

April 2026

# NEWSLETTER

## potter street academy news

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we progress through Summer 1 half term, it has been a real pleasure to see the growing maturity of all our children. Their development this year has been remarkable, and it is wonderful to witness the confidence and independence they are showing each day. A recent review of the school particularly commended how clearly our pupils can articulate their learning. The ability to express ideas and converse concisely is one of the most valuable skills they can develop, and we are proud to see this strength across the school.

You will have recently received your child's report in a new format. We warmly welcome any feedback as we continue to refine our approach.

Thank you to all parents and carers who took the time to respond to our recent survey. Your views are incredibly important to us, and we are committed to making proactive changes wherever possible.

Finally, we would like to wish our Year 6 pupils the very best of luck in their SATs. Most importantly, we simply ask that they try their best—we are already incredibly proud of them.

Neil Gladwin  
Head of School

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### House Points

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



**Dragon** 1988



**Griffin** 1982



**Lion** 1628



**Unicorn** 1623

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### SATs

In the week commencing Monday 11th May all Y6 children must take their SATs. As you know, these are a series of National Curriculum tests designed to assess whether your child is working below, above or at the national age-related expectations.

During the week of SATs please ensure your child:

- Attends breakfast club, 08:15am start (Mon-Thurs)
- Has a good night's sleep
- Has a calm start to their day



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## Online Safety for Parents

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As children in KS2 become more confident online, it's important to guide them in making safe and responsible choices.

### Talk About Online Behaviour

At this age, children may start messaging, commenting, or gaming with others. Remind them to:

- Be kind and respectful online
- Never say anything they wouldn't say in person
- Tell an adult if someone is unkind or makes them uncomfortable

### Know What They're Using

Many KS2 children use platforms like Roblox, YouTube, WhatsApp, or TikTok (often with age restrictions).

Check:

- Age ratings
- Privacy settings
- Who they can chat with

### Build Good Safety Habits

Teach your child to:

- Keep personal information private
- Use strong passwords (and not share them with friends)
- Be cautious about clicking links or downloading unknown content

### Discuss Online Friends

Children may interact with people they don't know in real life, especially in games. Explain clearly:

- Not everyone online is who they say they are
- They should never meet online contacts in person

### Set Boundaries Together

Agree on:

- Screen time limits
- When devices can be used (e.g. not in bedrooms overnight)
- Which apps and games are allowed

## Stay Involved

- Keep devices in shared spaces where possible
- Check in regularly (not just checking *on* them, but checking *with* them)
- Ask them to show you their favourite games or videos

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## Forest School

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Our Forest School sessions have been a fantastic success this academic year, with many children thoroughly enjoying the opportunity to learn and play outdoors. From exploring the woodland environment to discovering new skills, the children have embraced every moment with enthusiasm.

Some highlights have included building small campfires, toasting treats, and getting wonderfully muddy! The children have loved using natural materials to create their own artwork, such as leaf collages, stick structures, and simple crafts inspired by the world around them.

There has also been plenty of active fun, with climbing, team games, and imaginative play helping to build confidence, cooperation, and resilience. It has been lovely to see the children working together, supporting one another, and developing new friendships along the way.

Forest School continues to be a space where curiosity, creativity, and adventure thrive—and it's clear that many children have truly enjoyed being part of it. We are excited to see what future sessions will bring, with plenty more outdoor discoveries ahead!

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## Reminder – After School Club

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Just a reminder there is no after school club on 20<sup>th</sup> May due to staff training. Thank you for your understanding.



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## Attendance

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Why is regular attendance at school important?

- Attending school every day makes learning easier for your child
- Children are more able to build and maintain friendships with other children
- If children miss basic skills in the early years of school, they may have problems later on
- Regular attendance at school will help your child succeed in later life. A child should only be absent from school if they are very unwell, have an infectious illness (e.g. chicken pox, mumps or measles) have an injury such as a break, attending a religious ceremony or leave authorised by the Headteacher.
- Being 5 minutes late each day in a school year is the same as missing 3 whole school days!
- Being 15 minutes late each day in a school year is the equivalent to missing nearly 10 whole school days!

**Every School Day Counts 90% Attendance may sound good and if we were to get 90% in a test we would be quite happy, however 90% is the same as missing 4 school weeks in one year!**

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## Time to Say Goodbye

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On 21st May we will be saying a very special goodbye to one of our members of staff, Mrs Jones, who is retiring after an amazing 32 years in education, 9 of which have been spent right here with us.

Over the years, Mrs Jones has been a source of wisdom, reassurance and laughter, always ready

with the right words at just the right moment. Her incredible knowledge, kind heart and wonderful sense of humour have brightened our school days and made a real difference.

She will be missed enormously by children and staff alike. While we are sad to see her go, we are also delighted for her as she begins this exciting new chapter. We thank her from the bottom of our hearts for everything she has given to our school and wish her a truly happy, healthy and well-deserved retirement — she will always be part of our school family.

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## Lions on the Loose

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We are so proud of our school community for being part of something truly special this year. A huge thank you to all our parents, carers, and children who took part and donated to “Lions on the Loose” in support of St Clare Hospice — your support means so much to us and to the wider community.

Throughout summer 2026, Harlow, Epping, and Loughton have been transformed into a vibrant trail of beautifully designed lion sculptures, and we are delighted that our pupils have played a part in this fantastic project. Seeing their creativity come to life in our very own ‘little lion’ has been a real highlight and a wonderful opportunity for them to contribute to such an inspiring community event.

Thank you again for helping make this such a memorable experience for our school while supporting an incredibly important cause.



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## PEARL Playground: Learning Beyond the Classroom

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This year, we are proud to have launched the PEARL project—an exciting initiative designed to extend learning beyond the classroom and into the playground. At the heart of PEARL is a simple but powerful idea: learning doesn't stop at break or lunchtime. Instead, it continues through exploration, creativity, and play.

We are delighted to share some of the fantastic developments already in place. The *Old Potter Street Village* has quickly become a favourite, offering children a safe and engaging space to build, imagine, and explore. Alongside this, our construction area—complete with small building blocks—encourages pupils to create their own kingdoms, stories, and structures.

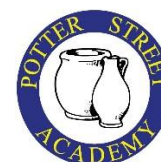
For those seeking adventure, the new trail provides opportunities to climb, balance, and challenge themselves physically, adding excitement and movement to playtime. Recently acquired tyres have also proved a huge success, with children enthusiastically rolling, arranging, and experimenting with them across the grass.

Our music area has been another standout feature, inspiring creativity, expression, and movement—not just among the children, but staff too!

Looking ahead, we are excited to launch our new tyre track area on Monday, complete with scooters and cars. We can't wait to see pupils enjoying this space as they develop coordination and confidence in a safe environment. In addition, a new music installation is currently under construction, and you may have noticed another structure taking shape on site—watch this space!

As PEARL continues to grow, we warmly welcome any donations that could help enhance these areas, particularly pots and pans for our music space. If you are able to contribute, please contact Miss Witter.

Thank you for your continued support as we bring learning to life beyond the classroom.



## Dates for the Diary

4 May	Bank Holiday – school closed
7 May	Y6 height and weight checks
8 May	Y3/4 netball tournament
11 May	KS2 SATs week
18 May	PCLC sports tournament
21 May	EYFS class assembly
22 May	Non uniform day
25 May – 29 May	Half term
1 June	Children return to school
5 June	Y3 History off the page workshop, Study Centre Y6 rounders tournament
15 June – 18 June	Y6 residential trip to Danbury
17 June	Y2 trip to theatre
23 June	EYFS 26/27 parent intake meeting, 1:30pm
24 June	Music festival concert
25 June	Y6 at new secondary schools
30 June	Y5 at Passmores all day
30 June	Y1 to Leeds Castle
2 July	Y6 to Southend
3 July	Sports Day
6 July	Y5 at Passmores all day
6 July	PCLC sports tournament
7 July	Y6 leavers assembly – 4:00pm
8 July	Rock Steady parent concert
9 July	EYFS road safety talk
9 July	Y5 road safety talk and walk
10 July	Class parties
13 July	New classes start Y6 at Passmores
15 July	Reward afternoon – winning house
16 July	Reward afternoon
17 July	Non uniform day Last Day, finish at 1:30pm (No after school club)

