, relax and come back refreshed!

Mrs Peterkin-Aldred-Head of School SJS

Year 4

This week, Year 4 have been busy publishing and performing their Persuasive Letters. This was no easy task! Year 4 had to plan, draft and publish a letter to STOP deforestation. However, while it was easy to identify ways in which deforestation was bad for the environment, Year 4 also had to consider their balanced argument and why we, the world, still require trees to be cut down. Their outcomes were ASTONISHING and many of our fabulous year group were asked to share their letters with Mrs Wilby and Mrs Peterkin-Aldred! Year 4, well done! We are so so proud of you all!



Year 5

Year 5 have been out and about using their Scientific skills of enquiry to look at forces. We took outside the ramps with different materials to test which material had the most friction. In each group they tested how quickly a toy car would go down the ramp. The longer it took, the more friction the material was exerting! We then recorded these results and came to conclusions based upon these. We have more exciting Science on the way, keep your eyes peeled year 5!

Year 6

Over this last week, Year 6 have embarked upon their RSE development unit of learning - finding out all about the human life cycle, from conception through to pregnancy and birth. This has given the children a chance to not only, increase their knowledge and understanding of these life processes but also to clarify any misunderstandings!

In addition, the children have also discussed the range of relationships found in life as well as the dangers of social media and how to be more aware of body image. We also encouraged pupils to bring in baby photos to see if we could identify the babies in a 'who's who' line-up!

A Yacht Fit For a King!

Whole School Home Learning Task: We would like to thank every pupil and family member who took the time to design and create a Yacht for our new King, King Charles. During assembly on Wednesday, Mrs Colarusso showcased a number of the entries in person and also within a Mega Movie. During this assembly, all pupils, from every year group took turns to have a closer look at each design. Then, it came to the vote. We had two up for grabs, the first **Pupils Choice** and the Second was the **Judges Choice**. We are very lucky to have a resident Yacht expert at Solent, Isla-Rose (4C), who has spent so much time with her incredible Grandfather– a very skilled and experienced Yacht designer. Isla-Rose enlisted the help of Mia (4C) to select the two overall winners for the Judges Choice. Those winners were:

Judges Choice Awards: James P from 6P and Isla Sh from 4C!

Pupils Choice Awards: Hagen from 5P!

A massive congratulations to our runners up, Antoine 3AG, Isabel G from 4C, Jessica from 5C and Bethany from 3NS!

We are so proud of you all! Thank you so much again for taking part!





SOLENT JUNIOR SCHOOL

Solent Sporting Stars!

On Tuesday 23rd May, 10 excited year 6 hockey players arrived at Admiral Lord Nelson school determined to show off their skills and teamwork. They did not disappoint! The children were split into two teams of 5 and played a total of 5 matches. All members of the team contributed to the impressive performance that was witnessed by a very proud Miss Smith and many Solent parents who had come to support. Having not lost a single match, our purple team were crowned champions, with our orange team, 'The Tangerines' earning 2nd place, making it a top 2 for Solent! There was only one goal between first place and second place (scored in the match they played against each other) with our teams beating all the other teams. Well done to all those involved.





THE SOLENT SCHOOLS

Keeping Solent Safe!

Every wondered why you might be given a red lanyard when you visit the Solent Schools and others have Blue or Green? This is because we have colour coded lanyards at the Solent Schools. Each represents how 'safe' an adult in school is. Ask your children and see if they can tell you what each of our lanyards mean. Below you will find the colour key! Only those with safeguarding clearance can be unaccompanied whilst on site.



Blue badges are worn by all staff at the Solent Schools. All adults have full safeguarding checks in place.

Green are worn by volunteers who have full safeguarding clearance from school.



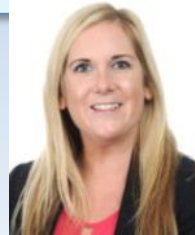
Red badges are worn by visitors for whom we do not have full safeguarding clearance. They must be accompanied by a staff member at all times whilst on site.

Black are worn by Governors, who also have full safeguarding clearance.

Worried About a Child?

Each of our schools has a designated safeguarding lead (DSL). These are the people that you should contact if you ever have a concern regarding a child's safety. You can contact them by phoning the school office or emailing safeguarding@thesolentschools.org. If you consider a matter to be urgent, please always phone as our emails can have up to a 48 working hour turnaround. At Solent Infant School this is Mrs Wilby & Mrs Curthoys. The Deputy DSL is Mrs McQuilken. At Solent Junior School this is Mrs Wilby and Mrs Peterkin-Aldred. The Deputy DSL is Mrs McQuilken.

If you have an 'out of hours' concern, you can always contact Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Partnership to report this by visiting their website www.portsmouthscp.org.uk or by calling 0845 671 0271 or 02392 688793.



Solent Infant School (left to right)

Mrs Wilby, Mrs Curthoys, Mrs Mc Quilken

Solent Junior School (left to right)

Mrs Wilby (far left), Mrs Peterkin-Aldred,
Mrs Young

Solent Schools Safeguarding

Governor Kath Murriman



SOLENT JUNIOR SCHOOL

Trip to Fort Nelson

Some of our Armed Forces children were selected to visit Fort Nelson, along with five other Portsmouth schools, on Wednesday 24th May. Whilst at the Fort, they had to imagine the sea level had risen and they were on an island called Fort Nelsonia! Using the exhibits for inspiration, they created a mythical creature using their artistic skills to make ancient maps, eyes and a clay footprint. The children were fantastic representatives for Solent Junior School and said it was "The best day ever!" Working alongside Pompey Military Kids, has enabled us to take our children to many events including a Remembrance Service, PIT Passing out parade and Christmas at The Dockyard. We are looking forward to taking part in many more events in the next academic year.



Congratulations to Mrs Collier (SJS Admin Team) for walking 26.2 miles around London last weekend to raise money for a Breast Cancer Charity. Mrs Collier completed the walk with her daughter Caitlin and her friend Evie (both ex-Solent pupils). We are so very proud and hope that your feet are not too sore!





THE SOLENT SCHOOLS

Year 6 are Making Money Grow!

Year 6 are very excited to be taking part in Virgin Money's Make £5 Grow, a fun education programme for budding entrepreneurs. It'll spark their creativity and develop key life skills – like problem-solving, managing money and teamwork. Our amazing FSS have very kindly agreed to loan the school £5 for every child taking part and they can use this with their classmates to set up their own mini-businesses. Our Year 6 teams have to come up with a bright idea, make a plan, use their £5 to develop their product or service, and sell them for a profit. They'll get advice along the way from their teachers. Then it's game on to see how much we can raise! Best of all, the school keeps the profits after the original loan is paid back, which we can use to make the Year 6's last week extra-special!

In the last week, the pupils will be selling their products and services for all pupils and parents to be involved in. So, watch this space for more details!





THE SOLENT SCHOOLS

Year 5 Environmental Dance

Year 5 have really enjoyed dancing outside for our new topic 'Environmental dance'. They have learnt about different types of environmental dance and used this knowledge to choreograph their own dance motif. They then developed these motifs using choreographic devices such as dynamics, space, weight and rhythm. You really can dance anywhere and about anything!

Mrs Brook PE lead



DANCE LIVE! MAY HALF TERM PROJECT

Are you 7-11 years old? Spend three days at Portsmouth Guildhall learning about:

- Digital Content Creation
- Photography
- Lighting Design
- Clay Animation
- Green Screen



The Guildhall Portsmouth are offering an amazing half term event for pupils to expand their digital and creative skills. The dates are Tuesday 30th May, Wednesday 31st May and Thursday 1st June, running from 10am – 4pm each day. For more information and to book, please use the link.

<https://dancelive.co.uk/holiday-activities/>

Mrs Brook

PE and Dance Live lead. Solent Junior School.



THE SOLENT SCHOOLS

We are delighted to have a guest speaker at our next Parent Hub on 26/6 - Katherine Mahoney from the Multi-Agency Behaviour Support Service (MABS). Katherine will be explaining the PACE approach to behaviour which is embedded at both Solent Schools. PACE is suitable for all children as it is based on trusting relationships and we would love to share this with as many of our parents as possible. All the details are on the flyer below. Please contact the school office if you would like to attend either via phone asking for Mrs McQuilken (SIS), or Mrs Young (SJS), or alternatively email FAO Mrs McQuilken or Mrs Young.



SOLENT INFANT SCHOOL AND SOLENT JUNIOR SCHOOL

NEURODIVERSITY PARENT HUB

Monday 26th of June 2023

9.00am - 11.00am

**Solent Junior School,
Solent Rd, Drayton, Portsmouth PO6
1HJ**



**COME ALONG AND FIND OUT HOW
THE PACE APPROACH CAN BE USED
TO SUPPORT CHILDREN AND YOUNG
PEOPLE AT SCHOOL AND AT HOME.**



Enquiries

ndcoordinator@hiveportsmouth.org.uk



THE SOLENT SCHOOLS

Love Where You Live!

Dates for the Diary!

Summer 2 2023

Mon 5th June	2-3pm Curriculum Fayre at SIS and SJS
Tues 6th June	Uniform Drop and Shop
Thurs 8th June	Year 5 & 6 Tennis Festival
Fri 9th June	SIS & SJS Class Photographs
Fri 9th June	2-3pm Curriculum Fayre
Fri 16th June	Inset Day
Mon 19th June	Inset Day
Tues 20th June	SJS Quadkids Athletics Event
Thurs 22nd June	Author David Fuller visiting SJS
Thurs 22nd June	Family Liaison Meeting 5—5.45pm
Fri 23rd June	SIS Whole School Trip
Mon 26th June	Year 2 Scootability
Weds 28th June	Year 2 Fire and Rescue visitors
Fri 30th June	SJS Sports Day at Springfield (Whole School)
Mon 3rd July	Open Work Share (SIS 3.30- 5pm SJS 3.15—5pm)
Tues 4th July	Uniform Drop and Shop
Tues 4th July	School Nurse visit at SJS
Wb Mon 10th July	SIS Sports & Healthy Living Week
Wb Mon 10th July	Progress Reports emailed home
Tues 11th July	Year 6 Performance to Parents and Carers
Thurs 13th July	Pop in and Meet the New Teacher (SIS 3.30—4pm SJS 8.20— 8.30am)
Fri 14th July	Non school uniform day
Mon 17 July	Year 3 Egyptian Dress Up Day
Wb Mon 17 July	Year 5 Bikeability
Mon 17 July	Optional Summer Parent/Carer Appointments
Tues 18th July	Year 3 Egyptian Exhibition Drop in / Work share
Tues 18th July	Uniform Drop and Shop

Friday 21st July Break Up Summer Holidays!

Mon 4th Sept Inset Day

On Friday 14th July, the Friends of the Solent Schools will be holding their Grand Summer Fayre. This year the fayre will be themed

'Love Where you Live!'

It is already set to be a fun filled event with a grand raffle, tombola, hook a duck, cake sale and much, much more!

This event can only take place with a team of dedicated volunteers behind it and so now they are asking for your help. If you think you would be able to help out on the day, please email fss@thesolentschools.org
The FSS team will be back in contact!

FSS Dates

23rd June	Movies Under the Stars.
14th July	Summer Fair!
20th July	Year 2 & Year 6 leavers events

25th September
FSS AGM (all welcome)

The committee are already busy planning their events for 2023-2024!