

Dear Parents/Carers

What a phenomenal start to the new term it has been. The children have settled down quickly after the half term holidays and have got straight back into their usual routines. We will be focussing on our school value of Kindness this half term. I often say to the children what a kind school Isaac Newton is. Children often ask the adults in school how they are, if they are having a nice day and do thoughtful things like holding the door open for one another.

Year 6 SATs

Our Year 6 children have been working exceptionally hard this year. Miss Jones and Mrs Roberts balance the academic work that needs to be covered, with creative art work and ensure the children have a broad and balanced curriculum. As you know they will be taking their SATs test in May this year. Holidays are only ever authorised in exceptional circumstances but please can I remind parents/carers **not to book a holiday during SATs week** (12th, 13th, 14th and 15th May 2025).

Children who are absent during this week due to a family holiday will not be able to complete their tests when they return to school.

Parking

Unfortunately, we've had a complaint from a local resident about parking in front of their drive whilst dropping off/collecting children.



We know and understand the roads around school are really busy at peak times, but please be considerate. As well as this being inconvenient, if there was an emergency residents would not be able to get out.

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 28th March**, on social media and during our Celebration Assemblies!

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.

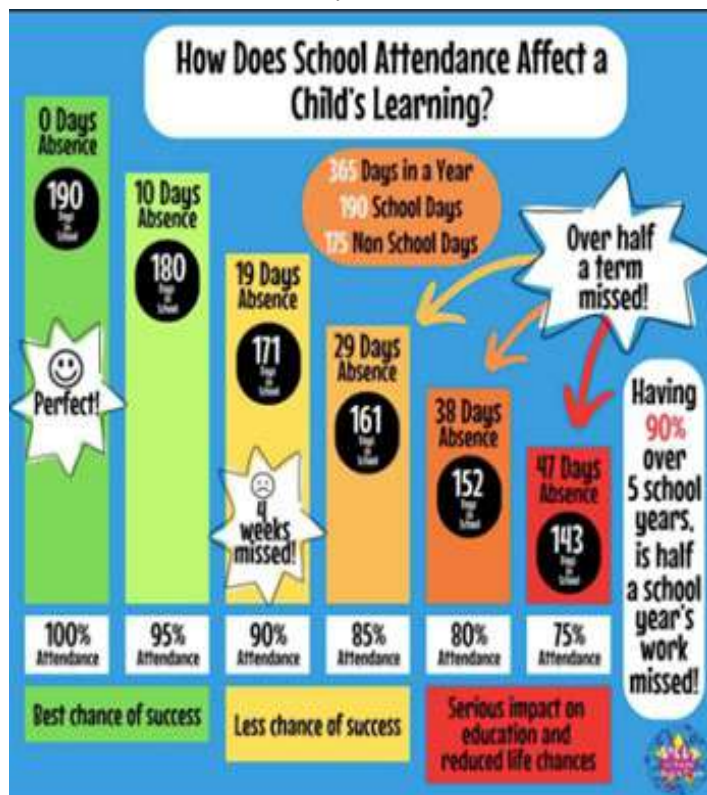
How many classes are above 96%

| | | | |
|---------|-------|----------|-------|
| Class 1 | 97.2% | Class 8 | 94.8% |
| Class 2 | 97.9% | Class 9 | 95.5% |
| Class 3 | 95.5% | Class 10 | 97.8% |
| Class 4 | 93.8% | Class 11 | 98.3% |
| Class 5 | 94.6% | Class 12 | 98% |
| Class 6 | 99.3% | Class 13 | 94.2% |
| Class 7 | 97.5% | Class 14 | 95.7% |

Congratulations to classes 1, 2, 6, 7, 10, 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.

Exciting news!!! Isaac Newton have been shortlisted for the next round of voting in the Tesco Blue Tokens Scheme at the Sleaford and Grantham stores during April, May and June. We are currently raising money for an outdoor classroom in EYFS so if we are successful, we put the money raised towards this. Please vote for us and share with friends and family.



VOTE FOR US

TESCO

Community Grants



We need your votes please!

Isaac Newton School is bidding to bag a cash boost from Tesco Community Grants.

We wish to install a covered seating area on our EYFS playground, allowing our youngest pupils to reap the physical and emotional benefits of outdoor learning during any season.



Voting is open from April until the end of June in the following stores:

- ✓ Grantham Express, NG31 8RX
- ✓ Sleaford Superstore, NG34 7BB
- ✓ Grantham Harrowby Store, NG31 9NL

Please look out for our name in store and vote for Isaac Newton.

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>.

Easter Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF)



Easter HAF bookings open Tuesday 18th March!

We are delighted to share with you that our bookings for our Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme Easter holiday clubs can be made from Tuesday 18th March!

Easter 2025 Delivery Dates:

Easter HAF will take place during the Easter holidays running from Monday 7th – Tuesday 22nd April (excluding bank holidays and weekends).

Where will the clubs be taking place?

There are over 100 clubs being delivered across the county during the Easter holidays. Our mapping tool on our HAF Webpage will be available soon to highlight the HAF provision being delivered across the county.

How to Book:

To book on to a club, families will require a HAF Evoucher code which will be provided by schools on Tuesday 18th March.

The HAF Evoucher, received by email and/or text message, includes a link to the booking site listing available activities.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please get in touch via HAF@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Sports/PE update

On Tuesday night a group of Year 5/6 boys travelled to Grantham Prep School for a football fixture. With much anticipation and excitement, the boys warmed up ready for the game. In the first half we took a bit of time to get into the game, but were able to score 1 goal from just before half time. In the second half we continued where we had left off with some excellent passing in midfield and created 2 further goals. Our defence was strong and withstood some strong attacks from the opposition. When the final whistle went the score was 3-0 to us!! A huge well done to all the boys for their fantastic efforts, it was a pleasure to watch you. A special mention must go to Kian T, who scored a header from a well placed cross into the box. It's not an easy thing to score a header and it's been a very long time since we've seen one at primary school football!! Up the Apples!!!

Congratulations to our Netball team who have are this years League 1 High 5 Winners. They played two games, showing some excellent netball skills. They beat Cliffdale last night in a tense match, that could have gone either way, with goals from Connor (6), Skylar (4) and Nicole (2). We have also won this league in 2019, 2022 and 2023. A huge well done to the whole team and to the P.E. staff, they were incredible throughout showing that Isaac Newton spirit and determination. Up the Apples!



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 from 28.02.2025 and 07.03.2025 with their stickers and certificates. Congratulations to them all!

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:

| | |
|------------|---|
| 18th March | Year 6 Trip to The Deep |
| 20th March | Year 5 & 6 Netball Tournament |
| 25th March | Year 5 Trip to Yorkshire Wildlife Park |
| 27th March | Year 6 Hockey Tournament |
| 31st March | Rocksteady Performance 9:10 am |
| 2nd April | Parents' Evening (4pm - 7pm) |
| 3rd April | Tag Rugby Tournament |
| 3rd April | Parents' Evening (4pm - 6pm) |
| 4th April | End of Term 4 |
| 21st April | Bank Holiday (School closed to all pupils and staff) |
| 22nd April | Start of Term 5 |
| 22nd April | EYFS Trip to Woodside Wildlife Park |

**Week commencing 12th May – Year 6 SATs Tests
(Please do not book holidays during this time!)**

Visit to 'The Happening' in Sleaford @LincsPoliceEdu

On Monday, a small group of children visited "The Happening" in Sleaford. This visit is designed to support our children in gaining a deeper understanding of how to challenge thinking and positively impact behaviour. During this workshop-based visit, the children gained a greater awareness of the impact of knife crime on themselves and those around them. They learned valuable skills and techniques to divert away from knife crime and understand how to challenge thinking to positively influence behaviour. The visit included an immersive experience, where children also practiced and demonstrated first aid techniques such as CPR.



Meet the staff

Mr Moore is a Year 5 teacher at Isaac Newton.

Whilst representing Grantham Running Club, Mr Moore completed a 20-mile run at the Oundle 20 mile race on Sunday the 2nd of March - finishing in three hours and twenty four minutes. He completed the race as part of his training for the Brighton Marathon in April. Whilst the race was challenging both physically and mentally, perseverance and a mentality of not giving up enabled him to complete the distance - a life lesson that Mr Moore shared with the children during assembly.



EYFS Tractor Visit

Our Foundation children had a lovely time this week when David, a local farmer, came in to school with his tractor. All the children had the opportunity to sit in the driver's seat, learn about agriculture in general and about what it is like being a farmer today.



Work to be proud of



Well done to Andreas, Ava and Dara who have made this amazing Billy Goats Gruff Bridge. They made them out of paper, lolly pop sticks, tape and rubber bands.



Well done to all of these fantastic Year 3 role models. They gave up their lunchtime to collect rubbish from the school playground and the edge of the field. Working hard to keep our school environment looking smart!



Congratulations to Clayton and Mason on their fabulous sewing projects. Such bright, vibrant colours on these fish. Well done!



Wonderful handwriting from Oliver and a huge improvement since September. He described the character in the story really well too, great work!

Work to be proud of



As part of their topic on The Great Fire of London, Year 1 have been finding out how buildings in London were made using wood and a mud and straw mixture (wattle and daub). They had a go at making their own walls in Forest School. Amazing work! As you can see from the pictures, the children place the sticks, then weave them before adding the mud which creates a wall.



Phenomenal improvement with Georgie's handwriting today. Mrs Roberts was so pleased with her progress. Well done Georgie!



Wonderful measurement work from Elsie and Elijah who successfully converted m to cm. Well done both of you!

Work to be proud of



Class 8 Fairy tale pets. Well presented and fantastic sentence starters. Well done!



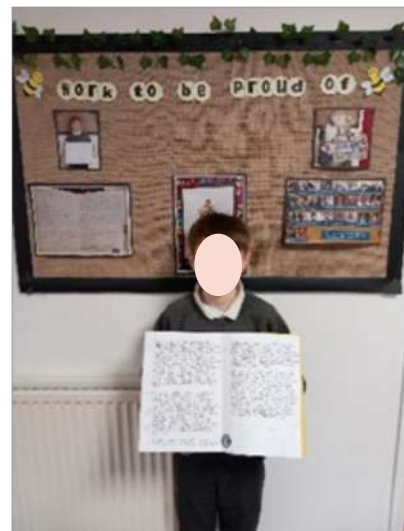
Fantastic addition work in Year 1 today. Well done to George and Olivia. Great number forming too. Amazing work!



Year 6 were looking at perimeter and how to calculate the perimeter in a range of shapes with limited information. They worked really hard independently to work it out. Really impressive work from Leyton, Filip and Braydon.



Fantastic maths work from Alfie and Julia on place value with decimals. They showed great resilience and determination by completing all the work set.



A brilliant suspense building set of paragraphs by Connor. He has made such progress with his writing this year. 'Pitch black clouds enveloped the sky as Bob entered the poisonous ivy alleyway. As he shuffled closer to the abandoned house pungent smells got worse and worse...'

Work to be proud of from home



Well done to Kasper for this fantastic drawing of the Mona Lisa. Brilliant shading, well done!



Well done to Olivia who created this wonderful Tudor house. This is linked with the topic.



Some amazing homework from Year 3. Lena has produced lots of times table facts. James and Tadi have made a poster about why we should not look about the sun directly. This is linked with the science topic. Finally, Kylie has done some interesting facts about sources of light. Well done to all of you!



Brilliant maths work from Austeja and some mind blowing sketches. She really is developing her own style. Well done!



Work to be proud of from home



Fantastic printing by Alexia from Year 4. They used polystyrene printing blocks which were engraved using a pencil. Such an amazing effect. Well done!



Look at this wonderful Dragon egg that Mila made at home. She has wrapped a plastic shape with paper and glue and then carefully painted it. Well done!



Well done to Paulina who created this bridge with a little bit of help. She modestly told me it only took her about one minute but with all the attention to detail, I suspect it took a bit longer. Fantastic work!

Out of school achievements



Daryl has showed such resilience and sheer determination by completing an astonishing 4000m swim. He had a few short rest breaks in between but this is a monumental achievement, well done we are so proud of you!



Well done to Amelia who passed her Brownie Promise which she did in front of some parents. Well done, we are really proud of you.



Congratulations to Nettie-Rae for completing her Learn to Swim 4 badge and certificate in February. She has already started working towards the next badge where she is learning to tread water. All the best Nettie-Rae.



Learn to Swim 1 Talie, well done!

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MARVEL RIVALS



Some advice nobody under the age of 12 should play

Marvel Rivals launched in December 2024 and amassed a player count of nearly 150,000 in mere weeks. This player versus player (PvP) shooter packs in a host of recognisable comic-book characters, pitting two teams of six against each other. Despite the game's cartoonish nature, there are several potential risks for parents and educators to be aware of.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

IN-GAME CHAT

Voice chat allows players to speak to teammates and opponents within the game, but in a competitive environment, some conversations can become unpleasant. Text chat is equally prominent among those playing on PC and will be shown on the side of the screen. Moderation on these is relatively lax, so it's important to recognise that potentially inappropriate messages could arrive at any time.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

While Marvel Rivals is free, there is an in-game store, selling character skins from recognisable movies and comic-book titles. Each season also includes a £10 Battle Pass (much like those seen in Fortnite and Call of Duty), offering a series of exclusive cosmetic items. These passes don't expire - but they can't be purchased once the next season rolls around, creating a fear of missing out.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With such a huge player base, it's impossible to predict whom your child will be teaming up with or playing against. They're virtually certain to run into strangers through voice and text chat, for starters. Most of these people will just be ordinary gamers enjoying the action, but there is the risk of some users behaving inappropriately with younger players - either intentionally, or because they don't realise that they're speaking to a child.

VIOLENT CONTENT

There's no gore in Marvel Rivals, and the violence depicted is comparatively cartoonish - but the playable characters available vary between more traditional superheroes and supervillains, and figures like Black Widow and The Punisher, who use more realistic firearms. Given the game's nature as a shooter, this may make some parents and carers uncomfortable as some players will be firing these weapons at each other.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

The game includes some lewdness and mature themes in the dialogue, which could expose youngsters to content unsuitable for their age, detaching from a safe and family-friendly gaming experience. As we mentioned previously, the content of the in-game chat could also be age-inappropriate, ranging from swearing to mature themes to potentially harmful content.

FAMILIAR CHARACTERS

The inclusion of iconic characters might make Marvel Rivals appear more approachable than other games in the genre, with recognisable heroes and villains like Spider-Man and Venom. This could lead to more interest from younger players, increasing the likelihood of children playing the game without properly understanding the risks.

Advice for Parents & Educators

FOLLOW ESRB RATINGS

The ESRB rating for Marvel Rivals says the game shouldn't be played by anyone under 12. Most children of that age will be able to appreciate the rooster cast of characters (people can play as Hela, the Goddess of Death, for example), while also ensuring that the violence, however cartoonish, won't overwhelm them.



FAMILIARISE YOURSELF

The game's inclusion of fan-favourite characters like Iron Man and the Hulk, plus its increasing popularity, means that younger Marvel fans will likely be eager to see what the fuss is about. Since it's free, consider playing Marvel Rivals yourself to gauge how you feel about a child playing it. Alternatively, you could let them play against the game's AI in Practice Mode, until they're old enough to compete online.

MONITOR OR TURN OFF CHAT

Voice and text chat can both be adjusted within the in-game settings. If you're particularly concerned about exposing children and young people to them, however, you can disable both forms of chat in the game's settings. If a child wants to play alongside friends, remind them that they can use their console's party chat feature or host a call on a third-party service like Discord.



DISCONNECT PAYMENT OPTIONS

Parents should ensure that no payment options - such as debit cards - are linked to the game, to prevent unauthorised purchases and charges. Children can be tempted by enticing in-game offers without fully understanding the costs. Removing payment methods avoids impulsive in-game spending and instils a sense of financial awareness, teaching young people to be careful with their money.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Games Editor at The Daily Star and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, he has been published on sites including IGN, TechRadar and plenty more.



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION

13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With more than two billion active users, WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service. Its end-to-end encryption only allows messages to be viewed by the sender and any recipients: not even WhatsApp itself can read them. The UK's Online Safety Bill proposes to end such encryption on private messaging, but for the time being, this controversial feature remains.

EVOLVING SCAMS

WhatsApp's popularity makes it a lucrative hunting ground for scammers. Recent examples include posing as the target's child, requesting a money transfer because of a spurious emergency – plus a scam where fraudsters trigger a verification message by attempting to log in to your account, then (posing as WhatsApp) call or text to ask you to repeat the code back to them, giving them access.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a chat, someone only needs the mobile number of the WhatsApp user they want to message. Therefore, if a child has ever given their number out to someone they don't know, that person could then contact them via WhatsApp. It's also possible that the child might be added to a group chat or community (by one of their friends, for example) containing other people they don't know.

FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's connectivity and ease of use allow news to be shared rapidly – whether it's true or not. To combat the spread of disinformation, messages forwarded more than five times on the app now display a "Forwarded many times" label and a double arrow icon. This makes users aware that the message they've just received is far from an original – and might not be entirely factual, either.

CHAT LOCK AND SECRET CODES

In 2023, WhatsApp introduced a feature that lets users keep their chats in a separate "locked chats" folder, saved behind their phone's passcode, fingerprint or face ID. There is an additional feature – "Secret Codes" – where users set a unique password for locked chats. Unfortunately, this creates the potential for young people to hide conversations and content they suspect their parents wouldn't approve of.

VIEW ONCE CONTENT

The ability to send images or messages that can only be viewed once has led to some WhatsApp users sharing inappropriate material or abusive texts, knowing that the recipient can't report them later to use as evidence of misconduct. People used to be able to screenshot this disappearing content – but a recently added WhatsApp feature now blocks this, citing protection of privacy.

VISIBLE LOCATION

WhatsApp's Live Location feature lets users share their current whereabouts, which can be helpful for friends meeting up or parents checking that their child is safe while out, for example. However, anyone in a user's contacts list or in a mutual group chat can also track their location – potentially letting strangers identify a child's home address or journeys that they make regularly.

Advice for Parents & Educators

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage children to treat unexpected messages with caution; get them to consider whether it sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know never to share personal details over WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on anything in messages. Setting up two-step verification adds a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.

ADJUST THE SETTINGS

It's able to change a child's WhatsApp settings to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without needing approval. You can give permission to My Contacts or My Contacts Except... additionally, if a child needs to use Live Location, emphasise that they should enable this function for only as long as they need – and then turn it off.

CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Check in with the child about how they're using WhatsApp, making sure they know you only have their safety at heart. If you spot a Locked Chats folder, you might want to talk about the sort of content they've stored in there, who they're talking to, and why they want to keep these chats hidden. Also, if a hidden send-only View Once content, it could be helpful to ask them why.

DISCUSS GROUP CHATS

Make children aware that there could be members of a group that they don't know well and that words can be misinterpreted, encouraging them to leave a good impression, to avoid joining in if conversations turn towards bullying, and to respond to such situations in an appropriate way. Make sure they know that it's OK to leave a group chat if it makes them uncomfortable – or for any reason, in fact.

THINK BEFORE SHARING

Help children understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy – and all too common – for content that a user posts to be shared more widely, even publicly on social media. Encourage children to consider how an impulsive message or forwarding might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

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.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College