

October 2024

NEWSLETTER

potter street academy news

Dear Parents/Carers

As we come to the end of our first half-term, I want to let you know it has been a pleasure getting to know the children, staff, and parents since stepping into my role as Head of School. I feel privileged to be leading such a vibrant and caring school community.

From my very first day, I have been overwhelmed by the warm welcome I've received from everyone – parents, staff, and of course, the children. It has been wonderful to see how quickly the pupils have settled into their new classes and routines, and I am proud of the enthusiasm they show for their learning. The children's smiles, hard work, and positive attitudes are what make this school so special.

This half-term, the children have been fully engaged in their learning, with teachers creating exciting lessons that inspire curiosity and creativity. I've had the pleasure of visiting classrooms regularly and seeing first-hand the fantastic work taking place. I look forward to seeing how they continue to grow and develop over the course of the year.

One of my key goals as Head of School is to continue strengthening our school community. It has been lovely to meet many of you during drop-off, pick-up, and at school events. Your input is invaluable, and I welcome your thoughts and ideas as we work together to make Potter Street Academy the best it can be for all our children.

Finally, I would like to thank all parents and carers for your continued support. Your partnership is vital in ensuring that we provide the best possible learning environment for your children. I wish you all a restful and enjoyable half-term break, and I look forward to welcoming the children back after half term.

*Neil Gladwin
Head of School*

School Menu



When we return to school on 4th November, we will be on week one from the school menu. A copy of the menu is available on our website.

PE Kit Needed in School

Please ensure all children have their full PE kit in school.

All lessons will take place outside even if it is cold. Only heavy rain will prevent classes going out so please make sure your child has a black or grey tracksuit as part of their PE kit.

Secondary School Places for Sept 2025

If your child is in year 6, you can apply for a secondary school (year 7) place between 12th September and 31st October 2024.

You must submit an application by the national closing date of 31st October. Late applications may reduce your chance of being offered a place at your preferred school.

Applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions

Part of the Passmores Cooperative Learning Community

Web: www.potterstreetacademy.com

Twitter: @PotterStAcademy



Primary School Places for Sept 2025

You can apply for Reception school place at an Essex primary school between 4th November 2024 and 15th January 2025.

You must submit an application by the national closing date of 15th January 2024. 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.

Labelling Uniform

Please, please, please label uniform. Once again, we have a huge pile of uniform in our lost property which we are unable to return to its rightful owner as it is not named. Please spend some time over the half term break, labelling your child's uniform - particularly jumpers and coats. In our younger classes all clothing needs to be labelled.

House Points

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



Dragon 353



Griffin 338



Lion 394



Unicorn 264

Non-Uniform Day

On Wednesday 23rd October, there will be a non-uniform day for the children & staff. Please ensure that your child is wearing clothing that is appropriate for school (no excessive flesh on show).

If possible, we are asking for a £1.00 donation for our school fund. Our school fund money is always spent on activities / extra resources for Potter Street children. Please give all donations to the class teacher.

Parents Consultation Meetings

These meetings are held to give you the opportunity to discuss your child's achievement so far this year and to inform you of where your child is currently working and to discuss how you can support your child in helping them reach their targets. If you have not made an appointment yet, please contact your child's class teacher.

Harvest Festival

Thank you for the excellent response to our request for donations of food for the harvest festival. All food has been donated to Harlow Foodbank.



As a school we donated 145kg of food, this is enough to make 345 meals.

Attendance

School attendance is hugely important and regular attendance ensures your child benefits from all the educational opportunities available to them. This is not just crucial for their learning, but also their wellbeing and wider development.

Over the coming weeks, we will be inviting parents whose children's attendance has recently declined to attend a meeting with us. These meetings are designed to support you in helping your child improve their attendance before it reaches a point where legal action may be necessary. If you receive a letter regarding this, we encourage you to engage with the school as we work together through this supportive process.

The link below gives guidance on illness that children can attend school with.

[Is my child too ill for school?](#)

Where does your child sit on the attendance mountain?

100% attendance, excellent

98% attendance, good – Four whole days absent in the school year and 20 hours of lost learning

95% attendance, cause for concern – 9.5 whole days absent in the school year and 47.5 hours of lost learning

86 to 90% attendance, unsatisfactory

90% attendance – 19 whole days absent in the school year and 95 hours of lost learning

86% attendance – 27 whole days absent in the school year and 135 hours of lost learning

Less than 85% attendance – 28.5 whole days absent in the school year and 142.5 hours of lost learning

Punctuality

- Arriving 5 minutes late every day adds up to over 3 days lost each year, that's 20 lessons missed

- Arriving 15 minutes late every day adds up to 2 weeks absence a year, that's 55 lessons missed

Dates for the Diary

23 Oct	Non uniform day
23 Oct	Half term – finish at normal time
4 Nov	Children return to school
5 Nov	Open morning tours, reception 2025 – 9:30am
8 Nov	Y3/4 Boccia
12 Nov	2 John's parent session – 8pm
13 Nov	Individual and sibling photos
13 Nov	Time to Talk – 3pm
13 Nov	RSE consultation meeting, 4:30pm
15 Nov	Children in Need
15 Nov	Y5 curling
21 Nov	PTA winter disco
27 Nov	Open mornings tours, reception 2025 – 9:30am
29 Nov	Inset day
2 nd Dec	Children return to school



Dates for
the Diary: