



The Apple

The weekly news from Isaac Newton School, Grantham



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Dear Parents/Carer

With term flying by it is great that so much high quality work is taking place throughout school. Some of the homework that the children have been producing has been stunning and it is fantastic to hear that parents have been involved with projects too. I've seen



some wonderful castles, a model tank and heard some facts



about the River Nile- I've even been shown a magazine article which included a first-hand account from a pupil's Great Grandad who was evacuated from Grantham during World War II. I really enjoy having the opportunity to look at the

children's work with them and even learning a few things myself at the same

There are lots more exciting things to look forward to over the coming weeks! Our Year 5 and 6 children are going to The Deep and there are whole school events such as Chinese New Year and World Book Day. This year's theme for World Book Day will be heroes and villains- we can't wait to see all of the fantastic costumes and finding out more about some books related to this theme.

Chris Heathcote

Headteacher

School Health Check

Last Wednesday we had our annual Community Inclusive Trust (CIT) Health Check. CIT is the trust which oversees the way in which we operate as a school. Each year external Headteachers/Senior Teachers from other schools come to spend a day here at Isaac Newton to see how we are doing. We had a great day sharing all of the work that we have done to make the school even better than it already is! The Trust will now produce a report which will be shared with Parents and Carers in the near future.

Swimarathon

The Swimarathon will take place on Sunday 3rd February- a big thank you to all who are taking part. We will meet you in the foyer of the leisure centre at 8.50am. Please can we also ask that you hand in your sponsor form to the school office (or Mrs Toole) by Thursday 31st January. Many thanks.

Table Tennis

Our boys and girls table tennis team were in action recently, playing in the 'National School Team Championships'. They came up against some tough opposition in the form of Leicestershire, Suffolk and Oxfordshire. Despite this, they



played fantastically well winning some of their games and we are all very proud of their efforts! Well done guys! A big thank also goes to Mrs Walker for training and organising the event.



Healthy Snacks

Can we take this opportunity to remind Parents and Carers that pupils should be bringing healthy snacks for break times. A number of pupils have been bringing chocolate and crisps. We run the tuck shop for the older pupils on a Friday so that the children can have a treat and would appreciate your support for the rest of the week.



Shutting School For Snow

With winter upon us and cold spells forecast we would like to ensure that all Parents/Carers are aware of the way in which we would notify you should we have to close school. We would never take this decision lightly and would only close the school should we assess the situation and realise that staff or pupils would be in danger should we open. Notification of any closure would be by local radio, word of mouth, Twitter, Facebook and most importantly the school website.

Dates For Your Diary:

3 rd February	Swimarathon
5 th February	Chinese New Year Day in School
6 th February	Year 5 trip to The Deep
7 th February	Year 6 trip to The Deep
7 th February	Sleeping Beauty Drama Workshop (Year 1 and 2)
7 th February	School Disco (Year 3-6)
14 th February	Last Day of Term
7 th March	World Book Day
13 th March	Parents Evening (Late)
14 th March	Parents evening
15 th March	Comic Relief

Forest Schools Grant

I am delighted to be able to inform you that the school has been successful in its bid for lottery funding to help us develop a forest school in our grounds. The school has received around £9,000 to invest in the project, which will enable us to apply for forest school status once it has been completed. As part of the project we will train a member of staff to become a forest schools leader. We will also develop the woodland area (at the end of the field by the outdoor classroom) and turn this into a 'forest' providing us with the resources needed to lead forest schools activities. The staff have already received training this week to use some of our latest outdoor equipment, including a den-making kit! As a school, we are very much looking forward to taking some of our learning outdoors!



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. If they arrive after 9:20am they are marked as unauthorised absence for the morning!

Number of minutes late a day	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 (over a school week)
25	7 days
30	8 and a half days

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

Bikes and Scooters

Please can we remind all parents and carers that children should not be riding bikes or scooters within the school grounds- this could lead to other children (including those who are not yet at school) getting hurt! Upon entering the school grounds, children should walk bikes and scooters to the appropriate shelter/ storage area and leave them there. At the end of the day, children should collect their bike or scooter from the shelter and then walk them back out of the school grounds before riding them. Thank you for your support with this matter.

Driving near school

We have had a number of reports about dangerous driving near to our school gates. Cars have been mounting the curb when pedestrians are nearby and there have been a number of 'near misses', which could have led to people getting hurt. Please can we remind parents and carers to be considerate when driving near to school as we would not want there to be any serious incidents. Thank you for your support with this matter.

Disco

Disco tickets are available from the office for Year 3/ Year 6. The disco will be held on Thursday 7th February, 6.00pm - 7.15pm and the cost is £2.

We've had some amazing homework this term already. The children are loving their topics and the homework grids can be found on the school website.



The children celebrated their work being on the 'Work to be proud of' display. They enjoyed a hot chocolate with marshmallows.

