



The Apple



The news from Isaac Newton School, Grantham

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Well this will be my final newsletter as the headteacher of The Isaac Newton Primary School. The past four years have flown by and I have enjoyed every minute. It's been a pleasure getting to know all of you (past and present) and I cannot thank you all enough for how valued you have made me feel as a headteacher. I'm never short of a conversation or two when I'm out in the morning or afternoon and that is part of what makes Isaac Newton such a fantastic school to work at.

As you will be aware, OFSTED recently came in and inspected our school. I am not yet able to share the outcome of the inspection with you due to confidentiality guidelines, but Mrs Pask will write to you in the new year with further information once she is able to do so. I would however like to take this opportunity to thank you all. Our feedback from the Parent/ Carer surveys that OFSTED received stated that 100% of you would recommend the school to another parent and 100% felt that the school was well led and managed. One parent even said that they bypassed other schools that were closer to them just so they could get their child into Isaac Newton! These were only a few examples of the fantastic feedback that we got from you. I speak on behalf of the whole staff in thanking you for your continued support of the school!

It would seem appropriate to look back at some of the successes that the school has had over recent years. We now have school attendance that is better than other schools nationally. In fact, our attendance now puts us in the top 20% of similar schools in the country! We have also hugely improved our teaching of reading. In 2017-18, 59% of our Year 6 pupils were achieving the expected standard in their SATS tests, however by 2021-22, 80% of our children were achieving the expected standard. This represents an increase of 21% over the past four years and meant that we were 6% above the national average! Similarly, our Year 6 SATS progress scores were all above zero for the first time in 2021-22...this means that our pupils are making better progress than pupils (with the same starting points) nationally:

	2017-18	2021-22
Reading	-2.0	+1.3
Writing	+0.2	+2.1
Maths	0	+0.3

Of course, it is not only about academic results. Over the past four years we have designed a new curriculum to ensure that pupils are taught ALL of the subjects within the National Curriculum. Hopefully you will have heard your child talking about religious education, geography, art and much more...I expect that our Key Stage Two children will also speak a lot about their French lessons with our specialist French teacher Madame Wilson!

The staff at Isaac Newton all continue to work incredibly hard to provide the children with the very best education. I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank them all for everything that they have done over the past four years. I'd also like to wish Mrs Pask well as she takes on her role as acting headteacher, she will be fantastic!

Finally, I would like to wish you all the best for the future. I feel incredibly privileged to have had the opportunity to shape your child's future and to prepare them for their next steps in education. I know that both Mrs Pask and Mr Milner (when he arrives after Easter) will continue to drive the school forward and ensure that we deliver on our school mission statement 'to be the best that we can be in everything that we do'.

I would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and hope that you enjoy the festive break. Please remember that the children back to school on **Tuesday 3rd January**.

Mr Heathcote

Headteacher

Safeguarding

Should you have any concerns regarding the safety or wellbeing of a child then you should report this immediately. You can report this to the school or directly to Children and Young People's Services (Social Services).

Children and Young People's Services Emergency Contact Information Lincolnshire:

During Office hours contact the Children Services Customer Service Centre (CSC) on 01522 782111. Email: lscb@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

Out of Office Hours (24-hours) contact the Emergency Duty Team (EDT) on 01522 782333.



The Designated Safeguarding Lead in school is Mrs Beeby. Safeguarding concerns can also be reported to Mr Heathcote or Mrs Pask who are the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads.

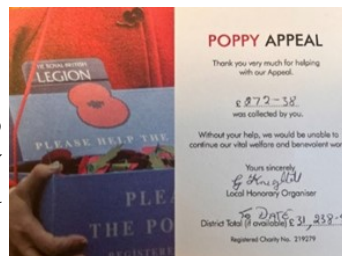
Santa Fun Run

Last week the whole school took part in the 'Great Santa Fun Run' during their PE lessons. Each child used our daily mile track to complete 1 mile. The children were enthusiastic throughout and even managed to sing a few Christmas songs as they ran. They were all awarded with their very own Christmas medal to celebrate their achievements! Well done everyone!



Poppy Appeal

Thank you to everyone who donated to our Poppy Appeal, we raised a grand total of £278.38!



Christmas Performances

We began our Christmas season with the Foundation Stage Nativity. I was so impressed by the progress that the children had made since joining us- they not only remembered their roles but also all the words to the songs...fantastic!



We then had our Key Stage One and Key Stage Two Christmas shows. The classes performed lots of different songs around the Christmas theme and we were treated to everything from Silent Night to a rap song about the Grinch- not to mention Mrs Haddock dressed as a giant Christmas Tree! At the end we also had beautiful performances from our school choir. Well done to all the children for their fantastic effort and performances.



A huge thank you to all of our families who attended the events. The children loved performing in front of a live audience and it was great to have everyone back in school again for our Christmas festivities! A further thank you to all those of you who bought a raffle ticket. The raffle will be drawn at the final show and we will contact the lucky winner before the end of term! All proceeds will go towards our PTA funds which we are using for our new history timeline in the school hall. Many of you will have noticed the 'poly-filled' bare wall behind the Christmas performances, by the end of January this will have a stunning timeline ALL the way across it!

Art Gallery Competition

Well done to all of the children who were selected to have their artwork presented at a local gallery competition. We had a second place, third place and two highly commended which is a fantastic achievement! If your child was lucky enough to be chosen then I hope that you enjoyed visiting with them to see their work on display. A huge thank you to Mrs Clark for organising such a fantastic event for the children!



County Athletics

We have links to a variety of external clubs across the Grantham area and last week we signposted children to the Lincolnshire County Athletics Team Trials. Each year they hold trials to create a team to enter into the East Midlands Indoor Athletics Championships held at Grantham Meres Leisure Centre. We are incredibly proud to announce 3 of our children have been selected to represent Lincolnshire in the U11 category. This is an outstanding achievement, a huge well done to Thea, Maisie and William T. We can't wait to watch you in the event next year!!

House Games

The children in KS2 have been taking part in their house games over the past few weeks. In netball Foale were winners in Year 6 with more games to follow. We created a World Cup themed event for football, each house represented a country from the World Cup. In Year 5 & 6 Foale were victorious, representing England and Qatar!



Shutting School For Snow

With 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, the school website and most importantly via email/ E-Schools app. Please make sure that you are receiving emails from the school and have downloaded the E-Schools app. For further information please see the section below.

School Communications



The school does not send out letters in paper form. All of our information and updates are sent out via email and our E-Schools app. Please ensure that you have downloaded the app onto your phone and have logged into this. You also need to ensure that we have a correct, up-to-date email address for you on our school system. Letters were sent out last week to all new parents/ carers containing their E-Schools App username and password. If you have any issues with this, then please contact the school office.

School Term Dates:

Term 2	31 October- 16 December
Christmas Break	
Term 3	3 January- 10 February
February Break	
Term 4	20 February- 30 March
Easter Break	
Term 5	17 April- 26 May
May Break	
Term 6	5 June - 21 July
Summer Holiday	

