

POTTER STREET ACADEMY NEWS

Dear Parents / Carers

Welcome back to the Spring Term. We hope you all had an enjoyable and restful break. It has been a very busy start to the term with staff and children already focusing on their targets for the term. Spelling Bee, class assemblies and parents' consultations all return this term and we very much look forward to seeing you all.

100% Attendance Award – Autumn Term

Each term, children with 100% attendance are rewarded with a certificate and are entered into a prize draw for a £30 Amazon voucher. Well done David from Year 4 who is our winner for the Autumn term.

Class Assemblies

Thurs 23 rd January	Year 6
Thurs 6 th February	Year 2
Thurs 13 th February	Year 4, Buxton Class

All class assemblies start at 09:15am and will last approximately 15 minutes. After each assembly parents will be invited back to class for 10 minutes to see the children and take part in a learning activity together.

We do hope you will be able to join us to share in the children's celebration of their work this academic year.

Spelling Shed & TT Rockstars

We are continuing with Spelling Shed, a computer programme that supports children learning their spellings at home.

Every child across the school has their own log-on and the programme allows children to compete against themselves and other children in their class. Please talk to your child about the programme and encourage them to access it as part of home learning.

Spelling Bee

This term we will be raising the profile of spelling at Potter Street Academy in all year groups and as part of this we are again holding a 'Spelling Bee' competition. All children will be given a list of words to learn to spell and will be required to write the words down when read aloud by an adult. These words will be tested in class in the last week of half term – week beginning Monday 10th February.

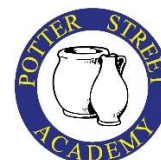
The top five scoring children in each year group will then be given a different longer list of words to learn over the half term holiday and then, in whole school assemblies each week, 5 children from each year group will be tested on a selection of words to try and win the title of 'Spelling Bee Champion' for their year group and a trophy.

Please help your child to learn to spell the list of words given. You can do this by getting your child to look at the word, cover the word, write the word (saying the letter names in the word/ or sounds in Reception and Year 1 classes) and then check the word.

The spellings for each year group have been emailed to all parents, if you require of copy of this please let the class teacher or office know.

Coats in School

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.



Clubs

Clubs have now started and letters have been emailed to all parents, if you require a copy of this letter please ask at the school office. All the clubs run for 8 weeks, some of the clubs will be free whilst others will have a small charge of £3.00 per week, this will be paid via the Agora system in a one-off payment of £24.00. The clubs will start w/c 20/01/20 until w/c 16/03/20.

After school club with Mrs Porter will be running set sessions on certain days of the week. They are as follows:

Monday – Arts & Crafts
Tuesday – Board Games
Wednesday – ICT
Thursday - Reading & Homework

If you are interested in your child attending one of the clubs, please let the school office know. Spaces are limited and will be allocated on a first come basis.

Is your child 4 years old before 31st August 2020?

Applications are now closed. If you haven't applied for a place please contact Essex county council urgently or pop in and see the office who are happy to help.

Evening of Mediumship

We have organised another evening of mediumship with Becs – this will be held on Thursday 13th February 2020.

Come along and join the fantastic Becs for an evening of mediumship. Becs brings humour, laughter, emotion, tears and healing to the people that often need it most; don't miss out on this fantastic evening.

Tickets are now on sale at the school office, £12.00 per person (over 16's only).

Please come along and support this fundraising event, it will be a great evening and **all** the money raised is for the children at Potter Street Academy.

Last year money raised was used to buy new outside picnic tables for the school.

Thank you for your continued support.

Having High Expectations

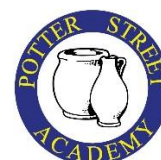
I know all parents are supporting the school as we continue to raise our expectations of all our children. This includes having very high expectations of children's behaviour and learning in and around school. We expect all our children to wear the correct uniform, have correct PE kit in school, complete home learning and behave in a safe and respectful way in class, in corridors and on the playground. Children who choose not to do this will spend time with senior staff to discuss their choices at lunch and could spend time out of their class.

On Time for School

A reminder that our school gates are open from 08:30am and children are welcomed inside the classroom from 08:40am each morning. All classroom doors are closed at **08:50am** for registration. If you are late, you must come round to the main entrance for registration. As a school, we are aware lateness can severely affect achievement. We monitor punctuality closely and have strategies in place to address lateness which includes regular 'late gates' overseen by our Education Welfare Manager.

PE Kits

Please can you ensure all children have their PE kits in school 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.

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

Earrings - PE

Children are not permitted to wear jewellery during P.E. or activities such as football, netball, etc. If children have earrings, we ask parents to ensure that their child can remove and insert these for themselves, as teachers are not permitted to do so also, we are no longer allowed to tape over earrings for P.E. lessons – **earrings must be removed.**

Staff are not responsible for items of jewellery removed for P.E. or other activities.

Rugby Lessons

Harlow Rugby Club will be coming into school, starting on Tuesday 21st January and every Tuesday thereafter (no matter what the weather), to run coaching sessions during the PE lessons for Tesla, Fossey and Hodgkin classes **only.**

Please ensure your child has their PE kit in school plus joggers, coat/jacket/raincoat, trainers or football boots, as long as they are dry and warm. They will get muddy at times, so will need to bring footwear and clothes that can get muddy.

Staff Training Days

As previously advised, please make sure these non-pupil days are in your diary for the Spring and Summer terms:-

Friday 31 January
Friday 13 March

Dates for 2020/21 are now on our APP and website.

House Points

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



Dragon 3529



Griffin 3431



Lion 3807



Unicorn 2630

Parents Consultations & One Plan Meetings

Are on:

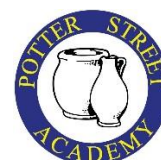
27 th Jan	1:30 – 4:00pm (One Plan Meetings)
10 th Feb	1:30 – 4:00pm
11 th Feb	3:30 – 6:00pm

Further details will follow.

School Car Park

The school car park is for staff and agreed visitors only. Please do not use this car park when dropping off / collecting your children, this should be observed after school hours as well.

Whilst we do understand that the increasing number of cars outside school at the beginning and end of the day is a common issue for the majority of schools, so we politely request that parents and visitors to the school park with thought and consideration for the children, other adults and the local community.



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.

Time to Say Goodbye

Unfortunately, Mr Doyles has decided to leave Potter Street Academy at February half term.

Since arriving at Potter Street in September 2016, Mr Doyles has gone above and beyond to support not only the children in his classes but also those in the whole school. His work as a senior member of staff and Assistant Headteacher has greatly contributed to the school's improvement and success over the last few years. He will be greatly missed by staff and pupils and we wish him every success and happiness for the future.

World Maths Day

Many of you will be aware that World Maths Day and World Book Day fall in the same week in March. This year we have decided to dress up and celebrate World Maths Day.

Children will take part in maths activities throughout the day and they are welcome to come to school dressed with a maths theme.

Polite Reminder – Parents / Carers Collecting Children from KS2 Classroom

Parents / Carers are asked to collect their children from the classroom door at the end of the school day. For safety reasons, please do not shout out to your child to leave the classroom, staff will individually allow the children to leave when they have seen the adult collecting.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

JANUARY 2020

23rd Jan Y6 Class Assembly
31st Jan Inset day

FEBRUARY 2020

3rd Feb Young Voices at the O2
6th Feb Y2 Class Assembly
10th Feb Reception class road safety talk
10th Feb Parents consultation afternoon, 1:30 – 4:00pm
11th Feb Parents consultation evening, 3:30 – 6:00pm
13th Feb Y4, Buxton Class Assembly
13th Feb Evening of Mediumship, 7:00 – 10:00pm
14th Feb Y5 road safety talk
14th Feb Y6 Citizenship Activity
14th Feb Finish for Half Term – 3:00pm
24th Feb All children return to school

MARCH 2020

4th Mar World Maths Day
13th March Inset Day
30th March Book Fair

