



THE SOLENT SCHOOLS

Autumn Newsletter— 15 October 2021

Last Friday, we had a fantastic day sharing our #HelloYellow message in support of Young Minds. In total, over the last two years, we have raised a phenomenal £1,479 for this wonderful charity. The kindness and care of our school community will go such a long way in supporting young people and their mental health.

Mrs Wilby Executive Headteacher

The value of the month for October is 'Friendship'.



YOUNGMINDS
fighting for young people's mental health

Harvest Celebration

Harvest is a time when our school community come together to reflect upon those things we are thankful for. This year we were asked by the Portsmouth Food Bank to be 'rice pudding and sweet/chocolate treat' champions. We have been overwhelmed with donations which once again reflects the caring school community we are all part of. Thank you very much to all those of you who were able to donate this year. The food has now been safely sent off to the Portsmouth Foodbank to support those who might find themselves in need this winter.



Fantastic Friends of the Solent Schools!

The Friends of the Solent Schools (FSS) are holding their AGM on 2nd Nov at 5pm. This year, the AGM will be a virtual event, due to the restrictions that are still in place in our schools. As kind supporters of our school community, we would like to warmly welcome you to attend. If you have exciting innovative fundraising ideas that you are keen to run, or just want to support your child's school and help raise valuable funds - then this is your opportunity to get involved. If you would like to attend the meeting or submit a nomination for one of the committee posts please use the FSS contact us page on the school website or [click here](#). If you would like any further information please email fss@thesolentschools.org or visit the FSS Facebook page to see some of our past events and activities ! We can promise that you will have lots of fun, and will make a significant difference for all the children at Solent !



SOLENT INFANT SCHOOL

This week, we have continued to be proud of the way that the children have settled into their new classes and year groups. Our Year R children are becoming more confident with every day and they have quickly learnt the daily routines and the names of the different adults who help them. We have been grateful for the recent beautiful weather as it has meant that all of the children have been able to go outside for some of their learning time as well as their playtime. After Half Term, at the Infant School, all of the children will be taking part in an Outdoor Learning Day; we will have time to explore the different outdoor areas of the school. Look out for a letter next week!

Mrs Curthoys-Head of School SIS

Early Years!

The children in Reception have shown some fantastic problem solving and perseverance skills in their outdoor learning this week. We were really impressed with how long the children were engaged in their activities and how they worked together to develop the narratives in their role play. They particularly enjoyed playing with the track and cars and the firefighter costumes. Well done Reception, keep it up.



Year 1

Year 1 have had a wonderful week at school. They have been super mathematicians when using part whole models to explore number facts and enjoyed writing the story of, 'Eliot Midnight Superhero'. In Science, they took an autumnal stroll around the school grounds to choose a tree to observe, throughout the seasons. This is something that they will do again in winter, spring and summer. The children loved being outside, especially as the weather has been so beautiful.

Year 2

This week, Year 2 have been learning about real pirates! We have learnt that a famous pirate called 'Blackbeard', lit fuses in his beard to make him look scary, and that Anne Bonny, a female pirate, was known as 'Toothless Annie'. In Science we helped Pirate Pete mend a hole in his ship. We investigated different materials to see if we could change their shape by using the force of push, pull, stretch or bend. We have worked very hard in Maths this week as we have been learning how to add 2-digit numbers together using the column method!





SOLENT JUNIOR SCHOOL

Following on from "Hello Yellow" last week and fitting in with our value of the month, Friendship, we have been thinking about the impact positive friendships have on our mental health. Each class was asked to write an acrostic poem on friendship, which have been shared in whole school assembly. It astounds me how perceptive the children are! The qualities they felt friendship should focus on were: honest, respectful, accepting of differences, kind, fun, a good sense of humour and many more! The challenge from this week's assembly has been for each class to think of a new game, based on friendship, that they could play in the playground. All of their ideas will be collected together, shared in assembly and then published as a book for them to all use!

Mrs Peterkin-Aldred-Head of School SJS

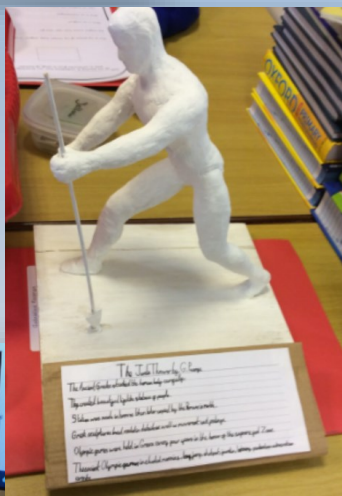
Year 3

This week Year 3 have been delving in to the world of Religious Education and have been learning all about Baptism. In an attempt to reinforce their understanding, the entire Year 3 cohort went on a trip to The Church of Resurrection in Drayton. There, they were met by Rev Gully, who deepened their understanding by demonstrating a full Baptism, using a doll. As a part of our British Values, we all love to learn and develop more of an understanding and tolerance of other faiths and beliefs. This trip supported Year 3 to do just that! Well done Year 3.



Year 4

This week, we have begun our new history topic, all about 'Ancient Greece'. The children wowed us with their amazing learning log artefacts and research, where we could see a huge amount of time and effort that had gone into these. Throughout the week, we have continued our Greek learning journey, learning about chronology, and ordering different historical events on a timeline. In the latter part of the week, we have started to develop our Geographical skills, and explored Greece and Europe on the map, comparing and contrasting Modern day Greece with Ancient Greece.





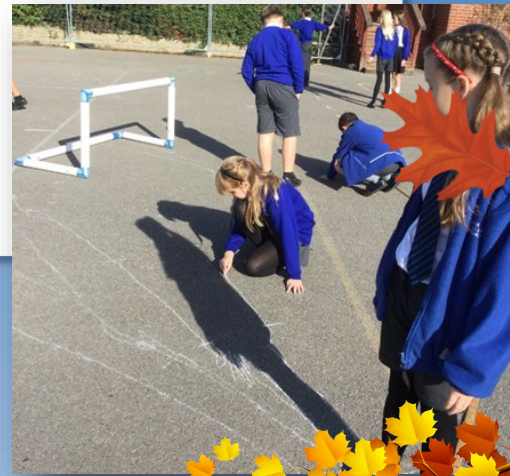
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Year 5

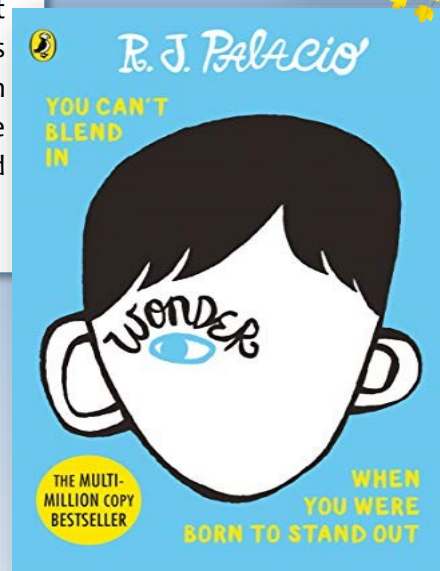
During our Science lessons this week, we were lucky enough to find a sunny day so that we could get outside and investigate how the length and direction of our shadows changes throughout the day. Having discussed how to make our test fair, we went out every hour with chalk and a metre stick and we recorded our results in a table.

In other year 5 news, the children have enjoyed using the acts of kindness octagon spinners which they made last week to help brighten up their classmates' days.



Year 6

Year 6 have spent the last few weeks reading and exploring the beautiful book 'Wonder' by R.J. Palacio. Through the character of Auggie, our children have been exploring the theme of equality, diversity and how it feels to be different. We will be writing a conversational piece that predicts what might happen following an event in the story. The book was itself inspired by a mother's reaction to a child with Treacher Collins Syndrome and the beautiful words of the Natalie Merchant track 'Wonder'. We can't wait to read their final pieces.





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My Governor Week



Monday

06.45 No early start for site visits today, so breakfast (wheat biscuits, semi-skimmed milk, fat free plain yog, 1 tbsp honey, pint of tea-since you ask) while checking for overnight and early school emails-Mrs Wilby is the Dawn Email Queen. Respond to any urgent requests for information, clarification, or approvals. Check which, if any, governor meeting is being held tomorrow. Check agenda items -do I need to attend if it is a sub-committee? My governor colleagues are an exceptionally skilled and competent group and will report succinctly and accurately. No need for me to attend every meeting.

1730. Home from work check school emails from during the day.

Respond to emails as above. Ponder agenda items for next Full Governing Body meeting and read correspondence. Email "chat" with Governors' Clerk, the invaluable Mrs. Loy, who keeps me on the straight and narrow. Perhaps read sub-committee report.

Tuesday meetings day

0530 early start today, I am currently project-managing construction sites in Romford and Hemel Hempstead. Need to be home by 1600 to check emails before meeting.

1630 -FGB meeting tonight at 1700 so half an hour with Exec Head and Heads of Schools before 1700 meeting kick off (learning walk tonight before we sit down in the conference room).

1930 approx. meeting over, chance for brief social rather than school chat with colleagues then home. No emailing after 2000 unless very urgent. Make notes from meeting for follow-up discussion/agenda items.

Wednesday

0645-1700 see above.

1700-perhaps a little light on-line training tonight before tea (not dinner, I'm a Yorkshireman) at 1830 or so.

Thursday

0530 -see Tuesday

1730 -after email check and replies, early tea then Panto rehearsal at 1900 until 2130 followed by a reviving draught or two. Night off from other governing unless urgent.

Friday

Hopefully, a school trip to which I will be invited. This time spent with our staff and our children is the reward for Monday to Thursday.

John Wademan—Chair of Governors

Whilst we appreciate that the weather is quite changeable at the moment. Even if it is a lovely sunny morning, please could we ask that your child still brings a coat/mac to school? If it should rain, they will still go out for some fresh air .

Water bottles– a gentle reminder. Please do not put the water bottle in your child's bag or book bag. If it leaks it can make the reading books and paperwork inside get wet. This could result in a replacement book charge. Thank you for your assistance with this.



Inset Days

Monday 28th February
2022

Additional Bank Holiday
Tuesday 3rd May

Friday 17th June 2022
Monday 20th June 2022

