



The Apple

The weekly news from Isaac Newton School, Grantham

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Dear Parents/Carers

Last term we started to work on something called **Building Learning Power** (BLP). This is a way of learning developed by Professor Guy Claxton. He found that not only is it “What” children learn that is important it is also “How” they learn. That as well as using traditional thinking skills, children’s emotional intelligence or learning behaviour (dispositions) changed how children learn. These dispositions are inherent in all of us, they are not fixed at birth or when we leave school and they can be developed by anyone, regardless of age.

Professor Claxton divided children’s dispositions to learning into four main groups or capacities.

Resilience – How inquisitive, focused, determined and willing “to have a go” are the children?

Resourcefulness - How well do they make use of the tools and resources that are available, come up with imaginative ideas, make links and work on practising and developing their skills?

Reflection - How well do they organise and think through their work, make accurate judgements about how their work is going, know their strengths and interests as a learner and think how they can use these skills in the future?

Reciprocity- How well do they work as a member of a group, listen and make good use of information, and understand others, give feedback and show initiative.

We have decided to work on one disposition from each capacity each term. As such we will be working on the following:

Absorption - How engrossed are we in learning?

Imagining - How do we use our intuition to develop ideas?

Planning - Where we are going with our work and what are the problems that may arise?

Empathy – Are we aware of the thoughts and feelings of others.

The children have really enjoyed creating “Learning Heroes” in class. Characters that developed the dispositions to super power level.

On October the 22nd we shall be having a Learning Heroes Day. The children will bring home a white tee shirt on Friday the 9th October which they can decorate as the Learning Hero of their choice and wear to school on the 22nd. More details and information to follow with the tee shirt.

Paul Hill
Headteacher

NSPCC Support

This year we will be doing some work to support the NSPCC. The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children is a fantastic organisation that is there to support children who are experiencing difficult situations. As such, Jean Douglas, our local School Organiser from the NSPCC, will be visiting our school on 12th October to talk to the children about the NSPCC and ChildLine during assembly. The assemblies will be age appropriate.

The NSPCC has community-based projects throughout the UK and the Channel Islands working with vulnerable children, young people and their families. You may also be aware, that the work of the NSPCC includes the confidential telephone helpline service for children - **ChildLine**.

After the talks your child will bring home a special NSPCC activity sheet and sponsor form. I do hope that you will allow your child to participate in our fundraising event. With our support the NSPCC can continue their vital work and offer many children hope for a better future.

Cross Country

We had our first cross country competition for Year 5/6 at the Meres on Wednesday. First across the line for the girls was Domenika in 30th place and Riley was first across the line for the boys in 47th place. We have two more meets where the children will be able to use their knowledge of the course and distance to hopefully improve on their already superb finishing places!

Dates for your diary:

21 st Sept	Year 1/2 Dinosaur Day
24 th Sept	Year 6 Rugby Festival
30 th Sept	Year 6 to PGL – residential
12 th Oct	NSPCC Assemblies
22 nd Oct	Learning Heroes Day