



The Apple



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The weekly news from Isaac Newton School, Grantham

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Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that you all had a great break over Easter. It is great to be back in school and seeing all that is going on. On Monday the staff enjoyed an INSET day which focused on ways in which children can learn outdoors. We are hoping that the weather will be kind this term so that we can take advantage of the school grounds and local area!

On Tuesday we began a new theme for assembly. Our theme for the term will be "First Attempt In Learning" – we will be trying to show the children that we all fail at things but that we can learn from the times in which we are not able to do as well as we would like. The key is to keeping on practicing and trying!

Year 1 had an exciting time with Dr Bike this week. They began a six week balance program during which they will learn how to use a balance bike properly and develop from there. They had great fun in the first session this week.

Finally, thank you to everyone who came to the chocolate tombola on the last day prior to the Easter break. We managed to raise over £115!

Paul Hill
Headteacher

SATs week

This Year the pupils in Year 6 will take their Standard Attainment Tests (SATs) on the following dates. If you have a pupil in Year 6 then please remember the dates and ensure that your child arrives at school promptly. Here is the official "Information For Parents":

Key stage 2 tests – year 6 pupils

The main changes to the tests this year are:

- The inclusion of questions to assess new areas of core subjects in the national curriculum your child has been taught.
- A new arithmetic test to check your child is progressing with the fundamentals of mathematics.

Your child will take these tests on set dates, unless he or she is absent, when they may be able to take them up to 5 school days afterwards.

Date	Subject ¹	Test paper
Monday 9 May	English: reading	1 paper
Tuesday 10 May	English: grammar, punctuation and spelling	2 papers: spelling; punctuation and grammar (including vocabulary)
Wednesday 11 May	Mathematics	2 papers: arithmetic; mathematical reasoning
Thursday 12 May	Mathematics	1 paper: mathematical reasoning

You will receive test results for your child in English reading, English grammar, punctuation and spelling and mathematics. There is no test for English writing; this will be reported using teacher assessment. You will also receive separate teacher assessment judgements for English reading, mathematics and science.

Bike Competition

From this Monday (18th April) we will be having another big push to encourage children to come to school on their bikes. Dr Bike will be fully involved so there will be a prize for the class that has the most children using their bikes/scooters over the two weeks!

We will have another Biker's Breakfast on Wednesday 20th April where all those children (and Parent's/Carers) who come on a bike will be able to pick up a drink and a snack near the bike shed.

Pupil Survey

In the weeks before the Easter Holiday we completed a pupil survey. The children in Years 3-6 were asked a range of questions about their experience of school and were able to give both multiple choice and written answers. We are delighted with the results and will use those areas that are not as strong as the basis for our work in the future. The headlines were as follows:

Question	% of positive answers
Do you like school?	94%
Is your work interesting?	94%
Does your teacher tell you how well you are doing?	92%
Does your teacher think you do well?	89%
Can you ask for help with work?	93%
Do you get the right amount of homework?	83%
Is there an adult at school adult you can talk to if you are worried?	91%
Are most children well behaved?	87%
Does the school use children's ideas to make it better?	84%
Is Isaac Newton a good school?	96%

As you can see this is an incredibly positive response. The one question which causes concern in all schools is about bullying. As a school we use this definition to describe bullying:

"Bullying is **deliberately** hurtful behaviour that is **repeated** or *has the potential to be repeated* over a period of time, making it difficult for the person concerned to defend themselves".

Ensuring that pupils understand this is extremely important as it ensures that children do not think they are being bullied if there is a one off incident. The results were as follows: 36% of children say that they have been bullied during their time at Isaac Newton. 12% say that they have been bothered by other pupils since September. Of these pupils 4 state that they have not told an adult in school. At Isaac Newton we believe that all schools will have problems with bullying however intermittent. The key is to ensure that it is dealt with quickly and effectively. The results reflect well on the school's ability to deal with bullying and perceived bullying as the percentage of concerns continues to drop. It is also pleasing that the overwhelming majority of children state that they have told an adult if they have been bothered. However we continue to rely on your support to ensure that we can deal with any issues that children have not told us about at school. If they tell you the please do let us know!

Bumped Heads

Over the past week we have been looking at the way in which we report bumped heads to Parents/Carers. Over the next couple of weeks we will be trialling a texting system. Should your child bump their head then we will text you to let you know. We will continue to back this up with a bumped head letter, however this should ensure that all Parents/Carers are informed should the letter go missing during the journey home. Please make sure that your mobile phone numbers are up to date!