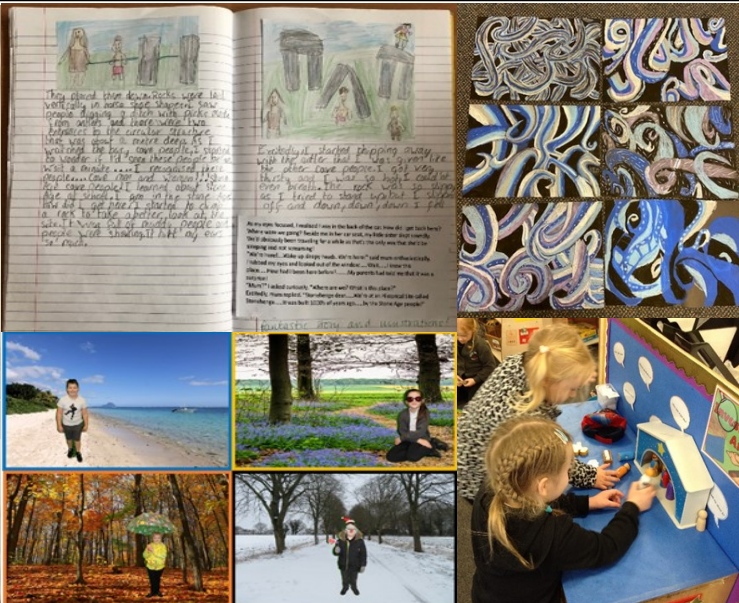


Dear Parents/Carers

We've been getting into the festive spirit here at Isaac Newton over the past few weeks. Christmas trees and decorations have been going up all around school and it's been getting rather competitive regarding who can create the best 'Christmas Door'! I have to say that Class 11 (Miss Meads) have particularly impressed me with their door- you can see from the picture that they have created some beautiful snow globe themed decorations! I was slightly less impressed however when I returned to work on Wednesday (after not being in school on Tuesday) to find that my own door had been decorated. I will leave you all to consider which one of these pictures is my office door!

We also had our Christmas dinner this week. It was great to see so many children making the most of this and having had a dinner myself, I can safely say that the quality of the food was excellent! I would also like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Pask and all our midday meals supervisors and servers. They have all been INCREDIBLE over the past few months and have ensured that we have been able to continue to provide hot meals safely and effectively despite Covid-19 restrictions!

Despite all of the Christmas 'goings on', we've still managed to find some time to produce some excellent work. A couple of my highlights this week are some writing produced by Dylan in Mrs Clark's class and some 'green screen' work that has been going on in Mrs Brownlie's class. I couldn't work out what was going on when I walked past her classroom and saw a giant piece of green fabric over her whiteboard. I went in to investigate and saw some of the computing work that they had been doing! Fantastic!



Finally, Year 6 have yet again wowed me with some of their work. They brought down their pastel artwork to show me and I couldn't help but give out some of my headteacher award stickers for such incredible pieces!

This will be my last newsletter prior to the Christmas break. I would like to thank all of the staff here at school for their continued hard work- especially with all of the challenges that Covid-19 has thrown at them! The children are extremely fortunate to have such wonderful people working with them each and every day.

I sincerely hope that you all manage to spend some quality time with your families and loved ones over Christmas. It has been an incredibly difficult year for everyone but hopefully we are now starting to see some 'light at the end of the tunnel'! I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year and welcoming the children back to school on **Monday 4th January**. Merry Christmas to you all!

Chris Heathcote



Headteacher

Ordering School Meals

After the Christmas holidays school meals must be paid for and ordered online through 'Ideal Meals', our school food provider. A letter has been sent out to Parents/ Carers explaining this. Unfortunately payments can no longer be made via the school office.

A guide is also available on our school website: https://isaacnewton.eschools.co.uk/.../december_2020/525095.

The new term begins on Monday 4th January. Please ensure that you have ordered your school meals for this week by Thursday 17th December (last day of this term).

If you need any further support or have any questions then please contact the school office.

Christmas Supermarket Vouchers

The school will receive funding from the Government to provide each child who is eligible for Free School Meals (Pupil Premium) with a £35 supermarket voucher for over the Christmas holidays.

A letter has been sent out via the E-Schools app and can also be found on our school website: <https://isaacnewton.eschools.co.uk/.../fsm.../526579>. Please check the letter if you are unsure as to whether you are eligible.

Letters from School

We are now reducing the number of letters that we send out in paper form. Please ensure that you have downloaded and logged into the e-schools app to ensure that you receive all of our communications. If you do not know your login details then please contact the school office via email at enquires@isaacnewton-cit.co.uk. A help guide is also available on our school website: https://isaacnewton.eschools.co.uk/website/eschools_app_-_parents_help/499102

We will continue to upload all letters onto the 'News' section of our school website also. If you would like a paper copy of any of the letters then please contact the school office.

Santa Fun Run

This week Mrs Atter and the PE team organised a festive fun run for all of the children during their PE sessions. All children were allowed to bring in either a Santa hat or reindeer antlers as part of their fun run! It was such a pleasure to watch all of the children having lots of fun, dressed up and running to the music! They even got presented with a medal from Santa after taking part. Well done everyone!



Reverse Advent Calendar

Mrs Clark has organised a 'reverse' advent calendar project within school this Christmas. In November, every child was given a gift card with a food item on it and also a date in December for it to be brought in. All of these food gifts were then put into a class food box. We have been truly overwhelmed with the response and cannot believe the generosity of our school community, despite the challenges that we have all faced recently. These boxes will now be delivered to the Grantham Food Bank and your contributions will be distributed to those most in need. Thank you all for your festive community spirit.



Rotary Stars

This week we held a 'virtual' Rotary Stars assembly. Lez and Irvin from the Rotary Club in Grantham joined me in presenting the assembly and sharing which children had been chosen by their class teacher to receive an award. A Rotary Star award is given out to one child in each class for demonstrating excellent citizenship. It was a pleasure to read all of the reasons that these children had been chosen. So many of them were demonstrating our school values of kindness, responsibility and respect! Well done to all of you!



School Car Park

Please can we remind Parents/ Carers not to use the school car park unless you are a blue badge holder. You are only permitted to

use the school car park if you have a blue badge and are the person collecting your child. This is to ensure that Parents/ Carers with a disability do not have to walk long distances to collect their children.

You are not permitted to use the car park if you are simply being given a lift by a person with a blue badge. We would ask that in this instance the blue badge holder parks outside of the school site and remains in the vehicle whilst the adult who is collecting then walks onto the school site following our one way system.

We need to keep the number of cars coming into the carpark at a minimum to ensure the safety of our school community. Thank you in advance for your support.

'Test and Trace' during Christmas

School leaders have been asked to be 'on call' up until 23rd December to assist with contract tracing if there is a confirmed case of Covid-19. As a result, we would ask all Parents/ Carers to notify the school using our office email address if their child tests positive for Covid-19 AND their symptoms began within 2 days (48 hours) of the school closing for Christmas. If your child develops symptoms **on or after Sunday 20th December** then you DO NOT need to contact the school. Should we have a confirmed case where a child has shown symptoms within 48 hours of being in school then we will contact all of the families within that 'bubble' to inform them that their child will need to self-isolate. Please can you ensure that we have your up-to-date contact details before we break up for Christmas so that we are able to contact you if required.

Our school office email address is enquiries@isaacnewton-cit.co.uk. Please contact us via this if you need to inform us of a positive Covid test during the Christmas holidays.

Christmas Videos

A letter went out last week explaining what classes will be doing over the festive period. If your child's class is producing a Christmas video then these will be shared via Microsoft Teams (Years 3 and 4) or 'Evidence Me' (EYFS). If you do not know how to access these platforms then please get in touch via the school office. As with Christmas performances, please can we ask that Parents/ Carers DO NOT share any of these recordings on social media. They are for you to view via the platforms in school. Thank you for your understanding.

Parent Communications

Last Friday, we had to close the school early due to the snow. It is always the decision that a headteacher dreads the most! However, adult and pupil safety is the most important thing and by closing the school early we were able to ensure that Parents/ Carers could travel to and from school and collect their children safely.

We have worked hard to improve our parent communications over the past year and now regularly use Facebook, text messages, the school website, email and our E-Schools app. Last Friday a message went out to ALL Parents/ Carers via text to inform you of the early closure. We also sent an email and a message via the E-Schools app. Finally we posted a message on Facebook.

If you did not receive any of these communications then it is likely that we do not have your correct contact details on our system. Please ensure that these are updated via the school office.

School Term Dates:

Term 1:

Thursday 3rd September 2020 – Thursday 22nd October 2020

Term 2:

Monday 2nd November 2020 - Thursday 17th December 2020

Bank Holidays:

Friday 25th & Monday 28th December 2020,

Term 3:

Monday 4th January 2021 - Friday 12th February 2021

Term 4:

Monday 22nd February 2021 - Wednesday 31st March 2021

Bank Holidays:

Good Friday 2nd April & Easter Monday 5th April 2021

Term 5:

Monday 19th April 2021 - Friday 28th May 2021

Bank Holidays:

Monday 3rd May & Monday 31st May 2021

Term 6:

Monday 7th June 2021 - Wednesday 21st July 2021



TikTok is a video-sharing social media app available on iOS and Android which lets users create, share, and view user created videos in a similar manner to Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat. Its 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 and has featured near the top of download charts ever since. Estimates suggest that it now has anything between 500 million and over 1 billion monthly active users worldwide.

AGE RESTRICTION
12+
If under 18, supervision of a parent or legal guardian required.



What parents need to know about

TIKTOK



AGE-INAPPROPRIATE 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 to 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 light-hearted or designed to make people laugh. However there have been a number of videos reported for featuring drug and alcohol abuse, self-harm and young teens engaging in sexually suggestive content. More recently, suicide-themed related videos have been widely circulated. Given the deluge of material uploaded to TikTok every day, it's impossible to moderate everything and it can be common to come across explicit and age-inappropriate 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' 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.



National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

Safety Tips For Parents



TALK ABOUT ONLINE CONTENT

Assuming your child is above the age limit to use TikTok, make sure you take the time to talk to them about what they are seeing on the app. Have an open dialogue, get them to give you their opinion on what is appropriate and model the correct behaviour. Go over why they shouldn't give out private information or identifiable photos and be positive and understanding. 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.



MONITOR VIEWING HABITS

Even if it doesn't make you popular, keep a close eye on what your child is viewing and sharing on TikTok. Whilst the app has moderation tools, videos can still slip through the net so it's important to regularly check in on what they're watching. Understanding and learning the app yourself is a great way to get to grips with it. You could then even watch some videos with your child, turning it into a bonding opportunity also.



LEARN HOW TO REPORT AND BLOCK INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

With the proper privacy settings in place, TikTok can be a relatively safe space for your child to express themselves. However, 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.



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.



SOURCES: www.tiktok.com

www.nationalonlinesafety.com Twitter - @natonlinesafety Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety Instagram - @NationalOnlineSafety

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