



THE SOLENT SCHOOLS

Autumn Newsletter 2020 Issue 1



Welcome back to our Solent Schools community! It has been wonderful to finally welcome all of our pupils back into school. We have been so very impressed with just how well they have settled back into school life and the positivity with which they have approached the changes to their learning experiences. We have taken the decision to continue our weekly newsletter for the time being. The intention behind this is to keep you as up to date as possible with any changes and developments at school. With our day to day communication now limited due to Covid, it is also a great way of sharing and celebrating whole school experiences as they happen.

Mrs L Wilby, Executive Headteacher

Drop off and Collection

Until we returned to school this week, it was impossible to tell exactly how we could effectively coordinate the safe drop off and collection of 630 plus pupils across the two sites. We worked hard to ensure that the staggered times were as short as possible and supported our families in maintaining as much 'normality' as possible. We anticipated that this would require adjustment once we returned and have used our observations and your feedback this week to develop this further. We really are learning alongside you and very much appreciate your kind support and patience! Our priority continues to be the health of our pupils, families and staff. Below are a few further reminders that we ask you to read ready for our first full week at school.



Your Timing is Crucial!

We understand that it is challenging to adjust to new timings, especially if you have more than one child to drop off and collect from school. To keep us all safe, it is very important to stick as closely as possible to your allocated 10 minute time slot. If you are more than 5 minutes early, we ask that you do not enter the school site. Instead, please wait a safe distance away from the school entrance. If you are less than 5 minutes early, please enter site, but wait in your child's class pod.

At the beginning of the day, your child must wait with you in the pod and only enter their class / year group door within their 10 minute slot. At the infant school, there is no teacher in the classroom until the beginning of the time slot. At the junior school, the classroom door will not be opened until this time, so it is very important that you do not leave your child early.

At the end of the day your child will be sent to you as you arrive. They will not be sent outside of your collection time, so again it is important that you stick to this, so that we do not have too many adults on site at any one time.

Equally, if you are late please do not forget to notify the office as per normal routine. Any time later than your allocated 10 minute slot is considered a late arrival.





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Book Collection

Next week is our allocated 'book amnesty'. Please bring all outstanding reading and library books back into school. As you enter the school site you will find collection stations (flip lid containers) labelled with each year group. Please leave all books in these containers before Friday 11th September. They will then be going straight into quarantine so that we are able to use them in class.

Mini Office Drop

If you have anything that you need to pass to the school office including medication and resources, please don't forget that we have established a mini 'office drop' for your convenience. Please speak to the member of staff on the entrance upon your arrival and they will deal with your request accordingly.

'Cashless' Schools

Our aim this term is to keep both Solent Schools 'Cashless'. As such, if you are wanting to pay for anything from school, including school lunches, please ensure that you use your SIMS PAY account. If you are new to Year 3, please continue to use your existing account as this should have transferred over from the infant school. If you do not have an account then please contact the school office for a set up code.

PE lessons

Please make sure that as from Monday your child is sent into school wearing their PE kit on the following days:

Year R	Thursday (from 17.09.20)
Year 1	Tuesday
Year 2	Wednesday
Year 3	Monday
Year 4	Tuesday
Year 5	Thursday
Year 6	Wednesday

Please do not forget that PE lessons will be held outside wherever possible and that your child should be wearing their trainers rather than plimsolls. Warm weather kit will also be required as the days get colder (Blue or Black tracksuit bottoms, as detailed in the summer term correspondence).

Earrings should not be worn to school on PE days. If they are newly pierced then you should send your child in with surgical tape covering them. We only allow small stud earrings in school at any time and sleepers or dangly earrings are not permitted for health and safety reasons.

Please do not forget that we are currently unable to store bikes or scooters on either school site. We will let you know when this provision is reinstated.

FAQ link to jot



As the ever evolving pandemic continues, we are very aware that you may have important queries with regards to school and the associated provision. You can almost always guarantee that if you have a question, someone else is also wondering about the same thing! We also know that an unanswered question can sometimes morph into a worry. As such, we have decided to open a 'Covid & Solent Q&A' facility. Each week, we will repeat the link to access a jot form, through which you will be able to ask any Covid and Solent related questions you might have. We will then either reply to you directly, or publish the question with the answer in this newsletter, if it could be of interest to the wider school community. To pose your question now please [click here](#).

Inset Days—All pupils are expected to return back to school on Thursday 3rd September 2020! 2020-2021 inset days are;

Monday 9th November 2020

Friday 22nd January 2021

Thursday 1st April 2021

Friday 18th & Monday 21st June 2021