



THE SOLENT SCHOOLS

Autumn Newsletter 2020 Issue 2



This week has been magical in school. It is very hard to describe the warm and positive atmosphere that is felt throughout. We are particularly lucky to have now also welcomed the very youngest of our pupils into our Early Years classrooms. It is so lovely to once again hear the buzz and excitement as they take the very first steps on their educational journey. Experience tells us that it is so important to treasure these moments as the time really does fly. They will be in year 6 in the blink of an eye!

Mrs L Wilby, Executive Headteacher

Drop Off and Collection

A few more tweaks this week and we continue to make the systems as streamlined as possible for all involved. Thank you once again for your patience and kind understanding. We have received some great questions from our FAQ section of the newsletter. You will find some of our responses on page 2 along with the link to use if you too have questions that you would like answering. Please be aware that in the event of rain we are unable to invite the pupils into school early as this would raise the infection risk and mix bubbles. It will be vital on these days that you stick to your allocated drop off and collection time to avoid being stood in the rain for too long!



Curriculum Overview

All parents and carers (not Year R) will be receiving an additional progress report at the end of the first half of the Autumn term. This will include a teacher based assessment of your child's effort and attainment at that point in both English and Maths.

Please watch out for your child's curriculum overview and knowledge organiser appearing on their 'Microsoft Class Teams' page on Friday 18th September. These provide a really useful insight into your child's learning this term and will support you in discussing this with them. All pupils should now be accessing their Class Team to complete their home learning (excluding Reception). This week at Solent Junior School we are also looking for nominations from Year 6 parents and carers who believe their child has engaged really well in the challenges that they have been set for home learning. If you would like to nominate your child please email a photograph or copy of their learning to 'yourpics@thesolentschools.org'. We will choose one lucky winner from each class to be celebrated in virtual whole school assembly on Friday 18th September. Other year groups will get a chance to share their learning throughout the term.

What Parents and Carers Need to Know!

At the beginning of the school year the Department for Education published some helpful advice and guidance for parents and carers. It has the catchy title 'What parents and carers need to know about early year providers, schools and colleges in the autumn term'. We have signposted a few families to this information and felt it would be useful to share more widely. Please [click here](#) to access this via the GOV.UK website.





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PE Kits!

The allocated PE days listed on the newsletter last week are all correct. Your child may also have a class PE session on an additional day. If this is the case, you will be notified via email and also on Teams. This is not applicable to all classes as many are having additional physical activity sessions built in to the timetable rather than discrete class PE sessions.

Emergency School Contact

We have set up an emergency school text service that can be used over the weekend and during school holidays. **This service must only be used if your child or a member of your immediate household tests positive for Covid-19.** You will receive a short acknowledgement message back and senior leaders at both schools will be alerted. This service will enable us to take swift action. The number to text is

07933 997641

You must leave a short message with the words 'Covid Positive test for' then the name of the person who has tested positive, your child's name and class. If your child tests positive we will request a copy of the test result at this point.

Covid FAQ

Last week we launched a facility which enables parents and carers to ask any questions they might have relating to Covid and The Solent Schools. This article is repeated below as this facility will remain open for as long as it is supportive. We received some great questions, one of which helpfully prompted the 'Emergency Phone' idea detailed above. Below you will find just three of those questions we felt would be of interest to the whole school community. All others were answered personally.

Question— If there are siblings and their time slots are 20 minutes apart (one at SIS and one at SJS), could we not aim to arrive more than 5 minutes before the allocated time slot for their collection, perhaps up to 10 minutes.

Answer— Having observed pick up and collection, we realised that some of our pods were not big enough to allow parents and carers to socially distance and have increased the size of the pods for 6 out of 7 of our year groups. As such, we will trial allowing those with siblings to wait on site for up to 10 minutes. If this does not work and the site becomes too congested, we will notify you and resume our request to arrive up to five minutes early. Please remember if it rains we have no facility to offer early entry for any pupil.

Question— What work will my child be set if they are absent from school?

Answer— If your child is having to self isolate due to Covid-19, you will be emailed a pack containing details of a special set of isolation tasks. If they are absent for any other reason, they will not receive this pack and normal rules will apply.

Question— How will I be notified if my child's class has to self isolate due to a case of Covid-19?

Answer— You will be sent a text, an email and also a message via your child's 'Class Microsoft Team'.

FAQ



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](#).