

September 2025

NEWSLETTER

potter street academy news



Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to a brand new school year!

I hope you all had a wonderful summer break, filled with rest, fun, and special moments with family and friends. It has been a joy to see the children return with such big smiles, ready to learn and full of energy.

A very warm welcome, too, to our new pupils and families joining us for the first time – we are delighted you are now part of our school community.

This year promises to be an exciting one, with plenty of opportunities for the children to grow, discover, and shine. Our dedicated staff have been working hard to prepare engaging lessons and enriching experiences, and we can't wait to share them with the children.

As always, we value your support and partnership. Together, we can ensure every child feels happy, safe, and inspired to do their very best.

Here's to a fantastic year ahead!

Mr Gladwin
Head of School

Contact Details

Please ensure that the school office has updated contact information such as telephone numbers and email addresses so that all letters and school information is able to reach you. We need three contact details for every pupil to meet safeguarding requirements.

Reminders

Please ensure that your children's book bags, lunch boxes, water bottles and ALL clothing, including shoes and coats are labelled.

Please ensure that your child is dropped off and picked up promptly, school doors open from 8:40am and learning tasks begin at this time, all children should be in class by 8:50am. If you are using our breakfast club, children MUST be accompanied into the main office for registration. Payments for dinners, breakfast club and after school club must be paid for in advance via the online payment system.



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.

Secondary School Places for Sept 2026

If your child is in year 6, you can apply for a secondary school (year 7) place between 12th September and 31st October 2025.

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

Primary School Places for Sept 2026

You can apply for Reception school place at an Essex primary school between 10th November 2025 and 15th January 2026.

You must submit an application by the national closing date of 15th January 2026. 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.

Reception 2026 Tours

We are offering tours of the school for families of children that will start in Reception in September 2026.

If you would like to book onto one of the tours, please contact the school office on 01279 866504.

The dates are:

- Wednesday 8th October - 1:30pm
- Tuesday 4th November - 9:30am
- Wednesday 26th November - 9:30am
- Thursday 15th January - 1:30pm

Please note that spaces are limited.

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.

School Attendance

Every school day counts! Regular and punctual attendance makes a big difference to children's learning, friendships and confidence. Essex County Council and the Department for Education expect all children to attend school every day unless they are unwell or have an authorised absence.

Our whole-school attendance target is **97%**. Please help us achieve this by making sure your child comes to school on time and every day they are well enough. Together, we can give our children the very best start in life.





House Captains

After some fabulous speeches to the school, I have pleasure in announcing the new House Captains. A huge congratulations to:-

Dragon:

Captain Immanuel
Vice Hope

Lion:

Captain Nuray
Vice Anaryah

Griffin:

Captain Amber
Vice Freya

Unicorn:

Captain Charlotte
Vice Logan

Well done to everyone who took part and had the courage and resilience to stand up and speak in front of everyone.

House Points

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



Dragon 98



Griffin 92



Lion 101



Unicorn 85

Children Arriving Late to School

Please support us by ensuring your child arrives at school on time.

If your child is in KS2 and is late to school, they will be required to make the time of lost learning up in their lunchbreak.

PEARL

We are delighted to share with you the launch of PEARL – our school's new approach to playtimes. PEARL stands for *Playful learning, Engagement, Active exploration, Relationships and Lifelong skills*. It has been designed to make playtimes fun, safe and purposeful, giving children more opportunities to be active, creative and imaginative.

Through PEARL, pupils will not only enjoy play but also develop important life skills such as teamwork, resilience, problem solving and responsibility. It's about joyful learning through play, helping children grow in body, mind and friendships.

Zone 1 – Potter Street Village
Our first PEARL zone is called *Potter Street Village*. This is a creative play space where children can build dens and shelters, role-play shops and homes, and work together to bring their ideas to life using crates, pallets, tyres, planks and tarpaulins. Already, pupils have been designing shelters, shops and collaborative play areas – it has been wonderful to see their creativity, cooperation and kindness in action.

A special thank you goes to Greenbrook (<https://www.greenbrook.co.uk/>) for kindly donating pallets. These have been absolutely essential in helping us get Zone 1 up and running.



Expanding PEARL Zones

We are also making the most of what was already here on our playground to develop a range of other exciting play spaces. Pupils can now enjoy:

- Zone 2: Netball Court – practising netball games and throwing and catching skills.
- Zone 3: Skipping & Small Equipment – using skipping ropes, hula hoops and other small equipment.
- Zone 4: Football Zone – playing small-sided football matches.
- Zone 5: Batting & Handball Games – enjoying rounders, batting games and handball.
- Zone 6: Theatre & Tyres – putting on performances, role play and creative games.
- Zone 7: KS2 Climbing Frame – tackling physical challenges through climbing and balancing.



As we continue to plan for further zones, there will be many more opportunities for families to get involved. Please don't worry if you haven't yet had the chance to donate — there will be plenty more requests to come as PEARL grows and develops.

A huge thank you

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has so generously given in support of PEARL. Donations have included tyres, scaffolding boards, seeds, balance bikes and bikes, dressing up clothes, scooters, games and toys. I am truly blown away by the generosity of those who have already donated.

Your kindness—whether through personal contributions or support from businesses—has made a real difference, and we are so grateful.

Year 1 Trip to Walton-on-the-Naze

Year 1 had a wonderful day out at Walton-on-the-Naze! The children explored the town, looking carefully at physical and human features and comparing them to what we see in Harlow. Afterwards, they enjoyed paddling in the sea, skimming stones, and building sandcastles on the beach.

When asked about their highlights, Lara said, *“The best part was the playpark!”* while Phoenix proudly shared, *“I finished my ice cream!”*

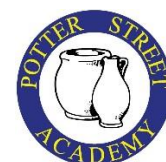
It was a fantastic day filled with learning, fun, and happy memories.



Part of the Passmores Cooperative Learning Community

Web: www.potterstreetacademy.com

Twitter: @PotterStAcademy



Y6 Residential Trip, 15th – 18th June 2026

Just a reminder to all parents of Y6 to secure your child's place for the residential trip to Danbury we require an initial non-refundable deposit of £50.00 by Wednesday 1st October, the remaining cost of the trip can be paid in instalments as advised in previous correspondence. Payments are to be made via our online payment service

If you have any concerns or questions, please contact the school office.

Dates for the Diary

Dates for
the Diary:

1 Oct	Harvest Assembly
2 Oct	Passmores / Stewards Tours
8 Oct	Reception 2026 tours – 1:30pm
9 Oct	Passmores / Stewards Tours
9 Oct	Y5 – Harlow Outdoors
10 Oct	Dodgeball at Mark Hall
17 Oct	Y4 – Colchester Castle
21 Oct	Parents Consultation – 3:30pm
22 Oct	Parents Consultation – 1:30pm
23 Oct	Half Term
3 rd Nov	Children return to school



**BBC 1's
'CLEAN IT, FIX IT'
IS CASTING FOR A
5TH SERIES!**

Is your home in need of some cleaning and fixing?
Would a guiding hand help you take on the projects you don't have the confidence to attempt yourself?
Do you need help and creative ideas to make big changes on a limited budget?
Whether you rent or own your property, we'd love to help!
We're looking for households who want to fix up, de-clutter and clean their homes.

Please contact us at:
CIFICasting@curvemediacom
or scan our QR code

curvemediacom **BBC one**

Clean it, Fix it application 55



*If you are interested in applying for the above,
please contact the company directly*