



# The Apple



**The weekly news from Isaac Newton School, Grantham**

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Dear Parents/Carer

What a fantastic two weeks it has been since the last Newsletter. The children have been working really hard and have produced some amazing work, that they should be really proud of. With Christmas and the holidays fast approaching, we have so many exciting things to look forward to. We will be sharing a special Christmas Newsletter which will be published on the last day of term.

Our Chair of Governors, Mrs Townsend visited the school last week to judge a couple of fun competitions, which the children and staff have been getting involved with. We will announce the winners of the best Santa (which will be in display in the hall and the best Christmas classroom door), in the next newsletter.

We would really like to know about your child's out of school achievements, please email the school office on [enquiries@isaacnewton-cit.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@isaacnewton-cit.co.uk) with information and we will celebrate this in our next Newsletter.

## School Council Members 2023 – 2024

Last week there was a whole school focus on Democracy. Following a whole school assembly, each class looked in more detail at democracy, what it means and how this works in our country. We used this as an opportunity to democratically elect our School Councillors. We announced the School Council to the school in assembly this morning and I am pleased to reveal the below children will meet with Mrs McEvoy and myself to discuss a range of school issues.

Class 3	Zuzanna	Class 9	Mary
Class 4	Nettie-Rai	Class 10	Luke
Class 5	James	Class 11	Nicole
Class 6	Alexia	Class 12	Yasmin
Class 7	Toby	Class 13	Gustas
Class 8	Kyra	Class 14	Shannon

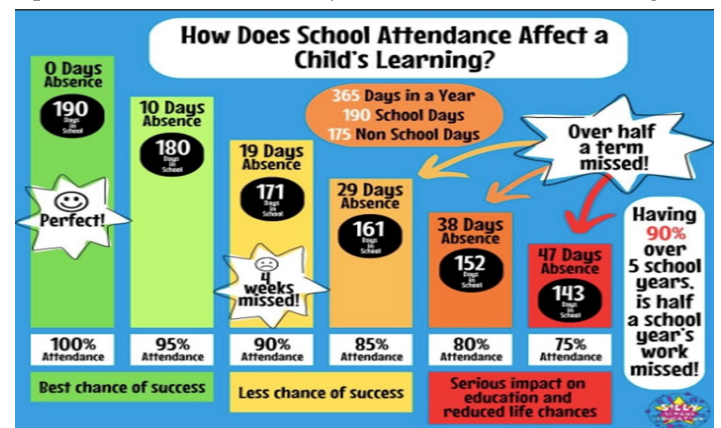


## Reminders

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.

Mr Richards has invited the families of children, whose attendance is below 90% which has not improved over the last few weeks, to an attendance panel meeting. The reason for this is two-fold: to remind parents/carers of their responsibilities to ensure children are in school on time, every day but also to offer support and ascertain the reasons for absence. We want to work with families so that we can better understand the issues families are facing.

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.



## Emergency Closure/Bad Weather

We try and stay open whatever the weather. If it's snowy or icy and you are concerned about coming in then you can check the school website to see if we are open. If we ever have to close we will update the website by 8.00AM in the morning informing you of the closure, we will also contact Lincs FM and BBC Radio Lincolnshire.

Useful information and websites:

BBC Radio Lincolnshire 94.9 FM  
[www.bbc.co.uk/lincolnshire](http://www.bbc.co.uk/lincolnshire)

Lincs FM 96.7 FM in Grantham  
<http://www.lincsfm.co.uk/pages/schoolclosures>

School website: <https://isaacnewton.eschools.co.uk/>

Mr D. Milner  
Headteacher

## School Values

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. We will continue to focus on respect but next term, will also introduce one of our other values – kindness.



## Christmas Community Event

YPLP in Grantham are running a free Community Christmas event at Earlesfield Youth Centre on Wednesday 13th December, 5:00pm – 7:00pm. The event is completely free to attend and everyone is welcome with free Christmas presents for young people, face painting and arts and crafts available. There is no need to register for this event.

If you would like any more information, please contact [Mary.maguire@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:Mary.maguire@lincolnshire.gov.uk).



## Sports/PE update

Last week we took a group of Year 6 girls to a Cheerleading Festival at Priory Ruskin Academy. The girls were outstanding all day, polite, well-mannered and a pleasure to take out of school. They learned a cheer routine in Formation with other schools, and finished it off with a stunt position. Well done everyone!!



Children will be taking part in the Santa Fun Run during PE lessons on the following dates.

Year 5 & Year 4 - Tuesday 5th December

Year 3 and EYFS - Wednesday 6th December

Year 6 Thursday - Thursday 7th December

Year 2 - Friday 8th December

Year 1 - Monday 11th December

Children are welcome to bring in an accessory - Santa hat, Elf hat, Reindeer antlers if they wish, full PE kit is still required. Please note no Christmas jumpers!

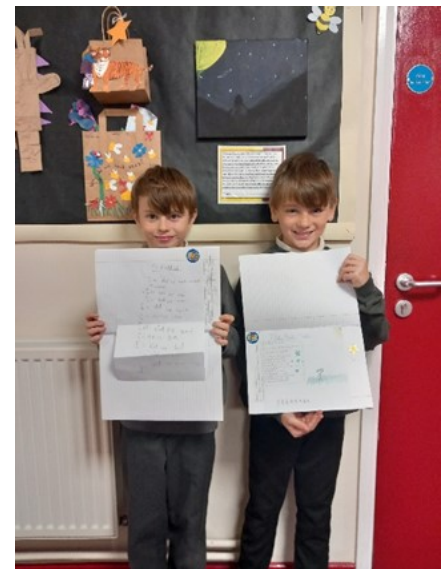
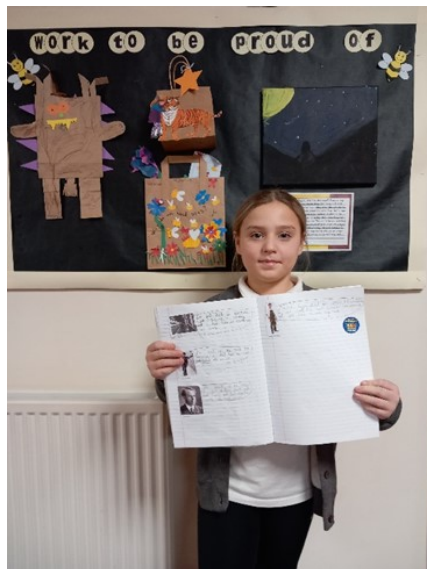
## Mini Christmas Fair

As usual, we will be hosting a Mini Christmas Fair. This year it will be held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December from 3.30pm in the Studio (which is the glass building near EYFS). There will be a Christmas Tombola, cakes made by the children with the Lionesses, a lucky dip, lolly game and face painting. Donations of the following will be greatly received: cakes (on the day please) and a jam jar (decorated if possible) filled with sweets or small gifts. Thank you so much for your support and we look forward to seeing you on the day.

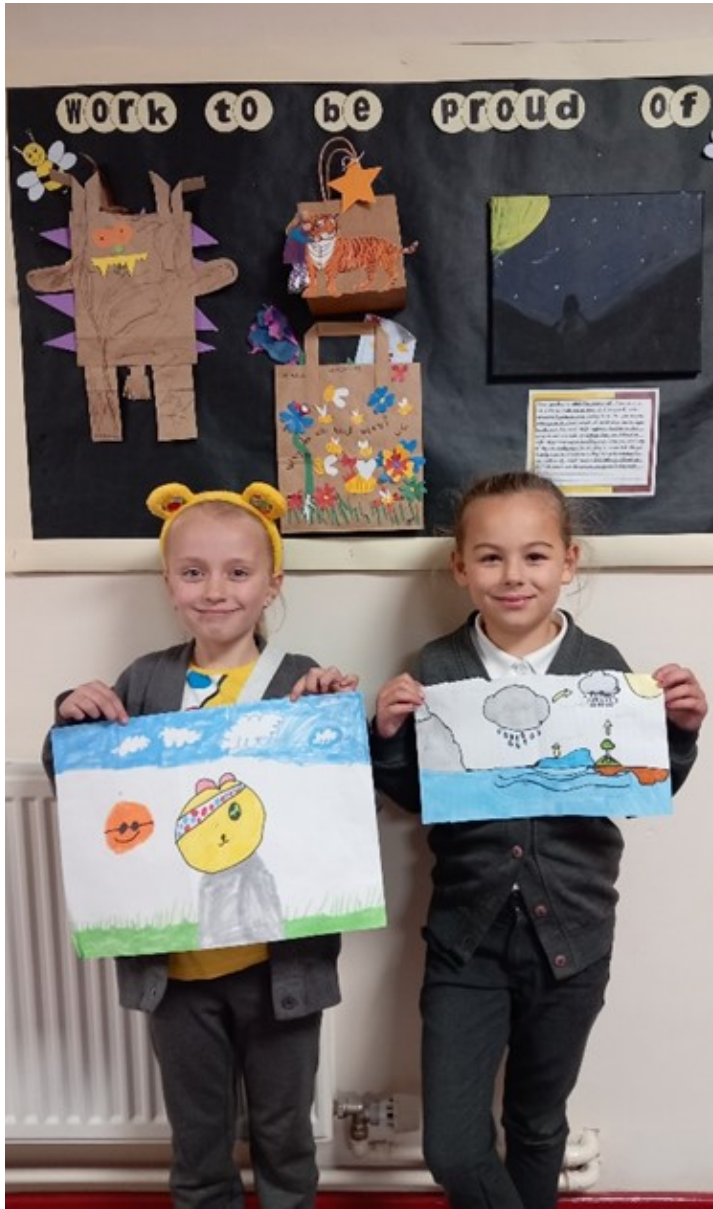




Work to be proud of



## Work to be proud of from home



## Safeguarding Update

If you have any concerns about domestic violence, the Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse Specialist Service (LDASS) offer support to victims of domestic abuse. They also have useful guidance and information about how you can help others that you might have concerns about. To find out more, visit their website at <https://ldass.org.uk/>

## Online Safety

On the next page is this week's Online safety guide about the 2023 online safety act, which became legislation in October.

## Dates For Your Diary:

5 <sup>th</sup> December	Foundation Stage Christmas Nativity 2:30pm
6 <sup>th</sup> December	Foundation Stage Christmas Nativity 9:30am
7 <sup>th</sup> December	Lionesses Cake Bake Day
7 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Fair
8 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 5 Greek Workshop
12 <sup>th</sup> December	KS2 Christmas Performance 9:30am & 2:15pm
14 <sup>th</sup> December	KS1 Christmas Performance 9:30am & 2:45pm
14 <sup>th</sup> December	EYFS trip to Rand Farm
15 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Dinner Day
20 <sup>th</sup> December	End of term 2
3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2024	INSET Day (School closed to all pupils)
4 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Start of Term 3



# What Schools Need to Know about THE ONLINE SAFETY ACT

The Online Safety Act was passed into UK law in October 2023, with the aim of establishing major new layers of protection for children when they're online. The government has pledged "a zero-tolerance approach to protecting children from online harm" – and the act certainly includes more powerful legislation which should help to safeguard young people in the digital world. Our guide summarises the key points for schools ...

## WHAT THE ACT WILL DO

### HARMFUL CONTENT

Social media sites must rapidly remove illegal and/or harmful content such as bullying or harassing comments; pornography; and content that supports extremist activity or encourages or depicts violence, suicide, self harm or eating disorders. If they fail to do so, they can be fined up to 10% of their global revenue while their executives may even face jail time.

### ANIMAL CRUELTY

Content featuring cruelty to animals is now prohibited, even if it originates from abroad (where the law may be different). Again, it is the platform's responsibility to remove this.

### MORE TRANSPARENCY

Sites must be transparent about the hazards that any children using them could encounter – by publishing risk assessments for their platforms, for instance.

### HOSTING MISLEADING ADVERTS

Scams and fraudulent adverts must be blocked or removed, or the hosting companies are liable to be fined.

### NON-CONSENSUAL SHARING

It's now easier to convict online abusers or people who share intimate images without consent, while legislation on the criminality of deepfakes has been clarified. The new laws also relate to any individuals who even threaten to share such images. This should help to protect women and girls in particular online.

### REPORTING AND FILTERING

Sites should have easy reporting mechanisms for children (or their parents and carers) to flag up problems quickly. They must also provide options to filter out unwanted content.

### AGE-RESTRICTED MATERIAL

Sites must prevent children from accessing age-inappropriate material. This includes enforcing age limits and implementing robust age verification.

## What this means for you

The act has some specific implications for schools: it's essential that leaders understand the new legislation's scope and limitations. The act is certainly a positive step, but as artificial intelligence and other advances in tech continue to produce new challenges, schools will still need to remain extremely vigilant.

### KNOW WHERE TO GET HELP

Look out for the Code of Conduct that Ofcom is creating in response to the Online Safety Act. Note that the new legislation doesn't mean an instant change: many of its elements will only come into force at the end of 2023. An Ofcom consultation on 'protecting people from illegal harms online' will be running until February 2024.

### REMEMBER THE ESSENTIALS

Remain mindful of your organisation's own online activities: the legal duty for schools to maintain appropriate software monitoring and filtering, for example, will not change.

### WATCH FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

There are some issues on which the legislation remains less clear for now: whether it's possible for Ofcom to scan encrypted private messages (such as on WhatsApp) has yet to be resolved, for instance – making this an area where, for the moment, young people have less legal protection.

### UNDERSTAND AND EXPLAIN

Staff should learn how to raise concerns with tech companies whose platforms contain anything upsetting or unpleasant. Students also need to be made aware of the newly strengthened laws relating to cyber-bullying, sexting or posting inappropriate content. Young people do make mistakes online – so the clearer their understanding of the possible consequences, the better.

### ENGAGE WITH PARENTS

Schools should also explain to parents and carers the new possibilities that the Online Safety Act affords them in terms of protecting their children. Many parents may have previously felt that there was little they could do about changing online platforms' content; they now have a far greater level of support when complaining about a company or the behaviour of an individual.

## Meet Our Expert

Luke Ramsden is Senior Deputy Headmaster and Director of Safeguarding for the St Benedict's family of schools. He is a regular speaker at conferences and writes in the TES (among other journals) on school leadership, pastoral care and safeguarding. In 2022, he was named Pastoral Leader of the Year at the National Awards for Pastoral Care in Education.



**NOS** National Online Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday

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