



# THE SOLENT SCHOOLS

## Autumn Newsletter 2020 Issue 8

Welcome back to school, after what I hope was an enjoyable half term break. It really is quite remarkable to witness just how well our team of pupils and staff are supporting one another in coping with the huge amount of change we have been faced with this year. Just this week, we have once again had to review our risk assessments, in light of the latest guidance on social distancing and face coverings in the work place. In assemblies this week we have focused upon the positive aspects of change and the fact that, just like the Autumn leaves falling around us, change is inevitable. Change doesn't have to be scary and will often make way for something fresh, new, and exciting. We have focused upon those things that we are grateful for at the moment. The things that make us feel warm and positive inside.

Mrs L Wilby, Executive Headteacher

### To Mask or Not To Mask?

Thank you to all of our Solent friends and families for coming on board with us and supporting us by wearing face coverings on the school site. Following changes in guidance this week, our staff will now also be wearing face coverings around the school building. They will not be wearing face coverings in their class bubbles, unless they specifically choose to do so.

**If your child or a member of your immediate household tests positive for Covid-19 over the weekend text 07933 997641 straight away.** This service will enable us to take swift action. 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.

### A Polite Plea!

Please remember that your child must stay with you at all times whilst on the school site. If you are early to drop off in the morning, or collect in the afternoon, then you must not allow your child to play or run around the playground. We are all working very hard to keep our classes and year groups in discrete bubbles and would ask that you respect our request to also play your part in keeping our pupils safe and infection free.

### Solent Teams—Home Learning

As mentioned in the newsletter at the beginning of October, we have now gone live with the 'Assignments' home learning tab on Teams. Please make sure that you check that your child is accessing and completing their home learning regularly. This is vital if they are to recover from their time away from school this year and continue to make good progress. Home Learning plays a very important part in the recovery curriculum that is being created for your child. You will 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 information regarding home reading books across The Solent Schools.



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## Autumn Parent & Carer Appointments

The Solent teaching team are very much looking forward to meeting with all parents and carers for our Autumn term round of appointments from Monday 9th November onwards. We are all very excited, as this will be the first time that these meetings are held virtually, using Microsoft Teams. We ask that you are patient with us, as we are all learning together and there may be some glitches along the way! Below you will find a new protocol. We hope that you enjoy hearing about everything that your child has achieved so far this academic year and getting to know the class teachers a little better along the way.



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### Parent and Carer Protocol – Microsoft Teams Appointments

You will soon be taking part in your first virtual parent and carer appointment. To help these meetings run smoothly, we have put together the following protocol. This clearly outlines what you can expect from our teachers, as well as what we ask of you when joining the meeting. Please make sure that you have read this protocol in advance of joining your meeting.

#### What you can expect from our teaching staff

- You will always be invited to your meeting on time. Your meeting will finish promptly so that other parents and carers are not kept waiting.
- The teacher will have their camera and microphone turned on during the meeting.
- They will be dressed as if in school and will display a bank blurred background screen.
- There will be no background noise during the meeting.
- They will never be in a room at home where they or you can be overheard – your discussion will remain confidential to those present and on screen in the meeting.
- You will not be recorded unless you are specifically asked for a purpose agreed by both parties.

#### What we expect from you

- Please be ready and waiting 5 minutes before your meeting start time and be ready when the teacher invites you into the meeting.
- Make sure you are seated in a safe and appropriate place and that you have chosen a background screen or blank wall as a backdrop.
- Make sure you are in a quiet place where you won't be disturbed and there is no background noise.
- Please dress appropriately as you would if you were attending school appointments.
- You must never record or take pictures or screenshots of any meeting either using Teams itself or any other recording device (including phones). It is against the law!
- Please keep your microphone and camera on throughout the duration of the meeting.
- Please make sure that you are in a room where you can't be overheard – your discussion must remain confidential to those present and on screen in the meeting.
- For pupils in Years R to 5, we ask politely that pupils are not invited into the meetings. For pupils in Year 6, parents and carers may decide whether or not they would like their child to attend the meeting and take part in the discussion.

*Please note, senior leaders will be 'popping in and out' of meetings throughout the duration of the scheduled appointments for monitoring purposes. If somebody joins you in the meeting, they will introduce themselves and then remain as an observer for the remainder of the meeting unless invited into the discussion by participants.*

This document is also available on the school website via the information tab and school policies.