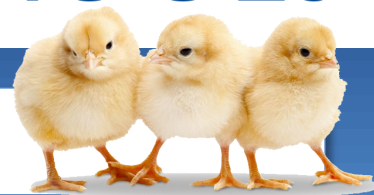




THE SOLENT SCHOOLS

Easter Newsletter 2021



The Easter break has arrived and I think it is fair to say that there has most definitely been a spring in our toes this half term! We were so very excited to be having all of our pupils back in school and they have most definitely not let us down! All pupils have risen to the challenge of settling back into school life and the routines and expectations that come with that. From our youngest children in the Early Years Foundation Stage, to those that are preparing themselves for the exciting step into secondary education, the behavior and attitudes have been exemplary. It has been wonderful to see them re-ignite friendships and continue to be motivated by the learning journey that they are on. I wish you, our Solent community, a very Happy and Healthy Easter break. I am very much looking forward to seeing you all back refreshed and ready for a fun packed Summer term!

Mrs Wilby Executive Headteacher

Mental Health Matters!

We are very proud of the fact that external visitors frequently comment upon the warm and welcoming ethos and exemplary behavior in and around the Solent Schools. Recent examples of this include our Ofsted visitors who identified this as a clear strength in both Solent Schools. It will therefore probably not surprise you to learn that the mental health of our whole school community sits high in all that we do. Earlier on this term, we were offered the opportunity to engage in 'The School Mental Health Award' led by the Carnegie School of Education (Leeds Beckett University) and we have accepted. This award builds upon the direct link between positive mental health in schools and successful educational outcomes.

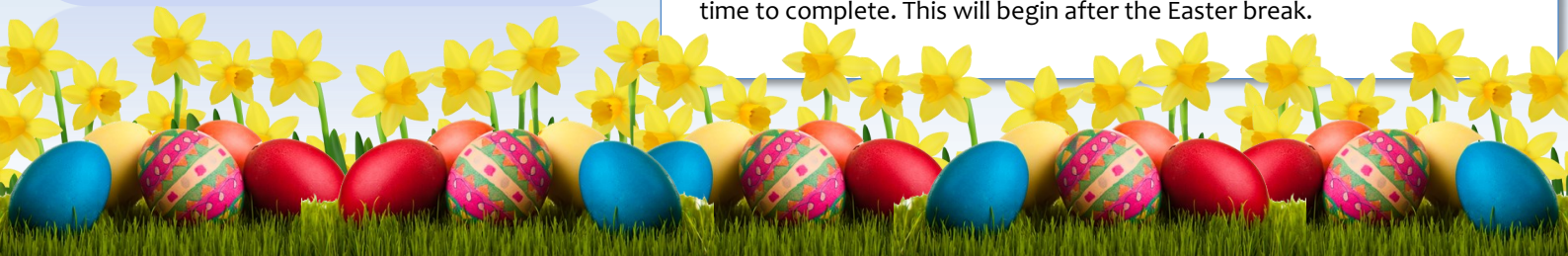
This is a welcoming and friendly school where everybody gets along with one another. Pupils enjoy coming to school because they feel safe and well cared for.... Pupils are positive, confident and have excellent manners. In the playground, they enjoy playing games with their friends without fear of bullying or unkindness'
(SJS Ofsted February 2020)



This is a very welcoming and nurturing school. Pupils are happy and say that they have lots of friends. At play-time, they play sensibly together. Pupils are confident to talk to staff if they are worried or upset. They know that the adults in the school will help them. Pupils feel safe at school and say that bullying does not happen here'
(SIS Ofsted February 2020)

Our Journey....

To begin with, we will spend a year working towards the award, recognising and celebrating the effective practice that is already in place and evaluating areas within which we wish to progress further. At the end of the initial year we will apply for the award. Simply working towards this award recognises how important we consider mental health to be. It will give us the opportunity to celebrate all that we do to support our whole community and then we will be looking to work alongside others to develop our provision yet further. This includes our universal provision (that which is offered to all) and then also our bespoke pastoral provision for anyone at anytime, who may need a little extra support. We would very much like to take you all on this journey with us. You will already be aware that your opinion matters to us and continually supports us in shaping our provision here at Solent. For this reason, we will be providing regular links, within these weekly newsletters, to surveys that will help us to gather your views regarding mental health. By sharing these regularly it means that they are short and only take a few minutes of your precious time to complete. This will begin after the Easter break.





SOLENT INFANT SCHOOL

Early Years!

In Reception we have been reading the book 'The Rainbow Fish' by Marcus Pfister. We have been thinking about how to be a kind friend and the importance of sharing. We each made a scale for our class Rainbow Fish. Each scale is different, unique and special to us. When we made our scales, we talked about why our scale was special and why we decorated it the way we did. We thought about what makes us unique and special.



Year 1

Year 1 have been learning about measurement! We have looked at length, mass and capacity. All the children have been learning through lots of practical activities, such as filling containers with cubes to see how many they hold and using scales to see which objects are heavier/lighter. We have received some fantastic home learning work related to this.



Year 2

In Year 2, the children have been learning all about different animals and their habitats. They have written animal fact files, animal riddles and also created some amazing animal habitats. The children spent time designing, labelling and identifying the resources that they would need to make their habitat 3D. As you can see, this careful thought process has enabled them to produce some truly unique projects.

This has definitely been a term of two parts! After Christmas, the children adapted to remote learning from home or being at school in "bubbles", with different adults supervising them throughout the week then, more recently, we welcomed everyone back in again and, once more, had our corridors and classrooms buzzing with excited voices! We are very proud of the children and their families and we are looking forward to a more settled Summer Term.

Since being back together, we have celebrated British Science Week and, as this was such a success, we have planned a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) Week for after the Easter Holidays when we will be "Engineering Fairy Tales". Look out for more information!

The month of March has seen us focus on our Solent Schools' Value of Teamwork. We have enjoyed celebrating our achievements in our Friday assemblies in our class teams within our schools' team. We're proud to be Team Solent!

Mrs Curthoys
Head of School SIS

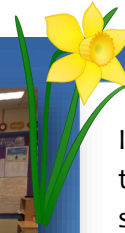




SOLENT JUNIOR SCHOOL

This term we have welcomed the children back once again and have loved seeing them apply the range of skills they have learnt through their remote learning. In a matter of weeks we have achieved so much! This week we have had a virtual Teams Student Council Meeting where our student council members shared some wonderful ideas they had regarding improvements to the school and website. We have also held a very successful virtual Eco Warrior meeting to discuss the school grounds! Exciting times ahead so watch this space as we will be sharing the exciting progress with you throughout the Summer Term!

Mrs Peterkin-Aldred
Head of School SJS



Year 3

In Year 3, we are all very excited that we are now officially able to sit in class groups. Here is what our school councillors said:

3S: 'It's fantastic because we have more people to work with and we can make new friends.'

3SW: 'We prefer tables because it feels like each table is a little group or family and we work together.' 3A said, 'We can share and communicate our ideas as a whole table.'

Year 4

SEW WHAT! Year 4 have been in stitches. We have been using our DT, Computing, Literacy and History skills to develop our understanding of the Ancient Romans! More specifically, we have been researching different styles of 'purses' that the Romans used to carry their precious money around! Our next step is to design and create our very own. We are SEW sorry, SO excited. Watch this space!



Year 6

Our oldest pupils turned TV stars this week when ITV news came to film them taking part in activities led by 'Show Racism the Red Card'. They were superb ambassadors for our school, speaking very articulately and passionately about the importance of challenging racism and how they have been learning to recognise and respond to racism and racial stereotyping.



Year 5

It has been so wonderful to finally be able to welcome the children back into Year 5. We have been continuing our Historical enquiry — Were the Vikings really vile? Over the last few weeks, the children have been looking at historical evidence, deciding what it tells us about the Vikings in Britain and the using that information to answer the question. We have seen some varying opinions.



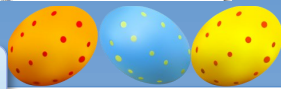


THE SOLENT SCHOOLS



Have you noticed the beautiful bird song recently? With Spring well and truly sprung, the birds seem to be busy nesting. We are very lucky to have access to our own webcam streaming directly to our infant school website. Blue Tits are now busily nest building. Let's hope they enjoy their new home and we are able to watch as the story unfolds. Why not join us by watching live via the school website. Just [click here](#) to visit the page.

Return of the Hot Lunch!



With effect from Monday 19th April, we will be returning to a hot lunch menu at both Solent Infant School and Solent Junior School. Menus for all options at each of the Solent Schools will be emailed to you and put on the website during the week commencing 29th March 2021. Please order and pay, if applicable, in the usual way. Online ordering will be available from Thursday 1st April. For the children who have special diet menus in place you will be contacted separately by your respective school.

Dates for the Diary

- Friday 30th April** School Photographs
- 31st May—4th June** Half Term Holiday
- Friday 18th June** INSET
- Friday 18th June** New Year R & 3 Open Afternoon (starting September 2021)
- Monday 21st June** INSET
- Monday 5th July** Drop in & Work Share
- Thursday 8th July** Pop In & Meet the New Teacher
- Friday 9th July** End of Year Reports Home



Calling All New Entrants!

Over the Easter break our prospective families will be finding out whether they have been allocated a place in one of our Year R or Year 3 classes. If you are joining us at either of the Solent Schools, please take some time to visit our school website. It will definitely be worth keeping an eye on our 'New Entrants' tab, where we will be regularly posting information to help you to settle into school life at Solent. If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Parent & Carer Support

As the Summer term unfolds, our teaching teams will be enhancing the learning provision yet further by sharing a series of recordings that focus upon key teaching and learning points. These will be posted onto your child's Teams page weekly. The focus will relate directly to the learning that is taking place in class. The main aim is to guide parents and carers when supporting children with home learning. We hope that you find this new addition a helpful one. If you have any areas of home learning that you would like to see included in this provision please [click here](#) and share your them via a quick and easy jot form.

