



The Apple

The news from Isaac Newton School, Grantham



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Dear Parents/Carers

It's been another busy few weeks here at Isaac Newton and I've included some of my highlights in this week's newsletter!

In Year 5 the children have been looking at primary sources and what these tell us about the past. They have paid particular attention to Greek pottery and have also been applying some of their sketching skills when re-creating these!



Our EYFS children have been focusing on the theme of 'celebrations'. They have been continuing to practise their phonics skills and you can see them finding letters in jelly as they were linking this work to learning about how we celebrate birthdays! They even got to make some cakes too!

In Year 2 the children have been making the most of our forest school and took part in a sensory trail! They were all blindfolded and had to move around the forest school using only their senses which relied on lots of trust and teamwork! This was also great for helping them to understand the importance of listening VERY carefully...a skill that they can transfer into the classroom!



In Year 3 there has been some exceptional artwork going on with the children learning through Impasto techniques. As art coordinator, Mrs Clark is currently in the process of leading the school in achieving the 'Arts Mark' award. We hope to have submitted our application by the end of the academic year and look forward to seeing if we can achieve Gold or even Platinum! There is so much amazing work related to the arts that goes on

across the school and I'm pleased that we will be able to gain some recognition for this!

This week has been anti-bullying week in school. Children from Years 2- 6 got to take part in a very special virtual assembly hosted by Ant and Dec. This assembly was produced by the NSPCC and taught them all about their right to speak out and stay safe! Our Year 6 pupils have then taken anti-bullying a step further by creating some powerful and emotive posters, which show what it would feel like to experience bullying. Having spoken to them all about this, I can see that they really understand

the importance of speaking out and making sure that bullying does not happen at our school!



Over the next half term our school value is **kindness** which links in well to the work we have been doing on anti-bullying! Each week Mrs Pask and I even share stories about kindness at the end of our assemblies! My story last week was all about different acts of kindness and what these could look like. I will be keeping an eye out in school to try and spot any of the children demonstrating kindness- I may even be able to hand out a few more headteacher award stickers if I do!

Chris Heathcote

Headteacher

Christmas Cards

Due to Covid-19 we will only be allowing Christmas cards to be sent **within your child's class bubble** this year.

If your child would like to send Christmas cards then these **must** be brought into school by **Thursday 10th December**. Any Christmas cards brought in after this date **will not be accepted** and will be sent back home with your child.

The school will leave all Christmas cards to 'quarantine' for at least 72 hours before they are handed out across the class. School staff will ensure cards are handed out in the final week before the Christmas holidays (W/C 14th December).

Thank you in advance for your support and understanding.

Christmas Dinners

On Wednesday 9th December, a Christmas dinner will be available through our school meals provider Ideal Meals. If your child does not usually have a school meal and you would like them to have one on this day then please can you let the school office know as soon as possible.

Due to our Covid-19 risk assessment, we have a very structured system in place for school meals so if our numbers increase on one day then we will need to take steps to ensure that we can cope with demand safely. The deadline for ordering a Christmas dinner is **Tuesday 1st December** and the cost is £2.30.

For children who receive free school meals or for those in EYFS-Year 2 (Universal Free School Meals), there is no cost. Those who regularly have school meals should continue to order their meals in the same way as usual.

Applying For A Reception Place

Children born between 1 September 2016 and 31 August 2017 are due to start Reception in September 2021. Don't forget that the window for applying for a place in Reception opens on Monday 16th November. If your child is 4 this school year (September 1st to August 31st) then you need to apply for a place through Lincolnshire County Council. **You still need to apply even if you already have another child at the school!** Further information can be found on our school website, including a link to the admissions portal: https://isaacnewton.eschools.co.uk/website/cyfs_new_intake_2021/514636.

Christmas Productions

Unfortunately due to Covid-19, we will not be able to hold Christmas nativities, productions or shows this year. We are currently working together as a staff to try and plan something that we can do as a school to celebrate Christmas. Hopefully we will be able to record a short video or something similar which we will then be able to make available to Parents/ Carers. The national lockdown has slowed down our plans somewhat so we will have to keep you updated on this.

School Exit (Side Gate)

Please can all members of the school community ensure that the exit to our one way system is kept clear- this is the gate that goes out onto Warmington Avenue. If you are waiting for your child to exit school grounds then please do so on the grassed area or at the end of the path. Thank you for your continued support.

Car Parking

Please can we remind Parents/ Carers to park responsibly outside of the school gates and around Dexter Avenue. Resident's driveways and parking spaces should be kept clear at all times. The police have informed us that they will be conducting 'spot checks' throughout the year to ensure that our parents are parking safely and legally. Thank you for your support.

Behaviour Beyond The School Gates

We have had some complaints about the behaviour of some pupils when they are walking to and from school. As a school, we will be talking to children about this in assembly this week. Please can we also ask Parents/ Carers of children who walk home unsupervised to remind them to do so sensibly and appropriately. We take behaviour very seriously here at Isaac Newton so should we continue to be concerned about a child's behaviour beyond the school gates then we will be contacting Parents/ Carers to discuss the next steps in dealing with this. In the past this has meant children needing to be escorted to and from school via the school office each day. Thank you for your support.

Primary School Sports

Due to current restrictions, the Grantham Primary Schools sporting competition calendar has had to take a different format this term.

Competitions are currently taking place within school bubbles and then results are sent through to the organisers. They compare these to other primary schools from Grantham to find overall winners.

So far this term children in years 3, 4, 5 and 6 have taken part in a 1 mile cross country running challenge. The fastest times for 3 boys and 3 girls from each year group were then sent through to represent our school in the Grantham Primary Schools Competition.

The fastest times which will be sent through to the organisers to

represent our school in the competition are from the following children:

Year 3	Year 4
Dylan S	Krystian K
Jacob G	Jakub B
Charlie M	Rio P
Isabel S	Mia T
Emily N	Jessica J
Luiza S	Olivia W

Year 5	Year 6
Harrison K	Olivers M
Oliver Paul S	Thomas S
Ciaran N	Ben C-S
Freya P	Libby L
Freya A	Maja N
Elisa O	Amelia L

We await the overall results from the organisers to see where our school finished overall. A huge well done to every child in KS2 for taking part, completing the distance and showing commitment to competition. Next up will be a series of football challenges, which we are currently working on in PE lessons!

School Term Dates:

Term 1: Thursday 3rd September 2020 – Thursday 22nd October 2020

Term 2: Monday 2nd November 2020 - Thursday 17th December 2020

Bank Holidays: Friday 25th & Monday 28th December 2020,
Friday 1st January 2021

Term 3: Monday 4th January 2021 - Friday 12th February 2021

Term 4: Monday 22nd February 2021 - Wednesday 31st March 2021

Bank Holidays: Good Friday 2nd April & Easter Monday 5th April 2021

Term 5: Monday 19th April 2021 - Friday 28th May 2021

Bank Holidays: Monday 3rd May & Monday 31st May 2021

Term 6: Monday 7th June 2021 - Wednesday 21st July 2021



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Online
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#WakeUpWednesday

14 WAYS TO BE KIND ONLINE

Showing kindness online can mean so much to someone else. It is a choice we can all make that helps others, puts people's needs before our own and which can generate feelings of empathy and compassion. Small gestures can have a large impact and often one act of kindness can lead to more, making the world a happier and more positive place. That's why we've created this guide to suggest a few simple 'acts of kindness online' that can benefit people's mental health, support their wellbeing and encourage a more positive approach to engaging online.



1. BE POSITIVE

Post about things that make you happy and that you're thankful for. It could brighten up someone else's day.



Sometimes a friend or family member might post a question online or ask for help with something they can't do themselves. If you know the answer or are able to offer help, provide support and send a response. Something that may be easy for you might be difficult for someone else.



If somebody you know has done something good or shown kindness themselves, thank them for it. It costs nothing and showing them that you appreciate it means so much.

4. SHARE FUNNY VIDEOS OR IMAGES WITH FRIENDS & FAMILY

We often come across funny videos or images online that make us laugh and then we move on. If you found it funny, your friends and family might too. It could help someone smile who may be having a bad day.



5. LIKE, LOVE & CELEBRATE

If somebody posts something that you like on social media, like it, love it or celebrate it! It's a small gesture but could mean a lot.

8. SHARE POSITIVE POSTS

If you see something online that inspires you, share it with people you know. An inspirational quote, a beautiful photo or a motivational video can lift spirits, improve self-esteem and help make people feel better about themselves.



6. VIDEO CALL YOUR FRIENDS & FAMILY

It can be easy to be consumed by daily routine. Using apps like Zoom, FaceTime or WhatsApp are great for connecting with others far away and shows you're thinking of them even though you can't physically meet them in person.



7. TELL SOMEONE YOU'RE THINKING OF THEM

We can't always tell how people are feeling online and just dropping somebody a message to ask if they're ok or that you're thinking of them could literally make their day.

9. HOST AN ONLINE QUIZ

Video conferencing apps are a great way to get friends and family together. If you know someone who is feeling lonely, host an online quiz and invite them to join in. It could really cheer them up.



10. THINK BEFORE YOU COMMENT

Sometimes thinking before you act can be just as significant as acting in the first place. Showing thought before you comment could stop you posting something hurtful, offensive or negative. It's always better to post positively or post nothing at all.



11. BE COMPASSIONATE & UNDERSTANDING

Being empathetic towards others and their situation is often an act of kindness and selflessness that gets overlooked. If you notice someone who is upset, drop them a message and offer to listen.



12. CONNECT FRIENDS & FAMILY WITH SIMILAR INTERESTS

You may know two people amongst your friends and family who you trust and know well who have similar interests and likes. Introducing them can be a great way for them to make new friends but remember to always ask their permission first.



13. RECOMMEND SOMETHING YOU ENJOY DOING TO OTHERS

If you enjoy doing something online, such as playing a game, or if you've found a great learning resource, share it with others. Even if you've watched a good film, letting others know can be an act of generosity that brings them excitement or pleasure at a time when they might need it the most.



14. PRAISE OTHERS FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS

Sometimes your friends or family might post something online that they're proud to have done. It might be an exam they've passed, learning a new skill or just completing a task. Either way, it's always kind to recognise hard work and effort through praise and celebration.



Meet our expert

This guide has been written by Anna Bateman. Anna is passionate about placing prevention at the heart of every school, integrating mental wellbeing within the curriculum, school culture and systems. She is also a member of the advisory group for the Department for Education, advising them on their mental health green paper.

