



THE SOLENT SCHOOLS

Governor Grapevine:

Making Friends is a driving Force

I AM continuing to enjoy my weekly get-together with the Infants' Forces Friends Club. What a lovely group of children – always so happy and ready to join in despite it being at the end of a long day! I hope to build on my links with the service community in school and will be attending the service family meeting after half term should parents wish to meet.

I also had the pleasure of 'interviewing' children in the junior school this half term as part of its development day. This was a survey where the children had to rate various things such as their love of reading or their classroom experience on a scale of 1 to 10. We had lots of fun chatting and the children were honest and thoughtful in their responses. All responses were anonymously fed back to the senior management team to continue to improve children's experiences in school.

Alex Watts

It's all adding up

Maths is a focal point of the curriculum and both schools are currently embedding a programme of Maths Mastery which aims to help pupils achieve a greater depth of understanding in their numeracy. The Maths link governor is Jon Pugsley and as part of this role he is meeting with maths leads to hear about the impact this project is having in the classroom and what governors can do to continue supporting it.

◆ Governors are set to welcome the Infant School councilors to their March meeting and will report back in the next Governor Grapevine.

Write way to be a winner

Developing writing skills is a key priority for Solent Schools and this led to the launch of the Governors' first ever writing challenge.

Pupils at both schools were given the opportunity of writing a letter or poem highlighting the issue of pollution and climate change. The entries from both schools showed talent and an understanding of the challenges facing this planet; so much so that selecting winners was a challenge in itself. At the Infant school entries from Anna H, Isabelle W and Alice L caught the judges eye and they were presented with certificates and a WH Smith voucher. At the Junior school it was the entries of James W, Harriet R, Beatrice W and Isabelle R which received top honours. Governors were impressed with the standard of entry and look forward to setting a new writing challenge at Easter. We also hope to share the winning entries on the schools websites.



Karen Howe and I also had the enjoyable task of presenting The Governors' Shield to our three infant school winners for displaying the school values of Friendship and aspiration. At the Junior school this term's winners received their shields for excellence in their wider curriculum work. The winners were Thomas L, Evie M, Samuel S and Sophie M. Congratulations.

Mrs Webber Chair of Governors

Ofsted comes calling . . .

Governors Tessa Webber, Jon Pugsley and Neil McQueen were joined by De Curci Trust Chief Executive Sara Spivey as part of the Ofsted Process when inspectors paid a visit to Solent Infant School this week.

The two-day process included the Governors interview where they were questioned about the ethos and values of the school, the curriculum and safeguarding. We would like to thank all the parents who filled out Parent View and will share the report and its findings with you all once it is published.

Howe to Boogie

Governor Karen Howe joined a group of reception children from Solent Infant School on their trip to Hamilton House where they enjoyed using the parachute, singing and even handing out cards to the older residents as part of this term's value of Friendship. The visit with Boogie Beats was part of the Solent in the Community.