



THE SOLENT SCHOOLS

Summer Newsletter 2021– Issue 4

We may not have seen much of summer yet, but it looks like we won't have long to wait! As our pupils begin to reflect upon their year, we will also be encouraging them to think about the next phase of their education. Transition plays a very important part in the year at Solent, as we really do understand how important consistency and continuity is for our pupils. Discussions surrounding any questions or concerns they might raise, as well as the things that they are really looking forward to, will form an integral part of another successful transition phase. Our pastoral teams are already looking out for those pupils who may find additional challenge in change, and supporting them in ways that make that this transition as positive and successful as possible.

Mrs Wilby Executive Headteacher

Easing Restrictions Around School

The first week of easing measures has been a real success. The pupils were delighted to be able to meet once again as a year group during their outside playtimes. This was especially nice for our Reception children, who have never been able to play as a full cohort! The timing has been wonderful as we begin to think about class groups for next academic year. It has always been lovely to be able to mix 3 classes of pupils at certain points, enabling really strong friendship bonds to develop across a wider range of pupils. In some cases at the junior school, given the current site restrictions, rejoining year groups had meant shorter playtimes. We are very aware of this and are tweaking timetables to ensure that pupils get to spend as much time in the fresh air as possible! It will not be long before we are able to consider further integration beyond the classroom. Another fantastic piece of news, that we have received over the weekend, is that we are now also able to sing in class groups! We are all really looking forward to the uplifting sound of song filling our corridors once again!

As restrictions ease, some of our after school clubs are beginning to reopen. These are those that are run by external providers, who hire out our premises from which to run their clubs. As they do reopen, they will be added to the website under the 'School Life—After School Provision' tab.

Site Development

As you pass Solent Junior School, it is hard to miss the scaffolding that wraps around almost the entire building! This is due to the fact that the majority of the roof (parts of which are over 100 years old) is being replaced. This work is being funded by a successful Condition Improvement bid and is due to be finished later on this summer. In addition to this work, plans are well under way to convert the old office space and a vacant corridor space into four brand new intervention and pastoral care spaces. The refurbishment will also include offices with work stations for our teaching and learning staff. We are very excited about this next step and look forward to sharing the development with you once it is completed over the summer holidays!



SOLENT INFANT SCHOOL

This week, we celebrated National Numeracy Day and talked about how important it is to understand and use numbers in our everyday lives. The children in all year groups participated in number challenges and used their reasoning skills and mathematical language to explain their understanding. We were very impressed by their enthusiasm and resilience as they worked out some tricky problems! Despite the changeable weather, we have been trying to make the most of the outdoor learning spaces wherever possible. Year R have been using resources in the outdoors to explore symmetry, placing natural objects on butterfly wings to produce patterns. They battled against the elements to stop the patterns from flying away but they were proud of the results!

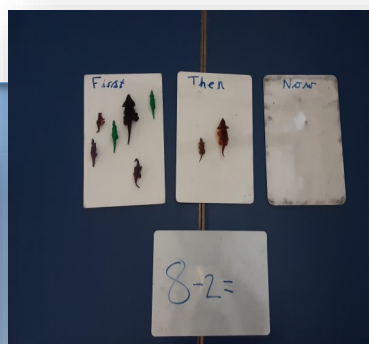
Mrs Curthoys-Head of School SIS

Early Years!

The children in Year R had lots of fun marking National Numeracy Day. They enjoyed creating and solving their own mathematical problems. We have been super impressed with their problem solving skills and use of mathematical language. In Reception, we have also continued to keep a close eye on our growing caterpillars. We don't think it will be long until they make their way into their cocoons.

Year 1

This week, Year 1 have enjoyed learning about the artist Georgia O'Keeffe, in Art, following on from their exploration of Van Gogh's Sunflower paintings. They have learned about deciduous and evergreen trees in Science and used the Outdoors to inspire some thinking using the "Philosophy for Children" approach. There was lots of practice of making arrays in Maths and they are getting really good at counting in 2s, 5s and 10s.



Year 2

Year 2 enjoyed taking part in National Numeracy Day. The children used their fantastic mathematical knowledge to write down all that they knew about the number 30. They also had a wonderful discussion about their favourite numbers and related them to special dates. In Science, the children have been using hydroponics to grow beans. They have been fascinated by this process and loved watching the beans grow.





SOLENT JUNIOR SCHOOL

Year 3

After a week of planning and preparation, this week, Year 3 have created their own fully functional sundials. The children have all had the opportunity to use a junior hack saw, to cut down four pieces of wood, to create a squared shaped, wooden frame. Finally, they got creative and designed their dial plate. These will be coming home with the children before half term.

This week we have been carefully considering our value of the month respect! Through our assemblies, we have been reflecting upon what respect means, how to show it to others and how we should be shown respect by others. As our Monday assemblies are Eco themed, we have focused on respect for the environment and ensuring that our actions do not affect the World around us. Next week in Monday's assembly, we will have a special virtual guest joining us to share some top tips of how we can be more Eco Friendly!

Mrs Peterkin-Aldred-Head of School SJS

Year 4

GOLDEN CHILDREN! This week was our turn to celebrate some of our pupils Amazing achievements! Massive congratulations to Henry (4C), Isabella (4C), James (4C), Abbey (4P), Thomas (4P), Florence (4P), Amelia (4G), Arijana (4G) and Leo (4G) on receiving your Golden Child award on Thursday! We are so proud of you all! Keep up the Amazing work. You are such incredible role models!



Golden Assembly
Year 4
20th May 2021

Year 6

Deadly Elements Day! Year 6's new Geography Topic, Nature's Fury, got off to an 'earth shattering' start last week. The children worked in small groups to complete 'ground-breaking' research on one of the five deadly elements - Earth, Wind, Fire and Water. Each group focused their research on a specific natural disaster and had the time to become experts on either Tornadoes, Tsunamis, Forest Fires or Earthquakes depending on their Deadly Element. The rest of the class then got the chance to review their research and learn from each other - it was a 'landslide' success.





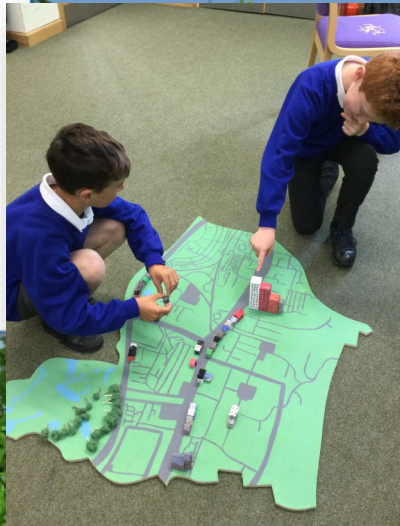
SOLENT JUNIOR SCHOOL

As the weather continues to warm up, please don't forget to send your child into school with a named water bottle. Please make sure that these are refreshed daily and have a sports cap on.

We are aware that there is currently a building development on the corner of Solent Road and Farlington Avenue. Our Chair of the Governor's Resources committee, John Wademan, has been in liaison with the building company with regards to the implications of having a building project close to school. They are very aware of the limitations and are working closely with the school to make sure we are all safe. If you have any concerns, please do let us know.

Year 5

This week we are proud to bring you news of our incredible 3D map of Drayton that some of our Year 5's have been working on! This has been orchestrated by the very talented Miss Tod, who has ensured that the area shows as many of the features as possible. This jigsaw piece is designed to be part of a bigger area of Portsmouth that other schools will contribute to and will be part of the 'Our Place' Project run by the Portsmouth Festival.



Calling all Junior School Experts!

Do you have a child who you think would like to join Mrs Wilby live one Friday morning socially distanced in the junior school assembly studio? She is looking for 'experts' in any area to join her for a short question round as part of the Friday morning assembly. Anything goes! They just need to be able to give a little bit of information about what they are experts in (could be a hobby or something they enjoy doing in their spare time, or even a special interest, or collection they keep). If so, then please email in via the 'contact us' email on the junior school website. Please just share their name, class and what they are an expert in. This morning, we had the pleasure of listening to Kayden, from year 5, talk about his YouTube channel and streaming.

Competition Time!

All Solent Junior School pupils have been invited to take part in an exciting art competition being run by the Hilsea Lido 'Pool for the People' and 'The Final Straw'. The lucky winners will not only get to paint their mural, but their artwork will be there for the public to enjoy for years to come! Find out further details on how to enter on your class Teams page. Closing date for entries is 7th June 2021.



THE SOLENT SCHOOLS

Diary Dates & Reminders

Summer Term

Tuesday 25th May 4-5pm—New to Year 3 Live Online Meeting
Wednesday 26th May 4-5pm—New to Year R Live Online Meeting

May Half Term

Monday 31st May—Friday 4th June
Monday 7th June - Friday 11th June Solent Schools Arts Week
Friday 18th June—New to Year R and 3 Open Afternoon
Friday 25th June—Class Photographs
Week Beginning 5th July—End of Year Reports Home
Thursday 8th July—SJS Disability Awareness Workshops
Last Day of the Summer Term—Friday 23rd July

First Day of the Autumn Term—Monday 6th September 2021

Inset Days

Friday 18th June
Monday 21st June

Thursday 2nd September
Friday 3rd September

Is your child starting Solent Infant School Reception year or Solent Junior School Year 3 in September? If so, don't forget that there are two very important events coming up very soon. Please see details in the boxes below.

Please don't forget that all new Year R and Year 3 parents and carers are invited to a live online new parent and carer meeting next week!

The **new to Year R** meeting will be held on Wednesday 26th May at 4pm. This meeting will be led by Emma Curthoys (Head of School).

The **new to Year 3** meeting will be held on Tuesday 25th May at 4pm. This meeting will be led by Laura Peterkin-Aldred (Head of School).

Both meetings can be accessed via the 'new entrants' tab on the respective school website.

Don't Forget!

All new Year R and Year 3 parents and carers are invited to attend the school open afternoon on Friday 18th June, between 1-5pm.

All places must be booked in advance. If you haven't booked your place already, please click here to access the booking form. Please note, some of the time slots are now fully booked.

Year 3 parents and carers, if for any reason you are unable to attend on Friday 18th June, please email the junior school office and leave your message for the attention of Mrs Peterkin-Aldred.