

September 2026

NEWSLETTER

potter street academy news

As we begin October, I would like to say how proud we are of the way the vast majority of our children have returned to school. They have settled back into routines incredibly well and have made such a positive start to the new academic year.

*A huge part of everything we do at Potter Street is underpinned by our four school values: **Respect, Responsibility, Resilience and Relationships**. These are not simply words displayed around our school; we continuously refer to them when talking to children about their learning, behaviour, friendships and the choices they make.*

We would really appreciate the support of our parents and carers in helping us to embed these values even further. Talking about the four values at home and using the same language when discussing successes or challenges with your child will help reinforce the messages they hear every day at school. There have also been some exciting developments around Potter Street!

Many of you will already have seen our new KS1 outdoor learning area when coming into school. We are incredibly excited to showcase this new provision, which has transformed the space into a much more inviting and purposeful learning environment. We want our younger children to have opportunities to explore, investigate, create and learn both inside and outside the classroom, and we are delighted with how the area is developing.

We have also proudly embraced the Free Breakfast Club, which continues to grow every day. It has been wonderful to see so many children benefiting from the provision and enjoying a positive start to their school day. As the club develops, we would like to introduce even more quiet and reflective activities that children can choose from to help them feel calm, settled and ready for learning. If any parents or carers have ideas for activities that you think would work particularly well, we would love to hear them!

Another exciting development has been the transformation of our old portacabin into our new Creative Studio. Rather than having an underused space, we have created a dedicated environment for our art and music lessons, giving children a space where creativity can really flourish. The studio is also home to our weekly Rocksteady sessions and is another important step in continuing to develop the wider opportunities available to our children.

There is already so much happening at Potter Street, and we are excited about everything still to come this term. Thank you, as always, for your continued support and for working alongside us to ensure every child is known, every child is valued and every child is given the opportunity to thrive.

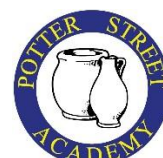
Mr Gladwin
Head of School

Playground Equipment

A quick reminder to parents and carers about the use of our playground equipment before the school day begins.

Please ensure your child remains with you and does not climb on, sit on or play with any of the school equipment while waiting for the school day to begin.

Once school begins and staff supervision is in place, children will be able to enjoy the equipment at the appropriate times



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.

Secondary School Places for Sept 2027

Parents and carers of children currently in **Year 6** are reminded that applications for a secondary school place for **September 2027** can be made through **Essex County Council**.

Applications open on **12 September 2026** and must be submitted by the national closing date of **31 October 2026**. Applications received after this date will be considered late and may reduce the chance of being offered a place at one of your preferred schools.

We encourage families to attend secondary school open evenings and visit schools where possible before making their choices.

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

Primary School Places for Sept 2027

Parents and carers of children due to start Reception in September 2027 can apply for a primary school place through Essex County Council.

If your child was born between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023, they will be due to start school in September 2027.

- Applications open: 9 November 2026
- Application deadline: 15 January 2027
- National Offer Day: 16 April 2027

Applications received after the closing date will be considered late and may reduce the chance of being offered a place at a preferred school.

Reception 2027 Tours

We are offering tours of the school for families of children that will start in Reception in September 2027.

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

The dates are:

- 5th October - 1:30pm
- 3rd November - 9:30am
- 25th November - 9:30am
- 13th January – 9.30am

PE Kit Needed in School

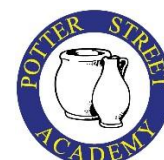
Please ensure all children have their full PE kit in school.

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 Paige
Vice Riley

Lion:

Captain Jacinth
Vice Abel

Griffin:

Captain Keira
Vice Jamie

Unicorn:

Captain Georgi
Vice Anjeza

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	209
	Griffin	214
	Lion	269
	Unicorn	258

Y6 Residential Trip, 28th June – 1st July 2027

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 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 questions or concerns, please pop along to the meeting on 1st October at 3:15pm – Year 6 classroom

Dates for the Diary

1 Oct	Y6 Danbury meeting – 3:15pm
1 Oct	Passmores / Stewards Tours
5 Oct	Reception 27 tours – 1:30pm
8 Oct	Passmores / Stewards Tours
13 Oct	Parents consultation – 1:30pm
14 Oct	Parents consultation – 3:30pm
15 Oct	Passmores / Stewards Tours
20 Oct	Y1 trip to Walton-on-the-Naze
21 Oct	Non uniform day
22 Oct	Inset day
23 Oct	Half term
2 Nov	Children return to school
2 Nov	Flu vaccinations
3 Nov	Reception 27 tours – 9:30am





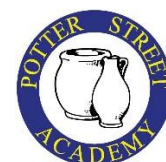
Follow us on Instagram!!

We would like to let you know that our school now has an official Instagram account.

From time to time, we may share photographs of activities, events and special moments involving the children. A consent form has been sent to you via the Arbor App.

Please take a moment to complete the form so that we can ensure our school records are up to date and that we have your current preferences regarding the use of photographs.

At Potter Street, our free Breakfast Club is open to all pupils every morning. Children can enjoy a healthy breakfast, spend time with their friends and begin the day in a calm, welcoming environment – ready to learn. This is every morning from 8:20am – 8:50am.



Uniform Reminder – All-Black Footwear

A quick reminder to parents and carers about our school uniform expectations for footwear.

All footwear worn to school must be entirely black. This includes both school shoes and trainers.

Footwear should have:

- ✓ Black uppers
- ✓ Black soles
- ✓ Black laces
- ✓ Black logos/branding

Please do not send children to school in footwear that has coloured logos, stripes, soles, stitching or other coloured detailing. **Even small areas of white or another colour do not meet our uniform expectations.**



Accepted Plain black school shoes

Entirely black, including the sole and any branding.



Accepted Plain black trainers

Entirely black, including the sole, laces and logo.



Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain a smart and consistent school uniform across Potter Street Academy.

Part of the Passmores Cooperative Learning Community

Web: www.potterstreetacademy.com

Twitter: @PotterStAcademy

