

December 2025

NEWSLETTER

potter street academy news

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of a very busy and successful term, I would like to take this opportunity to say a heartfelt thank you to our children, staff, and families.

Firstly, well done to Reception and Year 1 for their amazing Nativity performance. The children sang, spoke, and performed with such confidence and joy – it was a delight to watch and truly captured the spirit of the season. I would also like to congratulate Year 2 and Year 3 on their sensational Carol Service held at Potter Street Baptist Church. The setting was beautiful, and the children represented the school wonderfully through their singing, reading, and excellent behaviour.

A huge thank you to everyone involved in organising and preparing our Christmas lunch. It was a lovely occasion enjoyed by the whole school, and our appreciation goes to the catering team and staff who worked so hard to make it special.

Finally, thank you to all our parents and carers for your continued support throughout this term. Your encouragement, involvement, and partnership with the school make a real difference. As the term comes to a close, we wish all our families a restful and enjoyable break. Whether you are celebrating Christmas or observing other traditions at this time of year, we hope the holiday period brings you time to relax, reflect, and enjoy being together. We look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for the new term.

With best wishes,
Neil Gladwin

Christmas Performances

I'm sure you'll all agree that the performances by our EYFS, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 children were simply wonderful and full of festive charm. From confident singing to enthusiastic acting, the children truly shone and brought plenty of smiles (and maybe a few happy tears!) to the audience. Events like these are a fantastic way to celebrate the Christmas season while showcasing just how much effort, creativity and hard work goes on behind the scenes from both the children and our dedicated staff.

It was lovely to see so many families joining us to cheer the children on, and the warm, supportive atmosphere made the performances feel extra special and memorable for everyone involved. Thank you for your continued co-operation in ensuring that any photographs taken during the performances are kept for personal use only – helping us to keep all our children safe while still capturing those precious moments.

Christmas Dinner

A massive thank you to Mrs Gibson, Ms Livesey and Mrs Taylor for providing the children and staff with a festive Christmas dinner.



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Christmas Bazaar

What a fantastic Christmas Bazaar it was – full of festive fun, laughter and Christmas magic! We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did.

A huge thank you to the amazing PTA and Mrs Beesley for bringing it all together, and to the wonderful parents, carers and staff who volunteered their time to help make the event run so smoothly. Thank you as well to everyone who came along to join in the fun and support the event.

And finally, a very special thank you to Santa, who well and truly stole the show and made the day extra magical for our children.

House Points

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



Dragon 1112



Griffin 1123



Lion 1087



Unicorn 871

Congratulations Griffin house for winning the House trophy with the most house points during all of Autumn term.

Attendance

Well done Unicorn House for achieving the best attendance for the Autumn term.



School Values

Well done to Lion House for winning the School Values trophy for the Autumn Term.



Colchester Zoo – Year 2

Year 2 enjoyed a wonderful trip to Colchester Zoo. Despite the cold weather, the sunshine made it a lovely day. We travelled by coach and spent the day exploring the zoo, seeing a wide variety of animals including monkeys, crocodiles, tigers, elephants, giraffes, penguins, and more.

We also enjoyed a ride on the zoo train, spotted festive decorations, and learned about reindeer from a friendly elf. A special highlight was meeting Santa, who gave each child a baby reindeer teddy.

The children were a credit to our school, and we are very proud of how well they represented our class throughout the day.



Reward Trip

On Tuesday 16th December, the four children from each class with the highest house points enjoyed a visit to the cinema. The children had a wonderful time and represented the school beautifully.

EYFS	Lara, Emmie, Kyrie, Freddie
Y1	Nala, Amanda, Joseph, Charlie
Y2	Ruby-Rose, Amelia, Louie, Kara
Y3	Elias, Harley, Elliott, Abigail
Y4	Millie, Emily, Colby, Slade
Y5	Georgi, Beau, Jacinth, Jamie
Y6	Nuray, Saara, Aubree, Tommy

Their termly total now returns to zero so everyone has a chance to win a place at the trip next term.

PE Kits

Please ensure all children have their PE kits with them when they return to school in January 2026. 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.

Clubs

Extra - curricular clubs for children will start again in the middle of January. Mrs Gant will send out details of these at the beginning of the new term.

Pantomime 2025

A big thank you to the PTA for their generosity in funding the children's trip to see *Snow White*! It sounds like the children had a magical time, fully immersing themselves in the storytelling and songs. Experiences like these create wonderful memories

and bring so much joy—what a fantastic treat for everyone involved!

Class Dojo

Class Dojo is a fantastic way for the school to communicate with our families 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, this includes child absence and any changes to the arrangements for collection of children.

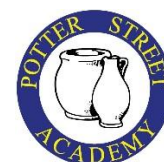
Please be mindful teachers do not have the opportunity to check dojo during the day as they are teaching and are therefore unable to respond or read any messages. Additionally, please do not expect a reply to any messages sent after 5:00pm or at the weekend.

Class Assemblies

All class assemblies start at 09:15am and will last approximately 20 minutes.

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

EYFS	21st May 2026
Y1	30th April 2026
Y2	4th March 2026
Y3	26th March 2026
Y4	28th January 2026
Y5	12th March 2026



Elfridges – Another Amazing PTA Event!

A huge thank you to our brilliant PTA for organising the Elfridges event! The children had a wonderful time browsing and choosing special presents for the important adults in their lives.

Elfridges gives pupils the chance to independently select and purchase thoughtful gifts, all at affordable prices, and it's always lovely to see how much care and excitement goes into their choices.

Events like this wouldn't be possible without the hard work and dedication of our PTA volunteers, so thank you once again for making Elfridges such a magical experience for our children.



Footwear Reminder

As part of our commitment to supporting families during the current cost-of-living pressures, as you know, we recently updated our school footwear policy to allow greater flexibility.

A friendly reminder that all footwear worn to school must still be **entirely black**. This means:

- No coloured soles
- No coloured logos or emblems
- No additional colours or markings

We have noticed an increase in footwear that does not meet these requirements. From the start of next term, if a child arrives in footwear that is not compliant, they will be asked to change into:

- Their **PE shoes**, provided these are entirely black, **or**
- A **pair of shoes provided by the school** for the day

Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain a consistent and practical uniform policy for all children. We appreciate your cooperation.



Parent Meetings

Y1 – Phonics Screening Parent Meeting

We invite all parents/carers of our Year 1 children to attend a meeting on 13th January at 3:10pm. The meeting will provide essential information about the statutory National Phonics Screening that your child will be participating in.

We hope you can join us to learn more about what the screening involves and how you can support your child.

Y4 – Multiplication Tables Check Parents Meeting

We invite all parents and carers to an informational meeting on 12th January at 3:10pm about the government-mandated multiplication check. This session will cover important details about the process and how to support your child.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Y6 – SATs Parent Meeting

We will be holding a KS2 SATs meeting on 15th January at 3:10pm for Y6 parents and carers.

This is to provide you with important information regarding the format of SATs and how you can best support your child in the run up to the tests.

Dates for the Diary



5 th Jan 2026	Inset Day
6 th Jan	Children return to school
12 th Jan	Y4 MTC meeting for parents
13 th Jan	Y1 phonics meeting for parents
15 th Jan	Open afternoon tours – EYFS 26 – 1:30pm
15 th Jan	Y6 SATs meeting for parents
28 th Jan	Y4 class assembly
30 th Jan	Inset Day
10 th Feb	Parents evening
11 th Feb	Parents afternoon
13 th Feb	Non uniform day
	Last day of half term – normal finishing hours
16 th – 20 th Feb	Half term
23 rd Feb	Children return to school

