



# The Apple



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

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## Dear Parents/Carers,

I'd like to wish you all a happy New Year and welcome you back after the Christmas break. I hope that you managed to enjoy some family time over the Christmas period, although I know that for many families this has been impacted by Covid-19.

As we move forward into the New Year we are currently experiencing a high level of Covid-19 infection rates across the country. No new guidance has been issued to schools so we have only made a few adjustments from last term including suspending whole school and phase assemblies for the time being. We will continue to keep measures under constant review.

Like many services we may be impacted by staff absences over the next term. We have plans already in place for such eventualities and we have a number of staff that we can use to cover absences. Our upmost priority will be to continue with face-to-face learning in school for the children and we will only use remote learning as an absolute last resort. Please make sure that the school has a correct email address for you and that you are signed up to the E-Schools app to ensure that you remain up-to-date with any changes in school on a day-to-day basis. Sometimes these may have to be at very short notice!

**Chris Heathcote**

**Headteacher**

## Swimarathon

Unfortunately we have had to withdraw from the Swimarathon this year due to current concerns around Covid-19 infection levels. The Rotary Club have also made some changes to the way in which they are organising the event which has added further logistical complications. We really hope that next year we will be able to take part again once Covid-19 infection levels are lower. Thank you to all those who had intended to take part and support the school.



## Open Art Competition

Well done to all of the children who took part in our 'Open Art Competition' last term. All artwork was submitted for judging and I'm pleased to say that we had some winners. A special congratulations to these children!



## Covid-19 Isolation Period

Since Wednesday 22 December, the 10 day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances. Therefore children may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. If both these test results are negative, and your child does not have a high temperature, then they may end their self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to school from day 8.



child has symptoms of Covid-19 then they should take a PCR test, please do not rely on a lateral flow test. There have been a number of occasions in school when individuals have tested negative on a lateral flow test but positive on a PCR. PCR tests are much more sensitive and better at picking up the Covid-19 virus. PCR tests can be booked online at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

## Remote Learning

Whilst your child is self-isolating the school will provide them with work to complete. We expect this work to be completed once your child is well enough to do so. This work is available via Microsoft Teams and is in-line with the work that the rest of the class will be completing at school. Information



about remote learning, including login details and passwords, will be emailed out to you by the school office once you inform us that your child has tested positive. Please ensure that the school has your up-to-date email

## Lateral Flow Testing

We are aware that many parents/ carers use lateral flow tests with their children to detect the Covid-19 virus. Please can we remind you that lateral flow tests are intended to be used by those who are asymptomatic (have no symptoms). If your

## School Uniform

Please can all parents/ carers ensure that their children are following our school uniform policy at all times. Some key aspects to look out for are:

**Black school shoes-** If your child needs to wear trainers or different footwear for medical reasons then please discuss this directly with Mr Heathcote, Mrs Pask or your child's class teacher.

**School PE kit-** this should include a t-shirt, shorts/joggers & sweatshirt if needed. All these should be plain black (or dark coloured) and unbranded. You can purchase a PE t-shirt from school if you wish. Children will also need suitable, robust trainers.

**Jewellery-** the only jewellery permitted are watches, plain stud earrings and a plain, simple bow, headband or hair fastening. Children may wear a bracelet or necklace if this is related to a medical condition or for a religious reason and has been agreed with the school.

Thank you for your continued support with maintaining our high standards. If you have any concerns about school uniform then please do not hesitate to get in touch with either Mr Heathcote or Mrs Pask.

## PE Days

Year 3 PE will now take place on Wednesdays and Year 5 PE on Mondays. Children in Year 5 should come into school wearing their school PE kit. Children in Year 3 should bring their school PE kit into school with them to change into.

## Reverse Advent Calendar

A huge thank you to everyone who brought in donations for our reverse advent calendar. Mr Heathcote and Mrs Clark delivered these boxes to the Grantham Foodbank on the last day of term. In the last 12 months the foodbank has supported 4426 family members and 1806 Children in Grantham!

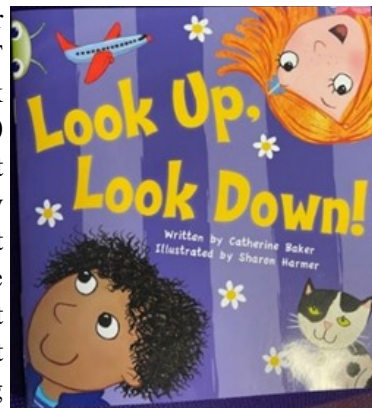


## Choir

Due to our Covid-19 risk assessment, choir has been cancelled until further notice. We will keep this under review and will let you know when this can restart. All other clubs will continue as normal at present.

## Reading At Home

It is really important that your child reads regularly at home. We recommend that your child reads at home AT LEAST three times a week for approximately 15- 20 minutes. It is proven that children who read regularly at home are more confident readers and this is one of the most effective ways that parents/ carers can support their child with their learning at home.



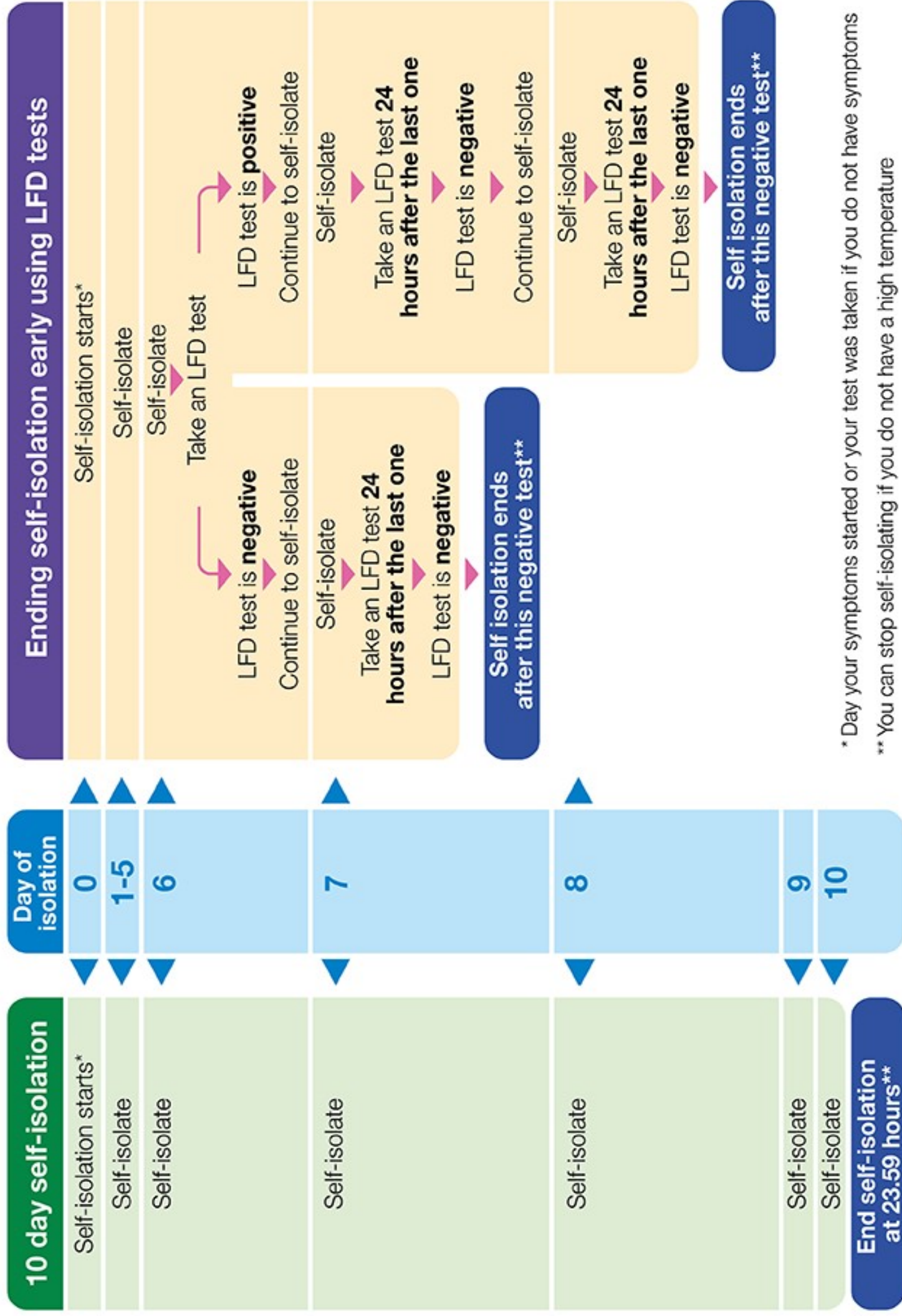
If your child is in EYFS- Year 1 then they will have a Phonics Bug Club book. These are designed to be read at least 3 times before they are changed. Don't forget to complete the activities on the front page with your child first.

As children move into Years 2- 6 they will have either an Oxford Reading Tree book or a reading book that is banded on our Accelerated Reader scheme. Children should read these regularly and once completed they will be changed in school. Please make sure that you continue to hear your children read out loud and encourage them to discuss their book with you...no matter how old they are!



## Important Dates

<b>Term 3:</b>	Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2022 - Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> February 2022
<b>20th Jan</b>	Y1 Trip- Yorkshire Wildlife Safari Park
<b>25th Jan</b>	Y5 Partake Theatre Workshop (In school)
<b>Term 4:</b>	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2022 - Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2022
<b>25th Feb</b>	Y4 Leicester Museum
<b>9th March</b>	Y6 Trip- The Deep
<b>14th March</b>	Y2 Partake Theatre Workshop (In School)
<b>16th March</b>	Y3 Peterborough Museum
<b>25th March</b>	Y5 ½ day PGL
<b>30th March</b>	Class Photo Day
<b>Term 5:</b>	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> April 2022 - Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2022
<b>Term 6:</b>	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2022 - Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2022
<b>15th June</b>	Y6 Trip- Yorkshire Sculpture Park



\* Day your symptoms started or your test was taken if you do not have symptoms

\*\* You can stop self-isolating if you do not have a high temperature