



The Apple



The weekly news from Isaac Newton School, Grantham

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Dear Parents/Carer

Since the last newsletter was published, we have had the end of the first term and the start of the second. There have been so many exciting things happening in school and it has been wonderful seeing the children engaged with their learning, enjoying trips off site, take part in sporting activities and being proud to be a part of Isaac Newton Primary School.

Parent Feedback

Many thanks to the 200 families who took the time to complete the Parent Feedback Forms, following the recent, well attended Parents' Evening. The results were overwhelmingly positive. Thanks also to those parents/cares who wanted to also send a personal message. Some of the positive comments include: 'My child's teacher is a credit to Isaac Newton'; 'My son's teacher is lovely – very reassuring and he talks very highly of her', 'My child is always excited to come to school and always speaks positively about her day', 'All of the staff are wonderful and amazing with my child', 'My child loves going to school';

Whilst I can assure you that all decisions are *always* made with the children's best interests in mind, we acknowledge that there may be times when parents/carers do not agree. It is essential that we are made aware, in the correct way. This can be done by emailing enquires@isaacnewton-cit.co.uk, calling the school office (01476 568616), catching a member of the Senior Leadership Team at the gate in the morning or after school or speaking to Mrs Eldred and/or Mrs Haddock face-to face.

School Value

We have continued to focus on our school value of **Respect** this term. There have been assemblies on this theme and staff have modelled this to the children regularly. I have set the whole school a challenge for everyone being respectful to everyone, all the time. Last term, we introduced Respect Tokens. These are given to classes once they have successfully completed a chosen task which was walking around school. This has proved to be a huge success and lots of fun. I am pleased to say that last week's winning class was Class 11. They received an extra



playtime on Friday, and enjoyed some delicious biscuits! The focus for this week is to continue walking around school and to Be Ready (Ready for learning, the next activity, for playtime, coming back into school) at the first time of asking.

School uniform Expectations

It is hoped that all parents will support us in our view that every child should wear our school uniform. We have a uniform code based on our belief that uniform enhances a feeling of pride, belonging and ownership of our school. It also makes a busy parent's life much easier, as it removes the discussion and competition that can surround what to wear each day.

All school uniform can be ordered through the school office. Uniform expectations are for children to wear grey sweatshirt/Cardigan, white shirt/polo shirt and grey or black trousers/skirt. (These do not need to be branded with the Isaac Newton logo). To avoid injury children should always wear sensible black shoes (**not trainers**) that cover the majority of their feet. As such, high heels, sandals and any other strapped footwear should not be worn to school.

Finally for PE, children should wear a black t-shirt with black shorts. For outdoor PE during the winter, children should wear a jumper/sweatshirt and jogging bottoms to keep them warm. Earrings must be removed for all PE lessons for safety reasons; tape will not be offered as an alternative to this. If your child has pierced ears, please ensure that they are able to remove their own earrings as staff cannot do this for pupils. Alternatively, children can choose not to wear earrings to school on their PE days.

EYFS

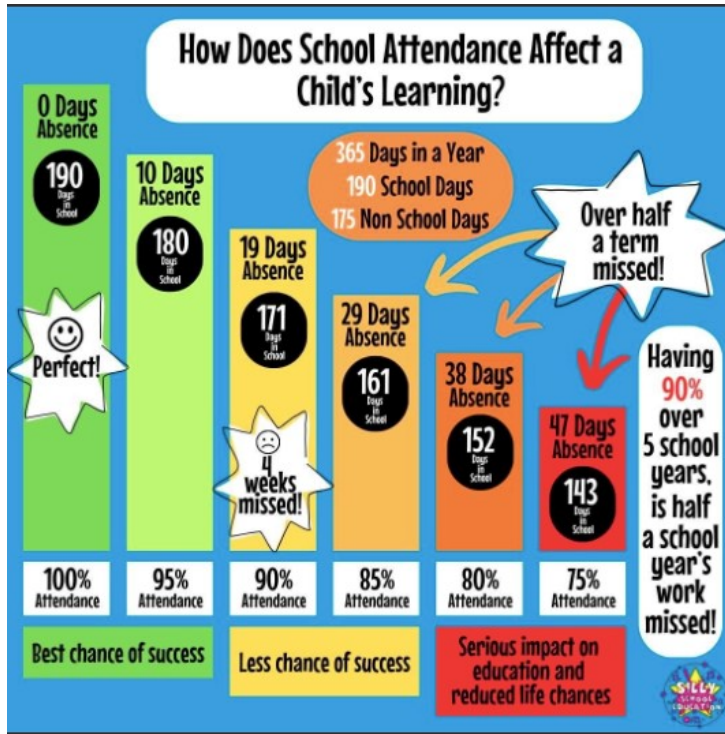
On Thursday 19th October, we held an Open Afternoon for parents of children who will be eligible to join us in September 2024. The event was well attended. After a whole school introduction from Mr Milner, Mrs Ellis spoke about the Foundation Unit and the exciting things the current cohort have already been doing. There was then a tour of the school, which gave parents and the little ones present, a chance to see first-hand what it is like at Isaac Newton. The afternoon was a huge success. Please contact the school office on 01476 568616, if you would like further information or to book a visit to see the school, if you missed the opportunity to visit before half term.

Mr D. Milner
Headteacher

Reminders

It is parents and carers responsibility to inform the school office if their child(ren) are going to be absent from school. Please do this by calling 01476 568616, by 9.30am. In addition to this, please ensure the children arrive in school by 9am. If they are late, they miss out on valuable learning time. Both gates open at 8.45 and classroom doors are open at 8.50am. We will be contacting parents of children who are regularly late to see what support we can offer.

Below is a reminder of the impact of having below 90% attendance. If this continues over a five year period, this is equivalent to **half a school year's worth of lost learning**.



Halloween Disco

The Halloween Disco was a huge success with 180 children buying tickets and raising just shy of £300. This money will go towards exciting school projects chosen by the School Council.

Many thanks must go to Mrs Toole for organising the event, to Mrs Haddock and Mrs Eldred for selling the tickets and to all the staff who volunteered to stay behind and help hand out drinks and crisps, to have a dance and to make sure the children had a safe and enjoyable time. Without their commitment to the children and help on the evening, this could not have gone ahead. There were some fabulous (and scary) costumes. Here are just a few pictures of our fantastic children!



Sports/PE update

This week we have trained our new Year 6 Playground Leaders. They have learned a variety of games and activities they can use when leading children on KS1 and reception playgrounds. We are incredibly proud of the leadership opportunities we offer our children and look forward to seeing how well they do throughout the year!



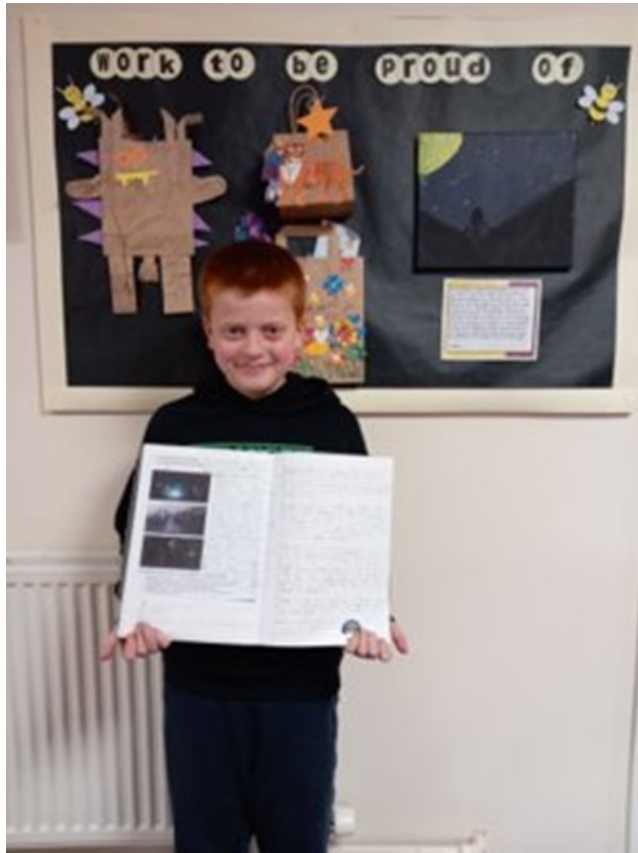
On Wednesday we took our Year 5/6 Girls Football Team to play a friendly match against Hungtingtower. The girls have been working extremely hard in after school club practices to understand the rules and how to play as a team. They played superbly, with some stand out defending from Milena! Raila was able to score two goals, resulting in a 2-1 win!! A huge well done to all who took part, we look forward to watching more matches in the Girls Football Tournament to be held in a few weeks time!



Work to be proud of



Conner, Tommie J and Cole showed real resilience by completing this really tricky Jigsaw.



*A phenomenal poem and an exceptional piece of writing with wonderful imagery.
Well done, Cameron!*

Work to be proud of from home



*Amazing stone age cave models by Kyra and Liam.
Well done!*

Out of School Achievements



Well done to Tommie-J for being invested as a Beaver Scout. We are very proud of you!



To celebrate Halloween, Year 6 created these awesome potato monsters!

Wear Purple Day for ... and the Rotary Club

On Friday 20th October, children and staff wore something purple to raise much needed funds for Polio through the Rotary Club. Thanks to your generosity, we have raised an just over £90.

Year 3 Stoneage Visit

Over two days Year 3 visited Brackenhurst Campus, part of Nottingham Trent University, to learn about the Stoneage.

The activities began in the woods dressing in replica clothing and being spilt into tribes.



They then had to use the resources around them to build a shelter. This was followed by cave painting, willow fence building and making a necklace from wood, which they later decorated. After lunch they had to make a clay pot, decorate their badges and build a 3D replica of Stonehenge.




Online Safety.


As part of our Online Safety education we have introduced a guide If you see something online that You don't like or are unsure about, don't forget:




H.E.L.P.


If you see something online that You don't like or are unsure about, don't forget

H.E.L.P.

Hide the screen 

Explain to an adult what you have seen 

Leave the laptop or tablet   

Plan – the adults will make a plan 

Dates For Your Diary:

9 th November	Year 6 Cromford Mill
17 th November	Children in Need Day (wear something spotty with school uniform)
6 th December	Foundation Stage Christmas Nativity 9:30am
7 th December	Lionesses Cake Bake Day
7 th December	Christmas Fair
8 th December	Year 5 Greek Day
8 th December	Foundation Stage Christmas Nativity 2:30pm
12 th December	KS2 Christmas Performance 9:30am & 2:15pm
14 th December	KS1 Christmas Performance 9:30am & 2:45pm
14 th December	EYFS trip to Rand Farm
15 th December	Christmas Dinner Day
20 th December	End of term
3 rd January 2024	INSET Day (School closed for pupils)
4 th January 2024	Start of Term 3

Tickets for the Christmas performances will be available from the office from Wednesday 15th November

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

X

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

In October 2022, the enormously popular social media network Twitter was purchased by tech tycoon Elon Musk. That sparked a host of changes to the platform – not all which have been received positively by its fans. The alterations have continued with each passing month, many of them raising online safety concerns among the 630 million users of Twitter (now rebranded as simply X). With further adjustments reportedly in the pipeline, X has attracted more than its usual share of controversy and caution in recent times.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

A BLOCK ON BLOCKING

X has announced plans to remove its blocking feature. Previously, this stopped other users from viewing your profile or sending you direct messages, while also hiding their posts from your feed. Only this latter function will now remain. The decision has been criticised by some members, who feel that blocking (in its current form) protects them from X users who promote denial and hatred.

LIMITED REPORTING FEATURES

X offers a premium membership, with some functionality (such as contacting who can view and reply to your posts) increasingly being made exclusive to those who pay the subscription fee. Several commentators have speculated that X could one day become an exclusively paid-for service, with access to accounts being restricted for anyone unwilling or unable to take out a subscription.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Many of X's less age-appropriate posts can feature anything from extreme political views to pornography. While accounts marked as 18+ are restricted from non-members, it's still fairly easy to stumble across this material accidentally. X's new 'For You' page also draws content from accounts that a user doesn't already follow – meaning that almost anything could end up on a child's feed.

VERIFICATION FOR SALE

Historically, Twitter's moderators granted account verification, certifying someone as authentic by placing a blue tick next to their username. One of X's earliest changes was to place verification behind a paywall; this caused the number of celebrity impersonators to rise and left no way in distinguish, say, a legitimate influencer from a copycat. This account seeking to exploit other users.

BLUE TICK SALE

Advice for Parents & Carers

PROTECT PRIVACY

Unsavory characters may try to gain access to a young person's X account – either to view their posts and gather information on them, or to completely take control of it. To minimise risk, ensure the account has a strong password and enable the 'Protect Your Posts' feature (via the account settings), so that strangers can't view your child's posts without first being approved as a follower.

DON'T RISE TO THE BAIT

To gain more views and followers, some X users post deliberately inflammatory comments on sensitive topics such as race, sexual orientation and gender issues. Many young people could find this upsetting. Emphasise that, if your child encounters someone posting hate on X, it's best not to give that person what they want: an argument. Ignore them, mute their account and move on.

STAY ALERT FOR IMPOSTERS

Makes sure your child understands that X's blue ticks no longer guarantee the identity of anyone on the platform. While it might be exciting if a celebrity liked your child's post, it could just as easily be an imposter with malicious intentions. If your child's not 100% sure that an X user actually is who they claim to be, advise them to be on the side of caution and avoid interacting with that account.

ONLY FOLLOW TRUSTED ACCOUNTS

Using the 'Following' tab on X helps to ensure that the only content your child sees has come from accounts they've chosen to follow; this should reduce the chance of them inadvertently being exposed to harmful, violent or explicit content. Show your child how to report another user's account if, say, they're behaving inappropriately by spreading misinformation or offensive opinions.

BE READY TO TAKE ACTION

If your child suffers harassment on the platform or becomes the target of a hack, you could consider deactivating their account entirely. Recently, X's safety features have been criticised for allegedly failing to protect users' wellbeing – so if your child is being subjected to abusive messages or similar mistreatment on the platform, it might be prudent to remove them from X altogether.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Corbridge is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site *esports.gg* and has worked in the gaming industry around ten years. Always eager to test out the latest apps, games and online trends, he's also a parent who understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about *Fortnite* and *Roblox*, his articles have been published on his social sites including *IGN* and *Twitter*.



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

FIVE NIGHTS AT FREDDY'S



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Five Nights at Freddy's is a series of indie point-and-click horror games whose word-of-mouth success and widespread spin-off content on YouTube have helped each of the nine instalments so far to sell almost five million copies on Steam (the PC gaming platform) alone. Set in various deserted locations at night, with creepy animatronic characters suddenly coming to life, the games are rated PEGI 12 for disturbing/violent content, mild profanity and horror themes.

FRIGHTENING THEMES

Five Nights at Freddy's (FNaF for short) doesn't feature bloodshed like many horror games – but it does build tension and use jump scares, which may be too intense for young players. The sinister animatronic characters and the sensation of being trapped and defenceless could be particularly unsettling, as could the inclusion of disturbing elements such as murder or possession by evil spirits.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

18

As a result of FNaF's popularity, a sizeable YouTube community based on fan-made content has developed around the game. While the majority of this material is still child-friendly, there are a number of channels which are geared more towards mature audiences: they contain adult and disturbing themes, for example, and (in some cases) age-inappropriate language.

STRESSFUL SITUATIONS

Due to FNaF's suspenseful atmosphere, it can be extremely stressful for players. Constantly checking that one's surroundings are safe is a crucial part of the gameplay and could create residual stress or even obsessive-compulsive behaviours. Several media reports have suggested that some younger children have experienced severe nightmares or sleep anxiety after playing games from the series.

PLAYING IN ISOLATION

Many parents will be relieved to learn that Five Nights at Freddy's is a single-player game which doesn't involve any online chat functionality. Conversely, however, this could also make playing feel quite an isolating and perhaps especially if your child is spending a lot of time investigating the game's spooky, shadowy environments alone in their room, for example.

IN-GAME SPENDING

FNaF doesn't foreground in-game purchasing as strongly as many other well-known games, but some titles in the series do offer additional content that promises to enhance the experience. Five Nights at Freddy's: Help Wanted, for instance, is complemented by a Halloween-themed expansion pack called 'Curse of Dreadbear' (costing £8.99), which unlocks new levels and mini-games.

Advice for Parents & Carers

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Five Nights at Freddy's doesn't have conventional parental controls. However, if you're concerned about the potential impacts of the game's themes and content, you can always choose not to let your child play it. If they use an Android or iOS device for gaming, you can adjust Apple and Google's built-in parental controls to restrict your child's access to certain content.

TRY IT YOURSELF

Every child is different, of course, so it could be worth playing Five Nights at Freddy's yourself for a while to gauge how your young gamer might cope with the series' more frightening and disturbing aspects. If they're old enough, you could spend some time playing it together – after all, it usually only takes between five and ten minutes to complete a level.

LIMIT SPENDING

Unlike many popular titles, Five Nights at Freddy's doesn't bombard players with tempting in-game purchase offers. It's worth noting, however, that some instalments in the series do provide the option for players to spend real-world money. With that in mind, it's important to either keep a close eye on your child's expenditure or limit their access to digital payment options.

SPOT THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child might be spending too much time on Five Nights at Freddy's, or you're worried that the game's scary themes are having a toll, watch out for warning signs. Young people may start to prioritise gaming over everyday essentials like schoolwork or sleep; irritability or a lack of concentration could also indicate that their gaming sessions are going on too long.

TALK ABOUT THE RISKS

Before you allow your child to play Five Nights at Freddy's, it's wise to have a conversation about the game so that they're aware of the potential risks. Ensure that your child understands that the series is purposely designed to be tense and unsettling, and that they should stop or take a break if the intensity of the gameplay is making them feel uncomfortable or putting them on edge.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Pegale is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 15 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech website The Independent, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, author and consultant.



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday