



Solent Junior School

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Dear Parents,

Solent Junior School - Connected Learning Community (clc)

As part of the Government's e-strategy, it placed an expectation on schools that they would have a personalised online learning space by the Autumn term 2008 provided by their local authority. After a long evaluation process, this is now being implemented and the service is provided by a company called 'Uniservity'.

Also called a learning platform or learning environment, it brings together hardware, software and supporting services to enable more effective ways of working both within and outside the classroom. There are many benefits to teachers, pupils and parents that enable the sharing of teaching materials that can be accessed online by pupils and parents at any time. Pupils can work at their own pace, improve their IT skills and manage materials, submit work for marking and assessment and communicate in live discussions with other pupils and teachers. Parents will be able to play a greater part in their children's learning, supporting their children outside of school and will eventually be able to access reports, attendance data and assessment data – however, this last aspect is still a couple of years away.

Solent is at the beginning of this process and your child may have already told you and hopefully shown you the Solent clc. All children have their own personal username and password and have been accessing the clc in school. There is a growing amount of information available from newsletters, tasks, resource sheets that have been used in school, questionnaires, discussion forums along with calendar information and news about school clubs. Tasks will be set by your child's class teacher and will appear at set times according to the work being carried out in class.

However, there are a couple of things we would like to make clear at this stage of the roll-out. Firstly, it will take some while for all classes and teachers to become familiar with using the clc and for information to appear (we are all learning together here!). Initially, there will be paper based copies of some information as well until the children become really familiar with the clc.

Secondly, contact with teachers – the messaging system on the clc is only for children to contact their teachers with relevant questions about the topics being studied. This will be checked regularly and teachers will reply as soon as it is convenient to do so but sometimes it may be quicker to ask the question the following morning!



Parents, if you wish to contact your child's teacher about any aspect of your child's school life, then please use the current methods i.e. email (use the links on the school web site), telephone or call in to the office requesting an appointment or by letter. Please bear in mind that teachers are busy people and will do their best to respond to enquiries as quickly as possible – you could normally expect a response to an enquiry within two **school** days. Sometimes, a more detailed response could take a little longer in order to gather sufficient information to enable a more useful and purposeful response to your enquiry.

So, please ask your child to log on to the clc and show you some of the things that are now available and do check regularly for updates – ask your child to update you perhaps when things have changed.

We are also mindful of those families who do not have ready internet access at home and would remind you that children have access during the school day, lunchtimes and from 15.00 to 16.00 in the IT suite in order to use the internet for research and complete homework etc. (please remember to sign in and out in the office).

We will send a further update in the middle of the Spring Term 2009. In the meantime, if you have any specific questions then please contact me at school and I will do my best to answer your query.

Yours sincerely,

B.D. North
Deputy Headteacher

