



Potten End C of E Primary School Weekly Newsletter

Newsletter 6

Date: 7 June 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to the last half of the Summer term. I hope you all had a great half term break.

This term is always very busy with lots on, already this week I have had the delight of listening to Year 5 and 6 children singing 'Mary Poppins'. It has been very infectious and I haven't been able to stop humming the songs. I know that you will be in for a treat when you have the opportunity to watch it. They really do sound super and the staff and children are all working really hard. I believe tickets are available to purchase now on WisePay for Year 5 and 6 and will be released to the rest of the school shortly.

This week KS1 children have been very busy: Year 1 attended 'Mini Olympics' and did themselves proud with all the children showing determination, courage and resilience. Three skills that we like to encourage our pupils to demonstrate. Today our Year 2 children visited the Look Out Discovery Centre - thankfully it was indoors!

Today was 'Pyjamarama Day', another nationally recognised day from 'The BookTrust' which we celebrated. It was a great day whereby all the children focused on the picture book called 'The Journey'. We then used the book as a stimulus to undertake a variety of cross curricular tasks which will be put up on displays throughout the school. Reading has been a key priority for the school this year in the School Improvement plan and reading at home with your child helps greatly with your child's reading and writing progress. Furthermore, reading books with children is a great way to spend family time. Research shows that exploring books can have lots of benefits for kids, and it is also just fantastic family fun. I have a twelve year old daughter, who although doesn't need me to listen to her read anymore, enjoys nothing more than our time together in the evening sharing a novel which we are both reading together! Have a look at: <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/tips-and-advice/reading-tips/>

In a few weeks, I will be able to share with you, your child's teacher and support staffing arrangements for the next academic year. However, before this time I would like to inform you about some staff who will be leaving Potten End in a few weeks' time. Miss Gurney, Miss Swords and Mrs Gadsden will be leaving at the end of June, I know you will join me in wishing them well. Furthermore, some of you may have noticed the 'bump' that has started to form on Mrs Wonnacott. Huge congratulations are in order and we look forward to the stork arriving in the Autumn term to join our Potten End family.

Have a good weekend.

Kind regards

Denise Kennedy

Interim Head Teacher

Attendance

Well done to Year 5 who are this week's winners with 96% attendance.

Fantastic!



Pyjamarama Day - BookTrust Donation

Many thanks to all of our families who supported our Dress Down Day. We will be donating £143 to the charity on behalf of the school.

News from the classrooms

Year N

Outdoor Day

In the morning we had Pirate Fun. We made a plank for children to walk on. A table was set up where children could enjoy making their own treasure map. The treasure was all out and we hid it in the sand. We made a very big ship by including all the tyres into our game. We had sea creatures and shells out to investigate in the water. In the afternoon, we joined Year 3 for a joint P.E fun session. We had all sorts of physical challenges to try.



Nursery have enjoyed counting to ten using beads which can be placed on fingers. The children in the photograph are showing they have ten fingers!

Year 6

Circulatory System (Science)

In science, Year 6 are studying the digestive and circulatory system. Having looked at how the heart works and its function in our bodies, the children were able to actually put this learning into a practical activity. They split into small groups and dissected lamb's hearts; looking at the chambers and blood vessels.

Surprisingly, most of the children were happy to complete this activity and for some they will be looking forward to this type of activity when they move to secondary schools later this year.



Prop Making Club - Half Term

Thank You!

The Year 5 and 6 staff would like to say a huge thank you to the parents, children and ex-pupils who came in to help with prop making for Mary Poppins over half term. It was a great success and has meant that rehearsals, starting this week, can make use of these props straight away.

Thank you for all your artistic skills and for giving up your time.

News

Coffee before Holy Trinity Services

We would like to say a big "thank you" to the Friends of the School who have regularly provided refreshments in the Church Rooms before the monthly church services. Regrettably, due to dwindling numbers meeting before the service, the decision has been taken to stop providing this. However, as we are now lucky enough to have the lovely Cedar Coffee Shop in the village, anyone can pop in to treat themselves to a coffee while they wait for the service to start.



Health for Kids offers a fun, engaging and interactive way for children to learn about health. Please take a look at this website. It is a children's health and well-being website and it is aimed at children aged 4-11 years old. It is not a live website - so nice and safe for the children to use. There are games, quizzes and activities all about their health and also there is a feelings section too. We would definitely encourage parents of Reception children to access it <https://www.healthforkids.co.uk/>.

Request from the school office

On behalf of the school office, please could parents and carers ensure that they retain a copy of club letters from external providers which detail the dates that the clubs are running/not running (or check the school calendar on the website). On Monday morning the office received a large number of calls seeking clarification over the running of a club whose dates had previously been advised. In an attempt to be helpful to parents, the office sent out a GroupCall confirming that the club was not running, but then subsequently received another five calls querying the information given. Thank you for your assistance with avoiding this situation in the future.

Parent Forum

If parents have any items they wish to be addressed at the next Parent Forum meeting, please email ParentForum@pottenend.herts.sch.uk. When emailing, please remember to add your child's year group and to discuss the issue with your class representative.

We are looking for a parent volunteer for the Parent Forum admin role. 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.

Special Person Awards

Year N: Isaac & Lana
Year R: Jacoby
Year 1: Emerae
Year 3: Laurence & Olivia
Year 4: Ben
Year 5: Keiron
Year 6: Libby



Head Teacher's Award

Harry & Zach

Teddy Awards

Tidy Ted: Year N

Clean Colin: Year 1

Organised Oscar: Year 6

Diary Dates

This Week

- Sunday 9 June 4.00pm: Messy Church in school hall - all welcome
- w/c Monday 10 June: Year 1 Phonics Screening Week
- Wednesday 12 June: Bubbles and Balloons Workshop at Greenway School - selected Year 2 children
- Friday 14 June 2.00pm: Parent Forum Meeting

Next Week

- Wednesday 19 June:
 - Year 1 Trip to Mountfitchet Castle
 - 9.15am: New to Reception Parent Meeting
 - 10.30am: New to Nursery Parent Meeting
 - 11.00am: Year 3 Tag Rugby Festival
 - 3.00pm: Collect Year 3 from Tag Rugby Festival at Camelot
- Thursday 20 June 9.30am-12.15pm: Transition Programme - Dr Martijn Van de Spoel visiting Year 6
- Sunday 23 June 11.00am: Holy Trinity Church Patronal Festival - "Songs of Praise" - 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.

- Pyjamarama Day ltr & email - All Yrs - *via email*
- Club confirmation - Yrs3&4 - *via GroupCall*
- Bikeability reminder - selected Yr6 parents - *via email*
- Mary Poppins costumes and props ltr - Yrs5&6 - *via email*
- Final trip reminder email - Yr 2
- Trip return time update - Yr2 - *via GroupCall*

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

- Father's Day email reminder
- Autumn Fair ltr
- Garden Working Party 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

TRUTHFULNESS

