

# The Apple



**The weekly news from Isaac Newton School, Grantham**

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## Dear Parents/Carer

I hope that you have all had an enjoyable half term break. It has been great to see the children back in school, ready and raring to go for the next half term. So much has already happened this week and we are already well and truly back into the swing of things here at Isaac Newton!

We have been blessed with some fantastic weather this week and it has been a great time to begin our new 'playground zoning' initiative which has been taking place at breaktimes and lunchtimes. All of the staff, led by Mrs Pask, got together on the last day of term to plan a number of different activities for the children to take part in during playtimes. These activities range from hula-hooping and chalk to football and skipping. There is of course still the opportunity for children to play their own games too! We hope that they are enjoying the different zones and I'd like to thank all of our staff for their hard work in making sure that every child is active and engaged at playtime!

Our sports teams have also been in action recently. Well done to our Boys Football team who played against Belmont Primary School. The A team drew 2-2 in a very closely fought game and our B team won 5-0, a convincing victory! I had the pleasure of watching both teams play against Gonerby Hill Foot Primary School before half term and I was so impressed by their determination and resilience on the pitch! Our netball team continue to go from strength to strength in their league. Out of their last four games they have only lost one and we are hoping that our goal difference will be enough to 'clinch us the title'- we won our last game against Harlaxton Primary School 11-0! I will keep you posted about our final league position. We also have the Grantham schools netball tournament to look forward to in a couple of weeks.



**Chris Heathcote**

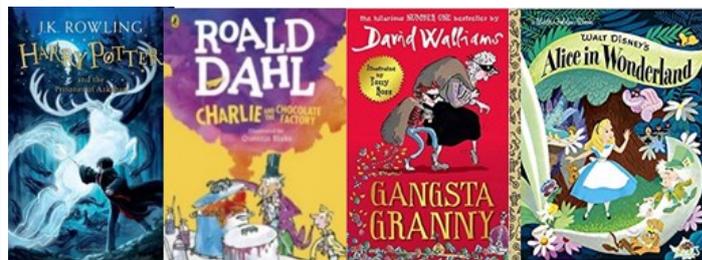
**Headteacher**

## New Appointments

In the final week before half term we interviewed and appointed two new members of staff to join us here at Isaac Newton. Mrs Katie Beeby will be our new Assistant Headteacher and will be taking over Mrs Dickson's responsibilities. Mrs Beeby is a senior leader at her current school and has extensive experience as both a SENDCO and Safeguarding Lead. We have also appointed a new teacher for class 12, Miss Kayleigh Winston, who will be joining us from a school in Portsmouth where she is currently a Year 5 teacher. Mrs Pask and Miss Meads will continue to teach Class 12, with Mrs Winston taking over as the class teacher after the Easter holidays.

## World Book Day Next week!

This year World Book Day will be on 7th March. This year's theme will be "Heroes and Villains". As ever, we would encourage all of the children to dress up as one of their favourite heroes or villains from a book. Here are some book covers to inspire you:



## Earrings

As part of our school uniform policy children are permitted to wear simple, studded earrings, however these need to be removed and put back in independently by a child before and after PE sessions. Please can we remind parents that children cannot wear **any** type of earrings during PE- this is to protect both themselves and others. If a child cannot do this then we ask parents not send their children with earrings in on a day when they have PE. Thank you for your support with this matter.

## E-Safety

There are now a number of guides on our school website providing parents with advice about general online safety and safe use of websites, social media and games, such as YouTube, Fortnite and Snapchat. There is also advice about current online issues such as the 'Momo Challenge'. The guides are under our E-Safety tab on our school website. As a school we will continue to teach children about the importance of e-safety and how to stay safe online. Please remember to continue to closely monitor what your children are doing online!

## Goodbye Mrs Dickson

It is with great sadness that I write to tell you that Mrs Dickson will be taking early retirement at the end of the Spring Term. Mrs Dickson has been at Isaac Newton for 15 years and during her time here she has taken on the roles of a class teacher, science coordinator, SENDCO and Safeguarding Lead. In her most recent role, she has worked with many different parents and carers to ensure that we are able to get the very best for all our families. Mrs Dickson has supported countless children over the years, helping them to develop both academically and pastorally. I would like to thank her on behalf of the whole school community, she will be dearly missed by all the staff and children here at Isaac Newton.

## Governors Vacancy

We are currently seeking to appoint a new Parent Governor. If you would like to put your name forward then please pick up a letter from the school office. Mr Heathcote would be delighted to meet with anybody who would like to discuss the role – just book an appointment by calling the office.

### Comic Relief

On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March, Sainsburys will be coming into school to sell Comic Relief merchandise. All the money raised will go to Comic Relief. The sale will take place in the studio between 3.15pm- 4.00pm.



### Morrisons Books

The Morrisons store in Grantham contacted the school this week, to inform us that we had won a set of books for our school. Their store staff all voted to choose a school in Grantham who they thought deserved to receive the books- Isaac Newton were the lucky winners! Thank you to any parents/carers and members of the school community who voted for us, it is much appreciated!



### Playground Leaders

This week we have had Mike Hale from Inspire+ into school to work with some of our Year 6 children. They have been trained as playground leaders and will run games and activities on our school playground for groups of children. Mike showed them a number of games and activities which we hope will encourage all pupils to become more physically active during their break times. As a school we are working hard to ensure that all children are active for at least 30 minutes a day- in line with the Government's Active 30:30 initiative.

### School Shoes

Please can we remind parents that school shoes should be plain black (with black soles), without logos. If boots are worn then these should also be plain black. If children need to wear different footwear (for reasons such as medical issues) then please ensure that their class teacher is informed, in writing, as to why this is the case.

### Lateness

This term we will be having a push to ensure that all children are arriving at school in time to begin the school day with the rest of their class. When a child arrives late at school, they miss valuable learning time. This is something that we must ensure does not happen. The table below shows the way in which lateness can add up over time to make a huge difference to the amount of time that children are spending at school. We teach essential skills during the first session each morning and any lateness can make a massive difference to pupils' progress. We welcome children into school at 8:50am each day. Children are considered to be late if they arrive after 9:00am.

Number of minutes late a	Number of days missed a year!
5	1 and a half days
10	2 and three quarter days
15	4 and a quarter days
20	5 and three quarter days
25	7 days
30	8 and a half days

This is based on children spending 5 hours and 20 minutes in class each day.

### Primary Sports Games Mark

This week we were joined in assembly by Mr Terry Plumb from the Priory Ruskin Academy in Grantham. As part of Mr Plumb's role as School Games Organiser, he supports schools in applying for the School Games Mark. Mr Plumb presented our Bronze Ambassadors with the award. This means that the school has now been awarded gold for four years in a row! We will now be looking to achieve the platinum award this academic year, making us only the second school in the area to do this! A huge well done to our PE team, especially Mrs Atter who has spent lots of time preparing our application and gathering all the evidence required!



### Ex-pupil to perform at Guildhall

Jacob Storey, a former Isaac Newton pupil, will be performing in his band's homecoming show at the Guildhall in Grantham on 3<sup>rd</sup> April. After leaving Isaac Newton, Jacob went to The Kings School in Grantham. He then went on to Exeter University to study mathematics, where he is currently in his 3<sup>rd</sup> year. Upon his arrival at Exeter he auditioned and joined an acapella group called "Semi Toned". Since then he has toured the USA twice and appeared on TV on Sky's Sing competition, as well as winning Gareth Malones Choir of the year. "Semi Toned" are now touring the UK this year and tickets for the Grantham show are now on sale at the Guildhall. Congratulations to Jacob and all his bandmates- what a fantastic achievement!



### Dates For Your Diary:

- 5<sup>th</sup> March Year 1 Trip to Lincoln Castle
- 6<sup>th</sup> March Year 2 Trip to Lincoln Castle
- 7<sup>th</sup> March World Book Day
- 6<sup>th</sup> March Sainsburys selling Comic Relief merchandise in the studio
- 13<sup>th</sup> March Parents Evening (Late)
- 14<sup>th</sup> March Parents evening
- 15<sup>th</sup> March Comic Relief
- 1<sup>st</sup> April Year 5 PGL (half day)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> April Class Photographs