

# POTTER STREET ACADEMY NEWS

Dear Parents / Carers

*We hope that you are all well and coping at home as best as can be whilst we all continue to experience a very challenging and different period in our lives. We are aware of many personal struggles for families in our community and I hope that regular contact and calls from teachers and pastoral care staff over the lockdown period has been helpful and of comfort to you and your children. Our ethos at Potter Street has always been centred around care and kindness to adults and children in our community. I am immensely proud at this time to hear feedback from so many parents who have valued the guidance and support offered to you to help you manage home learning and advice given to you to support your children with their mental health and wellbeing. Many of our teachers have been juggling home educating their own children, planning learning activities, answering emails, calling families – the list can go on, whilst also trying to cope with their personal anxieties about COVID 19 which has been a real challenge. Teachers have wholeheartedly committed themselves to providing learning from a distance so I would like to thank all of our staff here who have and will continue doing an amazing job at supporting you and your children remotely at this time. Despite this period of time being very new, strange and, at many times, a worry for us all, there is always something positive that arises from an unforeseen event and at Potter Street we believe that coronavirus has strengthened our relationships with parents and carers even further.*

*Thank you for your continued support and efforts that you are putting in at home to juggle work commitments with home learning – we all know that this has been a real challenge. Please continue to use guidance from teachers and staff to help your child at home and remember that your home is not school. Let's hope that in time a new normal will materialise and we will once again be able to plan events with ease and look forward to the future.*

Miss Bloomfield

---

## Welcome back to the building children of key workers, year 6 and year 1

---

Last week, we welcomed back our Year 6 children to the building who have arrived back keen and ready to learn after being away for so long. All adults have been impressed at how children are adapting to new procedures, including adhering to social distancing measures so well and it has been wonderful to have children back in the school building. This week we have welcomed back some of our Year 1 families and they have settled well into different routines. They have coped enormously well, learning to sit at their own learning table and using their own individual equipment and the small group have impressed us all.

Children of keyworkers who have been supervised all throughout lockdown, are now on school site and we continue to provide supervision daily with two members of staff overseeing this group of children. I am pleased to say that our very detailed risk assessment is working well to ensure children, staff and parents feel as safe as they can be in school and on site. We hope you found the video of changes to the school site and classrooms helpful and this has given you more information on how we have had to adapt the school environment. Please visit the website if you have not seen the video yet.

<https://www.potterstreetacademy.com/page/?title=Wider+Opening&pid=73>



---

## Keeping in Touch

---

We are aware that there are many parents and carers who are understandably reluctant to send their child back to school at this time. Although children may be at home with you and not in school, we still have a duty of care and safeguarding responsibility to your child. Teachers will continue to check online learning platforms and email families if you have not made contact, shared learning, or emailed as they are concerned for your safety. We do therefore ask for parents to reply to messages sent by school adults so that we know your child and you as parents are safe and well. If we do not hear from you, we will continue to do doorstep visits as part of our safeguarding procedures.

---

## Home Learning

---

Home learning will continue this half term for children in all year groups. Staff are still busy preparing learning activities for you to encourage your child to complete each week at home linked to a theme. A reminder that the year group activities are put onto our website every Friday for the following week. Teachers continue to share examples of home learning that children have completed and worked on via Twitter. Please carry on sending examples of what your child has been doing – it really raises staff spirits when we see photos of children and the learning or activities they have engaged with at home.

If you are having trouble accessing the resources on the website, please call the school office and we may be able to arrange for some paper-based learning to be sent to you.

---

## Uniform

---

At the moment, we are not asking that children who come back into school wear uniform. This decision was made as children need to be in a different set of clothes each day as once they

have been in school, their clothes should then be washed as recommended by Public Health. We are notifying you, with as much warning as possible, that in September, children **will** be expected to be in school uniform every day and they will need to wear a new set of uniform for each day.

---

## Year 6 Transition

---

We know that many parents and carers are now thinking about transition arrangements to secondary school for their child. We are currently planning Year 6 transition with Passmores and are busy thinking of ways that our Year 6 children will be able to spend time at their new secondary school before the end of this half term. We hope also to put on a leavers assembly for children and parents and we will be sending out more information about this shortly. For now, please be patient, we will try our utmost to make sure that our Year 6 children are given the goodbye that they deserve after their journey here at Potter Street.

---

## Keeping Safe

---

Just a reminder that for educating children on how to be safe, children back in our school building are learning and relearning how to wash their hands properly. It would really help if you also engage and work on this at home using the links below.

### How to wash your hands properly

Wash your hands more often for 20 seconds with soap and hot water.

Watch this short NHS film for guidance:

<https://youtu.be/bQCP7waTRWU>

Teach young children how to wash their hands with the NHS handwashing song:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9VjeIWLnEg>



---

## **Future Plans**

---

After the announcement made by the government this week that most primary school children will not return to school until September, I am sure that there are many questions that you have about what school provision will look like in the Autumn term. All we can do is wait for government decisions to be made and as a part of the PCLC Trust, we will be guided by what we believe is safe for our staff, children and families. We will continue to keep you up to date with plans as soon as we are given the information to allow us to plan steps forward to being reunited as a whole school together. In the meantime, we hope that you will be patient and understanding and we will continue to help families and children in any which way we can remotely or in the school building.



**Part of the Passmores Cooperative Learning Community**

Web: [www.potterstreetacademy.com](http://www.potterstreetacademy.com)

Twitter: [@PotterStAcademy](https://twitter.com/PotterStAcademy)

