



# THE SOLENT SCHOOLS

## Autumn Newsletter 2020 Issue 6

With just one week left until the half term break, school is getting really busy! It is quite amazing what can be achieved whilst still restricted to bubbles. I have no doubt that the children will very much enjoy sharing with you all that they have achieved this term in the additional progress reports that you will receive next week.

Mrs L Wilby, Executive Headteacher

### To Mask or Not To Mask?

At the end of September, we launched a 48 hour 'parent poll' to ask for a response to the question 'Should parents and carers wear face masks when dropping off and collecting from site?'. The overwhelming response at that time was 'no'. Given the current Covid escalation rate, we have decided to revisit this poll. [Please click here to tell us what you think!](#) **This poll will close at 6pm on Sunday 18th October.** We will notify you of the outcome and any changes to protocol over the coming weeks.

Please note, that from Monday 19th October all staff on the school gates and doors will be wearing visors. Please continue to respect a social distance from these staff. All messages must be shared via email or phone, directly with the school office. The dropping off of medication is an exception to this rule.

We are also implementing a 'mask zone' for SJS parents and carers who are using the arched exit (Year 3, 4C and 4A). This is a pinch point that we are concerned about.

The building work is well underway at Solent Junior School. With concrete poured and steels arriving next week the target completion date in January 2021 is looking increasingly likely. We cannot wait to share with you our brand new accessible entrance and associated meeting rooms.

### Be Prepared!

On Friday 23rd October, your child (Years 1-6) will be sent out of school with a large collection of their completed school exercise books from last academic year. We would advise that these are placed in quarantine until ready to share and enjoy together! Please could we ask that you bring along a carrier bag to transport these home in. These should not be sent into school with your child unless they are walking home unaccompanied.

### Solent Teams—Home Learning

As mentioned in the newsletter last week, we go live with the 'Assignments' home learning tab on Teams from Monday 19th October. You will now find a parent and carer guide to support you in accessing these assignments on the school website. You will find this by selecting the 'information' tab and then 'presentations'. Or by [clicking here](#).

### Important Communication

Please watch out for an important letter being emailed home today. It contains important information regarding Autumn 1 progress reports (Years 1-6) and parent and carer appointments (All pupils). The live booking is open from 5pm this evening. The link can be found in the letter.



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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.

## Solent Junior School Help to 'Bridge the Gap'

Solent Junior School was able to support Bridge the Gap Charity by donating some excess sports equipment.

"The charity is dedicated to help deprived children in Burundi through sports and education, empowering them with knowledge and skills." Warren (picture right), founder of the charity, came to school to collect the equipment. It will be on its way to Burundi in the next couple of weeks!



HIVE charity in Portsmouth has set up a school uniform exchange. They are currently running this virtually. Parents and carers can email [uniform@hiveportsmouth.org.uk](mailto:uniform@hiveportsmouth.org.uk) and they arrange for the uniform to be made up so it can be collected from central library. Please see their website for further details by visiting: [hiveportsmouth.org.uk/news/pop-uniform-sharestore](http://hiveportsmouth.org.uk/news/pop-uniform-sharestore)

## Farewell!

Solent Junior School said a fond farewell to one of our well respected Learning Support Assistants today. Ms Moorhead from 5SW is off to pastures new to explore the joys of school office life! Although we will be sad to see her go, we all wish her the very best.

## Covid FAQ



Thank you for all of your questions this week. Please find the answers below!

### Question—Can children transport glasses between home and school?

**Answer** We would encourage you to have two pairs, one for school and one for home, but if this isn't possible then pupils can transport them between home and school.

### Question—When will doors and windows be closed?

**Answer** We are following the latest government guidelines and keeping all of our rooms at school well ventilated. This does involve keeping all windows constantly on 'vent'. We have also now turned the heating onto a low constant continuing to ventilate to circulate fresh air. This has warmed the classrooms up!

### Question—In the case of a positive case of Covid, will the self-isolation apply to only 'close contacts' or will the whole bubble have to self-isolate?

**Answer**—In the event of a positive case, the school ring a Public Health England specialist advice line. During this call the advisor collates details about the setting and advises the school accordingly. The school will follow the exact advice given with respect to who to self isolate. The parents and carers of those pupils will be contacted immediately.

### Question—What size are the bubbles and do they play together at playtime?

**Answer**—We host class sized bubbles across the two schools wherever possible, with the exception of Year 6, who are in a year group bubble. Class bubbles play with only their class bubble during playtimes in dedicated zones outside.