



THE SOLENT SCHOOLS

Summer Newsletter 2021 Issue 1

Welcome back to the Solent Community after what I hope was a lovely relaxing and restful Easter holiday. We have been told by many of our parents and carers that one of the greatest benefits of lockdown for them has been the opportunity to spend precious time with their families. We have noticed our pupils talking really fondly about the varied experiences that they have shared with their families and feel that this has really benefited their approaches to learning. On many occasions these are experiences that would not ordinarily have featured in our busy lives. Fingers crossed for lots more of this glorious sunshine so that we can continue to make these magical memories.

Mrs Wilby Executive Headteacher

Mental Health Matters!

As featured in our Easter newsletter, we are now embarking on the School Mental Health Award. The first stage of this process has involved auditing current provision. We have identified many strengths across our schools and also a few areas for development or next steps. One of these is to develop a suite of 'pupil friendly policies'. This will really aid our pupils in understanding how they are supported in school and what frameworks we have securely in place to ensure that they feel as safe and as happy as possible. We will be recruiting a group of willing pupils to develop these alongside us and will share them as soon as they are ready!



Calling All New Entrants!

Have you just received an allocated place for Year R or Year 3 at either of our schools? If so, don't forget to keep an eye on the 'new entrants' tab on each of the school websites. There will be new information added as the term progresses.

Remote Learning

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 there are any areas of home learning that you would like to see included in this provision please [click here](#) and share your ideas!

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



SOLENT INFANT SCHOOL

Early Years!

Linked to the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears, we have been exploring different materials and designs for new chairs. Children have been using building blocks, Lego, Mobilo and also cardboard to create their chairs. The children then evaluated their chairs and thought about what worked well and what they could do better. We have been having lots of fun being creative and working as a team.



Year 1

We have had a super STEM week - Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths—and thought really hard about how the Billy Goats could try to make the Troll happy by crossing the river in different ways! Bridges, zip wires and boats were a few fabulous ideas. We are feeling inspired and looking forward to entering the Invention Competition.



Year 2

Year 2 have had great fun in Engineering Fairy Tales Week, focusing on the story of Rapunzel. We used our designing, making and evaluation skills to make a 'Contraption' to help her escape from the tower. We made ladders, hot air balloons, zip wires, parachutes and planes. We are so proud of all of the children and the perseverance and teamwork skills that they have demonstrated.



We have all launched into our learning, after the Easter Holidays, with our Engineering Fairy Tales Week. Familiar stories have been explored and tricky challenges have been investigated! Year R have built chairs for Goldilocks and the Three Bears, Year 1 have helped the Three Billy Goats Gruff cross the river and Year 2 have helped Rapunzel escape from her tower. Hopefully, your child is now inspired to take part in our Invention Competition, the details of which have been sent home.

This Half Term, the theme-based learning for each year group focuses on Science. Year R are aiming to "Get Up and Grow", Year 1 will be going "Potty about Plants" and Year 2 will be finding out about Inventors and Inventions. We will be asking each year group to be responsible for a different area of our school grounds and we are excited to see how these outdoor spaces evolve over the next term. We will share our progress with you but hopefully you will see it for yourselves too!

Mrs Curthoys
Head of School SIS



SOLENT JUNIOR SCHOOL

I hope that everyone had a wonderful break and enjoyed the beautiful weather. We are delighted it has decided to stay with us for the start of term too! This week the children have all been inspired listening to a virtual talk from Clare Balding. Her aim is to empower children to make mistakes, embrace failure and to keep going, and this approach has inspired her new book. This is a great message to deliver to all of our children at the start of the Summer term and will remind them to persevere and keep going! Persistence will pay off!

Mrs Peterkin-Aldred
Head of School SJS



Year 3

Before the Easter Holidays, we had a wonderful time celebrating our Holi festival, in line with our R.E. topic of Hinduism. We enjoyed some festive Holi dancing and delicious cakes, but the highlight was the paint powder throwing. The children loved coming to school in their old clothes and going home covered in the paint powder. The sun was shining, and everyone had a super time celebrating and enjoying spending time together.

Year 4

SEW IMPRESSED! Year 4 have been working sew, sorry - so, hard on improving their Design Technology skills. They have been reflecting on their History lessons and have now successfully created their very own Roman Purse!!!! During the Summer Term, they will be evaluating their creations before bringing them home to show their adults!! We are sew proud of them all!



Year 6

This week, in order to help keep the whole school active and healthy, our year 6 pupils have embarked on a workout project. They have worked in small groups to create 5-minute exercise demonstration videos which will be saved in a central location on our server so that all classes can access them daily. Our year 6s have been creative, energetic and great role models for the rest of the school to aspire to.



Year 5

Welcome back to the Summer Term! It was so lovely to see all the children return on Monday and the lovely weather allowing many to now be in Summer uniform. We are all quite convinced the Easter break saw a growth spurt for everyone (it must have been the eggs!) The Summer term means that in Year 5 we get to explore our home city as part of our Tale of Two Cities topic; spending time sharing everything that makes Portsmouth such a wonderful city!

