



THE SOLENT SCHOOLS

Summer Newsletter 2021– Issue 8

Tension is rising and the excitement is growing as we work towards our 'Solent Danceathon 2021' event 'Dancing through the 80s'. Today, the pupils voted in a live poll to decide which of the eight 80s song choices was their favourite. There was a clear winner across both schools, 'I'm Still Standing' by Elton John. It does seem rather appropriate this year! However, this could all change as everybody in the Solent community has been emailed out a letter this evening inviting them to vote too. This will give families, staff and governors the opportunity to have their say. I wonder if Elton will still be standing in first place after the weekend!

Mrs Wilby Executive Headteacher

New Class Updates–Transition

Following on from the very successful open events for our new year R and 3 pupils we are now running a number of other transition activities to support our pupils across the Solent Schools. Our Year 2 pupils have been submitting questions to their Year 5 buddies to answer using live Teams sessions between the Year 2 and Year 5 classes. If restrictions ease, there will also be an opportunity for our new Year 3 pupils (current Year 2 pupils) to meet their new Year 6 (current Year 5) buddies. All of our teachers have now engaged in transition talks, enabling current class teachers to share information about all of their pupils with their new class teachers. There will also be 'This is Me' introduction pieces from both teachers and LSAs for their new classes. These will support pupils in getting to know their new class adults a little better and will be going live in brand new class teams pages on Friday 16th July. Videos from the class teachers for their new pupils will also be going live on Friday 16th July. Pupils have been engaging in a range of further activities within school to support them with the transition to new classes including circle times, small group work with our ELSAs to discuss changes and how they make us feel and spending a little time outdoors in the orchard with their new class peers. They then played games and introduced themselves to one another. Year 2 have even made a book for their new class teacher as a surprise for the junior teachers! Our Year 6 pupils have been taking part in 'No Fears' activities to prepare them for their move to senior school and Springfield staff have been into the junior school to talk to the Year 6 pupils, answering any questions that they may have.



Mrs Witt has had the most amazing time seeing all our lovely junior school Armed Forces children this week. She thinks they have been surprised to see how many other children, just in their year group, are all part of the Armed Forces community. They shared their own experiences and had some fun too!

Solent Superstar!

A Sumdog Maths Competition was held last week for pupils across the city. 484 children took part and over 75000 questions were answered correctly. The pupils had to try and be as accurate as possible in answering up to 1000 questions covering key stage 2 objectives. Abby C in 6P was the overall winner for the whole of Portsmouth, scoring an amazing 981/1000 correctly! Great job Abby! We are all very proud.



SOLENT INFANT SCHOOL

Our Pastoral Team has been extremely busy this half term providing valuable support for many of our children and their families. The priority this term has been in response to the increased need for 1:1 support and group work linked to Transition, Anxiety, Social Skills and sadly, Bereavement. These groups are planned to respond to the needs of the children and this past year has been a difficult time for them. They have a new vocabulary that includes words such as “self-isolating”, “lockdown” and “Covid”. If you have concerns about how your child might be coping at this time, please do contact the Family Support Team via the Support tab on our school website. We are here to help you!

Mrs Curthoys—Head of School SIS

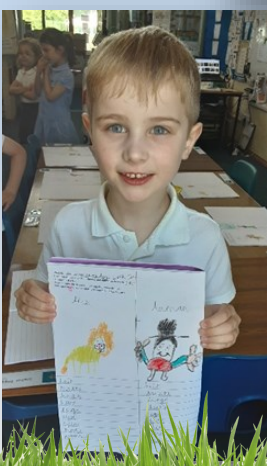
Early Years!

In Year R this week we have been enjoying the next step of our writing process. We wrote the beginning, middle and end of the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears. We are now super excited to be writing our own dinosaur twist of this traditional tale. We are creating our own story mountains of what our exciting twisted tales will look like. Next week, we will be writing our ‘Big Write’ of Goldilocks and the Three Dinosaurs. We are already so excited to share our tales with our friends.



Year 1

The Year 1 children have thought hard this week with our science learning. We are reading, ‘Message in a Bottle’ and we compared the lion to a human. We used our skills from the spring term to help us with our learning. We also enjoyed finding out about Victorian seaside holidays and had great fun exploring the Victorian suitcase.



Year 2

Year 2 have had another fantastic week of learning. This week, they have been writing their own alternative versions of the story, ‘The Three Little Wolves and the Big, Bag Pig’. Mrs Lempriere and the Year 2 team are incredibly proud of their fantastic work. Their writing stamina has been amazing and you can tell how much they have enjoyed using their imagination to create some wonderful stories. Last half term, Mrs Ray took the beans home that the children had planted. She has clearly looked after them well. Take a look at how they’ve grown!





SOLENT JUNIOR SCHOOL

This week we have continued our love of reading with the whole school taking part in a live event with Micheal Rosen on Friday afternoon. He spoke to the children about his writing style, techniques and where he gets his inspiration from. Micheal Rosen was one of my favorite authors as a child. He is such a character and I am sure he will have inspired some of our children, which fits beautifully with our value of the month, aspiration.



Mrs Peterkin-Aldred-Head of School SJS

Year 3

This week, Year 3 have been learning how to make Ancient Egyptian Cartouche's out of clay. The children sketched their designs and learnt how to write their name in hieroglyphics. Then, they each made their design out of clay and carved their name into it. Once they are set, the next stage is painting! We look forward to showing off the end results as part of our Virtual Egyptian Exhibition!



Year 4

Year 4 Fishy Fun!

This week, a number of our of incredible Year 4 pupils were invited to visit the Hilsea Lido! These children were not selected at random but were Competition WINNERS!! Seven pupils from 4C, Fourteen pupils from 4G and Six pupils from 4G attended the Lido on Thursday morning. During their visit, they were able to paint their very own wining fish design on to the Lido wall for all to see! We are so proud!





SOLENT JUNIOR SCHOOL

Year 5

This term, Year 5 have been exploring forces and many of them have relished the opportunity to get hands on with some STEM activities. We have put parachutes, levers and gears to the test, as Year 5 get to discover how simple things such as air resistance, friction and gravity all affect the movement of objects in the world around. Using simple everyday objects, we discovered how to replicate some of these designs in our classrooms!



Miss Tod and a Year 5 team of pupils and adults have been working very hard alongside the artisan, Jen Evison, to produce a 3D piece of a jigsaw puzzle as part of the 'Portsmouth - Our Place' project. This project is part of Ports Fest 2021. Their work will be on display at Portsmouth Cathedral for most of July with Ports Fest being used to launch the project. Each piece will have a QR code that visitors can scan to get extra information. Everybody is welcome to visit!

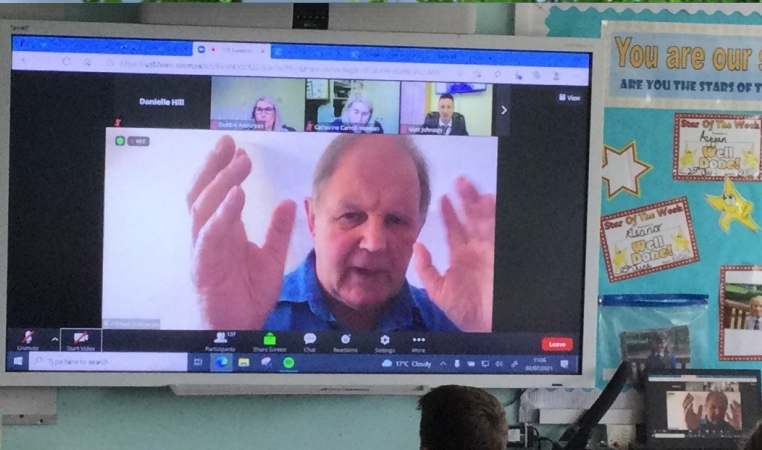
We are all very proud of you Miss Tod and Year 5.

Year 6

The Boy Giant - Exclusive Year 6 Event for Portsmouth Only Schools!

Today, our Year 6 children had the amazing opportunity to take part in an exclusive event, open just for Year 6 children in schools across Portsmouth. The wonderful and much-loved children's author Michael Morpurgo took the time to meet, LIVE, with us to talk about his new book *The Boy Giant* and how this links with Portsmouth's status as a City of Sanctuary. It was a fantastic opportunity to talk to another famous author and to get inspiration and inside information from them.

In conjunction with this, a large sand sculpture of the Boy Giant will also be on loan to Portsmouth Central Library over the summer for public viewing. This will be a fantastic way to encourage everyone to visit the library and also get involved in the Summer Reading Challenge, when it is safe to do so. Take a look at the link below to watch the making of the sculpture by Sculpture Studios <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EvL14YJfRI4>





THE SOLENT SCHOOLS

Diary Dates & Reminders

Friday 2nd July—Year 6 Exclusive Michael Morpurgo Remote Event

Week Beginning 5th July—End of Year Reports Home

Thursday 8th July—SJS Disability Awareness Workshops

Thursday 15th July—Year 3 Egyptian Exhibition

Thursday 22nd July—Danceathon and Summer Raffle

Last Day of the Summer Term—Friday 23rd July

Thursday 2nd & Friday 3rd September—INSET Days

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

Inset Days

Thursday 2nd September

Friday 3rd September

Friday 17th June 2022

Monday 20th June 2022

(1 further date to be announced)

Danceathon 2021!

You will have received an email today with all the details about the very exciting FSS 'Danceathon 21 - Back to the 80s', which is taking place on Thursday 22nd July, along with a link to the online vote. The song choices were announced at both schools today, and a poll started for the winning song. The vote is live now and open until 9pm on Sunday - we will add the online votes to the poll from today and reveal the chosen 80s track next week!

Your child will also have come home with a sponsorship form today, please can we ask that these are returned to school by Friday 23rd July at the latest, and that you tick the gift aid box (if applicable) so we can raise even more! The completed forms can be brought into school by your child and given to their class teacher, we would prefer sponsorship monies to be paid via bank transfer (the account details are on the sponsorship form), but we will also accept cash/cheque monies too - as long as these are in a sealed envelope, marked with your child's name, and returned with the completed sponsorship form.

On Thursday 22nd July, we are asking that all children (& adults) come to school dressed in their finest 80s attire, ready for the recording of the final performance - we can't wait to see all of the fabulous outfits!

Once the practise video is on the Danceathon page of the website, we would love to see all of your fantastic photos and videos - so please send these to us using the link on the Danceathon page. The more of the family involved in the practising the better! We can't wait for 80s day at Solent!



Don't forget to like our Solent Infant School and Solent Junior School Facebook pages to keep up with all of the news as it happens! Or if you prefer Instagram, we have a brand new Solent Schools shared Instagram account too. If you have a spare moment over the weekend search 'The Solent Schools Portsmouth' and click follow! We will be regularly updating this page too from now on.

