



Potten End C of E Primary School

Weekly Newsletter

Newsletter 2

Date: 3 May 2019

Attendance

Well done to Year 2 who are this week's winners with 99% attendance.

Fantastic!

Positive Parent Feedback

Thank you for the positive feedback received regarding the new newsletter format. If you have any suggestions for additions to the newsletter, please email the school office.

Thank you

The staff and children would like to say a big "THANK YOU" to the 21 children and families who sponsored their children in the recent FOS Reading Challenge. Through their generosity, the FOS were able to donate the amazing sum of £428.20 which will be used to purchase new books throughout the school.

Dear Parents and Carers

To begin with, I just wanted to say a big thank you for all of the lovely feedback we have received about the new newsletter. I am glad you liked the changes. Hopefully it will illustrate the richness of our curriculum as well as the successes of the wonderful children and staff within this school. As a school, we believe in high quality assessment of your children. This means that teachers know where your children are, what they can and can't do, and what the teachers then needs to do to get them to the next step in their learning. This is regardless of age group. Unfortunately, in Year 6, SATs are a requirement that they have to complete. This week has seen the whole year group completing some practice tests. Although we don't hammer the children just to pass a test, we still want to give them the best shot at achieving the best they can. Practice tests in test conditions is one way we do this. I have been so proud of this year group with their attitude to the tests this week and their total commitment and focus to doing their best. All we ever ask is for them to give their best and whatever result comes out is what it is. I have seen a whole year group give their best this week - well done!

We have recently had to deal with incidents at school that have been directly or indirectly caused by 'communication' between pupils on social media sites, or via their games consoles and mobile phones. Some children are exchanging inappropriate or mocking comments from the comfort of their homes, which are leading to upset and arguments. As these are incidents that are happening outside of school and on electronic devices, it is difficult and time consuming to deal with these situations when they arise.

To help us, we need you to please be more proactive in monitoring what your child is doing, and ideally limiting it or not allowing children on these apps, as this is having an impact of the emotional well-being of your children, other children and our valuable learning time. We thank you in advance for your support on this matter.

Furthermore, it is great to see so many parent Facebook or WhatsApp groups for different year groups. These are good for information sharing about year group events and home learning etc. However, if parents have issues with anything to do with school, it is much better for them to come in and speak with a member of staff directly, rather than offload in one of these groups. We can't solve anything we don't know about.

May I thank you all for your support with uniform, I have really seen a vast improvement in appearance this week and with footwear. One last tweak for the week, please can we ensure that for the safety of our children and community, if you are scootering into school, the scooters are pushed by hand after entered the school gates.

Again a lovely week in the school, I've been made to feel so much at home. This truly is a special place!

Have a wonderful weekend with your families and enjoy your family time together.

Kind regards

Denise Kennedy, Interim Head Teacher

Reminders

- * Please take a look at the Parent Workshop flyers sent out via email this week and book any that are of interest to you.
- * If your child in Year 3-6 has a piece of fruit in school at snack time, please could we request a voluntary donation of £5.00 per term via WisePay towards the cost of this Many thanks.

News from the classrooms

Year 2 Have been learning about Neil Armstrong

This week Year 2 have started learning about Neil Armstrong landing on the moon. They have been really enthusiastic about this topic and enjoyed watching the video of the first moments he stepped on to the moon. They were amazed by how they walked on the moon and that some of the astronauts even fell over while trying to find their balance. We have also learnt about the animals that got sent in to space to test it out first. The children in Year 2 have been busy drawing sketches of Neil Armstrong in their art lesson this week with some fantastic results! We are looking forward to lots more learning during this exciting topic this half term.



Year 3 Trip to Celtic Harmony



Year 3 had a fantastic trip to Celtic Harmony on Monday this week. We had our very own stone age guide who renamed our class "The Wolf Tribe!" He taught us how to make shelters out of sticks and brush wood and we were all very impressed when he showed us how to make fire. We helped him create a soup out of dock leaves, rosemary, sage, mint and water, but we were quite glad when he didn't ask us to share it with him as it looked rather watery and green! Weyland taught us all about the different tools and weapons that they could make in the stone age by flint knapping, he even made a hand axe to show us how it was done. We found that we were not very good at gathering food as many of the mushrooms we found were actually poisonous (thankfully they were only pretend mushrooms) but we were excellent hunters and managed to kill our very own mammoth. All in all a marvellous day with lots of learning experiences.



Year 4 Trip to Verulamium

On Friday 26 April, Year 4 Visited St Albans to kick start this term's Roman history topic. They visited the hypocaust in St Albans' park where they explored a real underground heating system, the Roman theatre of Verulamium where they discussed Roman entertainment and relished the opportunity to develop their enquiry skills by handling a wide range of real and replica artefacts as part of their work in the museum.



Years 5 & 6 Tag Rugby Tournament

On Wednesday 1 May, Year 5 and 6 arrived at Camelot Rugby Club with excitement and anticipation of a fun afternoon of tag rugby. Organised by Saracens Rugby Club, Year 5 and 6 children from Hemel and Berkhamsted were put into 6 groups. Potten End had five teams and each team was placed in a different group.

The children were very determined to do their best and every team put up a fantastic display of their rugby skills, team work and great sportsmanship. There were some amazing tries scored with many of the children getting their name on the score sheet. A couple of children who deserve a specific mention for the number of tries scored were Lachlan (Yr 6) and Cameron (Yr 5); weaving and turning often leaving the opposition standing and watching as they scored try after try. Team work was key to Potten End's success as the children worked together including everyone in the game and encouraging each other at all times.

Overall the tournament was a great experience for all the children who took part, their behaviour was something the school can be proud of and we hope to return next year.



Special Person Awards



- Year N: Fletcher
- Year R: Jude & Leo
- Year 1: Ava
- Year 2: Lily
- Year 3: Year 3
- Year 4: Madi & Year 4
- Year 5: Jack, Jordan, Joseph, Luka, Mari, Mollie & Sophie
- Year 6: Albie, Lachlan & Nathan

Teddy Awards

- Tidy Ted: Year N
- Clean Colin: Year 2
- Organised Oscar: Year 6

Diary Dates

This Week

- Monday 6 May: BANK HOLIDAY - school closed
- Tuesday 7 May:
 - 8.30am: Coffee Meet & Greet Mrs Kennedy (Interim Head Teacher) in the Church Rooms - all welcome
 - 9.30am: Church service at in Holy Trinity Church - for Years N-1 only - all welcome (*please note Year 2 will not be attending*)
- Thursday 9 May:
 - 9.30am-2.30pm: Selected Year 6 Maths Workshop at Hobbs Hill Wood
 - 11.00am: Tag Rugby Festival Year 3
 - 3.00pm: Parents/carers to collect Year 3 children from Camelot Rugby Club
- Friday 10 May:
 - DEADLINE to accept Nursery places
 - 3.30pm: Year 4 MTC parent meeting
- Sunday 12 May 4pm: Messy Church in school hall - all welcome

Next Week

- Monday 13 May: Year 6 SATs week
- Tuesday 14 May 9.00am: FOS Bags2School collection

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.

- Curriculum letters - All Yrs - *via email*
- Trip to Mountfitchet ltr - Yr1 - *paper copy*
- DSPL8 Network Parent Workshop flyers - all Yrs - *via email*
- Independent Project Outline - Yr 4 - *via email*
- Walk to School Week email - all Yrs
- National Curriculum Test information - Yrs 1,2&6 - *via email*
- Information ltr - Yr6 - *paper copy*
- MTC Meeting email - Yr4

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

- Bags2School ltr

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

