

Dear Parents/Carer

It has been a fantastic start to the new term. The children have settled really quickly into their new classes and we are so proud of them all. Transition arrangements during the summer term were effective and the staff have worked tirelessly to make sure everything was prepared and ready for the children's first day. I have been impressed with all children but particularly with our Foundation children, who have only just joined us. They have been so grown up and taken everything in their stride.

Year 6

As we did last year, on the first day of term the year 6 staff and I set the children a challenge to be the best year 6 cohort there has ever been at Isaac Newton. We reminded them of their responsibilities as the oldest pupils and how they are role models to the rest of the school. Thus far, I am pleased to tell you that they have been exemplary role models and have eased into their new roles effortlessly! As with previous years, year 6 have the opportunity to put themselves forward for various leadership roles in school, including bronze ambassadors, playground leaders, house and vice captains.

Out of school achievements

We really want to know about your child's out of school achievements, please email the school office on enquiries@isaacnewton-cit.co.uk with information or send their hard work into school, and we will celebrate this in our next Newsletter which will be published on **Friday 13th September**, on social media and during our Celebration Assemblies!

Reminders

Please remind all children not to cycle or ride their scooters while on school property. We have done this in school. It is to keep all members of the school community safe. The playground can get exceptionally busy in the morning and straight after school. Thanks for your support with this.

Parking Safety

A polite reminder to all parents who drive their children to and from school **not** to park at the gate and block the entrance to school please. This causes considerable disruption for local residents and is also a safety hazard for children and parents who are walking to school.



Mr D. Milner
Headteacher

Fundraiser



We are fundraising to improve the outdoor learning area for our Early Years children.

We want to make improvements to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) outdoor area (for ages 4, 5 and 6).

Playing outdoors allows children to develop self-confidence, independence and self-esteem. They also become aware of limits, boundaries and challenge in their play. When children are used to playing outdoors, they are more likely to try new activities, engage with others, solve problems, explore the natural environment, make friends, and show resilience.

We wish to install a large, covered seating area for outdoor learning (similar to the picture above), and artificial grass for play to improve safety. The newly planned play area will give the immediate 60 Early Years children a safe space to play and develop social skills (as well as all the children who will attend the school in future years).

The school has managed to raise £3,619 towards the project so far. We are continuously fundraising through small school events.

If you can support in anyway, please get in touch with the school office.

If you can donate, or you know a local business who can, please use this link to our fundraising page:

<https://www.kindlink.com/fundraising/community-inclusive-trust/isaac-eyfs-fundraiser>

Attendance

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 **before 9.30am**. In addition to this, please ensure the children arrive in school by 8.50am. If they are late, they miss out on valuable learning time. Both gates open at 8.40 and classroom doors are open at 8.45am.

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 that will result in significant gaps. Mr Richards and the attendance team continue to work hard to support families, offer advice and help get children back in school so they can flourish.

Attendance by Class from the start of term.

How many classes are above 96%

Class 1	97%	Class 8	95%
Class 2	99%	Class 9	98%
Class 3	98%	Class 10	98%
Class 4	99.5%	Class 11	98%
Class 5	95%	Class 12	98%
Class 6	98%	Class 13	96%
Class 7	96%	Class 14	94%

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Medical Appointments

Photocopies of medical letters or of medical appointments are really useful and will mean that these absences will be authorised. Thanks you for your support with this.

Useful link – Is my child too ill for school?

The attached NHS link is a really useful resource for parents/carers if they are unsure whether to send their child to school or not. <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>



Celebration Assembly

Every Friday afternoon, we spend time celebrating all the successes from the week and present children with a Headteacher's Award. Staff choose one pupil from each class for a reason connected with our values (Respect, Pride, Responsibility, Kindness and Resilience and for following our simple, but effective, school rules (Be Ready; Be Respectful and Be Safe). All children are encouraged to listen carefully to the reasons for the award and they receive a certificate, a sticker and a round of applause from the whole school. We also celebrate those children who have produced exceptional work in school, at home and their out of school achievements. It is always a special occasion and enjoyed by all!



Winners from the recent Friday Celebration Assembly (13.09.2024) with their certificates.

Rocksteady Workshops



School Council update



Mrs McEvoy and Mr Milner met again with the School Council this week. These meetings will happen every other Thursday afternoon.

Due to it being the beginning of the new term, Mr Milner began the session by welcoming the children back to the council. He assured the children that the badges were on their way and the children would receive them once they were here. In the coming week, Mrs McEvoy will be taking new photos of our school representatives for the display in the school hall. Underneath each picture will be a short bio and a reason they are proud to be on the School Council. Mr Milner asked the children who would be interested in being involved with school tours when we have visitors to the school. All children said they would like to, so when these occasions arise the children will take it in turns to tour the school with both staff and visitors. It was a really positive meeting, thank you to all who took part.

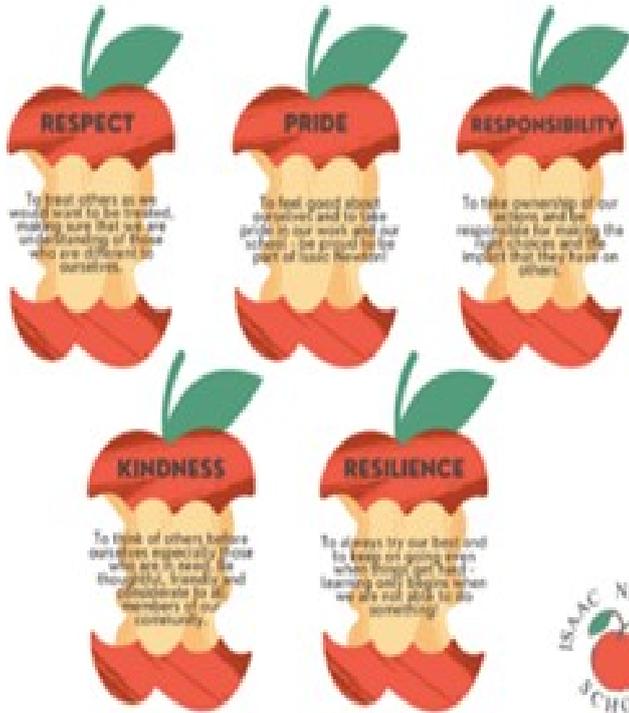


Rock Steady lessons started on the 9th September. It is not too late to book your child in for this academic year, by visiting their website <https://www.rocksteadymusicschool.com/> or alternatively, you can collect a letter from the school office. The children who currently attend thoroughly enjoy the sessions and are looking forward to their Christmas performance on Monday 9th December from 9.15 – 10am.

School Values

This term we will focus on our school value of Respect. Being respectful and responsible for their actions will not only ensure that children are successful in school, but will also serve them well as adults in the workplace.

OUR SCHOOL VALUES



Dates For Your Diary:

23rd September	Year 3 trip to Cresswell Crags
27th September	INSET Day (School closed to all pupils)
2nd—4th October	Year 6 Residential to PGL
8th October	Year 2 trip to Perlethorpe
8th & 9th October	Parents' Evening
14th October	School Photographs
18th October	End of Term 1
28th October	Start of Term 2
4th December	EYFS Christmas Performance
10th December	KS2 Christmas Performance
12th December	KS1 Christmas Performance

Sports/PE update

We had an exciting arrival on the school car park this week!! We have managed to secure a trailer of sport wheelchairs for 6 weeks, to provide the children with the opportunity to experience a range of parasports!! With the Paralympics recently taking place in Paris, the children have been discussing their knowledge of the competition and how they are used. They will be able to fully experience how to use them in real context across their PE sessions this term. This has been made possible through our links with Inspire+ and we were fortunate to welcome Carl from the charity into school on Tuesday to give our Year 4 children a coaching session! Thank you to Carl and Inspire+ for providing the chairs. The children have thoroughly enjoyed their sessions so far!

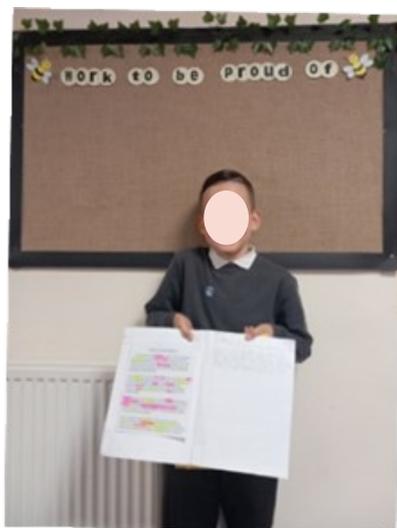


Work to be proud of



Year 6 have been working really hard already this term and have completed some baseline assessments.

Kian showed real resilience and determination in the reading test, well done Kian.



Mason was so proud to show off this English work. He worked really hard and the presentation was fantastic.

Out of School Achievements



Congratulations to Rebecca who proudly brought in this swimming certificate. Well done on this achievement.



TikTok is a video-sharing social media app available on iOS and Android which lets users create, share, and view user created videos much in a similar manner to Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat. It's main draw, however, is that users can record and upload bite-sized looping videos of themselves lip-syncing and dancing to popular music or soundbites, often for comedic effect, which can then be further enhanced with filters, emojis and stickers. TikTok has been designed with the young user in mind and has a very addictive appeal. At the beginning of 2019 it skyrocketed in popularity to become the iOS store's most downloaded app with over 33 million downloads. Estimates suggest that it now has anything between 500 million and over 1 billion monthly active users worldwide.



What parents need to know about

TIKTOK



MATURE CONTENT

On the iOS store, TikTok is listed as 12+. On the Google Play Store it is rated as 'Parental guidance recommended'. When signing up for the app, it's possible to lie about your age without any form of verification. As children scroll through their feed, most of the videos they're likely to come across are lighthearted or funny takes on dance routines which are designed to make people laugh. However there has been a slew of videos which have been reported for featuring drug and alcohol abuse, self-harm and sexual content, including young teens dressing overtly sexually and behaving suggestively. Given the deluge of material uploaded to TikTok every day, it's impossible to moderate everything and it can be quite common to come across explicit content on the 'for you' feed when logging into the platform.

INAPPROPRIATE MUSIC

TikTok revolves around creating music videos through lip-syncing and dancing. Inevitably, some of the music featured by users will contain explicit or suggestive lyrics. Given the undeniably young user base, there is a risk that children may look to imitate the explicit language they hear or the suggestive actions they see when viewing others user's videos on the app.

TIKTOK FAME

TikTok is very image focused and there is a notable preoccupation with appearing cool and attractive. Many teenagers now attempt to go viral and become what's known in-app as 'TikTok famous'. TikTok (and its predecessor musical.ly) has spawned its own celebrities - social media stars Loren Gray and Jacob Sartorius have been catapulted to fame through their initial exposure on the app. Obviously, most budding influencers looking to become the next big thing will be disappointed, but this may have the knock-on effect of making them go to more and more drastic lengths to get noticed.

ONLINE PREDATORS

As a social network, TikTok makes it easy to connect with other users. This includes the ability to comment on and react to other user's videos, follow their profile and download their content. Be aware that by default, any user can comment on your child's video if their account is set to public. Most interactions are harmless enough but as an app, TikTok is prone to predators because of the abundance of younger users.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Social media is designed to be addictive and TikTok is no different. It can be fun and hugely entertaining. However, it is also because of this that it can be hard to put down. In addition to the short, punchy nature of the looping video format, the app's ability to keep you guessing what will come on screen next makes it easy to turn a five-minute visit into 45-minute visit.

IN-APP PURCHASES

Aside from the content, there's also the option to purchase in-app extras called 'TikTok coins'. Prices range from £0.99 for 100 coins to an eye-watering £93.99 for 10,000 coins. TikTok coins are used to purchase different emojis to reward content creators that a user finds funny or entertaining. In the iOS version of the app you can disable the option to buy TikTok coins but this sadly doesn't seem to be a feature in the Android version.



Safety Tips For Parents

TALK ABOUT ONLINE DANGERS

Assuming your child is above the age limit to use the app, make sure you also take the time to talk to them about what they are seeing on the app. Have a dialogue, get them to give you their opinion on what is appropriate and model the correct behaviour for them. Go over why they shouldn't give out private information or identifiable photos and be positive and understanding of them. In the long run, getting them to think critically about what they're seeing goes a long way to keeping them social media savvy.

USE PRIVACY SETTINGS

Undoubtedly, the easiest way to safeguard your child on TikTok is to make sure their account is set to private. This means only those users your child approves can view, like, and follow their content. Setting the account to private may clash with your child's goal of social media superstardom, but it will keep their account secure from strangers. This setting can be enabled under the privacy and safety menu by pressing the ellipsis in the 'me' tab of the app. To be extra safe, there are additional controls available to toggle such as who can send comments and messages, among other options.

ENABLE RESTRICTED MODE

In the digital wellbeing section there's the ability to turn on restricted mode using a PIN. Restricted mode filters out content that is not age appropriate although it should be noted that this isn't always 100% fool proof. When enabling restricted mode, parents should still be vigilant to what their child is watching and take note that the algorithm moderating content is not infallible.

EXPLORE AND LEARN YOURSELF

Understanding and learning the app yourself is a great way to get to grips with TikTok. You could then even use the app with your child and watch some videos with them. If you are the parent of a teen, even if it does not make you popular, keep a close eye on what they're viewing and sharing. That said, it's a brilliant chance to turn it into a bonding opportunity with your child also. You could even unleash your inner performer and make videos with them while (more importantly) keeping them safe online.

LEARN HOW TO REPORT AND BLOCK INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

With the proper privacy settings in place, TikTok can be a safe space for your child to express themselves. However, just in case something does manage to slip through, make sure your child knows how to recognise and report content that isn't appropriate and get them to come to you about what they have seen. TikTok allows users to report offenders and comments within the app. You can also block individual users by going on their profile.

MODERATE SCREEN TIME

As entertaining as TikTok is, you can help your child moderate their time on the app by making use of the digital wellbeing section. Under the screen time management option, you can limit the daily allotted time allowed on the app in increments ranging from 40 to 120 minutes. You can also lock this preference behind a PIN number which has to be inputted in order to then exceed the daily time limit. This way your child can get their daily dose of memes without wasting away the day.

Meet our expert

Pete Badh is a writer with over 10+ years in research and analysis. Working within a specialist area for West Yorkshire Police, Pete has contributed work which has been pivotal in successfully winning high profile cases in court as well as writing as a subject matter expert for industry handbooks.



NEW FOR 2020 FAMILY SAFETY MODE

TikTok Family Safety Mode allows parents to link their own TikTok account to their child's. It's a great way to oversee your child's digital wellbeing by giving you direct control over their safety settings and being able to remotely turn features on and off. This includes managing screen time, the ability to send and receive direct messages (and with whom) and the ability to restrict the appearance of content that might not be age appropriate.