

December 2021

NEWSLETTER

POTTER STREET ACADEMY NEWS

Dear Parents / Carers,

As we come to the end of a very busy Autumn Term, I would like to wish you a very peaceful and happy Christmas and thank you on behalf of all staff for your continued support especially helping us minimise the transmission of Covid.

The children have worked hard all term and will be ready for a break! They impressed us with their lovely productions. EYFS and KS1 confidently performed to the whole school. Year 3 and 4 reminded us of the Christmas story. They also impressed us with their confident narration and carol singing. We hope you enjoy the productions that we have shared with you via Teams. A special thanks to Mr Hammond for producing these and for Mr Burch for the loan of his recording equipment.

We look forward to welcoming you back on Wednesday 5th January 2022.

Kath Holland
Associate Headteacher

Reward Prizes

On Friday, the three children from each class with the highest house points were awarded with a £5.00 Amazon voucher.

Well done to you all!!!

Children's termly total now returns to zero so everyone has a chance to win a place at next terms prize / trip.

Christmas Jumper Day

Following our Christmas Jumper Day, we raised £133.60 for Save the Children. We are very grateful for your support. Thank you all!!!



Christmas Dinner

A massive thank you to Mrs Gibson, Miss Jackson and Mrs Donoghue for providing the children and staff with Christmas dinner.



Free School Meals

We would like to confirm that families who receive FSM vouchers will continue to do so over the holiday. You should have received a voucher on 15th December 2021 – if you are experiencing any problems, please contact the school office.

Government Guidance

Please see the below letter regarding Government Guidance on close contacts of confirmed cases of coronavirus.

14th December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to advise you of the changes to Government guidance issued earlier today.

Close contacts of confirmed cases of Coronavirus

From today, the Government has changed the rules regarding anyone identified as a close contact of a confirmed, positive Coronavirus case. These rules apply to close contacts of both the Delta and Omicron variants.

Any child (aged between five and 18 years and six months) who is identified by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a COVID-19 case does not need to self-isolate.

Instead, they should continue to attend their school, but are strongly encouraged to take daily Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests for seven days. If your child tests positive on an LFD test, they child should isolate immediately, and you should book a PCR test for them online: [PCR Test Booking](#). Children awaiting a PCR test result should not attend school.

Children under 5 years are exempt from self-isolation and do not need to take part in daily testing of close contacts.

If your child is currently in isolation having been identified as a close contact, they can come out of isolation but are strongly advised to take LFD tests for the remaining period of the original isolation.

Children with Coronavirus symptoms

If your child has COVID-19 [symptoms](#) it remains the case that they should stay at home and self-isolate immediately. They should take a PCR test as soon as possible. If this PCR test result is positive, they must continue to self-isolate.

Asymptomatic testing of children

There is no change to the approach to asymptomatic testing. We continue to strongly encourage all staff, students (primary, secondary and further education students) and all households to take part in regular testing if they are not showing symptoms. This will help to reduce the risk of the virus unknowingly entering the school community.

You can access free LFD tests in a number of ways, including at the local LFD site in your district, by collecting a home LFD kit from a test site, or by ordering online. More information can be found here: [Regular Rapid Lateral Flow Coronavirus \(Covid-19\) Tests](#).

Preparation for the start of the new term in January

We would encourage your child to continue to undertake twice weekly LFD tests during the school holiday and prior to returning to their setting in January. With social mixing during the holiday period, it is vital that we support a successful start to the new term.

We appreciate that the changes in guidance can cause anxiety for some but it is important that the education of our children is prioritised this academic year. The likelihood of serious illness in children is extremely low and after many months of serious disruption, the DfE and the Local Authority continue to be committed to ensuring that all children and young people in Essex have every opportunity to thrive.



House Points

Children are busy earning house points by showing how well they keep the school values – responsibility, respect, resilience and relationships.



Dragon 1411



Griffin 1457



Lion 1499



Unicorn 1637

Congratulations Unicorn House for winning the House trophy with the most house points during all of Autumn term.



Attendance

Well done to Griffin House for achieving the best attendance for the Autumn term.



School Values

Well done to Dragon House for winning the School Values trophy for the Autumn Term.



Year 2 – Colchester Zoo

On Friday 10th December Year 2 children had a wonderful time at Colchester Zoo! They saw sea lions, elephants, leopards, giraffes and hippos to name a few! They met Mittens the elf who was trying to find some animals to help fly Santa's sleigh. We met two penguins who were very cute! However, along with the zoo keepers they decided that penguins weren't best for the job as they live in the South Pole and cannot fly!!

The children were really well behaved so Santa put them on the good list and they all had a surprise present to end the day!



Pantomime 2021

The children watched with awe and loved every moment of the Pantomime, Aladdin. All the children were involved from the start and loved joining in the story telling and the songs.

PTA Christmas Raffle

A big thank you to the PTA for organising this and thank you to our parents and community for their donations of raffle prizes.

Potter Street Art Gallery



We were so proud of all the amazing artwork that the children produced, the children were very excited to showcase their pieces!!

A huge thank you to Mrs Navia, who organised this event and to Mrs Rosie Jones who taught the art units that resulted in such beautiful work. Thank you to all families who took time to briefly visit the gallery with your child and purchase your child's work.

Harlow Holiday Lunch Clubs for the Christmas Holidays

Please see the email that has been sent to all parents / carers.

Time to Say Goodbye

As we approach the end of term, we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Navia.

Mrs Navia is leaving to move onto pastures new We thank her for all her hard work and support, she will be missed.

And hello to Mr Williams who will be joining Year 4 as the class teacher in January.

Clubs

Extra - curricular clubs for children will start again in the middle of January. Mrs Gant will send out details of these at the beginning of the new term.





Dates for
the Diary:

Friday 17th December

Finish for Christmas Holidays,
school finishes at 1:30pm

NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Tuesday 4th January 2022

INSET Day School closed to pupils

Wednesday 5th January

Children return to school

Friday 14th January

Young Voices Concert CANCELLED

Saturday 15th January

Closing date for reception new intake
2021/22

Thursday 27th January

Year 6 Duxford Museum

Friday 28th January

PCLC INSET Day school closed to pupils