



THE SOLENT SCHOOLS

Autumn Newsletter 2021 – Issue 2

This week we have really been settling down into our new learning routines and becoming increasingly used to the expectations within our new year group settings. Whether our youngest pupils in Year R, coming into the classroom for the first time, or our super Year 6 pupils, embarking upon their final year in primary education. We have been equally impressed with them all. What an successful year we have ahead of us!

Mrs Wilby Executive Headteacher



Our Learning Environment

Our staff team have been working very hard to create the ultimate learning environment for both our pupil and adult learners. During the Summer and Autumn terms, we have been thinking about the best physical use of our building and grounds, as well as the social and emotional environment that we thrive in as learners.

One of the elements that makes a significant difference to this is the built environment. Since converting to academy status, we have submitted bids into the Condition Improvement Fund (CIF), an annual bidding round for eligible academies to apply for capital funding. We have been successful in a number of bids, including the new office build at Solent Junior School and also the replacement roof. We are delighted that we have now been successful in a further bid involving both Solent Infant School and Solent Junior School. This project will involve replacing some of the perimeter fencing on both sites and also having controlled gates on car park entrances. We have absolutely no doubt that this will add yet further to the safety features already in place at the schools.



#HelloYellow – A Little Goes a Long Way

Last year, the Solent Schools ran a very successful #HelloYellow day to raise much needed funds for the charity 'Young Minds'. With a sharp focus upon mental health, we have decided to once again support this charity, by inviting all of our pupils to come into school dressed in yellow, or as bright clothing as possible on Friday October 8th. We will be joining thousands of schools, offices and communities to show young people they're not alone with their mental health! The key message is that we all struggle with how we're feeling sometimes and it's normal to have ups and downs. Saying #HelloYellow this World Mental Health Day is a little thing we can do to make a BIG difference to young people's mental health. Because a little yellow goes a long way!





SOLENT INFANT SCHOOL

We have so much to celebrate! Our focused schools' value for September is Responsibility and the children have shown us that they understand how they need to behave in the different areas of the school and also with the different adults. Our visiting PE and Music teachers have commented on the super enthusiasm and listening behaviours of the children. So we are starting the new school year feeling proud and positive! Year R are becoming more familiar with the class routines and have produced some amazing self-portraits; Year 1 have worked hard to release the Evil Peas from their ice chambers and Year 2 have been creating detailed descriptions of the mysterious Mer-people. It has been a busy and exciting start to the term!

Mrs Curthoys - Head of School SIS

Early Years!

The children have continued to settle well into the school routines and have now completed two full weeks in school. Well done Reception! Last week we were exploring the classroom environment and practising our communication, literacy and maths skills. We have also created our first self-portrait! We looked in the mirror and talked about what we look like and our features. The children carefully used their painting skills to create their self-portrait.



Year 1

Year 1 have had a wonderful few weeks! Last week, they took part in Music and P.E. We were even able to take them into the hall for the first time! In class, they have continued sharing the story 'Supertato' and have taken part in exciting activities around this. By now you have probably heard about Evil Pea and the children cheekily freeing him from his ice cube! Take a look at this fantastic description and drawing of Supertato. The whole Year 1 team are incredibly proud of all of the children.



Year 2

The Year 2 children have continued their fantastic start to the Autumn Term. Last week, we began to explore our learning theme 'Ahoy There!' by reading 'The Mermaid Atlas'. We have enjoyed discovering different stories of merfolk across the world and reading about the myths and legends surrounding them. This has inspired the children to create their own mermaid or merman!





SOLENT JUNIOR SCHOOL

Last week, there was a huge focus on responsibility, which is our school value for September. Year 6 Senior Pupils were announced, as well as the wellbeing reps and the teach peace students. Each of the classes has nominated their Student Councilor reps and their Eco Warriors. These were announced and celebrated in assembly last Monday. Meetings will be set up each half term, either online or in person, and will focus on gaining the children's ideas and views on how the school can be developed and improved in different areas. I am looking forward to their meetings as I can never quite predict what is going to be requested!

Mrs Peterkin-Aldred-Head of School SJS

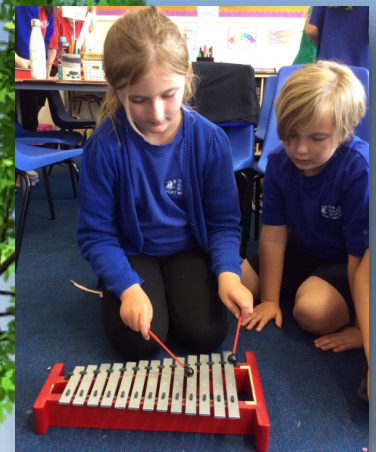


Year 3

Last week, Year 3 pupils worked incredibly hard and began to settle in beautifully in to their new school routines! One subject the children have explored is ANIMALS! Our NEW Science topic. Not only are the children learning about the differences between Omnivores, Herbivores and Carnivores, but they are really challenging and extending their Science knowledge during their English and Guided Reading lessons. Last week, we focused on Big Cats and really understanding the differences between fiction and non-fiction books!

Year 4

Last week, Year 4 were introduced to a new percussion instrument, Glockenspiels, in their music lessons. The children listened to the different sounds that each key makes and learnt how to hold their 'beater sticks' correctly and safely use the instruments. The children also learnt how to play a melodic ostinato (repeating pattern) using the tune of London's Burning. They learnt the key vocabulary of 'jump' and 'step' to indicate higher and lower tones.



Year 5

Following on from this summer's Olympic games, during their P.E sessions, year 5 pupils have been inspired by British athletes such as Tom Daley and Matt Whitlock. They have watched video clips of these talented professional athletes and identified some of the gymnastic shapes which were incorporated in their routines. They then tried to emulate some of the more basic shapes in their own sequences. Pupils worked hard to point their toes and show good body tension and arm, leg extensions.



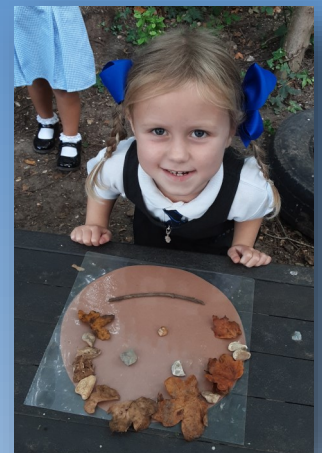
SOLENT INFANT SCHOOL

This week, we have been practising our “noticing” skills. We have noticed how the outdoor environment is changing as we head deeper into Autumn, we have noticed that when we smile and are polite, we get smiles and politeness back, and we have noticed that objects can be connected by their similarities and by their differences. This is something that we have been exploring in circle time during P4C sessions. P4C means Philosophy for Children and the activities help us to improve our thinking and reasoning skills. We practise asking lots of **Why** and **How** questions when we look at pictures, objects and also when we are reading. Thinking about the changing seasons can give us lots of **Why** and **How** questions. Have a go!

Mrs Curthoys—Head of School SIS

Early Years!

In Reception this week, we have spent lots of time exploring the outdoor learning environment. We have been looking for signs of Autumn and collecting different natural materials. We loved listening to the sounds of the crunchy leaves and looking at all of the amazing Autumnal colours. Then we used these to create natural face collages, building on the skills that we learnt last week when painting our portraits. Well done for another fantastic week!



Year 1

Year 1 have also had another fantastic week. The children have been exploring colour mixing using the primary colours. They have created some brilliant artwork by painting their own superhero selves and adding their faces! This week, year 1 have also been learning about the 4 seasons. They have been looking carefully for clues in the environment that tell them the current season. We hope that they enjoy their home learning linked to this! We can't wait to see their photos and use them in their learning next week.



Year 2

In our English learning this week, the Year 2 children have created their own page for a class ‘Mermaid Atlas’. They have thought carefully about their merperson’s appearance, where they live and their special power. The children have used some fantastic adjectives in their writing to make it interesting and engaging for the reader. In Art, they have enjoyed experimenting with different materials to create fantastic collages of their merpeople!





SOLENT JUNIOR SCHOOL

Following on from the school values, each month we focus on a Fundamental British Value. During September we are looking at “Rule of Law”! In assembly on Tuesday, we were discussing how rules and laws are made. The pupils carefully considered rules for inside and outside of school. We also focused on current affairs with the government’s reshuffle. Each of the classes were asked the question ‘If they were the Minister for Justice and Education, what new rules would they set and why?’ We are eagerly awaiting their feedback as we have no doubt the children will be very perceptive in their answers!

Mrs Peterkin-Aldred-Head of School SJS



Year 3

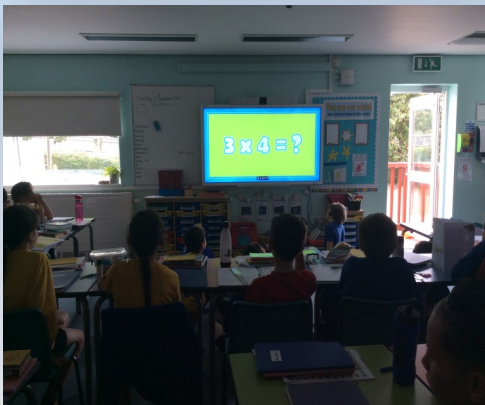
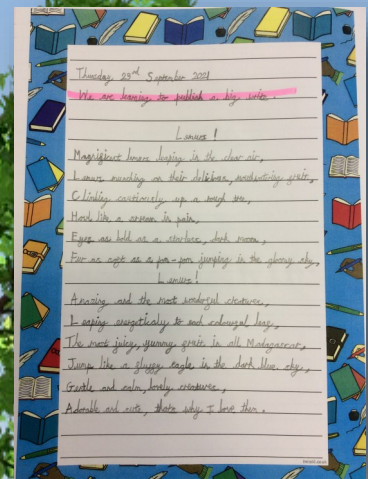
Over the last two weeks the Year 3 children have been exploring poetry and looking for exciting things to write their own poems about. We have been building our vocabulary so that we are using the best words to keep our audience entertained as well as learning about the different types of poems we can write.

The children have worked really hard and have come up with some super poems of their own. Our next step is to get them edited and polished ready for publishing—you’re all poets and didn’t know it Y3!

Year 4

This week, Year 4 have been exploring All about Animals! As part of our Science learning, the children have produced beautiful flip books bursting full of information, all about the different groups of animals. The children are now experts on mammals, birds, insects, fish, reptiles and amphibians.

In English, they have created some amazing poetry inspired by Harpy Eagles, Mountain Gorillas and Lemurs. The children have used a range of poetic devices, to create incredible imagery, including similes, metaphors and personification!



Year 5

This term the Year 5 pupils have been busy learning their timestables, ready for their weekly timestable tests. This week, the focus was on the 4x tables, and the children have been working hard to recall their multiplication and division facts. One way we have been doing this is by learning a 4x table song, rewritten to the tune of ‘I’m Still Standing by Elton John’. The children have been showing off their fantastic singing skills whilst practising their timestable facts at the same time!



THE SOLENT SCHOOLS

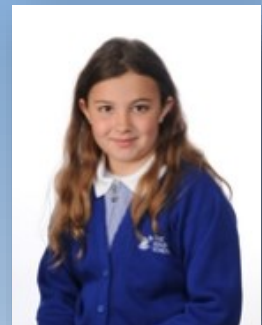
Year 6

Following the return to school and the period of extended lockdown, children have been focusing on maintaining their well-being and mental health. Making the children more aware of managing their own self-needs, as well as promoting the importance of exercise, healthy eating and drinking more water will be a strong focus this year. We shall have the pleasure of announcing our 'Well-Being' officers very soon, who shall be helping to promote the importance of managing mental health and well-being across the year.

'Share a compliment every day'. Ella



'You're powerful alone, but together we are stronger.' Isabelle T



' Most the most of your life- you only have one!' Florence



With the value of the month in school being **RESPONSIBILITY**, Year 6 have really stepped up in becoming excellent role models in school. Each class is filled with enthusiastic pupils taking on a range of roles - whether it be Head and Deputy Head pupils, Senior pupils, Teach Peace pupils, Student Council representatives and Eco-Warriors, to name some of their responsibilities. Many pupils also have extra class monitor roles All of these parts played by our Year 6's are helping them develop their sense of personal responsibility as well as showing the rest of the school how it is done! Well done Year 6 for demonstrating a fantastic sense of responsibility - we are very proud!





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It's Good to Grow!

Solent Infant School and Solent Junior School have both signed up for the Morrison's Growing School initiative. Both schools are currently developing their outdoor spaces and the equipment received via this scheme will make a big difference to the work that is taking place. All you have to do to take part is download the MyMorrisons app to start collecting Grow Tokens and choose one of our schools to donate them to. We will then be able to exchange our Grow Tokens for free gardening equipment to get our pupils growing!



Governor Update

At a meeting of The Solent Schools Governing Body last week, Tessa Webber confirmed her decision to take a well-earned break and step down from her position as Chair of Governors.

I was delighted to be nominated and elected in her place.

Tessa's strong leadership and tireless efforts have been invaluable to our school community. Firstly, as a governor and Chair at the junior school and latterly, and crucially, during the soft federation of our two schools, the transition to Academy status and membership of the De Curci Multi Academy Trust. We are forever indebted to her.

I am equally delighted that Tessa has agreed to be, and been elected as, Vice Chair. She will be giving me the support and guidance that I will undoubtedly need.

At the Solent Schools we have a diverse, extremely talented, and supportive group of governors, brilliant staff throughout both schools in all positions, delightful children, and supportive parents.

I could not be more proud to chair the governing body.

John Wademan—Chair of Governors



New Chair of Governors, John Wademan, enjoying an SIS school trip to BirdWorld



THE SOLENT SCHOOLS

Solent Soccer Superstars!



One of the most exciting developments this term has been the gradual return to sporting competition. With almost two years of disrupted training and games, our sports teams are just beginning to get out and about once again. Despite this challenge, our Solent Junior School girls football team have simply shone this week! On Thursday 23rd September Miss Smith and Mr Washer took the team to play in the Portsmouth Schools Cup. Having reached the final, they then won 2-0 against their opposition. We are incredibly proud of their achievement. The gigantic trophy that they received just goes to represent what super stars they are. We now have this glistening in our trophy cabinet and have this sneaky feeling that it won't be long before it is joined by many more. The staff would also like to extend a big thank you to all of the parents and carers who came along to support the girls. They were such a committed crowd, they even pulled up their camp chairs to enjoy the games in comfort!