



# THE SOLENT SCHOOLS

## Autumn Newsletter 2020 Issue 3

It really does feel like we are all beginning to settle back into the school routine at Solent (adults and children alike!). It is very clear that our pupils are working incredibly hard in an attempt to bridge their learning from home back to school. Their efforts are already really paying off! We have had so much to celebrate this week, with so many proud moments, as our pupils continue to amaze us with the way in which they are adapting. So please continue to join us in feeling so very proud of all that you are doing to care for your children during these uncertain times. You are clearly doing a great job!

Mrs L Wilby, Executive Headteacher

### Curriculum Expectation

Those of you who are more 'seasoned' Solent families will know that each year we run our very popular 'Curriculum Expectation Meetings' for our parents and carers. We know how much you value these meetings and have worked hard to create an alternative format, despite the constraints of not being able to invite you into our classrooms in person. On Monday 21st September, each teacher will upload a presentation onto the year group website page. This presentation will provide you with a range of information focused on your child's specific class. It will also help you to get to know your child's teacher a little better! We know that a popular part of these meetings is the opportunity to ask any questions that you may have. Above each of these presentations, there will be a link, which will put you in contact with the year group and allow you to submit your question. The year group team will collate all of the questions and then produce a 'FAQ' document that will be shared on the year group page once the FAQ deadline has passed. All questions will be presented anonymously. We really hope that these are a useful addition to the information that you have received so far.

With wet weather forecast for next week, a gentle reminder that we are unable to admit any pupils into school early due. Please bear this in mind when planning your arrival times!

Watch out for your child's curriculum overview and knowledge organiser appearing on their class 'Team' page and on the school website today. These will give you and your child a really useful insight into their learning for this term and will support you in your learning discussions with them.

### To Mask or Not to Mask?

We have received enquiries from a number of parents and carers about whether or not we would consider asking all adults who are collecting pupils from site to wear a face mask. Originally, we did not think this would be necessary, due to the fact that we were outdoors and the scope of the sites allow us to social distance effectively. However, since the building work at SJS has begun, it has become apparent that the reduction of access points has left us with congestion around exits at drop off and collection. As such, we have decided to ask you what you think. Your response will inform the decision that we make. Please take a few precious seconds to [click here](#) and register whether or not you would like to see face masks worn by all visitors to site when dropping off and collecting pupils. This poll will close at midnight on Sunday 20th September. Please note, we would not be asking our staff or any of our pupils to wear a mask. The main concerns are at the junior school site where the closure of two exits due to building work has created an issue, but we would be equally interested to hear from infant school parents and carers as to whether or not you feel this would be appropriate at the infant site too.



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## Emergency School Contact

We have set up an emergency school text service that can be used over the weekend and during school holidays. **This service must only be used if your child or a member of your immediate household tests positive for Covid-19.** You will receive a short acknowledgement message back and senior leaders at both schools will be alerted. This service will enable us to take swift action. The number to text is **07933 997641**. 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 at this point.

## Covid FAQ

Below you will find a selection of this weeks questions that we felt would be of interest to the whole school community. All others were answered personally.

**Question— Is it possible to ask those adults collecting pupils to wear face masks?**

**Answer—** You will see from the article on page one that we would like the opportunity to gather opinion relating to this question. We are also asking our staff to contribute towards this and will be back with an answer next week when the results are in!

**Question—Given the provision that has been set up on 'Class Teams' so far, is it now possible to extend this to enable pupils to submit their home learning, so that they are able to share it with their teachers?**

**Answer—** We have been really impressed with the take up and engagement in 'Class Teams' at Solent. Upon launching this resource, we set out a very clear timescale, that is now enabling us to work alongside our staff team to ensure that they are confident with all of the wonderful resources that Teams has to offer. The focus at the beginning of the Autumn term has primarily been on ensuring that all pupils are engaging and accessing home learning via Teams. The next step, later on this term, is to continue to develop the use of Teams to ensure pupils are safe. An important part of this will be developing pupil protocol relating to the safe and appropriate use of two way communication and live streaming—once this has been developed and agreed with staff and pupils, we will be introducing these features (and more) into our ongoing provision.

**Question—Should I send my child into school if they develop a cough which I think is due to a cold or asthma?**

**Answer—**Parents have been advised to only take their children out of education if they are experiencing any of the three main symptoms of coronavirus. As explained on the NHS website, these include:

- a high temperature

- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours

- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Typical symptoms of a cold, such as a runny nose or a sore throat, are not considered symptoms of coronavirus, and as such, children do not need to be kept off school.

## FAQ



As the ever evolving pandemic continues, we are very aware that you may have important queries with regards to school and the associated provision. You can almost always guarantee that if you have a question, someone else is also wondering about the same thing! We also know that an unanswered question can sometimes morph into a worry. As such, we have decided to open a 'Covid & Solent Q&A' facility. Each week, we will repeat the link to access a jot form, through which you will be able to ask any Covid and Solent related questions you might have. We will then either reply to you directly, or publish the question with the answer in this newsletter, if it could be of interest to the wider school community. To pose your question now please [click here](#).