



Potten End C of E Primary School Weekly Newsletter

Newsletter 5

Date: 24 May 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

The Year 4 residential trip to Hudnall was again a huge success, the children and staff had a lovely time and were blessed with glorious weather. A huge thank you to all of the staff who give up their time to run these trips, it means a huge amount to us. These residential trips are again another way in which we care as well as building children's memories for their time at Potten End. May I also thank the parents who kindly took the time to email the school expressing their gratitude for all the staff who attended - I have passed this on and they feel very valued indeed.

On the theme of being outside, today the entire school took part in the Outdoor Classroom Day, and what a super day was had by all. This is a nationally recognised day which we joined in with this year. As previously mentioned, using the outdoor environment to support learning is a priority of the school.

When teachers take learning outdoors they report some powerful impacts: Children's behaviour improves, whole classes are excited to learn, and individuals who feel inhibited by the curriculum often thrive in an outdoor environment. When I think back to my own happiest memories of childhood, I frequently recall the joy of playing outdoors. Play is not only central to children's enjoyment of childhood, but teaches critical life skills such as problem solving, teamwork and creativity. Outdoor learning also improves children's health, engages them with learning and leads to a greater connection with nature.

As we have had a few days of warmer weather, and we will be entering the final half term which can be warmer, it is worth reminding parents of a few things to remember. Firstly sun cream. Please ensure that cream is applied to your children before school and that it will cover their time with us. Unfortunately the school is unable to reapply sun cream during the day. Secondly, hats. Please ensure that your child brings in a hat to protect them at breaktime outside and that this is named.

I can't believe this half term is over, it has flown by! I have had the opportunity to get to know the staff, governors, children and families and I have been made to feel very welcome. I am positive that together we can continue to build on the many strengths of this wonderful school.

Have a lovely half term week with your children and enjoy your quality family time together!

Kind regards

Denise Kennedy
Interim Head Teacher

Attendance

Well done to Year 2 who are this week's winners with 97.3% attendance.

Fantastic!

Reminders

Parents of children in Years 3-6 - please remember to top up your child's school meal payments via WisePay before we return to school. Many thanks.

News from the classrooms

Year 2



Year 2 have been enjoying their English work this week on instructional writing. Earlier this week we all had a go at following instructions to make our own slime. We then used this experience to write instructions of how to make slime. The children all enjoyed making and playing with the slime and produced some excellent writing as a result.



Year 4

Residential Trip to Hudnall Outdoor Learning Centre

Year 4 have had an incredibly busy week outside of the classroom. Alongside our weekly swimming lessons and taking part in the school's Outdoor Learning Day we have enjoyed a fun-filled three day residential at Hudnall Park Learning centre. The children came back exhausted, but having had a fantastic time. They took part in a wide range of activities, including zip wires, orienteering, problem solving challenges and low rope courses.



The class explored a range of geographical skills whilst walking from Ivinghoe Beacon to Bridgewater monument and we even hosted our very own 'Hudnall's Got Talent'. Year 4 excelled at everything they did, with a wide variety of personal challenges being overcome for many of the children. They consistently demonstrated the positive values of our school and can be very proud of everything they have achieved this week.

Holy Trinity

Year 6 have created a vibrant welcoming display just outside the school hall. They used images of the Holy Trinity to create their own artwork depicting the three states of being, which also celebrates our close links with Holy Trinity Church in the village.



News

Families First Portal

The families first portal is a website which helps families in Hertfordshire find: Information, advice, guidance on local and national services for families, parents or carers. Many of the services are free for families to access.

The portal is accessible on mobile devices

<http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/familiesfirst>



Message from Nettleden with Potten End Parish Council re walking route to school

"Nettleden with Potten End Parish Council are pleased to finally note the completion of the new path linking The Green with Kiln Close. This new footpath was an initiative from Potten End First School to improve walking routes and reduce parking directly around the school in readiness for the change from First School to Primary. It was strongly supported by the Parish Council, and indeed was a condition of the Parish Council recommending planning approval for the school expansion. The path was promised to be in place for September 2014.

The Parish Council has worked closely with Councillor Terry Douris and Herts Highways to ensure that this path was constructed. It has been a long and frustrating process. It is hoped that the path will offer a safe walking route from the southern side of Water End Road, Rambling Way, Kiln Close and School Gardens to the Road Crossing Patrol. It also gives parents of the older children the opportunity to drop off and collect their child a short safe distance from the school, in order that they become more independent before transfer to Secondary School."

School trips - voluntary contributions

We are always extremely grateful for parental voluntary contributions towards school trips and events which provide enrichment opportunities for your children. However, due to school budgetary constraints, it is now necessary that trips and events are not subsidised by the school budget. Therefore, if a trip or event looks to be running at a loss, it may regrettably be necessary to cancel it. We would request, wherever possible, that parents and carers meet the cost of these trips, or speak in confidence to the Head Teacher. This is of course, not relevant to our Pupil Premium families.

If you have recently received a payment reminder for past trips or events, please could this be settled at your earliest convenience. Many thanks.

Parent Forum

Needs YOU!

We are looking for a parent volunteer for the Parent Forum admin role. This person could also potentially become a class rep., depending how many reps. there currently are for their year group. The admin role includes communicating with the Head Teacher and forum members via email and in person, compiling the agenda, compiling positive feedback, taking the meetings and preparing minutes for the website. Meetings take place once or twice a term. Please speak to Jo Phillips (Year R & Year 2 parent) if you would like to know more. Many thanks.

Free School Meals

When current Year 2 move into Year 3 in September, children will no longer be entitled to receive Universal Free school meals. If you believe your child may qualify for benefit related free school meals, please apply online or pick up an information leaflet from the lobby outside the school office.

Music Lessons in school

From the Autumn Term, Mrs Seodi will have vacancies available for piano or violin lessons during the school day. Please contact Mrs Seodi directly on ruthseodi@aol.com to express an interest.

Special Person Awards

Year N: Rex
Year R: Dylan
Year 1: Zach
Year 2: Butch
Year 3: Jack
Year 4: Year 4
Year 5: Sophie
Year 6: Chloe



Teddy Awards

Tidy Ted: Year N

Clean Colin: Year 2

Organised Oscar: Year 3

Diary Dates

This Week

- w/c Monday 28 May: Half Term
- Friday 31 May: Year 6 Prop making

Next Week

- Monday 3 June:
 - 8.30am: Coffee in the Church Rooms followed by
 - 9.30am: Church service in Holy Trinity Church - for Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 only - all welcome
 - 9.00am: Class Photographs (Please could all children wear school uniform.)
- Tuesday 4 June:
 - 8.30am: Coffee in the Church Rooms followed by
 - 9.30am: Church service in Holy Trinity Church - for Years R, 1 & 2 only - all welcome
 - 2.45pm: Pick up Year 1 from Mini Olympics event Hemel Hempstead Leisure Centre
- Friday 7 June:
 - Pyjamarama Dress Down Day - children may come to school dressed in pyjamas - details to follow
 - Year 2 Trip to Look Out Discovery Centre
- Sunday 9 June 4pm: Messy Church in school hall - all welcome

A full calendar including club dates is available on our website

Recent letters

School sent out the following letters and emails. Copies of letters are also available on our website.

- Trip to RUSH Itr - Yr6 - *paper copy*
- Hudnall trip update emails- Yr 4
- Outdoor Learning Day email - All Yrs
- Walking route to school email - All Yrs
- DSSN Mini Olympic event Itr - Yr 1 - *paper copy*

Friends of the School sent out the following letters and emails. Copies of letters are also available on our website.

- End of year drinks and Father's Day email

Parent Giving

- For more information on Parent Giving, please click on the following link:
<http://www.pottenend.herts.sch.uk/parent-giving/>

Collective Worship Value

SERVICE

