

Welcome to Solent Infant School



Welcome

We would like to take this opportunity to formally welcome you and your family to Solent Infant School. We are very pleased that you have chosen to join us and are all very much looking forward to ensuring that the next exciting phase of your child's educational journey is an enjoyable and successful one. This important journey is one that is best experienced with a meaningful positive partnership between home and school. We therefore very much look forward to working alongside you and your child to ensure that this is the case.

As a family new to the school, you will already have many questions. This welcome booklet has been created with new families in mind and aims to outline the key pieces of information that are most important at this stage. This will then help to get you off to the best possible start!

If you have any further questions that you would like to ask, please do not hesitate to email, call, or pop into the school office. Don't forget that the school website is also packed full of useful information which is updated regularly.

Mrs E Curthoys
Head of School

Mrs L Wilby
Executive Headteacher

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The School Day

Every school day is vital in a child's education and therefore we expect excellent attendance from all of our pupils. When a pupil misses school, they miss out on vital parts of their learning journey, meaning that when they return they are left with gaps which are difficult to fill. They are also disadvantaged socially and emotionally as a result of the impact their absence has on relationships within their peer group. We strongly believe that there is a very strong link between excellent attendance, standards of behaviour, and progress in learning and that all children have a right to attend and to achieve.

It is our expectation that all children should attend school unless they are too ill to do so. Holidays should not be booked to be taken during term time and will not be authorised by The Solent Schools attendance panel. Leave of Absence requested during term time will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances. For further details, please click here for [‘The Solent Schools Attendance Policy’](#) which can also be found on the school website.

It is also our policy that pupils arrive on time in the mornings to ensure the class is not disturbed during lessons and that the child themselves is settled and ready and able to learn.

Start of Sessions

- The school gates are opened at 8.40am.
- The year group doors are opened at 8:50am. Children come into school and each class has ‘Early Bird’ activities to complete, for example hand gym, number or phonic activities.
- A bell sounds at 9.00am when the year group doors and gates are closed and locked. All pupils should be in the classroom by this time. Any pupils arriving after this time will need to enter school via the School Office where they will be registered. School staff will not re-open the year group doors for late entry.
- The register is taken at 9.00am. Any pupil entering the room after this time is marked as late.

Reception School Day	
8.50am	Year Group doors open. Children come into the classroom for Early Bird activities.
9.00am	Start of the school day
10.00am – 10.30am	Morning Playtime (Flexible in Reception)
12.00pm – 1.00pm	Lunchtime
2.15pm -2.45pm	Afternoon Playtime (Flexible in Reception)
3.15pm	End of the school day

School Uniform & Equipment

We are incredibly proud of how smart our pupils look and greatly appreciate how well our families support us in ensuring that we all share this sense of pride and belonging. As such we ask that you use the matrix below to guide you when purchasing uniform and equipment for school.

Our school uniform is available to purchase online. Links to the website of our suppliers can be found by [clicking here](#) or visiting the school website.

In the Autumn Term, children in Reception will have one PE session a week, which is increased to two sessions by the Spring Term. On a PE day, children are asked to come into school wearing their PE clothes for the whole day.

Main Uniform	
Skirts, Trousers or Shorts	Grey (No playsuits, jeans or leggings)
Dresses	Blue & White Gingham Dress or Grey Pinafore
Shirt	White Polo Shirt (school logo or plain white) or White Collared Cotton Shirt
Cardigan or Jumper	Royal Blue (School Logo Preferred)
Socks	White, Grey or Black
Tights	Opaque Black or Grey
Shoes	Plain Black Low Level Shoes (No trainers, boots or heels)
Optional Items	
School Fleece	Royal Blue with School Logo
School Tie	Optional (available from the school office)
PE Uniform	
Shorts	Black
Jogging Bottoms (in Winter)	Black, Navy or Dark Grey
T-Shirt	Royal Blue (School Logo Preferred)
Footwear	Trainers

Equipment

We also ask that you provide your child with the following equipment for use in school. Please ensure that each item is clearly labelled with your child's name.

Item	Further Information
Bookbag (Solent Blue with logo)	A school bookbag is an essential piece of equipment as pupils are not allowed to take books home from school without one. These are used to carry reading and home link books to and from school. They are available to purchase online via the school uniform suppliers (click here for link).
Water Bottle (Sports cap)	Our pupils have access to their water bottles throughout the day. We kindly ask that you send your child into school daily with fresh unflavoured water in a named bottle that has a sports cap. Every class has access to a tap with fresh drinking water, should the bottle need refilling. These will be brought home on a daily basis to be washed, refilled and brought back into school the following day.
Fruit Bag	At a designated point during the morning, our pupils have a 'fruit snack time'. We ask that each pupil brings a piece of fresh fruit, vegetable or hard cheese (not processed cheese snack) into school daily in a 'fruit bag'. Fruit bags are available to purchase in the school office. The pupils also have an opportunity to have a piece of fruit provided by the school in the afternoon.

Should you have any queries regarding uniform requirements, please do not hesitate to speak to the School Office.

School Meals and Dietary Advice

At Solent, we offer the option of having a school meal provided by our caterers or bringing in a packed lunch from home. This will be your choice as a family.

Hot School Meals

Before starting school at Solent, you will receive further correspondence from our school meal provider along with the menu. We ask that you read this carefully as it will contain important information regarding how to register with the provider so that you are able to order your child's lunches. We very much encourage you to order your child's meals for them online, in advance. This can be done via the Relish App. (more information to follow). Please note meals must be ordered no later than the day before.

All infant aged pupils are entitled to receive a free school lunch for every school day. There are always a range of meal choices including a vegetarian option.

Our meal provider also caters for pupils with individual dietary needs. If your child requires special dietary provision please make sure you have updated their requirements on the Arbor app so that our catering providers are able to offer an appropriate menu for your child.

Packed Lunches

You may opt for your child to bring a packed lunch into school. If this is the case, we ask that careful consideration is given to what is included.

Please ensure that the drink provided is a flat drink and you do not include any glass containers or bottles. We also ask that sweets or full-sized chocolate bars are not included – As a rule of thumb, if a product is found in the confectionary aisle at the supermarket, it is not considered appropriate for a packed lunch box. If it is found in the biscuit aisle (small snack sized products) it is far more appropriate. It is worth remembering that we frequently reward pupils who are seen to be eating a healthy packed lunch!

Our Eco Warriors carry out regular 'Waste Free' events at school during which our pupils are rewarded for including reusable containers in their lunch boxes rather than single use plastics.

Allergies

Within school there are a number of people, both pupils and staff, who suffer from a wide range of allergies. Staff are trained to recognise and respond to these but preventative measures are just as important. For this reason, nut based/peanut-based products are not allowed on the school site. This is particularly important when considering what to put in your child's packed lunch box. If any type of nut/peanut is listed in the main ingredients then the product is not allowed on site. If your child does suffer from any allergy, it is very important that you have included all of the relevant information in your application form. Please check the website for 'Whole School Food Guidelines Policy' for further details.

School Milk Scheme

Our school provides a milk scheme that is available to all of our pupils and we would like to invite you to register your child. School milk is free for all under-fives and is subsidised for pupils aged five or older at approximately 27p per day.

Each pupil that registers with 'Cool Milk' will receive a 189ml portion of semi-skimmed milk every day, which is delivered fresh and chilled to the classroom. Their school milk will not only provide them with essential nutrients, but as it is rehydrating and energy boosting it also bridges the gap between breakfast and lunch to help children stay focused.

How to Register

Simply register at www.coolmilk.com

My child is under 5

- Just register your child online at www.coolmilk.com after 1st August 2026.
- Once received and registered, free milk will continue until the Friday before your child's fifth birthday. You will receive a payment request three weeks before this time. If you wish your child to continue to receive school milk, simply make a payment.

My child is 5 or older

- Register online at www.coolmilk.com as soon as possible. When completing online you are then able to make an immediate payment for your child. Alternatively, you will receive a payment request within 48 hours after registering.
- You can pay Cool Milk either online, over the phone, at a local PayPoint or by cheque in half-termly, termly or annual instalments.
- Please pay by Tuesday 5pm for your child's milk to start the following week.

If you have any questions regarding school milk, please visit www.coolmilk.com or contact Cool Milk directly on 0844 854 2913.

Fruit and Vegetable Scheme

Under the Government 'School Fruit & Vegetable Scheme' every infant aged pupil is entitled to receive a free portion of fruit or vegetable each day. The aim is to encourage all pupils to eat at least 5 portions of fruit or vegetables every day. Your child will be offered a free piece of fruit or vegetable each afternoon. It is very important that you tell us if your child has any allergies to fruit or vegetables. This is a great way to teach our children the benefits of healthy living!

General Information

Correspondence & Communication

At Solent we operate an open-door policy. We are always very keen to hear from you and actively encourage you to contact us should the need arise. There are many reasons a parent or carer may need to contact school and as such a range of methods of doing so.

All general enquiries should be directed to the school office. You can either phone, pop in or email via the general email address on the school website.

If you would like to leave a message for the class teacher, you can either speak to the designated member of staff at the year group door, who will pass the message on for you, phone the school office and ask for the message to be conveyed to the class teacher or email via the general email address on the school website.

We acknowledge the part our school plays in championing sustainability and looking after our local and global community and environment. As such, we are always looking at ways in which we can save, reuse and recycle. One very successful change has been our move to the use of email rather than paper for the majority of our correspondence. It is therefore essential that you ensure that the office always has the most up to date email address for your main point of contact.

Tapestry

In Reception we use an online learning platform called Tapestry. Please complete the consent on the Arbor app giving permission for your child to have a Tapestry account. After this has been completed, an account will be set up for your child ready for their start in Reception. We use Tapestry as our platform for communication about learning and our home-school partnership. We actively encourage parents to engage with the posts on Tapestry and upload achievements and home learning from their child.

Administration of Medicines at School

At school we are aware of the need to assist parents and carers with their child's health and as such can administer specific medication on your behalf for your child. The medication we can administer is:

- **Prescription Medication**, as long as it is in the original packaging with the prescription label clearly showing it is in date, with your child's name and relevant dosage.
- The only **non-prescription** medication we can administer is pain medication in either liquid or melt form and hay fever medication in tablet or liquid form. This also needs to be in the original packaging, showing the dosage and clearly labelled with your child's name.

In all instances, please could you provide the appropriate medicine spoon/syringe. To avoid

disruption to lessons in most cases medication can only be administered at 11.50am when a medicine bell is rung. We would respectfully ask that consideration of this is taken into account when giving a dose of medicine to your child in the morning before school and their need at the end of the school day i.e. after 3.15pm. All medicines must come into school via the school office, as they will need to be signed in by a parent or carer. Unfortunately, we do not accept medicines coming into school via your child's bookbag.

Local Trips in the Community

Occasionally, over the course of your child's time at Solent, we will take them on a trip 'out and about' in the local community. This could be to the Post Office, the park, the local shops or just on a local walk. You will always be informed of these local trips out. We will always take the emergency contact details that we hold for you on file, rather than requesting permission or updated details. For this reason, it is essential that you keep the emergency contact details we hold for you, as up to date as possible. If you do change your mobile phone number at any point, please make it routine to let the school office know about this as soon as possible.

Volunteering in School

If you are able to commit to offering some regular time each week to volunteer in school, then we would very much like to hear from you! Spending time in school is a great way to get to know the school even better and your time is very much appreciated. It is school policy not to place you in the same class as your child, but there are plenty of other greatly beneficial activities that you can become involved in such as reading, cookery or school librarian. If you feel that you are able to offer some time, then please keep an eye on our newsletters to register your interest. Volunteer applications will be processed once your child has started school, in September.

Useful Information

We would like to request that all new parents and carers take the time to visit the school website and read the following school documents. These are all highly relevant to new starters and should be read before starting at Solent.

- Pupil and Parent Carer Privacy Notices
- Data Protection Policy
- Attendance Policy (as referred to above)
- Whole School Food Guidelines (as referred to above)

Please [click here](#) to visit the policies page of our school website.

If you have any questions relating to the content of this welcome pack, please do not hesitate to ask.

For further information about your child starting school, please look for the New Entrants tab on the school website where we will post updates and useful reminders about the transition events. We look forward to welcoming you all to Solent Infant School very soon.

