



# The Apple



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

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## Dear Parents/Carer

Since the last newsletter was published, there have been a range of exciting activities happening in school. As usual, we will be highlighting a few of these, in this edition.

On Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November, a team of senior staff from the Community Inclusive Trust (which Isaac Newton is part of) visited the school to assess the progress made since last term. I am pleased to tell you that it was an incredibly positive day and there was much to celebrate. I feel very proud of the children and staff for all their hard work. As part of the day, the team wanted to speak to the pupils. They were incredibly positive about the school and when asked what they like most about coming to school they replied, 'the teachers.' They also said they feel safe and happy and really enjoy coming to school.

## Incorrect date shared

Huge apologies but there was an error in the last Newsletter. The EYFS Nativity will be held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December at 2.30pm and Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am. Sorry for any inconvenience caused by this.

## Parent Feedback

Many thanks to the families who took the time to complete the Parent Feedback Forms, following the recent, well attended Parents' Evening. The results were overwhelmingly positive. 99% of parents say that their child likes being at school; 97% state that staff treat their child fairly and with respect; 99% say that their child feels safe at school; 98% feel that their child makes good progress and 99% say their child receives the support they need to do well.

## 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. I am pleased to say that last week's winning class was Class 14 with 41. They received a special treat from Mrs Gaze, this afternoon! The focus for this week is to continue walking around school and to Be Ready (Ready for learning, the next activity, for playtime, coming back into school) at the first time of asking.



## School uniform Expectations

It is hoped that all parents will support us in our view that every child should wear our school uniform. We have a uniform code based on our belief that uniform enhances a

feeling of pride, belonging and ownership of our school. It also makes a busy parent's life much easier, as it removes the discussion and competition that can surround what to wear each day. Thank you to those parents who have explained why their child is wearing trainers temporarily. We understand that children's feet can grow at an alarming rate and we also understand the cost for good quality shoes.

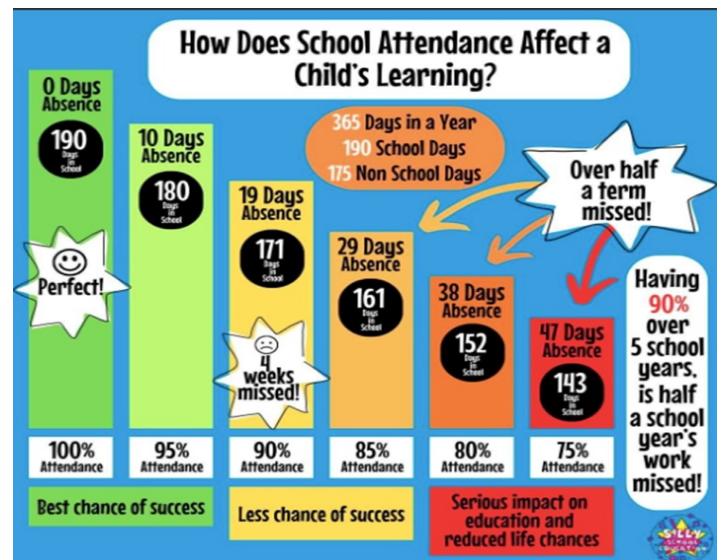
**Just a reminder that earrings must be removed for all PE lessons for safety reasons;** tape will not be offered as an alternative to this. If your child has pierced ears, please ensure that they are able to remove their own earrings as staff cannot do this for pupils. Alternatively, children can choose not to wear earrings to school on their PE days.

## 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 contacted the families of children whose attendance is below 90%. 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.**



**Mr D. Milner**  
Headteacher

## Sports News

This week we awarded our Year 6 playground leaders with their badges. They have been helping for 2 weeks now, assisting and leading playground games with children in KS1 and EYFS. They are wonderful role models to the younger children, encouraging physically active lifestyles. They uphold and model our school values of respect, pride, responsibility, kindness and resilience at all times. Well done everyone, what a wonderful job you are doing!!



Next week a selected group of children from Year 6 will be attending the Grantham Cheerleading Festival at Priory Ruskin Academy. They will get the opportunity to take part in a variety of routines, whilst working collaboratively together. We look forward to seeing their efforts and will share how they got on in the next newsletter.

Please note the re-arranged Girls Football Tournament will now take place on Monday 27th November at Kings School Playing Field. Selected children will be coming home with a permission letter. Good luck girls!

During December children across the school will take part in the Isaac Newton Santa Fun Run during PE lessons. Children are able to wear Christmas accessories- Santa hat, reindeer noses etc alongside their PE kit should they wish, however there is no expectation to buy anything new. We will communicate dates for each year group in due course via our Facebook page.

## Remembrance Day

On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November children and staff marked Remembrance Day together on the school playground. Mr Hearn arranged some fitting music while Mr Richards read out the Exhortation. There was a then a respectful two minute silent reflection which was wonderfully observed by the children before the two oldest year 6 children laid a commemorative wreath. The children were phenomenal throughout the service and we were extremely proud of them.



## Year 6 Trip to Cromford Mill



On Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November, all of year 6 went on an exciting trip to Cromford Mill. They had a wonderful day, and were taken back in time. They dressed up as mill workers and experienced all the different jobs that children would have done; learning about the roles of scavengers, pickers, doffers and many more. They walked around the village of Cromford and saw the actual houses that Richard Arkwright, the mill-owner, built for his workers. It really helped consolidate what they have been learning in the classroom.

### 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

## Year 1 Great Fire of London Workshop



On Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November, Year 1 took part in a Great Fire of London Workshop. The workshop was a drama retelling of the Great Fire of London with Steve from Partake History. The children learnt about what life was like in London in that time. They dressed up in costumes and visited King Charles II, met Samuel Pepys and walked in the palace gardens (picture 1a). They discovered how the plague was spread by rats and fleas (the children moved like these animals in time to music – Picture 1). They found out about the houses that were made from wood and built close together – so close that they could shake hands with their neighbours from the bedroom window! (picture 2) They acted out how the fire started in the bakery in Pudding Lane (picture 3) and then used ribbons and dance to model how it spread quickly from house to house (picture 4). They then tried to form a bucket chain to put out the fires (picture 5) and used the river to help them escape the flames on ‘boats and furniture such as upturned tables’.

They all had a fantastic time and learnt many key facts about the Fire of London.



## 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.



## School Council



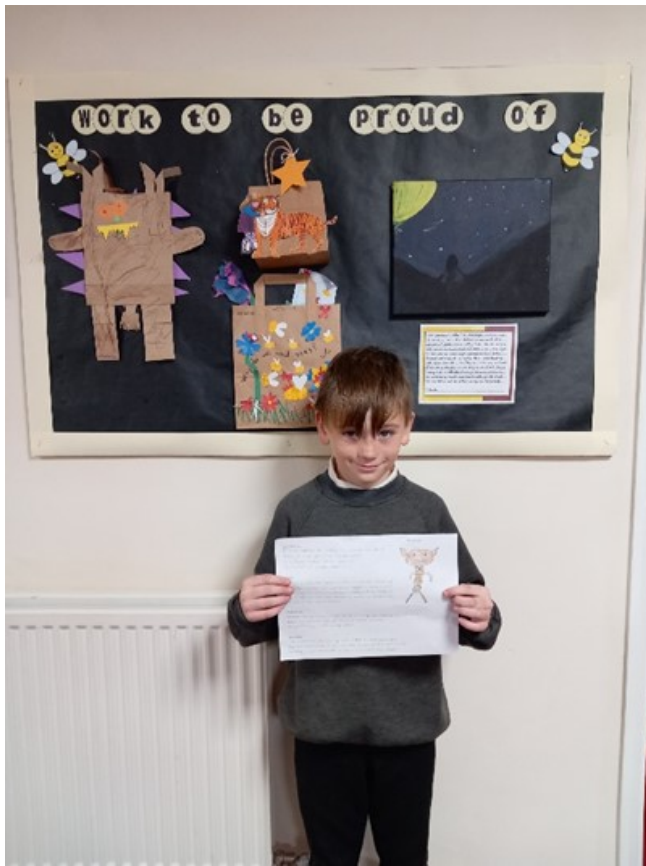
During week commencing 23<sup>rd</sup> November, we will be spending additional time on British Values with a focus on Democracy. We will launch this with a whole school assembly, classes will then spend quality time together exploring this further, to deepen their understanding. We will then speak to the children about our School Council, how this will be formed, the role of members and how they can have a say in what happens in school, moving forwards. More on this in our next Newsletter!

## Children in Need Day

Once again, we supported Children in Need as one of our charities this year, Many thanks for your generous donations. It has been an amazing day and it was fantastic seeing all of the children together during assembly this morning. This is a fun way of raising much needed funds for a deserving charity.



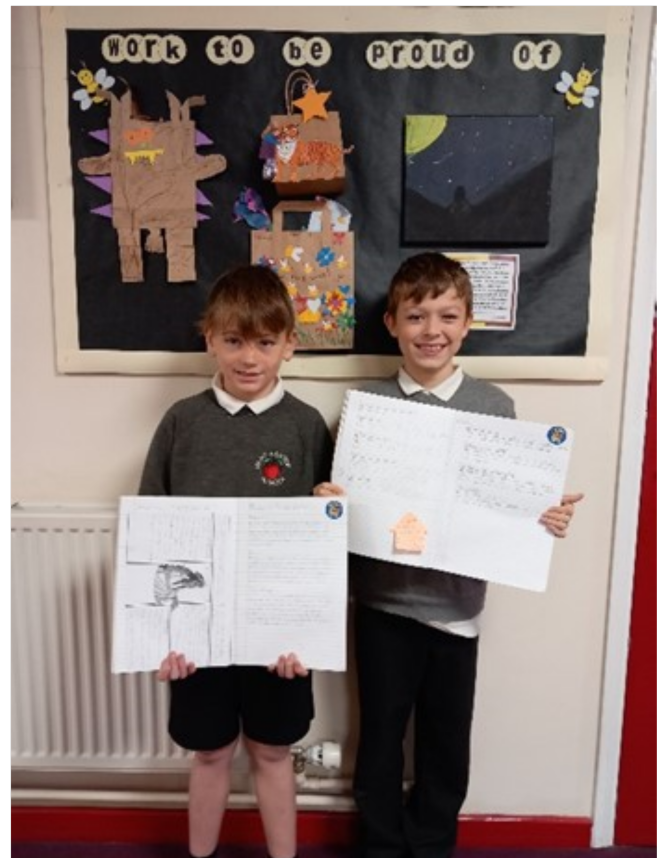
**Work to be proud of**



*Sensational non-chronological reports from year 5. Well done to Rayana, Ellie, Evalynn and Kian.*



*Well done to Aronas, Haydn and Dawid for making such amazing progress in their arithmetic paper! We are so proud of how hard you are working!*



*Well done to Kian and James for the fantastic plans they produced for their non-chronological reports!*

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SMART TVs

Smart TVs connect to the internet without the need for a set-top box or streaming device, letting users access a range of features through the TV set itself: from on-demand content apps like BBC iPlayer to streaming services such as Netflix, as well as connecting to smartphones and other wireless devices. Most new televisions are internet enabled – so whether you're thinking of upgrading your home viewing system or buying an additional TV for your child's room, it's now even more important to consider the online safety aspects.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

From Netflix to Disney+ to Prime Video, there is a plethora of streaming services available. While these services offer content catering for younger viewers, they also provide material for more mature audiences. If you don't have parental controls set up on your accounts, your child could find themselves being exposed to shows and movies with adult themes, strong language and violence.



### INCREASED SCREEN TIME

The array of content available through smart TVs could lead to your child spending excessive amounts of time in front of the screen. Not only can prolonged screen time distract from important activities such as schoolwork or exercise, but experts have also warned that endless hours in front of the box can lead to health problems including obesity, poor sleeping patterns and depression.



### REMOTE-CONTROL RETAIL

Like many online devices, smart TVs facilitate digital purchases: buying a new app at the latest season of a favourite show, for example. If your child has access to a bank card and isn't restricted by spending controls on the system, they could run up a sizeable bill through a smart TV fairly easily – especially if they're not quite old enough to fully appreciate the value of money.



### UNCONVINCING SECURITY

As Internet of Things (IoT) devices, smart TVs can be uniquely vulnerable to attack. Experts warn that internet-enabled TVs tend not to support high-level security software, so you won't always be able to download strong antivirus programmes like you would on a phone or computer. Being targeted by hackers could be deeply upsetting for your child, as well as putting their personal data at risk.



### A SILENT SPY?

Some smart TVs already collect data on users' viewing habits and then display targeted advertising based on that personal information – while there have also been reports of internet-enabled TVs (and the apps installed on them) being used to 'snoop' on owners. In models with a built-in microphone (for voice activation), third parties could potentially listen in on someone's home life.



### CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

Many smart TVs can be used for web browsing, social media and live streaming – all of which could allow unknown users to contact your child (or vice versa). If your child engages with these functions of the TV, a stranger could potentially discover their contact information and potentially then use it to obtain even more sensitive personal details, such as your home address.



## Advice for Parents & Carers

### MAKE IT A FAMILY THING

Family TV time is a great way to model the responsible enjoyment of technology – showing your child how to use the smart TV safely for when they're old enough to watch it independently. You could also take this opportunity to establish some healthy TV boundaries, such as time limits on their daily viewing or how to make sure they're only watching content that's appropriate for their age.



### CREATE CHILD PROFILES

Much like with smartphones and tablets, apps can be downloaded onto smart TVs: from free content platforms such as BBC iPlayer to paid-for services like Prime Video. Most of these apps allow you to create a separate account for your child which has different settings to your own – suggesting more child-friendly material and reducing the possibility of them viewing explicit content.



### SET UP PARENTAL CONTROLS

It's likely that your smart TV has built-in parental controls, which not only let you filter out age-inappropriate shows, movies and games but can also restrict in-app purchasing, so your child can't accidentally spend money through the device. When you've enabled these safeguards, have an open conversation with your child about the reasons, helping them to understand the potential risks.



### CONSIDER THE LOCATION

If you're concerned about the online safety hazards that a smart TV might pose to your child, you could consider where in your home you put the device. The safest option would be to place the smart TV in a shared family space – so that an adult is usually nearby and able to supervise while your child's watching it – rather than in the relative privacy of a bedroom.



### Meet Our Expert

Carly Pepler is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of years' work in the industry. Previously she was editor of tech website The Register. Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, author and consultant.

