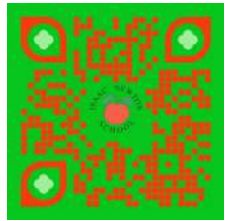




The Apple



The weekly news from Isaac Newton School, Grantham

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Dear Parents/Carer

We are incredibly proud of how settled and ready for learning the children have been, since the start of term. They have produced some wonderful work, that they should be extremely proud of and have been wonderful ambassadors for the school.

Our second Parents' Evening of this academic year will be held on Wednesday 2nd April (4pm – 7pm) and Thursday 3rd April (4pm – 6pm). Please save the date – further information will be sent home nearer the time.

School Phone Issue

Thank you for your patience regarding the BT phone issue. Unfortunately, this is still not resolved. We have had new phones installed so are able to call out, but incoming calls are still having to be diverted to one of our work mobiles. I will let you know when everything is sorted. In the unlikely event you are having problems getting through, please email enquiries@isaacnewton-cit.co.uk and a member of the team will get back in touch as soon as possible.

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 31st 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.

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.**

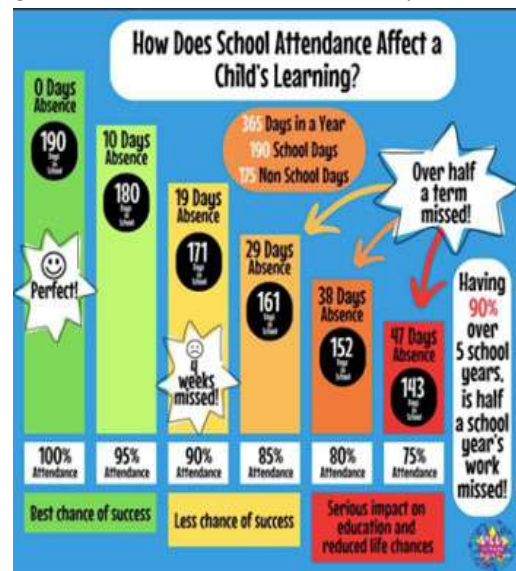
Here is a reminder of the impact of having below 90% attendance. If this continues over a five-year period, this is equivalent to half a school year's worth of lost learning that will result in significant gaps. Mr Richards and the attendance team continue to work hard to support families, offer advice 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	93.3%	Class 8	96.8%
Class 2	92.7%	Class 9	99.3%
Class 3	93.8%	Class 10	89.9%
Class 4	93.5%	Class 11	97%
Class 5	96.5%	Class 12	97%
Class 6	97.1%	Class 13	91.8%
Class 7	97.3%	Class 14	94.6%

Congratulations to classes 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11 and 12 for having attendance above 96%.



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. Thanks you for your support with this.

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/minfec>.

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 (10.01.2025 and 17.02.252025) with their certificates.

OUR SCHOOL VALUES



School Values

Again 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. We will also be focusing on our Pride value.

Dates For Your Diary:

24th January	Indoor Athletics
5th February	Year 2 at Lincoln Castle
9th February	Swimathon
11th February	KS2 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)

Sports/PE update

This week our Year 6 Bronze Ambassadors attended the next session in their training at Huntingtower School. The session was led by the Royal Opera House, focusing on children's rights. We collaborated with other ambassadors from various primary schools across the area to plan the Legacy Tour Assembly. They shared their ideas on how dance made them feel and how we can express ourselves through this form of movement. We then practised our script in preparation for the assembly at the end of term. Well done ambassadors, you did a fantastic job sharing your ideas with others!!



Below are some pictures from our P.E. Lessons this term. We are looking at Fitness for the younger pupils while the older pupils are learning Gymnastics.



Year 2 learning to skip during Fitness PE Lessons



Year 4 creating partner balances using apparatus in gymnastics

We have recently attended the Grantham Badminton Festival at KGGS. A group of Year 6 children were excited to take part and represent Isaac Newton. At the festival they took part in a carousel of badminton skills and activities, finishing off with a game of beat the server! Well done everyone, you represented Isaac Newton with pride!



Year 3 creating point and patch balances during gymnastics

Work to be proud of



Wonderful maths work from Daryl this week. Class 13 have been



Fabulous and accurate map work from Maya and CJ. Budding



Year 5 have been doing division this week. Well done to Leighlen for trying so hard and successfully completing his work!



A fantastic setting description from Jaxon this week. Really well presented, he has worked so hard this week. Well done!



Fabulous multiplication work in maths this week from Darius, who is in Class 8. Well done!



Great work from Esme in Class 7 for getting 25 out of 25 on TT Rock Stars for the first time. Well done, very impressive!

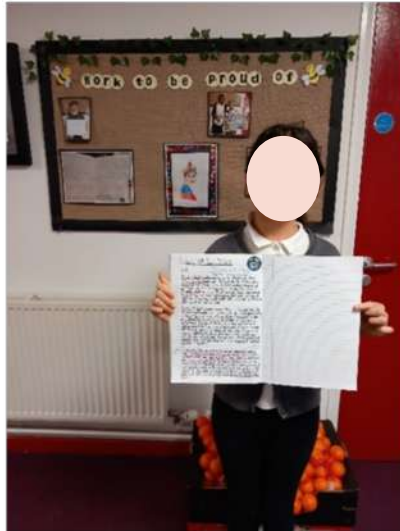


Brilliant name writing from Azraya and Andreas. Well done Year 1!



Accurate addition from Romany who is in class 4. Well done, keep up the hard work!

Work to be proud of



A phenomenal descriptive piece of writing about some changing weather conditions by Vidya. Powerful verb choices and effective rhyming pairs.

'It was a bright, Saturday morning, with the relaxed, fluffy clouds drifting peacefully inwards while the bright, jolly sky emitted a happy blue glow!'



A fantastic set of instructions by Isabelle, Tadi, Segun, Elijah and Henry how to make a healthy pizza. As well as a list of ingredients and the equipment there was some really useful advice too! This made me very hungry!!!

Work to be proud of from home



Well done to Eliza from Year 2 who created this beautiful unicorn brooch. Great work!



Congratulations to Lilly from Class 10 for this amazing homework. Accurate looking mummification in a coffin and some wonderful printing. Well done!

Work to be proud of from home



Great work at home from Harpreet who has done a picture and written a short story about Little Red Riding Hood. Also, to Paulina who has made this lovely bunny out of a craft set. Great work!



Well done! To Archie for his castle made completely from Lego!



Year 2 have made some weapons relating to their Castle topic



What a wonderful castle that Iyla-Winnie made at home. Completed with recycled materials and coloured with felt tip.

Out of school Achievements



Congratulations to Dominic from Class 5. He has worked really hard and achieved his Learn to Swim 3 Badge and certificate. Well done!

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

SNAP STREAK

97

DAYS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

My AI is Snapchat's new chatbot, which replies to questions in a human-like manner. However, the software is still in its infancy and has significant drawbacks, such as biased, incorrect or misleading responses. There have already been numerous reports of young users turning to AI for medical help and diagnoses, which could be inaccurate and therefore potentially dangerous.

PREDATORS AND SCAMS

Predators can exploit Snapchat's disappearing messages by, for example, telling a user they have naked photos of them and will post them unless they're paid. Snapchat's own research found that 80% of teenagers had experienced this – on this app or others. This likely isn't helped by 'Snapmaps' – a feature which highlights your exact position in real-time. This is meant to help friends keep track of each other, but could be used for more sinister reasons.

MY EYES ONLY

Snapchat has a hidden photo vault called 'My Eyes Only'. Users can conceal sensitive photos and videos from parents and carers in this folder, which is protected by a PIN. You can check for this by clicking on the icon which looks like two playing cards. This takes you to the 'Stories' folder which stores photos, stories and the My Eyes Only folder.

SCREEN TIME ADDICTION

Snapchat prioritises user engagement, with features like streaks (messaging the same person every day to build up a high score). The app also has sections called 'Discover' and 'Spotlight', which show tailored content to each user. However, this could also be seen as an attempt to hook users into watching videos endlessly. Furthermore, constant notifications can lure people into using the app.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat simply isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images or images – so settings continue to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

ONLINE PRESSURES

Although many of Snapchat's filters are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beauty' effects on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations – creating feelings of inadequacy in younger users. Snapchat also has 'priority' notifications (which will get displayed even if a device is in 'do not disturb' mode), increasing the pressure on users to log back in and interact.

Advice for Parents & Educators

UTILISE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Snapchat's 'Family Center' lets you view the details of the child's account, their friends list and who they've spoken to in the last week – and report any concerns. You must invite a child to the Family Centre for them to be able to. To keep the child's location hidden on the app, go into settings and turn on 'Ghost Mode' and 'Hide Live Location', and ensure they know not to share their location with anyone.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger does connect with a child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending sexual images to them, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile and report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user – such as harassing or malicious messages, spam or requesting an account also.

FAMILIARISE YOURSELF

Before you allow a child to download Snapchat, download it yourself and familiarise yourself with the app. Snapchat has produced a parents' guide to the app to help you understand how it works and any protections they have in place. A link for this can be found in the resource below.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. For example, discuss My AI's responses to questions and how reliable they are. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they've liked into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgmentally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Burdwell 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.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat-2023>

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10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO RETURN TO ROUTINE

Most of us look forward to the school holidays as an opportunity to slow down and relax, stay up later, sleep in and generally approach life in a more leisurely fashion. However, this does mean that returning to normal school-day routines can feel like an uphill battle. Here are some practical tips to ease that transition, reduce stress and set children up for success.

1 START SMALL AND EARLY

Begin reintroducing elements of the school routine at least a few days before term starts. Gradually adjust bedtime, wake-up times and mealtimes to be more in line with school-day rhythms. Small changes can make a big difference in avoiding last-minute panic and helping children to readjust smoothly.

2 REVISIT THE SCHEDULE

Involve your child in mapping out their daily routine so they understand what's going to change. Visual tools like charts or calendars can help keeping to that schedule feel more engaging. When children understand and anticipate their personal timetable, they feel more secure and in control.

3 CREATE A SLEEP PLAN

Sleep can present one of the biggest challenges, as children can sometimes become night owls, prone to staying up late during the holidays. Limit screen time before bed and encourage winding-down activities like reading or listening to calming music. A restful night's sleep improves focus, mood and overall wellbeing, making mornings much smoother.

4 ENCOURAGE FRIENDSHIPS

Help your child to reconnect with school friends by organising playdates, catch-ups or arranging to go to after-school clubs. Re-establishing social bonds can make the return to school more exciting and less intimidating, allowing youngsters to focus on the positive aspects of the new term.

5 GRANT RESPONSIBILITY

Give children control over some aspects of the morning routine. Maybe they could be in charge of waking everyone up, serving breakfast or choosing the radio station that everyone listens to while getting ready. Something that gives them a sense of ownership over their morning schedule can help them view the task as one they've chosen to do, rather than being told to do it.

6 FOCUS ON NUTRITION

Make sure children are receiving balanced meals (with regular healthy snacks to boost energy and concentration), putting them in the best possible state to return to education. A nutritious breakfast is particularly crucial for a positive start to the day. Involve children in meal planning to make it enjoyable and collaborative.

7 COMMUNICATE OPENLY

Talk with your child about how they're feeling about returning to school: whether they're excited, anxious or a mix of both. Validating their emotions helps them feel supported and understood. Try asking them about the things they're looking forward to at school, such as seeing their friends again. Focusing on the positives can be useful for children struggling with change.

8 RECONNECT WITH LEARNING

Ease children back into a learning mindset by incorporating fun, educational activities into their home life. Reading a favourite book, playing games that involve maths or discussing an interesting topic can gently reawaken their focus and prime their minds to learn, which can have helpful impacts on their academic performance.

9 PREP TOGETHER

Turn preparation into a shared activity, to shoulder the responsibility together and provide support where needed. Pack school bags, lay out uniforms and plan lunch the night before. This not only reduces early morning stress but also gives children a sense of ownership over being ready for school.

10 BE PATIENT AND FLEXIBLE

Transitions take time, and every child adjusts differently; so, it's important to stay calm and supportive, especially if they're reacting adversely to the change in their daily life. Be ready to tweak routines as needed, and work with the child to make the return to education as easy as possible for them. Patience can go a long way to setting a positive tone for the new school year.

Meet Our Expert

Becky Dawson is an education expert with a focus on mental health and wellbeing. Passionate about empowering adults who spend time with and care for young people, Becky specialises in creating practical strategies that promote wellbeing and resilience in children during life's transitions.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/supporting-children-to-return-to-routine>