



Potterhanworth Church of England Primary School

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School Newsletter – Autumn Term

Dear parents, carers and wider school family,

I hope that you and your families are all well. It has been wonderful to see so many familiar and new faces at school this term. The children have settled in brilliantly, and most importantly they are enjoying school and thriving in their learning.

Please see below for some key information about the term ahead. I am conscious that we send lots of emails, especially at the start of a term, so I've tried to include as much as I can on this one newsletter, hence its considerable length!

Clubs

Our clubs are up and running this week, and we have had a fantastic turn-out at all of them. We are very pleased that we've been able to offer a multi-skills club for Key Stage 1 as well, so that younger children can participate in more sports activities. If you would like to enquire about any clubs, please see the recent email from the office or contact school.

Potterhanworth Autumn Festival

As you are no doubt aware, the Potterhanworth Autumn Festival will take place on the Pavilion playing fields this Saturday from 2pm to 6pm. I look forward to seeing some of you there, and the weather is holding up for it nicely! It will be lovely to see the Roald Dahl themed artwork that the children have been working on at the start of this term.

Litter Pick and Bulb Planting

After two very productive litter picks last year, and the spring-time reward from planting bulbs in the vicinity of the school, we will hold another litter pick and bulb planting exercise (along with the Parish Council and other local volunteers) on Saturday 3rd October, from 10 a.m. to midday. If you are free that morning, please come along and lend a hand for the benefit of the local area, meeting at the cenotaph on the village green.

Term dates 2026-27

For your reference, these can be located on the school website – under [Potterhanworth Church of England Primary School - LCC Term Dates](#)

Facebook

If you are not yet following the school Facebook page, please search for Potterhanworth CE Primary School, where you will find regular updates on events in classes and on trips.

Fundraising and School Events

The very kind support we get from the school community is always hugely appreciated, and it allows us to do so much more for the children than we'd otherwise be able to offer. Schools are increasingly dependent on support from their communities, and we are very fortunate here at Potterhanworth to have such generous backing, whether it be your time or financial support.

Wherever possible, the school applies for grants to help reduce or eliminate the need to ask for parental contributions towards educational opportunities. I want to thank publicly the **Mukherjee Trust**, which offers grants for coach fares for school trips. We have had a huge amount of support from them over the last twelve months, which means we have often not needed to ask parents to pay for coach fares.

We also continue to be very well supported by the **Christ's Hospital Endowment Fund**, the **Culfrey Land Charity**, the **Mere Charity** and the **Beer Festival Charity**. We are most grateful for all their help to enhance our provision for the children.

Mrs Maitland will send out the fundraising newsletter very soon, with further information about our planned events.

Until Christmas, some of our fundraising efforts will go to help **Heli Heroes**, which is a Schools Challenge to support the Lincolnshire & Nottinghamshire Air Ambulance. Before the summer break, two children in (then) Year 4 drew up a petition about supporting Heli Heroes, as it is a cause close to their hearts. It demonstrated what responsible and aware young citizens we have in this school, and of course the Air Ambulance is a very visible and worthy cause.



There are two elements to the school's involvement. A few of our fundraising events will be to raise money jointly for Heli Heroes and the school. We will split the money 50/50 between the two. We have also set up a gifting page with Heli Heroes, [The Lincs And Notts Air Ambulance Charitable Trust: Heli Heroes Schools' Challenge 2026](#). If you would like to donate, please click on the link and you can contribute there. We have set an initial target to raise £500 for the Air Ambulance by Christmas, which I'm confident we can achieve through the two avenues of support.

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. In particular, if you are aware of any allergies for your child(ren), please complete the allergy care plan form on the recent email we sent about this.

Swimming

Our swimming lessons have now moved to Nocton's Little Leisure Centre. Our Year 5/6 children went this week, and the swimming tuition and the facilities are at a very high standard. As you know from previous correspondence, the new arrangements also mean that every child in school will have swimming lessons every year.

RockSteady

Music lessons with RockSteady have moved from Thursday afternoons to Wednesday mornings, due to scheduling needs. Poppy is still the music teacher, so the exceptional quality of teaching and support remains the same.

Bright Sparks

We work very closely with Bright Sparks, run by Michelle Mulcahy, which gives the children a seamless transition to and from breakfast and after-school clubs. Bright Sparks also offers Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) clubs during Christmas, Easter and Summer holidays. During the summer holidays, their HAF club enjoyed a very strong inspection result, particularly around the breadth and quality of provision, children's experiences at the club, inclusion, healthy eating, and the way the team supports individual children's needs.

If you would like more information about Bright Sparks, please contact them directly.

Staffing in Year 1/2

As you might know, Miss Belton is the school's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Co-ordinator (SENDCo) and she has every Wednesday out of class to help her to manage that role. We are delighted that Mrs Cheney has agreed to cover those Wednesdays in Year 1/2. She is well known to both children and parents, and is a very experienced and highly capable teacher.

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. 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. Please click on the link below as it will provide details on whether your child is eligible:

[Apply for free school meals – Lincolnshire County Council](#)

Attendance and punctuality

Our school's attendance is significantly above both national and regional averages, and we thank you for your support with this. As you are aware, children's academic progress and attainment at primary school are very closely correlated with attendance. Perhaps more importantly, their sense of belonging can be significantly improved by great attendance and can be hampered by repeated or prolonged absences from school.

Similarly, lateness has a substantial impact on children's progress in school. The few minutes before register in the morning are an important time for them to greet others and socialise as they settle. Once in class, the morning activities are a crucial part of our routines – a lot of spelling, arithmetic and handwriting work is done then, and missing it can hinder progress. We always want to support with attendance and punctuality, so if you would like to discuss any of this further, please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance.

Dyslexia Outreach Events

We recently received the following flyer from the local authority, offering sessions for families to help support children with dyslexia. I have copied it here for your reference:

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD AT HOME WEDNESDAY 30 TH SEPTEMBER 2026 MONDAY 1 ST MARCH 2027*	WORKING WITH YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL MONDAY 9 TH NOVEMBER 2026* MONDAY 22 ND FEBRUARY 2027
STUDY SKILLS AND REVISION STRATEGIES WEDNESDAY 2 ND DECEMBER 2026 WEDNESDAY 13 TH JANUARY 2027*	PRIMARY TO SECONDARY TRANSITION MONDAY 26 TH APRIL 2027 MONDAY 7 TH JUNE 2027*

*These events are delivered through the Lincolnshire parent carer forum and can be booked at <https://www.lincspcf.org.uk/>

Details of the other workshops are available by email: dyslexiaoutreach@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Reading Books

We are excited to announce that we have recently become a Read Write Inc. Phonics School. This will enhance our English provision and ensure that children are getting the best possible foundations to learning in the subject. It will mean some changes to the way we send home decodable reading books. Whilst we have been assessing the children's reading levels, they have only been bringing home a library book. These are marked with a Potterhanworth logo sticker and are chosen to be enjoyed together. As they are not fully decodable, children may need support reading them or to simply listen to as a bedtime story. Very soon, they will start to bring home a Read Write Inc. "Book Bag Book" too, linked to the work they are doing in their phonics groups. When children move away from the phonics scheme books they will be Free Readers, and able to choose from a wide selection of books from our library.

We are also pleased to share that we have been selected by the National Literacy Trust to receive the Libraries for Primaries funding and over the year we will be working with the trust to build our library with new furniture and books. This is an exciting development as part of the Year of Reading.

DuoLingo

Many of the children have told me that they are practising Spanish (or other languages) on DuoLingo, which is great to hear. I also use it, as does my daughter, and it's a useful learning platform. You might be aware that they have introduced a Maths section on the app. It looks to be well designed and adaptive to children's starting points and abilities, and will introduce more challenge as they progress. I'm not a rep. for DuoLingo! There are lots of very good apps for Maths, but I thought it worth mentioning as an option to enable your child(ren) to have more maths practice (household screen-time limits permitting!).

Toys

In summer term, a small number of children were bringing in toys from home. We believe that this was because they saw some children with fidgets (which are part of their learning and support plan). Toys are not permitted in school. If children do bring in any toys, we will put them to one side and return them to children at the end of the day, so they are not a distraction in lessons or at playtimes.

School tours

If you have a child due to start Reception in September 2027, we are happy to arrange a school tour for you and them at your convenience. Applications open on Monday 16th November for school places next year. Please also share this information with other parents you know who have children starting Reception next year.

Key Dates

Please scroll down to see the key dates for Autumn Term – I have put them on a separate page so you can print it off easily for your reference.

As ever, please get in touch if you need any support, or if you would like to discuss your child or school in general. I'm available on the playground most days, or you can reach me via the school office.

Best wishes,
Ben Kennedy
Headteacher

Saturday 19 th September	Potterhanworth Autumn Festival
Monday 21 st September	Wrates Photographers in school – individual photos
Friday 2 nd October	Harvest Festival – St. Andrew's Church at 9 a.m.
Saturday 3 rd October	Litter pick and bulb planting – meet at the
Friday 9 th October	Dress down day (to support Heli Heroes / school)
Monday 12 th October	Wild Woodcraft visit to school – Years 3 and 4
Tuesday 13 th October & Wednesday 14 th October	Parents Evenings 3.30pm – 5.30pm each evening – more details in due course
Friday 23 rd October	Colour Run – more details to follow
Friday 23 rd October	Last day of term 1
Monday 2 nd November	First day of term 2
Thursday 5 th November	Bomber Command Service – Years 4, 5 & 6
Friday 13 th November	Children In Need Day
Friday 4 th December	Dress down day
Monday 7 th December	Nativity performance (EYFS & KS1) 2.30 p.m.
Tuesday 8 th December	Nativity performance (EYFS & KS1) 9.30 a.m.
Thursday 10 th December	Christingle Service – 6pm at St. Andrew's Church
Friday 11 th December	School Christmas Fair (to be linked with the Parish Council and church events that evening)
Saturday 12 th December	Elf event in the CHE hall – Parish Council – more details in due course
Monday 14 th December	Christmas Lunch in school
Tuesday 15 th December	KS1 Disco 4.30-5.45pm KS2 Disco 6.00-7.15pm
Friday 18 th December	Last day of term 2
Tuesday 5 th January	First day of term 3