

POTTEN END C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter

Date 14 September 2018

Welcome back to the new term. I hope everyone enjoyed the summer and had a good break. It was great to see so many of you on the school gates last week.

Just a few things to start the year!

Welcome

We welcome Miss Craddock and Mr Taylor to the teaching team. They had a great start with their new classes last week. Many of your children will have met Mr Ahmed whilst doing PE last week. He is a Sports Apprentice who will be with us for the next academic year. We also welcome Miss Hale to support in Nursery every morning and at lunch times. Then Miss Swords and Mrs Miller have also joined our lunch time team.

Thank you

There have been various things happening over the summer and we have a huge number of people to say thank you to.

Thank you to Mr & Mrs Hollick for the decorating of the Year 5 & 6 toilets, this has made such a difference to the pupils.

Thank you to Elizabeth Hine and Sarah Askey of Osborne Construction who have donated the materials for the next phase of the decorations. Thank you if you have volunteered for the next working party on the 23 September. There is still time if you would like to get involved.

Thank you to Gary Illingworth who supports the school weekly - he has responded to many an SOS!

Thank you to Mr Nunn for his donations which have included the projector in the hall as well as a wide range of stock. Thank you to Mr Cutler

who keeps the projector targeting the right place on the wall in the hall.

Thank you to Mrs Harris for the donation of a laptop which we are now utilising in the hall.

We could not do many of the great things we are able to provide without your time, efforts and donations so thank you.

Outdoor area

As you may be aware, we have had in mind for a while that we would like to bring outdoor learning and Forest School to Potten End. Our amazing Friends of School have been working on this over the last couple of months and there have been various working parties who have been involved in clearing and setting this up. Thank you to Helen McKeich, Katherine Gardener, Vicky Dawson, Katie Douse, Colin Woodham, Lisa and Will Hale, Chris Mills and Shelley Williams-Farr for their time over the summer and any others who I have missed.

Thank you to Marc Hessey and his company Ayla Tree Care for clearing and chipping and thank you to both Chris Mills and Shelley Williams Farr for the donation and installation of the outdoor sink.

All classes visited the outdoor area last week and we asked pupils to name it - so going forward this will now be called the 'Wonder Wood'. Years N, R and 1 will undertake Forest School sessions weekly. Each class from Year 2-6 will have an allocated week each term where they will spend time linking their curriculum to the great outdoors! We will be using this area in all weathers: sun, wind, rain or snow!

IT

Over the last few months the Governors and I have been exploring the need to upgrade our IT infrastructure, particularly with the introduction of GDPR. I am pleased to say over the summer a new server and back-up was installed as well as some work to upgrade our wi-fi. This has been an extensive project and we are still in the early stages of roll-out but we hope this will make a significant difference to both staff and pupils.

Uniform

It was great to see our pupils looking so smart as term began last week. Just a few reminders about uniform. Please ensure that your child is wearing school shoes and not trainers. No jewellery or nail varnish should be worn. Please make sure that your child comes to school in full, NAMED uniform and a coat everyday (the British weather is very changeable!). The children do spend a lot of time outside rain or shine. PE Kit should be sent into school at the beginning of each half term. PE kits are sent home at the end of every half term for washing.

Long Hair - luscious locks must be tied up for school. Not only is it smart but it is a good way to keep 'unwanted little friends' away - these have already made an appearance this term!

Drop off & Pick Up

Please can I also remind you that pupils are due to arrive at school between 8.45-8.55am and doors will be shut at 8.55am for safeguarding reasons. Therefore, if you arrive late, please come into school via the office where you can sign your child in. If you are collecting your child early (before 3.15pm), for any reason, you will also need to collect them from the school office, rather than the classroom door again as you need to sign your child out.

If you are collecting your child from an after school club, then this will be from the library door or the main entrance into the new building.

Due to safeguarding measures parents are not allowed into the building to collect.

Autumn Fayre

I am sure by now Saturday 29th September is in your diaries and Helen McKeich and the rest of the FOS team are busy beavering away getting ready for this great event. Please do let Helen know if you can support in any way.

That just leaves me to wish everyone a great Autumn.

LOUISA INGRAM