

# POTTER STREET ACADEMY NEWS

*Dear Parents / Carers*

*I would like to start by saying a huge thank you to all our parents and carers who have supported us in keeping the school site safe for all our community. I appreciate that wearing a face covering is not a pleasant experience but by doing so we have alleviated some of the anxieties many people in our community have.*

*Despite the current lockdown and the pressures it puts on staff, children and families, it is positive to see how we are all adapting to the changes in our lives. We continue to be impressed by the courage, strength and resilience our children are showing. We all remain hopeful that we will soon be able to return to some form of 'normal' again and it is in times like these it is even more important to prioritise our mental health and well-being.*

*Connecting with others, giving to others, being active, taking notice and learning new things are the 5 ways to well-being we encourage in school.*

*Thank you for your continued support, it is hugely appreciated. I know that our continued work together will help us all through these challenging times.*

*Miss Bloomfield*

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## Parents Consultation Meetings

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Due to the current COVID 19 restrictions, this year's parents' consultation structure was held in a slightly different way than normal. We appreciate parents and carers would normally have the opportunity to meet with the class teacher and look through their children's books. We are sorry this was not possible but hope the remote meetings you had still provided you with a great insight into your children's first half term in their new academic year groups. We have talked to nearly every parent in the school and would like thank you for supporting this new way of working.

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## Headlice

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Please check your child's hair regularly using a special nit comb and treat if necessary. We have already had some reported cases of head lice. Long hair should be tied back.

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## Attendance

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Well done to Burman Class who achieved the best overall attendance for the first half term at 98.9%




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## School Menu

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From Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November, our menu changed and we are now on our Winter menu. A copy of this has been emailed to you and is available on our school app and website.



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## House Points

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



**Dragon** 1285



**Griffin** 1225



**Lion** 1561



**Unicorn** 1313

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## Christmas

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We are beginning to receive questions about Christmas and the end of term. Naturally, we are all concerned about seeing loved ones in a safe way as well as ensuring children enjoy Christmas. More information will be sent to parents next week.

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## Children In Need

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Our School Council led our Children in Need event in school - from organising cakes to a visit from Pudsey! Thank you for all your donations and thank you to Miss Niven and the School Council for organising the day and raising £288.54.



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## Christmas Jumper Day

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On Friday 11th December, we are inviting all pupils to take part in Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day. The whole school will be taking part by putting on a Christmas jumper for a great cause (children are permitted to wear their own clothes with their jumper).

We are asking for a donation of £1.00 per child, all the money raised will go to Save the Children and will help transform the futures of children in the UK and around the world.

There's no need to splash out on snazzy new sweaters to join in the fun – why not swap, borrow or bling up an old woolly with some festive decorations!

Thank you all for your support.

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## Parking

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Please can I remind all parents to park considerately when dropping off/collecting your children. We do appreciate that parking is not always easy at busy times but ask you be mindful of local residents.

Please note that the car park at the school is for **staff use only** – parents dropping off or collecting children are not permitted to use it. Your co-operation with this request is appreciated.

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### Coats in School

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As the weather has turned colder, please ensure all children have coats in school. We also recommend that they also bring in hats and gloves. Thank you

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### PE Kits

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Please can you ensure all children have their PE kits with them. P.E. is an important part of the National Curriculum and, for hygiene reasons children should have a P.E. kit to change into. The children need a T-Shirt and shorts and a change of footwear i.e. plimsolls/CLEAN trainers. These should be in a named bag to be kept in school.

We ask that as part of the PE kit for the winter months all children have a tracksuit with them as all lessons are still outside

PE kit should include socks for girls if they come to school wearing tights.

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### Year 6

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As you will be aware we did have a positive COVID case within our Year 6 bubble. Since last week the children have been receiving 3 lessons per day on Microsoft Teams. We would like to say well done to all the children, parents and staff in Year 6 who have worked so well together to make home learning successful.

Thank you to all the parents who have sent in such lovely messages. We look forward to having Year 6 back in the building again soon.

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### Updated Information

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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.



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### School Photos

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This year, our photography company will not be supplying proofs of the school photos and will be using PhotoTickets. PhotoTickets have been handed to the parent by the class teacher, you can then scan the QR code from these to view and order the photos. All orders will be done online with the option of 'delivery to the school' (1 delivery) or posted directly to your home at a cost of £4.25. All orders need to be received by Kittle on or before 3rd December. If you need any assistance with this please contact the school office.

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### Create Identitee

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Due to the second lockdown, Create Identitee will be closed to the general public. They will however be operating a Click & Collect service between 10:00am – 4:00pm Monday to Friday and 10:00am – 1:00pm Saturdays.

Please note their Click and Collect is not the same as other companies as all their orders are custom made – you will receive a text message, email or phone call once your order is complete. Orders can be placed via the website or by emails.

[www.createidentitee.co.uk](http://www.createidentitee.co.uk)

Phone lines are still open for any enquiries 01279 881 333.



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## **Class Dojo**

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We hope you are all enjoying Class Dojo, this is a fantastic way for the school to communicate with our families during lockdown and beyond and provides a great opportunity for families to interact with teachers, upload any home learning and complete additional tasks. If you need any other 'school' information / guidance please continue to call the school office who will be happy to help. If your child is absent please still follow our usual protocol and telephone the office or school absent line, messages should not be sent to teachers via Dojo.

Please be mindful teachers may not have the opportunity to check dojo during the day if they are teaching - if there is an emergency then you should still telephone the office.

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November**  
Flu Vaccinations

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November**  
Inset Day

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December**  
Year 2 to Colchester Zoo – TBC

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December**  
Christmas Jumper Day

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December**  
Christmas dinner

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December**  
Class parties

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December**  
Finish for Christmas Holidays, school finishes at 1:30pm **NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUB**

