



Potterhanworth Church of England Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr Ben Kennedy BA(Hons), NPQH

School Newsletter – Spring Term

Dear parents, carers and wider school family,

I hope that you are all well, and that the new year has started positively. It has been great to see the children settle back smoothly into school routines this term, and to enjoy their learning; they were particularly excited about the couple of inches of snow we had recently!

Please see below for some key information about the term ahead.

Parentmail

We are planning to switch from Parentmail to Arbor for our communications. If we do, there will be a little gap in service as we migrate between the two providers, but we will contact you by direct email if necessary.

Website

Similarly, we are switching to a new website provider. The new site will have a much better look and a significantly improved user experience, particularly on mobile devices. It will therefore allow us to put lots more information on the website for your reference. It should go live in the next few days.

Facebook

As mentioned in previous correspondence, we will begin using Facebook instead of X from this term onwards. Please look for Potterhanworth CE Primary School on Facebook and follow us from there. We will use our existing social media permissions for photos, so please get in touch if you would like to check or change them.

Parents Evenings

We will hold parents' evenings on Tuesday 17th March and Thursday 19th March, from 3:30pm – 6:00pm each day. We will send booking slips nearer the time.

School funding

I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to the Beer Festival Charity, the Christ's Hospital Endowment Trust, Culfrey Lands Charity and the Mere Trust for their financial support of the school and pre-school. Their donations have been gratefully received, and they will help us to maintain our school provision and to fund some exciting projects soon.

Medical Information

If there has been any update to your child's specific medical or dietary requirements, please inform school to ensure any medical care plans can be put in place.

Cool Milk

Cool Milk supply milk to our school, and it is free for all children until their 5th birthday. After that, you can order milk directly from Cool Milk by logging on to their website: www.coolmilk.com Please ask at the office for further information about this if needed.

School Meals

Our meals are provided by Good Lookin' Cookin' and are very popular with the children (and adults) who order them. All infant children are entitled to a free school meal so please do take advantage of this. You can order meals in advance, using Good Lookin' Cookin's website. If you are unsure whether your child is entitled to free school meals in Key Stage Two, please see a member of the office staff.

Pupil Premium Funding

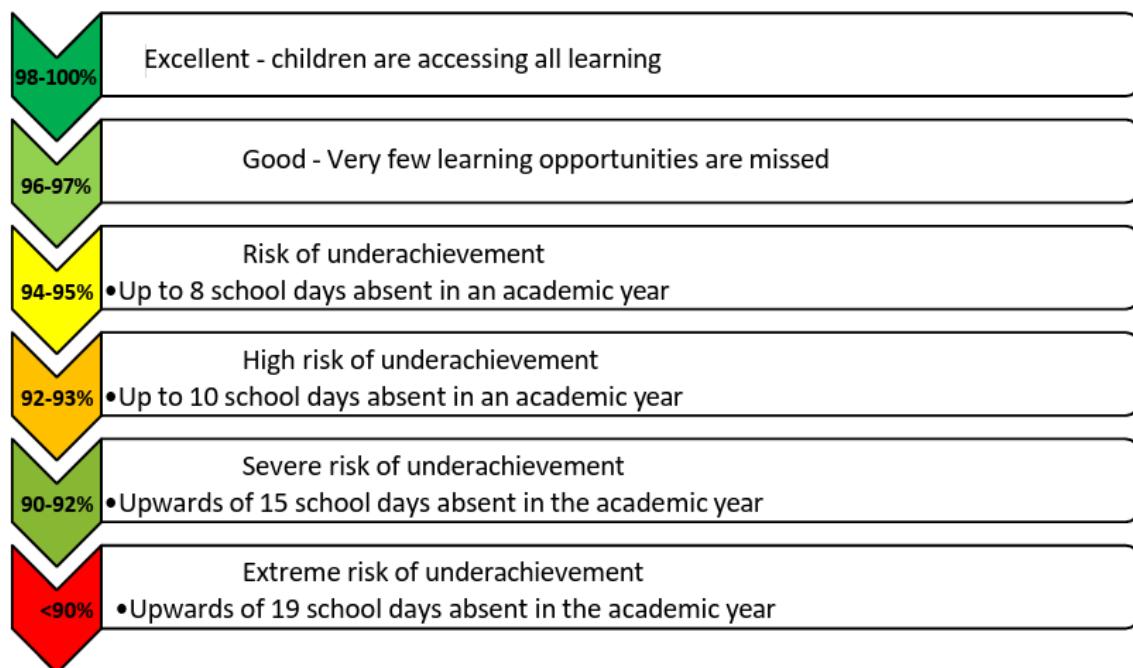
If you think your child is eligible for Pupil Premium Funding, whether from historical circumstances or due to a change in your circumstances, please advise the school office and we will update our records.

Attendance

The school Attendance Policy has been revised to bring it in line with the Local Authority policy. It is available on the school website [here](#). As you know, excellent attendance at school is vital for pupils to thrive. As per the policy, you can support your child to have excellent attendance by taking these steps:

- Ensure your child arrives on time for school every day and is ready to learn. Arriving after registration is recorded as an unauthorised absence. Pupils must be in school by 9.00am.
- Avoid taking holidays during term time.
- If your child appears to be only slightly ill, send them in to school. We will contact you if their condition deteriorates. At the same time, we understand if children are too ill to be in school and need time off to recover.
- Book any medical appointments outside of school hours. If this is unavoidable, please book for as late in the afternoon as possible and inform the school of appointments in advance.
- Supply a copy of the appointment card or hospital letter if your child has an appointment during school hours.

If your child becomes reluctant to go to school or you need help, please contact me; we are more likely to be able to work together to solve any problems if we act early.



Absence reporting

Children's absence should be emailed to enquiries@potterhanworth.lincs.sch.uk or phoned in on 01522 791 031 by 9.15 a.m.

Sports

I'm delighted that children from Potterhanworth will be involved in lots of sports events this Spring term, including the following:

The **cross-country** competition for Lincoln primary schools starts after February half-term. Every Thursday, we will take six boys and six girls, mainly from years 5 & 6. I'll contact the parents of children involved nearer the time, so you can co-ordinate transport to the different venues, and so on. There will also be an event for years 3 & 4 later in the year.

We have two **football** fixtures arranged with Winchelsea Primary School, on February 4th (at Potterhanworth) and on February 11th (away). I will be in touch with parents later this week. Unfortunately, this means there'll be no football club on those afternoons. Children and parents are welcome to watch and support.

Miss Woodcock and Mrs Maitland are contacting other schools to arrange some **netball** fixtures – we should have some news on that soon.

Miss Belton has arranged for children in Years 1 to 4 to take part in the Branston Community Academy **sports hall games**, on Thursday 22nd and Thursday 29th January. The event last week was very well organised and supported by the Sports Ambassadors at Branston, and our children had a fantastic time. It's the turn of the younger children this week, and we're looking forward to another great event.

On Friday 13th February, some children from Year 5 and 6 will attend the **Swimming Gala** at Yarborough Leisure Centre. Again, we'll contact the parents involved nearer the time. Parents will be able to watch from the gallery at the leisure centre if they wish. There are further galas later in the year, including one for Year 3/4 – we will keep you updated.

School Council

Our school council gives children the opportunity to take responsibility for improving the school, and they've been very active this year. They have requested a pyjama day and bake sale on Thursday 12th February, to raise funds for some improvements to school facilities. I've added it to the key dates list below, so please add to your diaries. The bake sale sold out early last time, so please send as much as you can!

Community Events & Fundraising

Autumn term and the lead-up to Christmas were busy with lots of community events, all of which were fantastic! We had a message earlier this month from Rachael Eades, who is the Church Warden at St. Andrews:

“Just to let you know that I have forwarded £180 to The Children's Society, the proceeds from the Christingle Service. Please thank the children and families on the Society's behalf for an excellent result.”

Similarly, thank you all so much for your generosity with the school's fundraising events. We raised £1059 from the Christmas activities; we'll keep you updated about how we intend to spend the money to benefit the children, and about future fundraising events.

Several girls in Year 6 approached me in the Autumn as they wanted to raise money for St. Barnabas by doing some Christmas-themed crafts and selling them at the fair. I was very impressed by their desire to act on their empathy for others and to do something positive for the wider community, and they raised £180 for St. Barnabas. This is a super effort and well done to them! (They have already written to me about their next fundraising project, too!).

School will continue to promote and get involved in community events, so that our pupils can make a positive difference locally and beyond, and we'll keep you informed. I'm looking forward to the blooming of the crocuses that we planted in September; the children will be delighted to see the outcome of their hard work!

Here are a few notices about events and news in the local community (as we are changing communication providers, it seems easiest to send them on this newsletter):

Potterhanworth has no **Girlguiding Rainbow Unit** for girls aged 4-7 years. Janet Burtenshaw runs the closest group - Washingborough Rainbow Unit - on a Friday 5.00-6.15 pm and they have a few spaces available for girls in Reception or year 1/2. Parents can either phone her on 07703 453902 or register their daughter on the Girlguiding website.

At **Brightsparks**, Wednesday afternoons are Craft Club. Just book onto the Wednesday session as normal and it's all included. There will be crafts & art projects, mindfulness games, friendship & imagination games. Wednesday until 17:30 (first session 4th February). Ages 2-12.

POTCom (People Organising Things for the Community) is a working group of the Parish Council. They have started craft courses for adults in the village (supported by the Beer Festival Committee funds and the Culfrey Lands Trust). Here are the upcoming courses:

Print a Mug for Valentine's Day

Saturday January 31st from 6 pm – 8.30 pm
Book by emailing Denise at craftyDens@outlook.com
Cost - £20 per person



Watercolour Painting

Thursday 26th February from 10 am – 1 pm.
Book by emailing Karen at sharpleskaren1@gmail.com
Cost - £25 per person



Decorative Tile Making

This is a two session course, so you need to book for both.
Monday March 23rd and Monday March 30th both from 10 am – 1pm.
Book by emailing Karen at sharpleskaren1@gmail.com
Cost - £50 per person



Willow Weaving

Friday April 24th 10 am – 4 pm
Book by emailing potcompotterhanworth@outlook.com
Cost - £40 per person (bring your own lunch)

Please be aware that we have a couple of free places on each course for Potterhanworth Residents on Universal Credit.

If you would like to make use of one of those places, just email potcompotterhanworth@outlook.com with the details of the course you would like to attend, your name and address and a screenshot of your U.C. page.

First come, first served.

Synergy is running its **February half-term multi-sport camp**, 9am–4pm each day at Heighington Millfield Academy and Carlton Academy. There is an **early bird price of £12.50 per day**, which is for a full day of activities such as football, archery, cricket, dodgeball, basketball, netball, rounders, golf and more. Please contact them for more information on Info@SynergySportsCoaching.co.uk or 01522 396039.

Digital Wellbeing

The Children’s Commissioner for England has produced a guide for parents and carers on managing children’s digital lives, designed to demystify some of the issues such as the challenge of managing children’s everyday online habits, what you can do to support your children, and the often complicated parental controls on individual social media platforms, to help make talking to your child about them easier.

An introductory blog on the guide from the Children’s Commissioner can be viewed here:

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/blog/what-i-wish-my-parents-or-carers-knew-childrens-commissioner-launches-guide-for-parents-and-carers-on-managing-childrens-digital-lives/>

The guide, along with an Activity Pack for children, can be accessed here:

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/resource/what-i-wish-my-parents-or-carers-knew-a-guide-for-parents-and-carers-on-managing-childrens-digital-lives/>

Key dates:

Wednesday 4 th February	Football match - home
Tuesday 10 th February	Safer Internet Day – activities in school
Wednesday 11 th February	Football match – away – Winchelsea Primary School
Thursday 12 th February	Pyjama Day and Bake Sale
Friday 13 th February	Last day of term 3
Monday 23 rd February	First day of term 4
Thursday 26 th February (and the following four Thursdays – the last Thursday of term is kept as a spare in case of postponement)	Cross country meetings – venues to be confirmed, but timings will be to arrive at the venue by 4pm, and races are usually completed by 5pm.
Monday 9 th – Friday 13 th March	British Science Week – activities in school
Friday 13 th March	Key Stage 1 trip to the Lincolnshire Life Museum
Tuesday 17 th March	Parents Evening 3.30 – 6.00 pm
Thursday 19 th March	Parents Evening 3.30 – 6.00 pm
Thursday 2 nd April	Last day of term 4

As ever, if you need any support or would like to talk about your child or the school generally, please feel free to get in touch. You can find me on the playground most days, or please contact me through the school office.

Best wishes,
Ben Kennedy
Headteacher