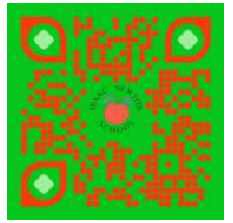




The Apple



The weekly news from Isaac Newton School, Grantham

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Dear Parents/Carer

It is difficult to believe that we have reached the end of the Autumn Term, and that Christmas is literally round the corner. It has been a brilliant term and a magical build up to Christmas. As well as working exceptionally hard, the children have taken part in a variety of events including: the nativity, Christmas Performances and this week, they have all had their Christmas parties.

Our Chair of Governors, Mrs Townsend visited the school last week to help me judge our Christmas Door Competition. I can confirm that after a long difficult process, there were four winners - two runners up and two overall winners who could not be split! Congratulations to Class 4 and Class 9 on being our runners up for this year and to our overall winners Class 1 and 2. I think you can agree that they look sensational!

Out of school achievements

We really want to know about your child's out of school achievements, please email the school office on enquiries@isaacnewton-cit.co.uk with information or send their hard work into school, and we will celebrate this in our next Newsletter which will be published on **Friday 17th January**, on social media and during our Celebration Assemblies!

Reminders

Please ensure that children wear studs and not hoops or 'dangly' earrings. If studs cannot be removed, unfortunately children will not be able to take part in Physical Education. Please consider this before letting children get their ears pierced.

Mr Milner
Headteacher



Overall winners were Class 1 and 2. Well done to our amazing Foundation children!



Class 9 Runner up



Class 4 Runner up

HOPE Parent Carer Support Group

HOPE Parent Carer Support Group are a group of parents and carers of children and young people with additional needs, who come together to support one another; to share information and experiences, to encourage and build one another up, and to be reminded that we are not alone!

They meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month from 10am at the Hope Community Cafe, on the Earlesfield estate. You are very welcome to join them in the New Year!

HOPE Parent Carer Support Group

1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month
10 am

Caring for a child with additional needs?
Want to chat to other parents who get it?
No diagnosis needed
Everyone welcome
Free hot drinks

HOPE
community cafe

Attendance

It is parents and carers responsibility to inform the school office if their child(ren) are going to be absent from school. Please do this by calling 01476 568616 **before 9.30am**. In addition to this, please ensure the children arrive in school by 8.50am. If they are late, they miss out on valuable learning time. **Both gates open at 8.40, classroom doors are open at 8.45am and learning starts from 8.50am.**

Attendance by Class for the last two weeks.

How many classes are above 96%

Class 1	96%	Class 8	89%
Class 2	93%	Class 9	98%
Class 3	93%	Class 10	95%
Class 4	93%	Class 11	98%
Class 5	95%	Class 12	99%
Class 6	96%	Class 13	90%
Class 7	91%	Class 14	94%

Congratulations to class 1, 6, 9, 11 and 12 for having attendance over 96% since the last Newsletter and also to Class 5 and 10 for having attendance over 95%.

Below is a reminder of the impact of having below 90% attendance. If this continues over a five-year period, this is equivalent to half a school year's worth of lost learning that will result in significant gaps. Mr Richards and the attendance team continue to work hard to support families, offer advice and help get children back in school so they can flourish.

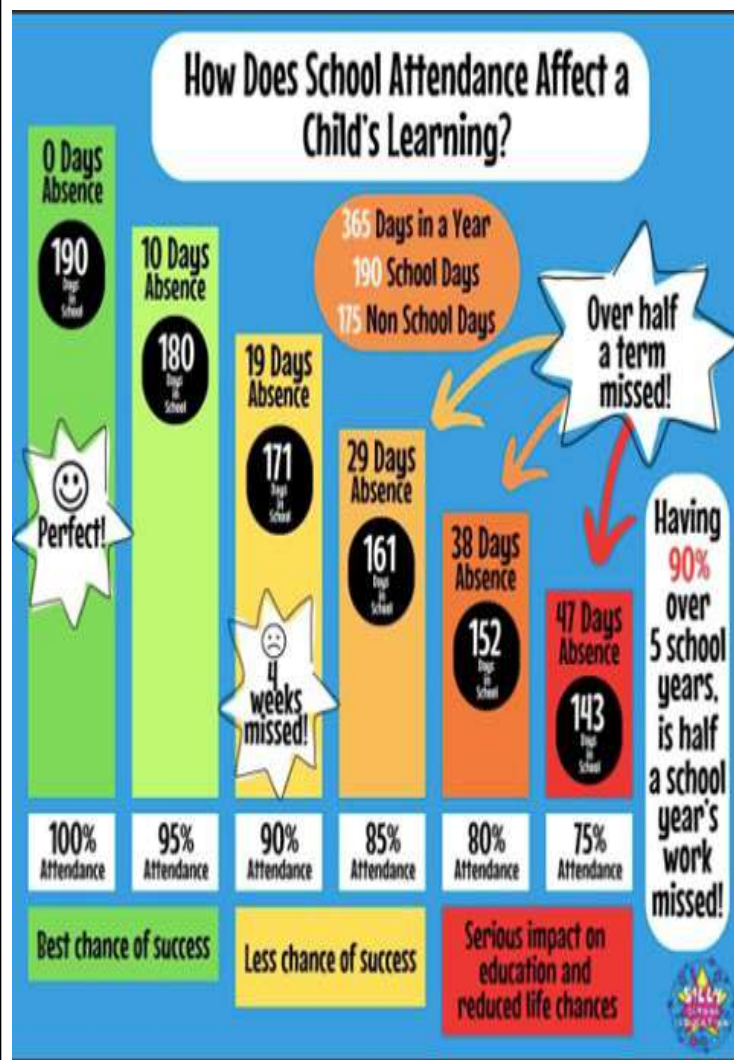
A reminder that the government have updated their guidance connected with attendance. Any holidays, which **have not** been authorised, will now result in a fine from the local authority. In addition to this, ten unauthorised sessions (five school days) or more in a ten week period, will also result in a fine from the local authority.

Medical Appointments

Photocopies of medical letters or of medical appointments are really useful and will mean that these absences will be authorised. Thank you for your support with this.

Useful link – Is my child too ill for school?

The attached NHS link is a really useful resource for parents/carers if they are unsure whether to send their child to school or not. <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>



Celebration Assembly

Every Friday afternoon, we spend time celebrating all the successes from the week and present children with a Headteacher's Award. Staff choose one pupil from each class for a reason connected with our values (Respect, Pride, Responsibility, Kindness and Resilience and for following our simple, but effective, school rules (Be Ready; Be Respectful and Be Safe). All children are encouraged to listen carefully to the reasons for the award and they receive a certificate, a sticker and a round of applause from the whole school. We also celebrate those children who have produced exceptional work in school, at home and their out of school achievements. It is always a special occasion and enjoyed by all!



Winners from the recent Friday Celebration Assembly 06.12.2024 and 18.12.2024 those lucky children who received Achievement Awards) with their certificates.

Achievement Awards

At the end of every term Class Teachers choose one child from their class that they feel has achieved the most over the that term. Today in assembly the winners were presented with a special trophy and a certificate to mark this honour.



Sports/PE update

Last term children across KS1 and KS2 entered the virtual mile. This competition required the children to run a mile with their attempt being timed. The results were sent to Mr Plumb, our local school games organiser and we are pleased to say we have been given the Gold Mile Award!! This was achieved based on the amount of children who took part from our school. A fantastic 340 children, that's all of KS1 and KS2 representing our school at this competition. A huge well done everyone we are so proud of your achievements!!



This week in PE Lessons children across the school have taken part in our Santa Fun Run! Each child ran or walked a mile distance whilst wearing festive accessories and listening to Christmas music. One afternoon there was even a visit from a giant Christmas Pudding!! Each child thoroughly enjoyed the festive activity with plenty of smiles along the way. Once completed the children were awarded their very own Christmas Pudding medal and certificate as a reward for their hard work!! Well done everyone, it was a great way to get into the festive spirit!!



Last week our Year 6 children were fortunate to have a workshop with Inspire+ Ambassador Dai Greene. Dai is an Olympic 400m Hurdler and has had a fantastic professional career in athletics. He spoke to the children about fast reactions, giving them little games to play. They worked on starting positions and how to get the best start using the correct positioning. The children had a fantastic time and have been talking about the session ever since. Thank you to Dai for providing this session for our children and to Inspire+ for arranging it!!



Over the past few weeks children in KS2 have been taking part in their Netball House Games. They have been learning new skills throughout this half term and it was lovely to see these skills in a game situation. The results for each year group are as follows:

- Year 3 - Robertson (Red)
- Year 4 - Saunders (Yellow)
- Year 5 - Foale (Green)
- Year 6 - Tennyson (Blue)



Year 3 Winning Netball Team

EYFS Nativity



The Foundation Nativity was absolutely brilliant. The children showed such confidence and looked sensational. Thanks to all the staff for putting this together. There were so many songs and actions for the children to learn - it was so impressive!

KS1 Christmas Performance

On Thursday 12th December, all of KS1 performed a variety of songs for the parents and family members who attended. They absolutely sang their hearts out and finished with all children in the hall together to sing 'The Reindeer Cokey'.



The pictures above are from the KS1 Dress Rehearsal that the children put on for the whole school!

KS2 Christmas Performance

On Friday 13th December, all of KS2 produced a memorable performance to round off what has been a really special, Christmassy week. Class 14 set the tone with a brilliant short play about how the Elves and their co workers coped with the news that Santa had disappeared on holiday just before Christmas. Luckily, the brilliant singing and dancing from the children of Isaac Newton Primary School persuaded Santa to come back just in time to deliver all the presents. This also meant that we didn't need to rely on the three back up Santas who couldn't even say 'Ho Ho Ho' properly!



Cake Sale

Huge thanks to the Lionesses who visited school again this year on Tuesday 17th December to help decorate a range of cakes with our children. These were then put on sale after school and together with the Christmas Raffle we raised an impressive £139.50.

Thank you to all parents, carers and family members who came to support and purchase these delicious cakes and other cakes donated by staff. All cakes were sold out in an Isaac Newton Record of 11 minutes! Congratulations to Stanley from Class 2 on winning the Christmas Cake in the raffle.



Reverse Advent Calendar

Once again this year Miss C. Jones has organised a Reverse Advent Calendar for the Grantham Food Bank. Today Miss Jone and Mr Doughty delivered the donations to the food bank. Thank you for your support for this worthy cause.



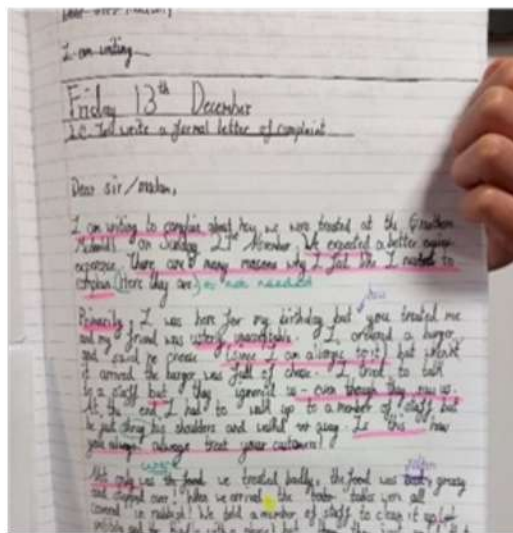
Work to be proud of



Congratulations to Amelia from Class 7 who got 25 out of 25 on TT Rock Stars for the first time. This is fantastic considering the actual test will not be until Year 4. Well done!



A brilliant retell of a story by River in Class 4, plus an amazing letter to Santa from Azraya with her wish list for Christmas. Well done both of you!



What a phenomenal complaint letter written by Trixie from Year 6. She made up a plausible issue after visiting a well known fast food restaurant and used formal language particularly well. Great work. I know who to ask for help if I have a similar experience!

Work to be proud of from home



Georgie-May produced a powerful anti bullying poem which was linked with the Year 6 PSHE lesson she did in school last week. Amazing work, well done!

Out of school Achievements



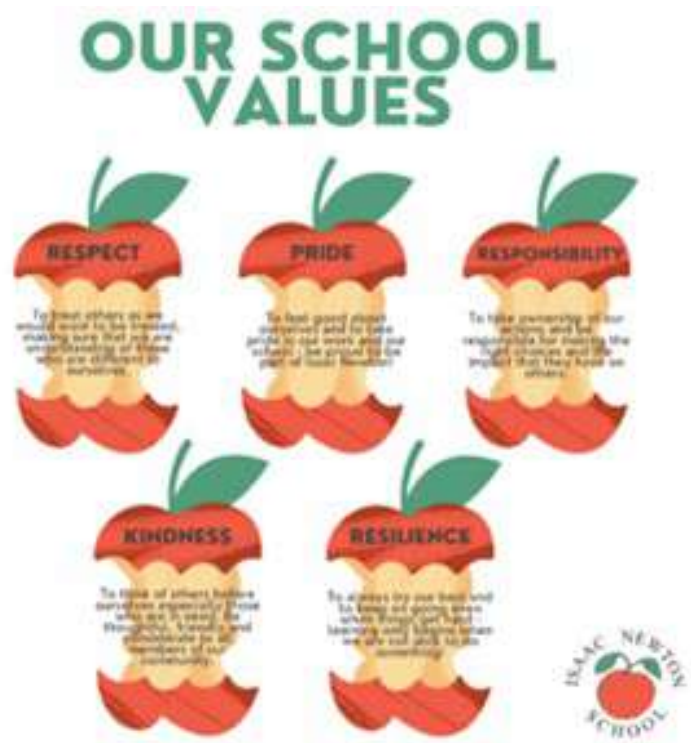
Rajmund has successfully completed Stage 1 of the Learn to Swim program and was awarded a certificate and badge for their accomplishment. This achievement demonstrates his dedication, hard work, and growing confidence in learning new skills beyond the classroom. We are incredibly proud of Rajmund's determination and thought this would be a great moment to share with you, as it reflects their growth and progress in extracurricular activities.



Congratulations to Nate on achieving all of these swimming certificates and badges. We are really proud of you, well done!

School Values

This term we will focus on our school value of Respect. Being respectful and responsible for their actions will not only ensure that children are successful in school, but will also serve them well as adults in the workplace.



Dates For Your Diary:

18th December	End of term 2
19th December	INSET DAY (School closed to all pupils)
6th January 2025	Start of Term 3
15th January	Year 6 Badminton Festival
24th January	Indoor Athletics
5th February	Year 2 at Lincoln Castle
9th February	Swimarathon
11th February	Valentine Disco
13th February	EYFS Open Afternoon
14th February	End of Term 3
24th February	Start of Term 4
18th March	Year 6 Trip to The Deep
2nd April	Parents' Evening (4pm - 7pm)
3rd April	Parents' Evening (4pm - 6pm)

Safeguarding update

If you have a safeguarding concern about a child during the holidays, you can contact the following services:

Children's services (Monday to Friday, 8.00am to 6.00pm) 01522 782111

Out of hours emergency duty team: 01522 782333

If you believe there is a risk of immediate danger or harm, contact the Police on 999.

For further information, please visit <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/safeguarding/report-concern>

You can also contact the NSPCC to report a concern or to gain advice:
NSPCC (Help for adults concerned about a child): 0808 800 5000

If you have a concern about domestic abuse, you can call:

EDAN Lincs: 01522 510041

National Domestic Abuse Helpline 0808 2000 247
www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk (run by Refuge)

Men's advice line: 0808 801 0327
info@mensadvice.org.uk

Or call 999 in an emergency

If you need support with your mental health or emotional state, you can contact:

Night Light Cafe Lincoln: 0300 011 1200
Search Night Light Cafe Lincoln on Facebook Lincs Mental Health Helpline 0800 001 4331 (24hours a day)

Calm For men who need to talk 0800 585858 (Between 5pm and midnight every day)
www.thecalmzone.net

SHOUT Text SHOUT to 85258 (24 hours a day)

Samaritans 116 123 (24 hours a day)

For support with children's mental health, you can call the Mental Health Support Team – 0800 234 6342

www.lpft.nhs.uk/young-people/mental-health-support-teams

Is my child too ill for school?

The attached NHS link is a really useful resource for parents/carers if they are unsure whether to send their child to school or not. <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>



UK Health
Security
Agency



Should I keep my child off school?

Yes

Until...

Chickenpox

at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over

Diarrhoea and Vomiting

48 hours after their last episode

Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)

they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.

Impetigo

their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics

Measles

4 days after the rash first appeared

Mumps

5 days after the swelling started

Scabies

they've had their first treatment

Scarlet Fever

24 hours after they started taking antibiotics

Whooping Cough

48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth

Glandular fever

Head lice

Tonsillitis

Threadworms

Slapped cheek



SCAN ME

Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minftec>.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SAFETY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

The holiday season, marked by Christmas and New Year, brings joy and togetherness but also presents unique safety challenges for children, families and educators. From busy holiday shopping, traveling and family gatherings to managing digital activity during school breaks, staying safe during this period requires heightened awareness. This guide offers practical tips to help families and educators maintain a more secure and fulfilling festive period.

1 MONITOR DIGITAL ACTIVITY

Children spend more time online during school holidays, increasing exposure to potential dangers such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content and online predators. Balancing screen time, avoiding harmful websites and ensuring children engage positively online can be difficult without proper monitoring tools. Set clear boundaries, encourage open discussions about online safety and use parental controls to manage content exposure and screen time effectively. Regular check-ins and positive reinforcement around digital habits encourage safe online behaviour.

2 PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY PROTOCOLS

The incidence of house fires increases during Christmas due to greater use of candles, cookers and electrical decorations. Open flames, electrical overloads and the need for quick response plans can make fire safety challenging. Ensure smoke detectors are operational, keep fire extinguishers on hand and teach children how to respond in case of a fire emergency. Avoid leaving cooking unattended and use fire-safe candles to prevent mishaps.

3 CREATE TRAVEL SAFETY PLANS

More families tend to travel during the holidays, resulting in busier roads, increased traffic accidents and weather-related hazards. Weather conditions, road rage, fatigue and busy airports can all compromise travel safety. Pack emergency kits and adhere to seatbelt laws. Plan routes in advance and allow extra travel time to avoid rushing and mitigate risks on busy roads.

4 BEWARE OF ALLERGIES

Holiday meals often involve many foods that may contain allergens. Cross contamination, unclear labelling and lack of allergy-friendly options can lead to severe reactions. Communicate any allergy needs to hosts, provide safe food alternatives and carry necessary medications like antihistamines or EpiPens. Teaching children how to advocate for themselves and recognise dangerous foods also contributes to safer celebrations.

5 PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS

Cold weather and seasonal socialising can increase the spread of viruses like flu and COVID-19. Crowded gatherings, schools out of session and frequent travel can lead to higher infection risks. Emphasise hygiene, encourage vaccination, disinfect surfaces and isolate symptomatic individuals. Communication with children about proper hygiene practices is essential to reduce the spread of illness.

6 STAY VIGILANT ON THE ROAD

Increased holiday traffic heightens the risk of accidents for both drivers and pedestrians. Distracted driving, pedestrian safety and inclement weather can complicate road safety. Encourage pedestrian safety practices, avoid distracted driving and never drive under the influence.

7 MAINTAIN SAFE DECORATIONS

Festive decorations such as Christmas lights and candles can pose electrical, fire and choking hazards if mishandled. Frayed wires, toppling Christmas trees, small ornaments and open flames can be difficult to control, especially in busy households with children. Inspect and maintain decorations, secure Christmas trees, place fragile or small items out of reach and ensure candles are never left unattended. Testing smoke alarms and using flame-retardant decorations can significantly reduce risks.

8 SET BOUNDARIES FOR GIFTS

Some toys and gadgets can present choking, sharp-edge or safety risks, particularly for young children. Ensuring that gifts meet safety standards and are age appropriate can be complex with so many options available. Inspect all toys carefully and ensure any tech devices have parental controls. Setting expectations around safe gift use and discarding packaging that poses a risk also helps to prevent accidents.

9 ADDRESS STRESS & FATIGUE

Holiday pressures can lead to burnout, which affects both physical and mental health. Overpacked schedules and a lack of downtime can cause stress and fatigue, leading to accidents or poor decision making. Incorporate rest, maintain regular routines and seek support to reduce stress. Encourage activities that promote relaxation to create a healthier, happier holiday experience for everyone.

10 DRINK RESPONSIBLY

Alcohol is commonly present at holiday events, raising concerns about safety and supervision. Excessive alcohol consumption can lead to accidents, impaired judgment and lack of supervision for children. Designate responsible adults, limit consumption and provide transportation alternatives for guests. Teaching moderation and modelling responsible behaviour in front of children ensures that celebrations remain positive and secure.

Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is a chartered health and safety consultant with 10 years of experience in promoting family and community safety. Specialising in risk assessment and preventative strategies, he has worked with educational institutions, public health agencies and community groups to deliver safety education and training.



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Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/safety-over-the-festive-season>