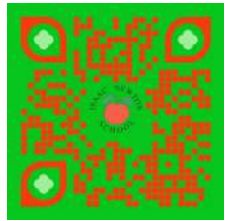




The Apple



The weekly news from Isaac Newton School, Grantham

Volume 5 Issue: 019

Circulation: 420

Date: Friday 10th May 2024

Dear Parents/Carer

At last the weather seems to be changing for the better after months of rain, meaning that the children have been able to get on the school field during break times and do more outdoor learning. The PE staff are certainly much happier too. Not sure if you are aware but Mr Doughty and Miss Jones made a pact to wear shorts all throughout the year - this will be much easier now!

Please remember that with this warmer weather, we need to be mindful about sun damage. Children will need sun hats and sunscreen to protect them. We will have regular shade breaks during lunch and breaktime so the children are not exposed to the sunshine for long periods.

Our fantastic year 6 children have their KS2 SATs next week from Monday to Thursday. They have been working exceptionally hard this year and we are really proud of them. Please make sure that they arrive on time for school and try to encourage them to get a good night's sleep. There will be a special breakfast club for them from 8.15am in the year 6 block.

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 24th May**, on social media and during our Celebration Assemblies!

Reminders

There are an increasing number of children wearing brightly coloured trainers in school. We request that all pupils wear sensible black school shoes as per our School Uniform Expectations which can be found on the school website (<https://isaacnewton.eschools.co.uk/>) under the **Parents** and **Uniform Expectations** tab. Please also ensure that children wear studs and not hoops or 'dangly' earrings.

A reminder that mobile phones must be handed in to the school office on the way to class and collected at the end of the day. Children who are found to have phones on their person will have them confiscated, they will then need to be collected by an adult from the school office. For further details on this, please see our Behaviour Policy which can be found on the school website.

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. In addition to this, please ensure the children arrive in school by 9am. If they are late, they miss out on valuable learning time. Both gates open at 8.45 and classroom doors are open at 8.50am.

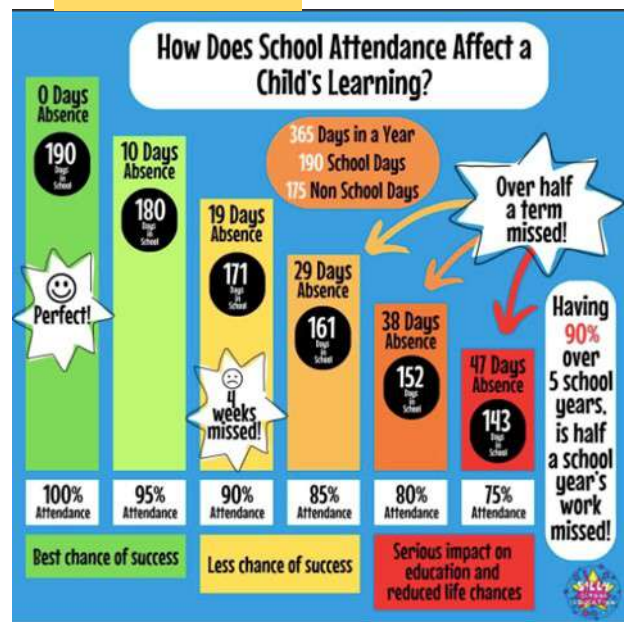
Below is a reminder of the impact of having below 90% attendance. If this continues over a five-year period, this is equivalent to half a school year's worth of lost learning that

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.

Attendance by Class for the last two weeks

How many classes are **above 96%**

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



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/>



Medical Appointments

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

Mr D. Milner
Headteacher

Year 3 Roman Day

On Monday 29th April, Partake Theatre joined Year 3 for a fun-filled day learning about the Roman Empire. We explored Roman artefacts to help us find out about Roman life and sketched many of them. We also had the opportunity to create mosaics, build a Roman arch and played a Roman version of noughts and crosses! In the afternoon we dressed up in Roman clothes and re-enacted a battle as Roman soldiers! We had a fantastic time!



Rocksteady Assembly and Workshops

There is still time to book a place in one of our school rock bands through Rocksteady. If you copy and paste <https://www.rocksteadymusicschool.com/> in your web browser or search for Rocksteady to find out further details. Lessons will start from Monday 20th May and will continue until the end of the academic year. Don't miss out!



Parking

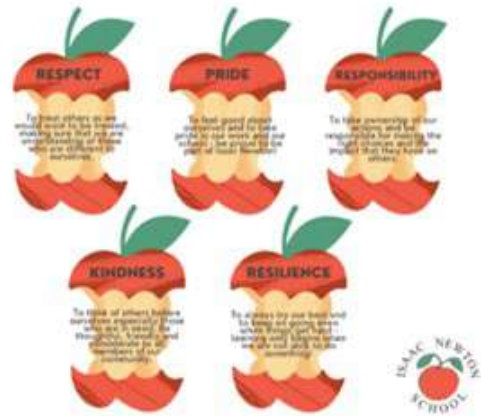
A polite reminder to all parents who drive their children to and from school **not** to park at the gate and block the entrance to school please. This causes considerable disruption for local residents and is also a safety hazard for children and parents who are walking to school.



School Values

We have continued to focus on our school value of Respect this term and introduced another school value - Pride. This has been discussed in assemblies, with the school council and in class. 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. This week, we set the children a challenge of showing pride in their work and being ready first time, every time.

OUR SCHOOL VALUES



Celebration Assembly



Winners from last Friday's Celebration Assembly (03.05.24) and from today (10.05.24) with their certificates.

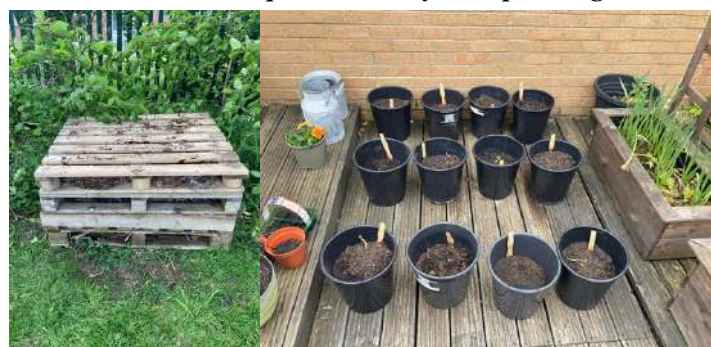
Every Friday afternoon, we spend time celebrating all the successes from the week and present children with a Headteacher's Award. Staff choose one pupil from each class for a reason connected with our values (Respect, Pride, Responsibility, Kindness and Resilience and for following our simple, but effective, 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. It is always a special occasion and enjoyed by all!

Gardening Club

Mrs Doughty's Gardening Club have been incredibly busy over the last few weeks. The children have shown real dedication and worked so hard. They are hoping to make the outdoor area in the middle of the school a really lovely place for the children and staff to visit and relax during break times, or to read quietly. What a fantastic idea!



Sweet Pea, Tepee and Welly boot planting!



Bug Hotel and Sweet potatoes

School Council update

Mrs McEvoy and Mr Milner met again with the School Council last week. The fortnightly meetings have been going really well. Each week important school related topics are discussed with the group, this is then shared with the rest of the class and responses brought back to the meeting by the councillors. So far, we have discussed and asked the following questions:

- What is good about being a pupil at Isaac Newton?
- What would children like to improve upon?
- Which charities would we like to support next year?
- Which resources to purchase for Gardening Club?
- The best ways to celebrate learning and when children make the right choices.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 16th May. There will be more regular updates from the School Council in the next newsletter.



Sports/PE Update

KS1 Cricket Festival

8 children took part in the KS1 cricket festival at Grantham Cricket Club.

They completed a series of fun skill-based activities,

allowing them to practise their throwing, catching and batting. The children had a wonderful time and were a real pleasure to accompany at the event. Well done to everyone!!



Cross Country

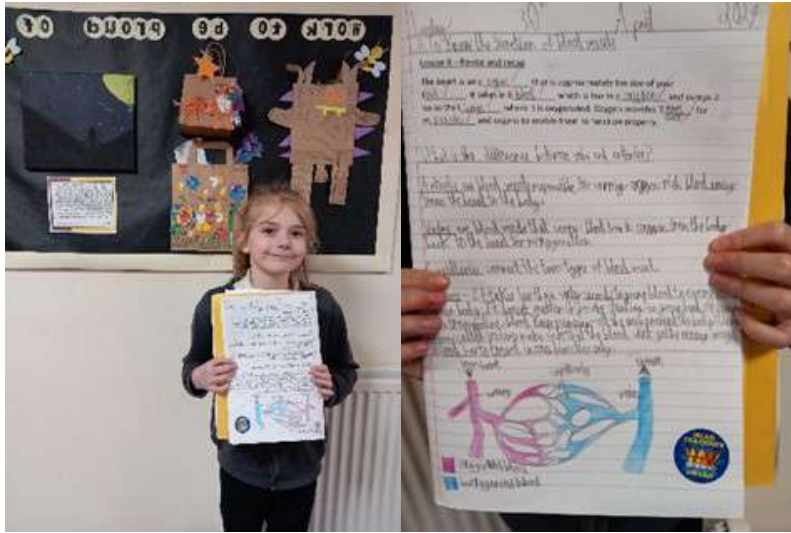
Last week, we took a group of Year 3 and 4 children to the Grantham Cross Country event. Each child completed a course just under a mile long, with some very tricky terrain! They ran with determination and were a real credit to Isaac Newton. For some, this was the first time they had represented our school. Well done to everyone, we are very proud of you!!



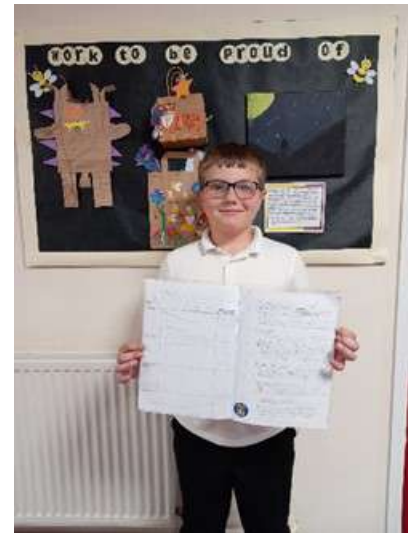
We recently played a friendly football fixture against Huntingtower School. 13 children, who took part in the Year 6 football club represented our school and were excited for the opportunity. Each child played a half each, with some super passing, defending and teamwork on show. Alfie and Oscar scored goals with the final result a 2-1 win, in what was a very even match. Well played to all the children, it was wonderful to see you proudly representing Isaac Newton!



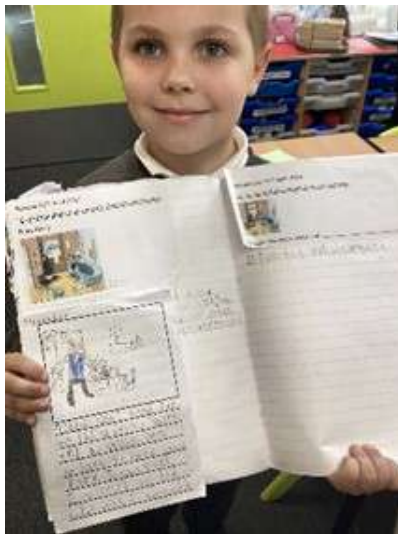
Work to be proud of



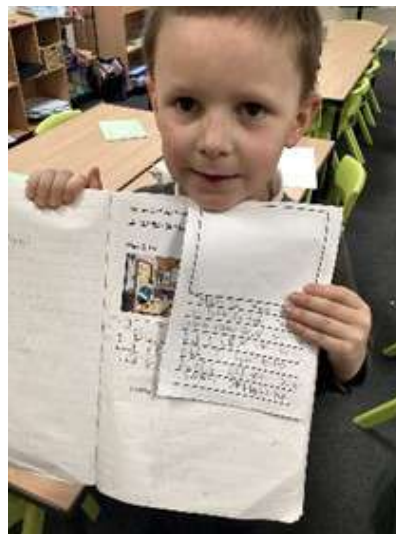
Wonderful science work from Harmony all about blood vessels. Lots of interesting facts and a beautiful diagram too! Well done!



A fantastic biography by Jaxon all about Isaac Newton. There is factual information about his early life, his education and his achievements. Well done Jaxon you have worked really hard on this!



Another week of fabulous English work from Alex. He works exceptionally hard and writes consistently well all the time. He truly lives and breathes our school values! Difficult to believe that he is only in year 1!



Lucas from Class 3 has shown real determination and resilience with his English work this week. There has been a dramatic improvement with his work and in particular, his handwriting! Well done



Reuben did some tricky maths during provision. Well done and Xia created a brilliant copy of Stitch out of plasticene. Well done!

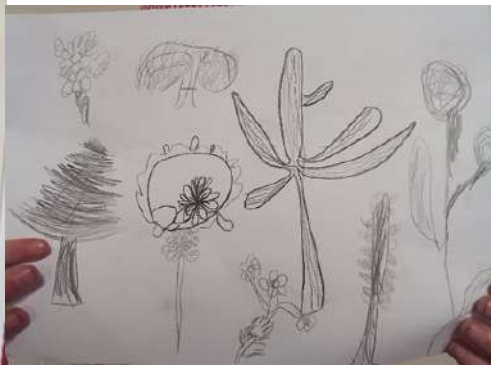
Work to be proud of



Fabulous pictures of a caterpillar and a cocoon. Really well coloured, Lyla took her time and the presentation is excellent. Year 1 have some budding young artists!



Phenomenal arithmetic work from Dylan who scored 40 out of 40 on a practice maths paper. His last three scores have been 21, 33 and then 40. An amazing achievement and just in time for SATs. Well done!



Beautiful sketches from Nettie of plants and flowers copied from books in the classroom and from memory. Clearly a talented artist, Nettie really enjoys drawing! Well done!



Amazing use of descriptive language by CJ in English this week. He was really proud of his work and desperate to show it off. Well done CJ, keep up the hard work!



Outstanding reading comprehension work from Amelia with her practice KS1 SATs. She scored full marks on Reading Papers 1 and 2. This is a sensational achievement. Well done for showing all our school values!

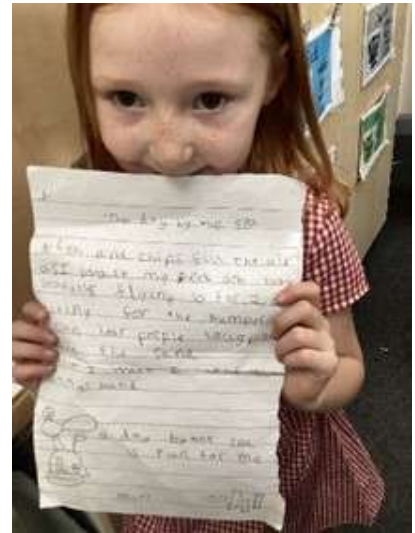


Ruchi and Kripa created an amazing model in provision with a waterfall and a bridge. They really took their time and produced a fantastic final outcome. Well done!

Work to be proud of from home



A wonderfully funny and entertaining narrative about a food invasion where Yorkshire puddings attack the Water Kingdom and much, much more. A great read for any KS2 child! Well done to Filip and Leyton from Class 11.



Amazing poem written by Bailey-Rae who is in Class 3. This homework was only handed out on Monday and she brought it back in on Tuesday. Well done, such dedication!



Patrick has been working hard on maths at home. He has been doing some tricky addition calculations. Well done Patrick!



An amazing, realistic 3-D picture of two beautiful flowers as part of her science work. Well done Eva-Leigh. Also well done to Rebecca who has created a fabulous seaside poem. Wonderful handwriting and very creative. Plus, a delicious looking strawberry milkshake! Great work from Class 3.



Crocodile habitat. CJ explained really clearly what a crocodile needs to live successfully. Well done, really interesting conversation.

Dates For Your Diary:

Week Commencing 13th May	KS2 SATs Week
23rd May	Year 5/6 Cricket Tournament
24th May	End of Term
3rd June	Start of Term 6
Week Commencing 3rd June	Bikeability Week
4th June	Great Wood Farm (Year 2)
10th June	Year 5 Burleigh House
11th June	Mini Olympics
25th June	KS2 Sports Day @ Meres
5th July	KS1 Sports Day (on school field)
10th July	Violin Concert
15th July	Reports sent home
19th July	End of Term 6
2nd & 3rd September	INSET Days (School closed to all pupils)
4th September	Start of term for the New Academic Year

Out of school achievement



Congratulations to Daryl from Year 5 who represented Kesteven Rugby Club in a Tournament which was held at Stamford Rugby Club on Sunday 28th April. The team did really well by winning four of their five games. Well done Daryl and the rest of the team!



Daryl not only received a participation medal from his rugby team Kesteven, but also won the Bill Berridge Rugby Values Trophy for his resilience and determination to improve and succeed. Well done!



Henri took part in the Under 7's Tag Rugby Festival at Stamford Rugby Club on Sunday 5th May. He's really proud of the medal he received and so are we! Well done Henri, a brilliant achievement!

Safeguarding Update

This week's online safety guide is a summary of the recent media use and attitudes survey focused on school age children. Plus an overview of what parents and carers need to know about an online game, Helldivers 2 which is aimed at young people over the age of 18.

What Parents & Educators Can Learn from the OFCOM MEDIA REPORT 2024

Each year, Ofcom - the UK's regulatory body for communications - produces an overview of children and parents' media experiences over the course of the previous year. At the time of writing, the latest of these reports, 'Children and parents: media use and attitudes 2024' has just been published, and we've plucked out some of its most thought-provoking findings regarding online safety.

ONLINE LIVES



SCREEN TIME

By children's age group, the percentage of parents who felt less able to manage their child's screentime were ...



POPULAR PLATFORMS

Most used by children ...



ONLINE GAMING

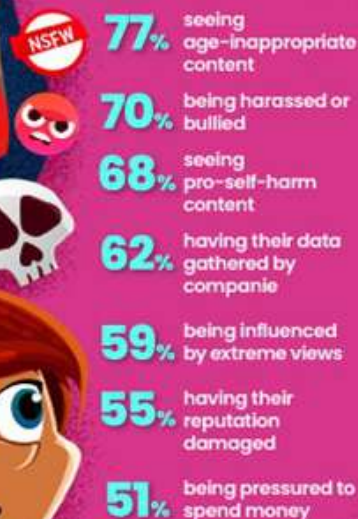
68% of children played video games online

Who did these children most commonly play with?



PARENTAL CONCERNS

The things that most commonly worry parents and carers about their child being online include ...



ONLINE SAFETY IN SCHOOLS



DEVICES MOST USED TO GO ONLINE



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: nationalcollege.com/guides/media-use-and-attitudes-report-2024

X @wake_up_weds

f /wuw.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 01.05.2024

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about HELLDIVERS 2



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Within weeks of release, Helldivers 2 had become one of 2024's biggest gaming success stories. The sequel to a top-down shooter from 2015 has smashed sales expectations, owing to its frantic gameplay and tongue-in-cheek humour. However, the game comes with several risks to younger players, as indicated by its 18+ rating.

PEGI 18 RATING



Due to its intense violence and the presence of in-game purchases, Helldivers 2 carries a PEGI 18 rating. While players are generally fighting fantastical enemies like giant bugs and robots, their characters can be killed in various gruesome ways, up to and including dismemberment. It's certainly worth considering whether such a game is appropriate for younger players.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

In Helldivers 2, players can use real money to buy in-game currency, with which they can unlock cosmetics and new weapons. At the time of writing, all the in-game items can be acquired without spending so much as a penny – but excited young players wanting to keep up with their friends may still feel the temptation to purchase new weapons more quickly, rather than laboriously earning the in-game currency through play.

VOICE CHAT AND MESSAGING

Helldivers 2 is always played online with others, who often use voice chat or in-game texts to coordinate, strategise or just joke around. This does mean that children who play without their friends will be put in contact with strangers. Unfortunately, this represents a roll of the dice, as the game can't control how people treat each other online. However, you can easily report other players for abusive behaviour via the game's 'Social' tab.

FRUSTRATION TRIGGER

The thrill of barely scraping through a dangerous mission in one piece is integral to Helldivers 2's appeal. To accentuate this feeling of achievement, the game includes some very difficult levels that could prove to be too hard for some players – even those who are legitimately old enough to play. Losing streaks can be incredibly annoying, so repeatedly failing in missions could easily provoke frustration or anger in younger players.

LACK OF ACCESS



The game is available on PC and PS5, but not (as yet) on other consoles. Some people will naturally be disappointed they can't get involved and might look for similar alternatives to play on their own console – alternatives which may contain similar levels of violence and gore but lack the same balanced approach to user misconduct and in-game purchases as Helldivers 2.

Advice for Parents & Educators

GIVE IT A GO FIRST



Helldivers 2 is a third-person shooter with intentionally humorous elements, but much of its comedy is rooted in satire which may go over the heads of some players. Consider playing the game first yourself – while shooting bugs and robots feels too unrealistic to be upsetting, seeing your character get torn to pieces may be too much for young players.

SET EXPECTATIONS



At the time of writing, Helldivers 2 costs £34.99. It could turn out to be an expensive and wasteful purchase if a player gets irritated and gives up shortly after receiving the game. If a young person tends to become frustrated easily, it's worth considering whether Helldivers 2 is really the game for them.

CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES



If playing on Xbox – where Helldivers 2 isn't available – consider something like Halo: The Master Chief Collection as an alternative. One of its game modes – Firefight – replicates Helldivers' mechanics to some degree. Alternatively, younger players may be better suited to the more light-hearted Deep Rock Galactic, which sees them play as fantasy dwarves in space, involving far less gruesome violence.

KEEP AN EYE ON PAYMENTS



Many titles offer in-game purchases, but Helldivers 2's are comparatively cheap. You'll still need to monitor your payment information (or use a prepaid card on the account), in case your child buys the in-game currency in bulk; on the whole, however, the game's selling methods are far less egregious than most similar titles on the market.

MONITOR COMMUNICATION & ADJUST SETTINGS



Thanks to an in-game "Ping" system (allowing players to highlight important details without speaking), communication isn't as integral to Helldivers 2 as it is in other games. You can turn off the chat options in-game on PC, or on the PS5's own settings, and feel more secure in the knowledge that your child won't be speaking to people they don't know.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Editor in Chief of GGRecon, and has been working in the games media industry for five years. As well as being an avid long-time gamer, he is also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his work has been published on sites including IGN, TechRadar and many more.



The National College®