

Dear Parents/Carer

It has been a short turnaround since the last Newsletter, but there have been so many special and exciting things to celebrate with you all. As well as some important reminders, the children have produced some exceptional work in school and at home and there have been a number of exciting events which have happened.

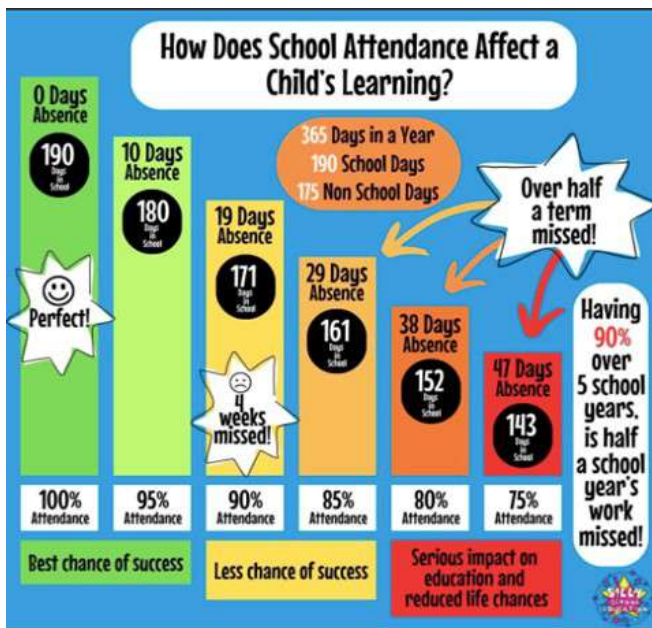
We look forward to Safer Internet Day and Kindness Day this week. Both of these themes will be discussed in assembly and there will be further opportunities to delve deeper, later in the week. Term 3 comes to a close this Friday (9th February) with the new term beginning on Monday 19th February.

We would really like to know about your child's out of school achievements, please email the school office on enquiries@isaacnewton-cit.co.uk with information, and we will celebrate this in our next Newsletter.

Reminders

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, by 9.30am. 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.



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 and is also a safety hazard.

Road Safety



We have had a concern raised with us from a resident, about children running straight out of school and crossing the road without looking both ways. I don't need to tell you how dangerous this is. We will remind the children about being safe in school, please can you talk to them about this as well.

The government website below is a fantastic resource and has lots of useful advice, in child friendly form.

<https://www.think.gov.uk/education-resources/>

Breakfast Club

Another reminder that Breakfast Club needs to be booked two weeks in advance and it operates on a first come, first served basis.

School Values

We have continued to focus on our school value of **Respect** this term but have also introduced another value - Kindness. This has been discussed in assemblies, with the school council and in class. Being kind and respectful 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 listening carefully to instructions first time. Class 7 received the most Respect Tokens this week. As a reward for this, they each had hot chocolate or juice.

We are so proud of Armani, Theo and Max for the resilience and respect they have shown this week litter picking all around the school grounds. Thank you for doing this during most of your break times.



Mr D. Milner
Headteacher

World Book Day

For World Book Day this year, due to the rises in the cost of living, we have decided not to ask the children to dress up. We will, however, be doing lots of fun book-related activities throughout the day and we would like the children to bring in their favourite book from home, if they have one. As we have done in previous years, we will be holding a craft competition with prizes for the winning entries.

Year 3 Flag Fen trip

This week, Year 3 went on a fantastic trip to Flag Fen. We spent the morning being archaeologists, investigating prehistoric artefacts and making Bronze Age clay pots. In the afternoon, we explored the site and saw a Bronze Age boat. We also listened to a story inside a replica Roundhouse. It was a great day, and the children had an amazing time



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. It is always a special occasion and enjoyed by all!



Winners from Celebration Assembly, with their certificates.

Year 5 Mayan Workshop

Class 12 took part in a workshop about the Ancient Maya. They took part in a variety of drama games to start and then created their own play about the Maya civilisation. All the children worked really hard and the play turned out amazing.

Well done Class 12!



Sports/PE update

Last Friday we took a team of 21 children to the Grantham Indoor Athletics Competition. They took part in a variety of throwing, jumping and sprint races against other schools in the Grantham area. The team performed incredibly well and we are pleased to announce we finished in Bronze Medal position!! This is a fantastic achievement and we are very proud of each and every one of you!! When we received the results of the events we were very pleased to see a win for the 1+1 boys relay, the girls speed bounce, girls standing triple jump and the girls vertical jump. The competition requires a large amount of practise - each child attended after school club for 8 weeks, perfecting their events. This shows huge commitment from the children and we are incredibly pleased to see this rewarded with medals. It is also important to note that some children entered races and events at the very last minute due to illnesses - this shows a fantastic team ethic from our children. and as ever we are incredibly proud of them!



This week we had a very special visitor into school. Dai Greene, an Olympic 400m hurdler came and led a KS2 assembly on sportsmanship. The children listened and were able to share their ideas on what they think makes a good sportsman or woman and how they can show those qualities within their school lives. They then had the opportunity to ask Dai questions about his career and how he made it into athletics. Many thanks to Inspire+ for organising this amazing opportunity for our children and thank you to Dai for sharing his life and career with the children!

On Wednesday we attended the Grantham Badminton Festival at KGGs secondary school. 12 eager Year 6 children were ready to learn lots of skills used in Badminton and took part in a carousel of activities. The evening finished with a game of beat the server! The children were fantastic all evening and represented Isaac Newton impeccably! Well done everyone!!



ISAC NEWTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Thank you for taking part in supporting your Community

D. C. Toole

President David Toole - Rotary Club of Grantham - February 2024



On Sunday 4th February, 24 children, six staff and several parents took part in the Rotary Swimarathon. This fantastic event was organised by Mrs Toole for the Rotary Club and Isaac Newton were among countless other schools and organisations who took part over the weekend. We collectively swam 537 lengths, and raised an astonishing £1800.

Work to be proud of



Wonderful English work by Harmony-Rose. A fantastic non-chronological report. So well presented. We are so proud of the effort put into this fabulous piece of work.



Amazing history work from Cole. All done independently, really well presented and some interesting facts about the Iron Age.



Congratulations to Mary and Ayla who both got 25 out of 25 on TT Rockstars for the first time. Well done!



Fabulous Geography work from Ayla, Majus and Amelia who accurately answered all the questions about the river Nile correctly. Well done!



Fantastic English work from Nettie-Rae. A really well written version of a traditional tale. She has also made huge progress with her writing since September. Well done!



Amazing work from Class 12 including Kian and Nikola, who were multiplying a unit fraction by an integer.



What outstanding writing from Melody, Swagat, Starla-Rose and Amber. We are so proud of the accurate speech punctuation and the wonderful imagery. It is very difficult to believe that they are only in year 3!



Fantastic work from Logan, who is in Year 1, on the Great Fire of London. He knew lots of facts and is clearly enjoying his learning.

Work to be proud of from home



Maeve researched Ancient Egypt and created a really interesting fact file. Well done, I did not know that Na was a nickname for Ancient Egypt.



Fantastic detail on Lena's Shield and sword. Well done!



Well done to Danni, Olivia and Vanessa for their phenomenal Biome in a box models.



Well done to Lilly, Olivia D, Emilia, Armani, Patrick and Isaac for their fabulous volcano pictures and model. Great work.

Out of school achievement



Antoni from Class 14 has achieved brown belt with 1st white stripe. Congratulations on persevering with this. Well done!

Dates For Your Diary:

6th February	Safer Internet Day	19th March	New Walk Museum (Year 4)
9th February	End of Term 3	19th March	Discos! (KS1 4.30 – 5.30pm; KS2 6 – 7pm)
19th February	Start of Term 4	21st March	World Poetry Day
19th February	Kindness Day	21st March	Yorkshire Wildlife Park (Year 1)
5th March	Mayans (Class 11)	27th March	Class photographs
7th March	The Deep visit (Year 6)	28th March	End of Term 4
8th March	World Book Day	17th April	Parents' Evening (4 – 7pm)
8th March	International Women's Day	18th April	Parents' Evening (4 – 6pm)
12th March	Year 2 at Lincoln Castle		

This week's Online safety Guide – some really useful tips for parents and carers about safe use of Smartphones and also Mylol.

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many devices which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit nationalcollege.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

SMARTPHONE SAFETY TIPS

for young people

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You may have been lucky enough to have unwrapped a smartphone at Christmas, or you might be eagerly anticipating getting a new one at some point during this year. Whether it'll be your first ever phone or an upgrade on your old model, it's always useful to have a refresher about how to set it up and adjust the settings to keep yourself – and your valuable personal info – safe and secure. We've collected some expert tips to help you enjoy your smartphone in the healthiest way possible.

NEVER SHARE YOUR PASSCODE

Alongside face or fingerprint recognition, your passcode is crucial to unlocking your phone and accessing your apps and personal information. You shouldn't give it out, even to close friends – after all, you wouldn't hand them a key to your house and let them go in for a nosy around! If a friend wants to use your phone, ask them why and make sure you can see what they're doing with it.

RESPECT PARENTAL CONTROLS

If you're allowed to have a smartphone, it's because your parents or carers feel that you're mature and responsible enough to use it safely. They might set controls and boundaries on your device – not to spoil your fun but to help you avoid hazards like too much screen time or costly in-app purchases. Following these rules means you can enjoy using your phone while respecting their wishes.

TALK TO A TRUSTED ADULT

Whether it's to listen to music, play games, create content or chat with friends, using a smartphone should be fun. If you're ever feeling anxious, worried or scared about going on your phone, then something isn't right. It's important not to ignore these feelings; instead, talk to a trusted adult about what's happening and how it's making you feel.

STAY ALERT

Two words: look up. It might sound obvious, but it's so easy to get immersed in what we're looking at or listening to on our phones that we can become unaware of our surroundings – or who might be around us. People often walk with their head down, focusing on their phone, and forget to check for obstacles in their path, cars or other pedestrians coming towards them, which is clearly dangerous.

DEVELOP HEALTHY HABITS

Phones offer a vast amount of content and the chance to chat with friends whenever we feel like it, which can make it difficult to take time away from the screen. If that's something you struggle with, you could try setting time limits on certain apps. Putting our phones down for a while gives us more time to interact with others or do something physical that helps keep us fit and healthy.

IGNORE UNKNOWN NUMBERS

There are some scammers who might call or text asking you to share personal data or to click on a link and provide your details. Some may claim to be from a genuine company, but trustworthy businesses don't spontaneously call or message to ask for your information. It's safest to ignore calls or texts from unknown numbers, and never give your personal details out over the phone.

ONLY USE AGE-APPROPRIATE APPS

Before downloading a new app or game, check what age rating it has. Don't feel pressured into getting a particular game or app just because your friends are using it. If it's intended for older people, there's a definite risk that it could include content (which is violent or frightening, for instance) or language which isn't suitable and may leave you feeling upset or disturbed.

REMOVE TEMPTATION

A good night's sleep is so important for concentration, mood and overall health. Unwinding properly before going to bed – which means not staring at a screen late at night – can often improve sleep quality. Put your phone on charge overnight, but not in your room. This means you'll have a lot less temptation to check any notifications, reply to messages or get caught up scrolling on social media.

THINK ABOUT OTHERS

Watching videos, listening to music or calling someone can all help to pass the time while we're on the bus, waiting in a queue or walking down the street. It's important to remain mindful of other people, though: they might not want to hear your tunes or your conversation. Likewise, if you're calling from a public place then don't forget that anyone could overhear something personal about you.

SWITCH OFF GEOLOCATION

In your phone's settings, you'll be able to disable geolocation for individual apps and photos: this means that people online (including strangers) can't see information about where you are when you share or post a pic. On the subject of images, it's also important to ask permission before taking or sharing a photo of someone – and don't share embarrassing images of your friends with others.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MYLOL

AGE RESTRICTION
13-19

MyLOL is a free social networking and dating site aimed at teens. Profiles can publicly display users' images and information, including sexual orientation and personal interests. The service bills itself as "the number one teen dating website in the world", claiming to have more than a million users globally. Despite its popularity, the MyLOL app is no longer available from Google Play or the App Store, although the site is still active. In some countries, police forces and schools have previously warned parents about "sinister predators" and "inappropriate activities" on the site.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

FLimsy AGE GATES

Although MyLOL states it is exclusively aimed at users aged between 13 and 19, there is no credible age verification system to prevent a younger child – or an older adult – from signing up to the platform. Coupled with the fact that it's impossible to establish a user's true identity on MyLOL, this raises a serious concern that the site could be used for grooming.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

MyLOL maintains that it monitors all uploaded images for nudity or sexual content. It also claims to be able to detect suspicious keywords. However, there have been numerous reports of explicit content being found on the platform, with users often posting provocative, semi-nude pictures of themselves and engaging in flirty or sexually explicit conversation.

POTENTIAL CYBER-BULLYING

MyLOL lets users 'vote' on other people based solely on their appearance, much in the same vein as the now-defunct site Hot or Not. This feature could easily lead to distress and bullying, especially if a young person's profile pics receive an unfavourable response. Various reviews of MyLOL have noted that bullying frequently becomes an issue in the platform's chat groups and private messages.

IN-APP SPENDING

MyLOL is free to join and use, but it also offers paid-for memberships. Users who have paid money get their profile promoted at the top of the site and in search results. They can also earn additional credits for increased engagement with the platform – such as sharing, replying to messages and voting. At the time of writing, the monthly membership fee was \$9.95 (just under £8).

DATA COLLECTION

According to its privacy policy, MyLOL collects user data including email addresses, contact details and interests. While the company says it is committed to protecting users' privacy, the small print states that information may be shared externally. MyLOL claims to follow procedures to keep data secure, but does not specify what these procedures are, or whether such information is encrypted.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

MyLOL makes it easy to connect with strangers. In fact, the site's rewards feature encourages users to send private messages to people they don't know. There have been several media stories of adults posing as teens on MyLOL to connect with minors, which could lead to extremely dangerous situations, such as a young person meeting up with someone who has been posing under a false identity.

Advice for Parents & Carers

DISCUSS ONLINE DATING

It's vital to talk to your child about the possible dangers of platforms like MyLOL – particularly the threat of online predators. Remind them of the risks of sharing intimate images and information with strangers and emphasise that most people don't realise they're being 'catfished' until it's too late – it really isn't wise for a young person to meet up with someone they've only spoken to online.

RESTRICT IN-APP SPENDING

If your child has access to a bank card or other payment method, they may be enticed into signing up for MyLOL's premium features. Having their profile boosted and receiving more attention could be especially tempting if their friends also use the site. You could consider altering their device's settings to disable internet purchases, or at the very least keeping an eye on their online spending.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



EXPLAIN PRIVACY RISKS

Before your child begins using a service such as MyLOL, it's important that they understand the potential pitfalls of giving out their personal data on this type of platform. Explain to them, for example, that they shouldn't divulge any personally identifying information to people who they don't know, as scammers can be quite convincing when attempting to steal someone's identity.

SET UP LOCATION ALERTS

If you're worried that your child may be planning to meet up with someone they've met on MyLOL, you could consider utilising GPS or WiFi location tracking technology to follow their whereabouts in real time. You can even set up a virtual boundary or 'fence' and opt to receive an alert to your phone if your child enters or exits a specified area.

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