



The Apple

The weekly news from Isaac Newton School, Grantham

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Dear Parents/Carers

The Summer Holidays have flown past. It is great to welcome you all back and to warmly welcome those pupils joining us for the first time. It has been a busy holiday period with lots going on in terms of the building and our proposed academisation.

Unfortunately the building work has not gone as smoothly as the Local Authority had anticipated. This means that the new classrooms for Year 1 are not quite ready! We expect them to be completed before half term but will keep you informed of progress. This is not a big issue in terms of the pupils learning as we are able to use two other classrooms during the interim period. Whilst this is not ideal the building work is in the hands of the Local Authority and as such, we simply have to wait until they approve the works. It will be worth the wait but we are sorry for the inconvenience in the meantime. On a brighter note, the Foundation Stage Classrooms underwent a huge refurbishment over the summer. The Foundation Stage pupils now have more room to learn and up to date facilities!

The academisation process is now in the hands of solicitors in order to ensure that all of the correct procedures are followed. I will keep you informed of our progress towards becoming an academy in each of these newsletters.

We have a fantastic term lined up for the pupils and will be continuing with the new curriculum. The children will be studying the following themes:

Year R: Marvellous Me

Year 1/2: Dragons

Year 3/4: World War 2

Year 5/6: Victorians

We are sure that the children will be inspired by these themes and I can't wait to see the work that is produced.

Our latest OfSTED visit came just prior to the Summer Holidays. The letter is available on the school website in the "Statutory Information" section. Just click on the OFSTED tab on the left hand side. Please take a look, it makes great reading and shows that the school is progressing well.

Paul Hill
Headteacher

Arriving and leaving school

Due to the on-going building work we will need to continue to use the same system as last year when dropping children off and picking them up from school. This is extremely frustrating but is unavoidable until the classrooms have been completed. As such children should be dropped off and picked up as follows:

Year R: Parents/Carers should take their children to the foundation stage play area at the back of school – this is the way in which you entered on your taster days.

Year 1 and 2: Parents/Carers should take their children to the main playground at the rear of the school – the teachers will meet the children there and bring them out to this playground at the end of the day.

Years 3-6: All children in these year groups will be collected from the area next to the basketball post.

Breakfast Club

As the numbers for breakfast club have increased we are delighted to be able to keep it open. Please remember to book in at the school office so that we can be prepared for the pupils who will be attending.

Mrs Brockington

Unfortunately Mrs Brockington managed to break her ankle during the summer holidays. This means that she will be unable to teach until after the half term break. Mrs Hill will cover for Mrs Brockington until she is ready to return to work.

Labelling School Uniform and PE kit

At the start of the school year many pupils have **new uniform and P.E. kit**. It is essential that all school clothing is **labelled** with the pupil's **full name**. It becomes almost impossible to track down lost clothing if a name label is not present.

Attendance

As a school we are desperate to ensure that all pupils fulfil their potential. The attendance of pupils forms a hugely important part of their ability to do well at school and as such will become a major focus in the coming year. On average, pupils who have attendance at less than 90% are missing 1 day every two weeks. This amounts to almost 4 weeks of time out of school. As a school we have a responsibility to ensure that attendance is good. As such Parents/Carers of pupils who fall below the 90% by the end of September will receive a phone call to inform them that this is the case. This will then give pupils the opportunity to improve their attendance levels. This should not cause concern for any parents where pupils have been ill for extended periods as we will already be aware of your circumstances.

Screening

As a school we pride ourselves on the way in which we seek to identify any issues with learning and then provide strategies to help pupils who may be struggling. At the start of the school year it is a good time to check for any additional needs that pupils may have. Over the coming weeks we will be assessing a large number of pupils to see if they require additional help. Mrs Dickson will contact you should this be the case.