

POTTER STREET ACADEMY NEWS

Dear Parents / Carers

We have come to the end of another academic year. In all our years of teaching we have to say there has never been one quite like this year. It will definitely be a year to remember but not just for the bad things. COVID19 has had a devastating impact on many families and our thoughts are always with those who have sadly lost friends and family members. But during this time, we have seen the school community come together to help and support each other and work alongside each other to keep our children safe. We have been proud of the work we have been able to do with our families and enjoyed getting to know our families better. We hope you have all felt supported during these difficult times and we have loved receiving lovely messages of support from you all.

Miss Bloomfield

Return to School in September 2020

You would all have received a letter this week explaining the arrangements for September 2020. All children are expected to return to school. Please remember the staggered start and finish times as this helps with social distancing on school site and will keep everyone safe.

8.30am – 2.40pm Year 6

Drop off and collect from KS2 playground, not class. The teacher will bring the children out to you.

8.35am – 2.45pm Year 4

Drop off and collect from outside class

8.40am – 2.50pm Year 2

Drop off and collect from outside class

8.45am – 2.55pm Year 5

Drop off and collect from KS2 playground, not class. The teacher will bring the children out to you.

8.50am – 3pm Year 3

Drop off and collect from outside class

8.55am – 3.05pm Year 1

Drop off and collect from outside class

9am – 3.10pm Reception

Drop off and collect from outside class

Please use the one way system, entering via the KS1 gate and leaving via the KS2 playground.

Children in Year 5 and Year 6 can walk home on their own, please send the office a letter if you allow them to do this.

Full holiday dates for the year can be found on our website and the school APP.

Return to School Uniform

As we will be returning to full time education in September, children will be expected to return to full school uniform and black school shoes. Rules around haircuts/colour, jewellery and makeup will also be returning so please use the summer holiday to make sure your child has everything they need.

As part of our risk assessment we are trying to keep all doors and windows open around the school so please make sure your child has a school jumper or school fleece they can wear in class as it can become chilly.

PE Kit Needed in School

PE lessons will be returning in September so children will need their full PE kit in school, this is shorts, house top and plimsolls / trainers. All lessons will take place outside even if it is cold. Only rain will stop the classes going out so please make sure your child has a black or grey tracksuit as part of their PE kit.



Fruit Only for Snack From September

Children in Year R – Year 2 will return to having free fruit as their snack in September. As we are a Healthy School and working towards enhanced status, children in Year 3 – Year 6 will only be allowed **fresh or dried fruit / vegetables** for snack. They will not be allowed to take items from their lunch boxes so please provide them with a separate snack. And please remember a ‘fruit winder’ is not fruit!!

New School Dinner Menu

We will be providing school dinners in September. The kitchen team have devised a new two weekly menu that will enable us to easily provide hot meals in the classroom. This will be in place whilst we still have the current restrictions on class bubbles and social distancing.

A copy can be found on our website and school APP.

Can You Apply For Free School Meals?

If your child is in Year R – Year 2 from September, they will continue to be entitled to universal free school meals meaning the Government pays for your child to have a school dinner every day. Children in Year 3 – Year 6 must apply for free school’s meals. We are aware that many people’s circumstances have changed over the last few months. If you think you may now be entitled to claim free school meals (because you are receiving universal credit) the office is able to carry out a quick online check for you before you apply. Please call Mrs Gant who will help to see if you are entitled. Even if you don’t want your child to have a school dinner, the school receives additional funding for every eligible child.

Breakfast Club Is Restarting

We are pleased that we are able to re-open our breakfast club again in September.

Breakfast club starts from 7.45am and children will be sent straight to class at the allocated time for their year group. Due to limited space it will not be possible to social distance children, but they will be within their own bubble. All spaces must be booked in advance; children cannot turn up on the day for breakfast.

After School Club

After school club will also be returning in September, running from 2.45pm until 6pm (5.30pm on Fridays). Again, social distancing during after school club will be limited and children will create an after-school club bubble. To reduce the risk of infection numbers will be limited to 18 children and places must be booked at least a half term in advance. This is so we can make the club as safe as possible for children and staff.

Children will not be allowed to attend after school club without a booked space.

Emails from Teachers Will be Stopping

This week you would have seen a reduced amount of emails from teachers. This is because they have been busy carrying out home visits and preparing classes ready for September. From Friday 17th July the email address they have been using will be frozen and teachers will no longer check this. If you need to contact teachers in September please return to our normal ways, seeing them after school or contacting them via the school office.



Summer Reading Challenge for 2020

This Year Essex libraries are part of the nationwide Summer Reading challenge – Silly Squad. They have lots of ideas, activities and challenges for the children to take part in, just go to the website. Please encourage your child to take part and continue to read over the summer.



Time to Say Goodbye

We were very pleased that we were able to say goodbye to children in Year 6 with a leavers assembly. We wish them every success and happiness for the future.

At this time of year, we sometimes say goodbye to some members of staff. This year we are saying goodbye to Mr McCabe. After 5 years, Mr McCabe is leaving Potter Street to further his career in a school out of the area. We would like to thank him for all his hard work and support and wish him the best of luck for his future.

Thankyou to our Staff

We would like to say a big thank you to every member of staff who have worked hard to support the community this year. Office and site staff have been in school throughout lock down and other staff have worked every day at home if they have not been needed in the building. They have given up holidays to ensure we have remained open for key worker and juggled schoolwork with looking after their own families at home. As leaders we have asked our staff to be in daily contact with each of the families and organise work each week. But we know many have done far more than this for the children in their class and have gone above and

beyond because they care so much. I'm sure you will agree, they have been wonderful, and we are very proud of our team.

Tesco Grant

Tesco Bags of Help has responded to the current COVID-19 crisis by setting up a new fund to support local communities. Potter Street Academy were successful in securing this grant. This money will be used to support our more vulnerable families, further information will be provided when we return in the Autumn term.

Contact over the Holidays

Please keep an eye on your emails and the school APP. Should things change over the summer we will be in contact with you.

All that leaves us to do is wish you all a very happy and safe summer holiday. We look forward to the whole school being back together again on Wednesday 2nd September.



Part of the Passmores Cooperative Learning Community

Web: www.potterstreetacademy.com

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

