



Potterhanworth Church of England Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr Ben Kennedy BA(Hons)

School Newsletter – Term 1

Dear parents, carers, and wider school family,

Following my recent letter to you all, I wanted to reiterate how delighted I am to work with you and the local community, and to thank you all again for making me feel very welcome. The children have settled well into the routines of the new academic year, and they are a credit to the school and their families!

Please see below for some key information – including important dates – about the term ahead.

Collective Worship

We would like to invite you to attend our Friday celebration Collective Worship whenever you are able to, as it is a highlight of our school week. It is always a pleasure to share the children's achievements with parents. I will be in touch soon to outline some changes, which will mean you'll have advance notice of when your child will receive an award – hopefully this will help you to attend our Collective Worship and celebrate with them.

Photographs

Mr Wates attended school earlier this week, and you should receive the order forms for photographs today. I must add here that the photographer was hugely impressed by the excellent behaviour and attitude of the children, and he was very complimentary about the school. It is always lovely when a visitor recognises how special our school community is.

Clubs

Our clubs are now in full swing, and lots of children have attended the wider provision across both Key Stages. A massive thank you to colleagues in school for putting on these clubs during their lunchtimes.

Community Events

Our school is at the heart of the village, and we intend to participate fully in local events for the benefit of the children and the community; I attended the Autumn Festival with my family, and we loved being part of it for the afternoon. I look forward to having the school involved with, and hosting, further events in the future.

On Saturday 11th October, children and their families are invited to take part in the Potterhanworth clean-up and bulb-planting event, between 10am and 1pm. This will be a great opportunity for us all to preserve and enhance the look of our beautiful village. Bring a trowel and meet at the war memorial!

Towards Christmas on Saturday 13th December, St. Andrew's Church will hold the Potterhanworth Nativity Parade. It would be lovely for us to be involved. Further details will follow, but please do add the date to your diary!

Parents Evenings

We will hold parents' evenings on Tuesday 14th October and Thursday 16th October, from 3:30pm – 6:00pm each day. We will send booking slips 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.

Primary School Applications – Important Dates

If you have a child due to start in Reception in September 2026, please remember to submit your application to Lincolnshire County Council by **15 January 2026**.

National Offer Day is **16 April 2026**. You will be notified of your child's allocated school on or after this date. If you need support with your application, please contact the school office

Open Mornings

We warmly welcome parents and children who would like to look around the school before submitting their application for a primary school place for September 2026.

Appointments are available on the mornings of Monday 13th October, Wednesday 22nd October, Wednesday 12th November and Thursday 8th January. Please contact the school office for an appointment. If you do not have a child due to start in September 2026 but know someone who does, please pass on this information – we'll be very happy to meet them and show them around our school.

If you can't make those dates, please let us know and we'll do our best to accommodate you.

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 come to 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.

Nut-Free School

Due to allergies, we are a nut-free school. Please help us to keep children safe by not sending any items that contain nuts in pack-ups.

Parking – a perennial issue?

Please bear in mind that the zig-zags are there to protect the children, and park accordingly. There is ample parking close by.

You may have noticed the mobile parking enforcement camera car that was parked close to school recently, and you are doubtless aware that parking enforcement officers regularly monitor parking around school.

Our neighbours have recently contacted school to say that their driveways have been blocked at school drop-off and pick-up times. Again, please bear their needs in mind when parking around school. At collection time, we will always keep your children safe until you get to the playground, and we can happily wait the extra minute or two so that you can park safely and considerately.

Parent Governor

We have a vacancy for a school parent governor. If you would like to help develop the school for the benefit of all the children and the local community, please consider applying when I send out further information soon.

Book Fair

We will hold another Scholastic Book Fair from Tuesday 11th November – further information to follow in due course.

Absence reporting

Children's absence should be emailed to enquiries@potterhanworth.lincs.sch.uk
The year group email accounts are still in operation, but we intend to wind them down, so the enquiries email is the best method of contacting us, as well as by phone.

Safeguarding

I am the Designated Safeguarding Lead in school, and Mr. Simpson is the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead this year. If you have any concerns, please raise them with either of us.

End of day – playground

Having consulted with colleagues, we plan to introduce the following measures to ensure the playground is clear for use until home-time, and to give parents and younger children a safe place to wait away from the road.

By 2.55pm, a member of staff will open the gates onto the driveway leading up to Pre-School. The hand-gate from the driveway to the playground will remain locked, as will the wooden gate onto the main road, until 3:10pm. If you are collecting a child from Pre-School, please head round to the driveway gates rather than through the playground. We will start this from Monday 29th September.

Water and water bottles

We expect that children drink water during the school day. We recommend the plastic bottles that we can provide for a small charge (ask at the office). If children bring other bottles, please bear in mind that they need to fit inside the water bottle carriers.

Harvest Festival

On Friday 3rd October, we are celebrating Harvest festival at St. Andrew's Church. We know that many families are finding the cost of living difficult, so we would like to show our support for a local food bank, the Lincoln Larder.

If you can send any donations towards this, we would be very grateful. Suggested items include: • Cereal • Soup • Pasta • Rice • Tinned tomatoes/ pasta sauce • Lentils, beans and pulses • Tinned meat • Tinned vegetables • Tea/coffee • Tinned fruit • Biscuits • UHT milk

Thank you in advance for any donations.

Earrings

Where possible, children should remove earrings before PE. If they cannot do that for any reason, we will give them medical tape to cover the earrings.

Key dates:

Wednesday 1 st October	Year 4 + Eco Club – Recycling Centre Trip
Thursday 2 nd October	National Poetry Day
Friday 3 rd October	Harvest Celebration and Collective Worship at St. Andrew's Church – all welcome – 9:00 am
Wednesday 8 th October	Year 5/6 Pizza Express trip
Saturday 11 th October	Potterhanworth clean-up & bulb planting
Monday 13 th October	Open Morning for children starting school in September 2026
Tuesday 14 th October	Parents' Evening 3:30 – 6:00 pm
Thursday 16 th October	Parents' Evening 3:30 – 6:00 pm
Wednesday 22 nd October	Open Morning for children starting school in September 2026
Thursday 23 rd October	Last day of term 1
Monday 3 rd November	First day of term 2
Thursday 6 th November	Year 4 trip to the Mosque / Hartsholme Park Year 3/5/6 Bomber Command – Remembrance Service
Tuesday 11 th November – Friday 14 th November	Scholastic Book Fair – in school
Wednesday 12 th November	Open Morning for children starting school in September 2026
Friday 5 th December	Indian Experience Day – whole school
Monday 8 th December	Reception & KS1 Nativity 2:30 pm
Tuesday 9 th December	Reception & KS1 Nativity 9:30 am
Thursday 11 th December	KS2 Christingle Service (time tbc) – St. Andrew's Church
Saturday 13 th December	Nativity Parade in Potterhanworth
Friday 19 th December	Last day of term 2

As a last thought, I want to leave you with a passage from a book I was recently introduced to at a Diocesan Meeting – *'Braiding Sweetgrass'* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. She is a botanist and indigenous American, and in the book she writes about how corn, squash and bean plants fare less well when they are planted separately, but thrive together:

'Alone, a bean is just a vine, squash an oversize leaf. Only when standing together with corn does a whole emerge which transcends the individual. The gifts of each are more fully expressed when they are nurtured together than alone. In ripe ears and swelling fruit, they counsel us that all gifts are multiplied in relationship.'

I trust that together, we – our school and the children, you the parents and carers, and our local community – can all thrive.

Best wishes,
Ben Kennedy
Headteacher