

POTTER STREET ACADEMY NEWS



Dear Parents / Carers

A very warm welcome back to all of our returning children and a big hello to all of our new pupils and families.

I am pleased to report that all our pupils have settled back really well and they are a credit to you. Procedures in place have worked really smoothly and I am very grateful for your understanding and patience, especially as we have had to amend routines. I know the staggered times and one-way systems are difficult when parents and carers have children in different year groups but we have to limit numbers to avoid large groupings, so once again thank you for your understanding.

We recently sent you a 'What to do' fact sheet for COVID-19 related pupil absence – please make sure you take the time to familiarize yourselves with the contents (this fact sheet is also available on our school App under 'Useful Information'). If you need a hard copy of this sheet please ask at the school office. If your child displays any COVID-19 symptoms please follow the appropriate procedures and do not send them into school.

Once again, thank you for your cooperation and patience. We will continually update you on any new developments.

Miss Bloomfield

New Children

Well done to all of our Reception children who have made a brilliant start at Potter Street Academy. They have been so brave saying goodbye to their parents in the mornings and are eager to learn every day. Well done as well to our new children in other year groups who have come from other schools, all these children have settled in well. We look forward to watching them grow and develop throughout their time at Potter Street Academy.

Free School Meals

A reminder that automatic entitlement to a Free School Meal ended at the end of Year 2.

To find out if you are entitled to Free School Meals you will need to make an application online at www.essex.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

An application must be made even if your child has a sibling that is already in receipt of Free School Meals.

We can check if you are entitled, please see the office who will be happy to help.

Please note that if you do not apply for Free School Meals you will be charged for each meal that your child has which is £2.00 per day.

Contact Details

Please can you ensure that the school office has up to date contact information and details such as telephone numbers and email addresses so that all letters and school information is able to reach you. We do need 3 contact details for every pupil to meet safeguarding requirements.

Family Holidays and Term Time Leave

Just a reminder that parents/carers should ensure that family holidays and any term time leave are arranged outside of school term time.

Parents/carers should not remove their child from school during term time without having first requested a leave of absence in writing from the Headteacher.

All requests for authorised absence will be responded to in writing and will only be authorised in the most extreme circumstances. If permission is not granted, but the child is still absent, the absence is classed as unauthorised and parents/carers may be issued with a penalty notice.

Requests are rarely authorised.

If you do decide to take your child out of school for a holiday abroad, we will need to see evidence (e.g. confirmation email / tickets) of the location of your family holiday to ensure, if applicable, the correct quarantine procedures are adhered to upon return to the UK. This evidence will need to be shown to the school office prior to your child returning to class

Secondary School Places for Sept 2021

From 11 September 2020 you can apply online for your child's secondary school (year 7) place.

You must submit an application by the national closing date of 31 October 2020. Applications received after this date will be considered late

and you may reduce your chance of being offered a place at your preferred school. Miss Christie, Co-Principal of Passmores Academy will be visiting Year 6 to talk about secondary schools on Monday 28th September.

Primary School Places for Sept 2021

From 9 November 2020 you can apply online for your child's primary (Reception) school place.

You must submit an application by the national closing date of 15 January 2022. Applications received after this date are considered late and will reduce your chance of being offered a place at your preferred schools.

It is the parents / carers responsibility to apply for a school place at the correct times. Essex County Council no longer send letters to inform you to apply for your child's school place.

Applications for secondary and primary school places can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions

House Points

Children are busy earning house points by showing how well they keep the school values – responsibility, respectfulness, fairness, caring and trustworthiness.



Dragon 177



Griffin 160



Lion 189



Unicorn 152

Reminder

Please ensure that your children's book bags, lunch boxes, water bottles and ALL clothing, including shoes, coats and anything else that you do not want to lose is labelled.

Uniform

A few reminders:-

- All children should be in school uniform with black shoes. Trainers are not allowed except for PE
- Children must have a change of footwear for PE
- Long hair must be tied back
- Jewellery is not allowed in school, earrings should only be studs and children must be able to take them out themselves. Children should not wear earrings during P.E. lessons and these should be removed before the lesson begins. If your child is unable to remove their own earrings, we would ask that they be removed before they come to school, covering them with tape is no longer permitted

Fixed Playground Equipment

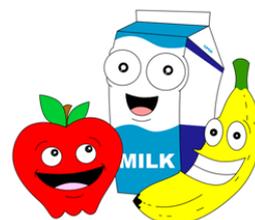
We are now using the fixed playground equipment during school time; this has been allocated to specific year groups throughout the week.

Could I please ask you not to allow your children to play on this equipment before or after school otherwise we will have to stop the children being able to use this equipment during school time.

Thank you for your understanding.

Healthy School Lunches

Thank you for your support in keeping our school a **healthy nut free school**. I know that finding things to go in packed lunches can be difficult, the following link has ideas to help parents with packed lunch ideas:



<http://www.nhs.uk/Change4Life/Pages/healthy-lunchbox-picnic.aspx>

I am sure you will all understand that chocolate, sweets and fizzy drinks in a packed lunch are not allowed.

Snacks

Children in Reception and Key Stage 1 receive a piece of fruit daily. Children may bring a **healthy snack** to enjoy at playtime – fruit and vegetables only. Please do not send in any other snacks as children become disappointed when they can't have them.

Homework

This year it is compulsory for all children to complete homework tasks and those who do not will be kept in at lunch time to complete. At this time we are unable to set project homework. Instead teachers will set a range of tasks linked to children's learning in Science, History and Geography as well as TT Rockstars, Mathletics and Spelling. Children are also expected to read every night. This year we are using home learning to revisit the curriculum set during lockdown so it is vital every child completes their tasks. Homework will be sent home via Class Dojo every Monday from 21st September.



Every child will have received a letter regarding Class Dojo. It is a simple, free mobile app for iOS and Android, and can also be accessed from any computer at classdojo.com. Just like other messaging APPs, through Class Dojo you will be able to instantly send a message direct to the class teacher. The teacher will be able to send messages to you and / or the whole class as well as photos and videos. Using Class Dojo is easy to use, secure and gives you a quick way to communicate with your child's teacher.

We would like all families to join us on Class Dojo by signing up for a parent account. This year all our home learning will be set over Class Dojo and it will be the teacher's way of communicating with you should you, your family or the class need to isolate in the future. Simply download the APP to your phone / tablet or go to classdojo.com, create yourself an account and then enter the code your child has brought home in the letter. Once you have done this, your child will be able to access their own Monster in the account and begin having fun.

If you have not received the letter advising you of the code or if you are experiencing any problems, please speak to the class teacher who will be happy to help.

We will be using Class Dojo to send homework home each week.

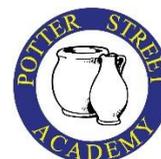
Thank you for your support, we look forward to seeing you all on Class Dojo.



es Cooperative Learning Community

Web: www.potterstreetacademy.com

Twitter: @PotterStAcademy



Trips

Thank you to everyone who completed our survey about school trips. The large majority of parents would like trips to restart so we will begin the process of organising this again

