



THE SOLENT SCHOOLS

Autumn Newsletter 2021 – Issue 1

A very warm welcome to all those of you who are new to the Solent Schools community this year. We are very glad that you have chosen to come and join us here at Solent for your learning adventure. Welcome back to all those of you who are returning after what I hope has been a restful and relaxing summer break. We have had a fantastic first week back in school. Our corridors and classrooms have been echoing with the buzz of positivity and excitement.

Mrs Wilby Executive Headteacher

We Value Our Wonderful School Community!

The first week back in school is notoriously spent working alongside our pupils to re-establish and remind ourselves of our school values and behavior expectations. It is these values that underpin the Solent ethos, resulting in an environment which is highly conducive to effective teaching and learning. We know what a wonderful contribution our families make to this process and therefore have provided a quick reminder of our school values here. We will be working alongside our pupils during assemblies and class time to explore the meaning of each throughout the year and then apply them in the context of school. Many of our school rewards are focused upon those pupils who are demonstrating these values in and around the school environment. Hopefully you will see some of this rubbing off at home too!



Some of our new Year 3 pupils enjoying their PE lesson

Respect

Perseverance

Aspiration

Friendship

Teamwork

Responsibility

The Solent Schools Governing Body

Solent Schools have a strong vision for the future and the Governing Body is a key part of this. We are a team of volunteers who work both behind the scenes and in school to help the schools develop and grow. Providing an incredible learning experience for children is at the heart of everything we do and there is now an opportunity for you to be part of this.

We currently have a vacancy on our team and are hoping you, or someone you know, would be interested in joining us. Our full board meets twice a term as do the committees and new governors are welcomed, trained and fully supported so they feel comfortable and confident with their role. We have a wide range of skills among our current team and are ideally looking for someone with a knowledge of primary education however we would urge anyone interested to get in touch if they would like to find out more. If you would like to find out more and arrange an informal chat please do get in contact with the current chair of Governors Tessa Webber by emailing Twebber@TheSolentSchools.org.

Mrs Tessa Webber Chair of TSS Governing Body



Tessa Webber
Chair of Governors



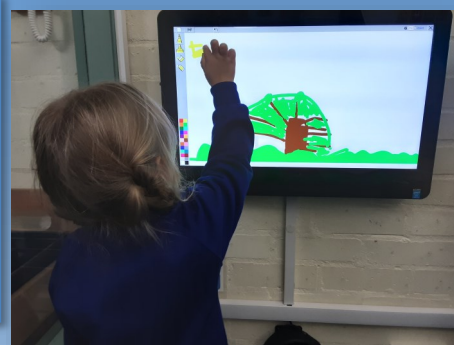
SOLENT INFANT SCHOOL

We have had a fantastic first week, welcoming back our children into Years 1 and 2 and also welcoming our new starters in Year R. It was wonderful to see so many happy faces and to hear excited voices up and down the corridors. Year 2 have launched into their Ahoy There theme by looking at the sea treasures that were collected over the summer holidays and have written descriptive poems about the sea. Year 1 are enjoying their Superhero Me theme and have created their own Super Veg. If you are lucky, they may transform your vegetables at home into Superheroes too! Year R are learning where everything is in the classroom, who the adults are and they are making lots of new friends. We are really looking forward to all of the wonderful learning this term.

Mrs Curthoys-Head of School SIS

Early Years!

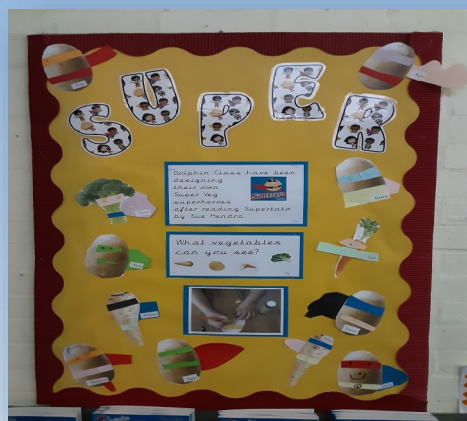
Welcome to Solent Infant School! We have been so impressed with how quickly the children have settled during their first few days in school. These two days have seen them taking part in circle time activities and making new friends. They have had lots of fun using paints for hand printing, practising their cutting skills and measuring themselves. They have been able to explore in their new classrooms and had lots of fun on the playground at playtimes.



Year 1

Year 1 have had a fantastic first week back! They have settled into the new routines well and are enjoying their new learning.

We introduced our theme of Super Hero Me. We have read the book 'Supertato' by Sue Hendra and had fun designing our own superhero vegetables!



Year 2

The Year 2 children have made a fabulous start to the Autumn term. The teachers are very pleased with how well they have settled back into school. We have begun our new learning theme, 'Ahoy There!' This week we have been very busy. We had fun writing our holiday news, used our new beach area to inspire our writing, drew line drawings of shells and lots, lots more!





SOLENT JUNIOR SCHOOL

I can not believe it is the end of the first week already! Time really does fly by when you are having fun. It has been wonderful seeing all of the pupils return to school and I have loved listening to what they have been up to over the summer holidays. They all look so smart in their uniform, eager to learn and they have certainly all risen to the occasion. Feedback from all of the staff says the children have settled well into their new year groups, classes and routines. I am excited to see what each and every one of them achieves in the coming year!

Mrs Peterkin-Aldred-Head of School SJS

Year 3

What a super start our Solent Junior School family have had! Our Year 3s have already embraced Junior School life and have settled beautifully into 3C, 3H and 3AG. Isabelle from 3C said, *"I am happy and excited about being at the juniors!"* What an amazing positive attitude to have! This week, the children took part in lots of fun transition activities and even built their very own time capsule. These will be sent home with them at the end of the school year. How exciting! We are so proud of them already. Year 3, you are all super stars!



Year 4

Welcome back Year 4! The Year 4 teachers all feel especially lucky to have been reunited back with their wonderful classes this week. We have had a super week getting back into the swing of things. The children seem to have come back incredibly ready for all the challenges of Year 4, after leaving their Year 3 hats behind in July. The children are all working hard on improving their presentation and handwriting, and are keen to earn their pen licenses. We have been reflecting on the past year and setting new goals and targets for the year ahead.



Year 5

Year 5 have had great fun getting to know each other in their new classes whilst developing their teamworking skills. The pupils became very skilled at being able to manoeuvre their bodies through a hoop and get it all the way around their circle without breaking their chain of linked hands! All the staff have commented on how well the children have settled in and how kind, friendly and supportive of one another they are. They've worked their socks off this week and are certainly in need of a rest this weekend. Keep up the good work year 5!



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Year 6

It has been truly heart-warming to see and feel the buzz emanating from our year 6 children this week. Even though many things have stayed the same, they are full of excitement for all the new things that they have discovered and can see. It is delightful to see them take on the role of being our oldest school community members and, in doing so, recognising that they are the ones who will set the example for our younger pupils. Welcome back year 6!



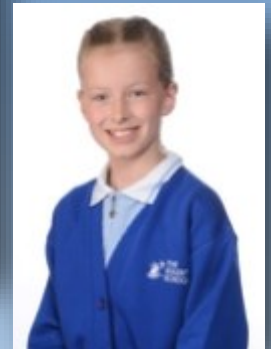
Head Pupils

Last year, Solent Junior School decided to no longer have Head Girl and Head Boy and to switch to two Head Pupils each year. The Head Pupils are pupils who are nominated and voted into post by the whole Solent Junior School staff each Summer term. They are pupils who have simply shone since they began at the school by demonstrating the school values in all that they do. This year our head pupils are Amy and Daisy. Congratulations to you both!

We cannot wait to see you representing our school. We know that you will do a fantastic job ably supported by our senior pupils.



Head Pupil Amy



Head Pupil Daisy

Solent Junior School

You will have seen that the roof project is progressing well and making the school look much better. There is still more scaffolding to be erected before completion in December 2021 when all scaffolding will be removed and we will embark on improving the look of the front of the school. At this time we will also review the current entry and exit measures in place and will hopefully be able to welcome upper school parents onto site before and after school. Thank you for your understanding and patience during this time.

Solent Infant School Reminder

Please remember when arriving and picking up from Solent Infant School to only use the car park entrance if you have a pushchair/buggy or wheelchair. All others please enter and exit the site via the tunnel gates which can be found under the school along Eveleigh Road.

Year 3 Parents & Carers

When paying online for your child's school meals, please remember to select your child's new Solent Junior School class and not their old Solent Infant class.



THE SOLENT SCHOOLS

Fantastic Friends of the Solent Schools!

The Solent Schools would like to say a huge thank you to everybody who has been involved in supporting the Friends of the Solent Schools (FSS). For those of you new to the Solent Schools, the FSS are our equivalent of a school 'PTA'. A group of volunteers (mostly parents and carers) who kindly give up their precious time to raise much needed funds for our schools. The money raised is used to provide those 'fluffy extras' that are not paid for through our main funding streams. Examples of the type of resources that they have funded in the past few years include outdoor learning equipment, extra books, playground equipment and exciting objects to fill our wet play box with!

In July 2021 the FSS organised a truly fantastic 80s Danceathon day. This event alone raised a staggering **£2450.80!** This figure will increase yet further once the 'Gift Aid' is added.

The Fantastic FSS raised a grand total of £3700 for our schools in 2020-2021, even with Covid restrictions in place!

The Grand Summer Raffle raised a total of **£515**, again this is without 'Gift Aid' added yet!

Could you spare a few precious hours to help the FSS? The FSS will soon be recruiting a new committee at their AGM. We will be sharing further details in the newsletter next Friday.



Don't forget to like or follow our Solent Infant School and Solent Junior School Facebook pages to keep up with all of the news as it happens! Our Instagram is a shared page, just search for 'The Solent Schools Portsmouth' and hit follow!