



THE SOLENT SCHOOLS

Autumn Newsletter 2020 Issue 4

As September slowly draws to a close, we have been busy reflecting back upon our value of the month 'Responsibility'. We have all taken on new responsibilities this term, adapting to change as it happens. How apt then that the value for the month for October is 'friendship'. As new and lasting friendships blossom across our schools, our pupils and staff have cited their friends and colleagues as their main pillar of support, particularly at times when they may have felt worried. How lovely to grow and learn in such a friendly and caring environment.

Mrs L Wilby, Executive Headteacher

Our Harvest festival collection will take place between Monday 28th and Wednesday 30th September. Please bring non perishable items to our collection points. Our SIS collection point is the new wooden gazebo and the SJS collection point is the box on the main driveway. All donations will go straight to The Portsmouth Foodbank.

School Meals!

Please watch out for an important menu change letter coming home today. We are trialing hot meals at the infant school for one day only (October 1st) and encouraging as many pupils as possible to order a meal on that day. This will secure important funding for our school! This will also support us in evaluating whether or not we are able to bring back hot meals for our youngest pupils.

Please don't forget that all infant aged pupils should be ordering their school meals online at home. This needs to be done by the Saturday lunchtime in order to secure the order for the following week. Junior school pupils should continue to order their lunches in the classroom on the day!

Please make sure that you have read the letter from Public Health England sent home to all parents and carers earlier on this week. If you have not yet read this, please [click here](#) to access it via the school website.

To Mask or Not to Mask?

Last week we asked you to take part in a parent and carer survey regarding the wearing of face masks when dropping off and collecting from the school sites. The votes have been counted and the results are in:

Question—Do you think that parents and carers should be asked to wear a face mask when on the school site?

SIS – 108 answered No and 48 answered yes

SJS – 91 answered No and 65 answered yes

For now, we will not be changing our protocol with regards to face masks. However, we have decided that we will be reviewing this weekly, in light of any further scientific evidence and any new advice from Public Health England. We have also decided to run the same poll with pupils at school. We will let you know the outcome in next weeks newsletter.

We are very aware that there is one area at SJS (Year 3 exit) that we have highlighted as an area of concern. This is due to the ongoing building works and lack of exit points. We are considering making this area a 'Mask Wearing Zone' and will update you if this should become the case.

Now we are all back in full school uniform, please make sure that you have checked the website for the correct list. Now that the weather has turned a little cooler, pupils should all be bringing in a warm coat and jumper/cardigan daily. Pupils should not be bringing any bags into school at all. They only need a water bottle, fruit bag/box and packed lunch (if required). PE T Shirts must be the correct colour, preferably with a school logo (no brands please). Jewelry should not be worn on PE days.



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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

Below you will find a selection of this weeks questions that we felt would be of interest to the whole school community. All others were answered personally.

Question— At the moment, whilst drop off and collection is trying to be done as swiftly as possible, what is the best way to have a short discussion with your child's teacher if an issue has arisen? Previously we would have waited around until the other children had been collected but this seems inappropriate at the moment.

Answer— As we are asking all parents and carers to leave site as quickly as possible, the best way to contact your child's class teacher is either to phone the main school phone line (leaving a message with the admin team) and the teacher will call back, or alternatively email through the 'contact us' facility on the school website. We kindly ask that parents and carers do not use teachers personal school email addresses.

Question—With year 6 Maths and English classes being split into 4 groups, will social distancing be observed by the children? If one child becomes ill, and with all classes mixing will the whole year group be required to get tested?

Answer— The same social distancing measures are in operation in all classrooms within a specific year group. This does vary dependent on the age and stage of each of the year groups. Our bubble organisation dictates that pupils should remain in 'class bubbles' where possible, but to extend to the wider year group bubble where necessary. If a pupil receives a Covid Positive test result, then the school immediately phones the special dedicated advice service introduced by Public Health England. This gives us access to a dedicated team of NHS Business Services Authority advisors who work through a risk assessment with the school to identify close contacts and inform us what action is needed based on the latest public health advice. This really does support the school in making key decisions that are well informed and based upon the most up to date advice.

Question—If my child's bubble has to self isolate, what provision will be made for them to ensure their learning is not disrupted.

Answer—In the case of a whole class bubble needing to self-isolate, the class teacher and learning support assistant will produce daily learning activities via Microsoft Teams. This requires exactly the same login details that you and your child have been using to access their home learning. The weekly use of Microsoft Teams for home learning is intended to raise their confidence so that they feel happy using this for any further remote learning activity.

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](#).