

# POTTON PRIMARY SCHOOL



Issue 19 - Newsletter 14th February 2025

## From the Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been wonderful to be back at school this week. Thank you for your kind comments and best wishes.

Love has been in the air at Potton Primary today. It was wonderful to be on the gate this morning and watch the children bring in cards and gifts for their friends.

Last week Miss Hurst took nine Year 6 boys to compete in a 7 aside football tournament with schools in Cambridgeshire. They all did amazingly and came in 1st place winning the EFL Kids Cup. All the boys were a credit to the school and we cannot wait for the next competition!

This week, we have had a focus on Children's Mental Health where the children have taken part in various activities in class and yesterday afternoon worked in their tree houses to complete their own "personality islands."

It was 'Safer Internet Day' on Tuesday and this year's theme was "Too Good To Be True". Further information can be found on the poster below.

**Week beginning the 3rd March** we will be celebrating World Book Day at Potton Primary with various activities being undertaken throughout the week. On **Thursday 6th March** children can come to school either in their pj's or fancy dress. After school on that day parents/carers along with their children will be invited into the school buildings to "Tour The Door." Each class will decorate a door to enter the best door competition. Who will get your vote?

Wishing you all a lovely half term break and I look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 24th February at 8:45am.

Kindest regards  
Miss J Watts  
Headteacher

## Diary Dates

### February

**Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February**  
Half Term

**Monday 24th February** - Children back to school.

### March

**Monday 3rd March to Thursday 6th March** -  
Year 6 Bikeability

**Monday 3rd March to Wednesday 5th March**  
- Year 4 Residential

**Thursday 6th March** - World Book Day & Tour the Door

**Friday 7th March** - Widdershins Puppet Theatre Performance

**Week Commencing 24th March** - Mother's Day Gift Shop

**Tuesday 25th & Wednesday 26th March** -  
Parents Evenings

**28th March** - Break The Rules Day - Further details to follow



## Letters Sent Home

None



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SCAMS AND FAKE NEWS

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

"Fake news" refers to falsified or misleading material presented as a legitimate account of events. It's often used by malicious actors online to push an agenda, or even by criminals as a way of making scams more persuasive. Scammers can trick us into handing over personal information, security details and even our hard-earned cash.

### "CLICKBAIT" PHISHING SCAMS

A message arrives saying "Have you seen this video of yourself?" or you might be sent an attention-grabbing headline about a celebrity that's been shared on social media. This kind of "bait" is produced by scammers to drive us to click on an unsafe link, where malware could be downloaded to our devices. These scams rely on our curiosity and our "need-to-know" instinct.

### SALES, DEALS & DISCOUNTS

Some scams appear as adverts, offering a chance to buy something – such as designer products, expensive gadgets or tickets to a popular show – at a reduced price. Such plays often include a time limit or countdown, urging us to hurry so we don't miss out on the deal. This pressure encourages us to input personal details or payment information before pausing to check if it's legitimate.

### YOU'RE A WINNER!

This kind of scam involves fake giveaways, opportunities or freebies. It could be a message saying we've won a prize draw or competition. Or it could be a gift, free trial, bonus credit, and suchlike. It might claim that a package or refund is waiting. All these techniques are used to prompt us to share our personal information, thinking that there's something to be gained by doing so.

### FALSE FRIENDSHIPS

Scammers often pretend to be someone they're not to gain their victims' trust. They might attempt to convince any children they connect with that they're a child of similar age with shared interests. Warning signs include a high volume of messages (often with an intense tone), secrecy, inappropriate levels of intimacy, guilt tripping, emotional manipulation, threats or blackmail.

### PANIC MODE

To trigger a sense of panic, scammers may claim that a child's account has been hacked, or a virus has been installed on their device, or any number of other scary scenarios. They may claim to be able to fix the problem or offer a solution – if the child hands over control of the device or sensitive information. Similar scams involve impersonating a friend or relative, claiming that they're in trouble and need help.

### FAKE CELEBRITY ENDORSEMENTS

Impersonating influential people online is a common tactic for scammers, who can use technology to create fake photos, audio and even videos that look authentic. These can be used to convince us, for example, to buy products, sign up for so-called "business opportunities" or invest in cryptocurrency schemes – all of which are fake or otherwise malicious. Many scams also involve the impersonation of popular companies' social media accounts, as well as those of individuals.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### STAY INFORMED

Stay up to date with the latest information and best practice on cyber-security. See what scam stories are reported in the news and make note of what tactics were used. Keep up with young people's digital lives: talk about what they're doing online and use properly endorsed resources to learn what risks certain sites and apps pose to their younger users.

### ENCOURAGE HEALTHY SCEPTICISM

Most scams rely on emotional or psychological manipulation, tapping into our human instincts – whether that's to keep ourselves safe, help others, find answers, make friends, avoid losing out or to secure something we really want. Encourage children to recognise that pressure to act and to always consult with an adult – especially if what's on offer sounds too good to be true.

### TALK TOGETHER

Chat often and openly with young people about fake news, online scams and how they both work. Encourage them to talk to you about anything they're unsure of or worried about online. If a child claims to have been scammed, don't pass judgement. Blaming the victim may deter young people from asking you for help. Remember: adults are scammed just as often, if not more.

### BE PROACTIVE

Children increasingly use digital devices for education, socialising, shopping and play. Don't wait for a problem to arise before you discuss the risk of scams, false information and fake news. Highlight what to look out for and clearly communicate under what circumstances the child ought to speak to an adult. Finally, ensure that they're aware of the support services that are available to them (such as Childline).

## Meet Our Expert

Dr Holly Powell-Jones is the founder of Online Media Law UK and a leading expert in digital safety, media law and young people. Her PhD investigates children's understandings of risk online. She works with schools, businesses, and universities to provide award-winning education on the criminal, legal and ethical considerations for the digital age. Visit [OnlineMediaLaw.co.uk](https://OnlineMediaLaw.co.uk) for more.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/fake-news-and-scams>

# Attendance Data

**You MUST inform us if your child is not going to attend school.** If we don't hear from you - we will contact you and will continue to do so until we have a response. This may include a home visit as part of our safeguarding and welfare procedures.

A reminder: Please ensure you are signed up to Studybugs to inform the school of any absence - the school office are able to help you if needed.

## This week's attendance

Class	Attendance
EYFS - Ravens	93.09%
EYFS - Robins	93.33%
Year 1 - Puffins	91.2%
Year 1 - Peacocks	95%
Year 2 - Mallards	94.29%
Year 2 - Moorhens	93.33%
Year 3 - Woodpeckers	97.86%
Year 3 - Wrens	97.14%
Year 4 - Hawks	92.86%
Year 4 - Herons	97.27%
Year 5 - Swifts	91.07%
Year 5 - Starlings	96.67%
Year 6 - Kestrels	93.33%
Year 6 - Kingfishers	98.1%
Year 6 - Kites	89.57%

## Spring Term 1 Attendance Data

Whole School Attendance - Weekly Figures

Wk Beg 6th January 2025 = 94.73%

Wk Beg 13th January 2025 = 89.24%

Wk Beg 20th January 2025 = 91.6%

Wk Beg 27th Jan 2025 = 93.79%

Wk Beg 3rd Feb 2025 = 94.78%

Wk Beg 10th Feb 2025 = 94.28%

**Our school target is 97%**

**Our attendance for the week is**

**94.28%**

**Our attendance for the year to date is**

**93.96%**

### Attendance Groups

**Green 97 - 100%**

Best chance of academic success

**Yellow - 96 - 96.9%**

Risk of underachievement

**Amber - 94 - 95.9%**

Serious risk of underachievement

**Pink - 90 - 93.9%**

Severe risk of underachievement

**Red - 0 - 89.9%**

Extreme risk - persistent absentee

**Attend today, achieve tomorrow... everyday counts!**

# This week's awards



In today's assembly, we celebrated...

## Writing Superstars

Puffins - Austin P  
 Peacocks - Arthur L  
 Mallards - Aurora D  
 Moorhens - Reuben N  
 Wrens - Jack H  
 Woodpeckers - Esme S  
 Hawks - Maisie W  
 Herons - Oliver M  
 Swifts - William C  
 Starlings - Harry P  
 Kites - Joseph A  
 Kestrels - Archie S  
 Kingfishers - Alexis C

## Maths Superstars

Puffins - Isla W  
 Peacocks - Janet S  
 Mallards - Jaxon A  
 Moorhens - Ava A  
 Wrens - Tomas W  
 Woodpeckers - Caelan L  
 Hawks - Oliver J  
 Herons - Max I  
 Swifts - Florence C  
 Starlings - George S  
 Kites - Roxy C  
 Kestrels - Livia B-F  
 Kingfishers - Archer S

## Values

Puffins - Tobey D  
 Peacocks - Erin J  
 Mallards - Wynter W  
 Moorhens - Adie M  
 Wrens - Ella B  
 Woodpeckers - Monty W  
 Hawks - Eden-Rose W  
 Herons - Thea B  
 Swifts - Anesu N  
 Starlings - Megan R  
 Kites - Emily J  
 Kestrels - Lilly W  
 Kingfishers - Tyler A

Year 3 - Nyla A & Rudy H  
 Year 4 - Alfie C & Ronnie G  
 Year 5 - Ronan D & Lily D  
 Year 6 - Rosie H, Alfie S & Lola C



## House Points This Week

<b>Ash = 289</b>	<b>Birch = 283</b>	<b>Elm = 239</b>
<b>Oak = 267</b>	<b>Sycamore = 287</b>	<b>Willow = 250</b>



## House Cup Leaderboard

<b>Ash = 1</b>	<b>Birch = 1</b>	<b>Elm = 1</b>
<b>Oak = 1</b>	<b>Sycamore = 1</b>	<b>Willow = 1</b>



**Year 1:**  
**Puffins** - Rocco M C  
**Peacocks** - Layla B-S

**Year 2:**  
**Mallards** - Tulula-Belle P  
**Moorhens** - Teddy F

## Potton Proud Award

**Year 3:**  
**Wrens** - Macie T  
**Woodpeckers** - Heidi C

**Year 4:**  
**Hawks** - Charlotte D  
**Herons** - Rory W

**Year 5:**  
**Swifts** - Cassie D  
**Starlings** - Hal M

**Year 6:**  
**Kites** - Evie S  
**Kestrels** - Jack G  
**Kingfishers** - Orlah I



# Class Catch Up/Sneaky Peek



## Reception

Robins and Ravens have had an amazing half term and have adapted well to the changes we have made to our classroom, both inside and out. The children have loved exploring each area of the learning environment and have taken ownership of their learning. Our outside creation station has proved very popular!

The children have been enthused by learning about a wide range of celebrations and this has been reflected in their play with them making, designing or role playing all the things we have learnt. Another new addition this term has been our weekly science lesson, the children have loved participating in lots of experiments to help them learn about the weather.

After half term we will be observing nature more in our topic "In the Garden" where we will be getting up close and investigating plants and mini beasts.

Have a lovely half term!

The Reception Team

## Year 1

### **Catch Up**

The first half of Spring term has been super busy in year 1. We have had a fantastic time learning the story of Pinocchio and retelling it in our own sentences. In DT, we continued the puppet theme and have designed and made our own puppets. We explored different ways to join materials to create our amazing puppets. The puppet theme didn't end there as we had a visit from Andy who runs Widdershins theatre. He showed us a selection of the puppets he has made and gave us an insight into the stories he tells using them. In maths, we have further developed our understanding of place value and addition and subtraction within 20.

### **Sneak Peek**

The next half of Spring term is going to be equally exciting. We will be celebrating book week with a return visit from Widdershins theatre. In English we will be looking at the fiction text *The Train Ride* and the non-fiction text *Seasons*. The season theme will run through our geography and science learning as well. In maths we are moving on to explore numbers up to 50. We will join in with a live science lesson about reptiles as part of science week. If that was not exciting enough we will be welcoming some eggs and waiting eagerly for them to hatch.

# Class Catch Up/Sneaky Peek



## Year 2

### **Catch Up**

This half term we have enjoyed creating many different types of maps using a variety of materials. We especially enjoyed making our own map on a polystyrene tile and printing them using colourful paint. During our topic on Animals including humans in Science, we have enjoyed learning all about what keeps the human body healthy. We have explored a healthy diet, the importance of exercise and investigated hygiene by completing a fun experiment using pepper and washing up liquid to show the importance of washing our hands properly with soap. Computing has also been a favourite this term, where we have practiced digital photography. We have thought about what makes a good picture and explored using different light and effects.

### **Sneaky Peek**

We are looking forward to welcoming the children back after the half term break. We have an exciting Spring term 2 coming up where we will be starting Design and Technology again and we will be making our own mechanical monsters! After having enjoyed Geography this term we are looking forward to completing a new History topic, where we will be learning about the famous nurse Florence Nightingale. We will also be moving into measurement in Maths where we will be measuring height, weight and temperature. We hope the children enjoy a well deserved break and look seeing then again soon.

# Class Catch Up/Sneaky Peek



## Year 3

### **Catch Up**

We've had a very busy half term! We have progressed with our maths learning and covered some tricky concepts. Our topic of multiplication and division continued, learning how to multiply two digit by one digit with and without exchanges. In division we learnt how to divide with flexible partitioning and understood what remainders are. We then moved onto length and perimeter, spending lots of time understanding mm, cm and m, how to convert measurements, making equivalent lengths. Then, we calculating perimeter, adding and subtracting lengths all whilst applying our measuring skills. In English, we have based our learning on two key texts - The Secret of Black Rock and The Journey of Iliona: A Young Slave. The children have written some fantastic sentences including adjectives, speech, similes, fronted adverbials and synonyms. Our topic this half term was fantastic learning about the Romans, why they were so successful, how the Roman Empire was created, the lasting impact on Britain and we had a fantastic debate about whether the children would welcome or fight the Romans when they first invaded England. The children have a wealth of knowledge about the Romans. In Science, we developed our scientific skills with a range of experiments, these included making a solar oven, testing different liquids to clean coins and heart rate investigations. During art, we focussed on drawing - using shapes to help form an outline, observing natural materials, then drawing. We added texture, shading and special details with fine line pens. We have covered so much this half term, a well deserved break is needed! Well done year 3!

### **Sneaky Peek**

Our topic for next half term is Awesome Antarctica. During the next half term, in English we will look at poetry, focusing on a poem called I asked the little boy who couldn't see. We will then move onto a narrative called The Last Bear, where the children will use a wide range of features. In Maths, we will build on their knowledge from Year 2 about fractions and mass and capacity. They will understand denominators and numerators.

In Science, we will learn about animals and identify that there are animals that need certain types and amounts of nutrients to survive. During our Geography lessons, we will look at Antarctica, which we will dive deeper into the climate, where it is, who lives there and who Shackleton was. Throughout our Design and Technology lessons, we will look at different foods and where they come from, will practice peeling and cutting up vegetables. They will even be able to make their own seasonal tart.

We will also be practicing our songs for the Year 3 and 4 performance of Cinderella and Rockerfella.

# Class Catch Up/Sneaky Peek



## Year 4

### **Catch up**

This half term we have been on a journey down a river. We have learned the names of parts of a river course and have learnt the water cycle which we have also written about in our English as part of a 'factual tour'. A highlight for the children was being able to build parts of a river course and they enjoyed their river themed 'Learn Together' afternoon.

In Science the children learnt about living things in their habitats and sorting them into their species. They also enjoyed designing their own animal which was adapted to a specific habitat. The children did very well in Maths with their unit on multiplication and division which included a lot of new learning. We have started our new unit on Perimeter which we will continue after half term.

In Computing children enjoyed programming in Turtle Academy, they learnt lots of new commands to instruct the Turtle to draw different shapes. PE has included doing some James Bond themed dance which they got very involved in and did some super dance routines. They been doing Tag Rugby with Coach Jack from Cambridge United - we look forward to having him back again next half term!

It has been a busy half term!

### **Sneaky Peek**

Next half term our topic will be 'Saxon Settlers'.

Our History will be focused on the question of 'How hard was it to invade and settle in Britain?', this will be involving looking at the lives of the Anglo-Saxons.

Science will focus on 'Electricity' and DT will be 'Structures'. We will be continuing our learning in Maths on Perimeter, Fractions and Decimals.

We are also looking forward to starting our production rehearsals - watch this space for our budding actors/actresses and singers!

Next half term also includes our residential trip to Grafham and those not attending will have a lovely time doing some project work!

Look out for our Newsletter after half term for more details!



# Class Catch Up/Sneaky Peek



## Year 5

### Catch up

This half term, year 5 have had fun looking at deserts and desert habitats. We needed to answer the question; 'would you like to live in the desert? The children sat on the fence with this one with a 50 /50 vote. We also had a 50/50 vote when we looked at the book; 'Zoo' by Anthony Browne in English. Here the children were asked if they thought zoos were a good idea. There were some very good reasons put forward suggesting good reasons for a zoo and equal reasons against zoo's. We also looked at Poetry and wrote a poem about 'The most Dangerous Animal'. In art the children have been very creative as we put ourselves into the shoes of an architect and designed our own homes from 3 different viewpoints. The artist study was the life and works of Friedensreich Hundertwasser. We sketched and painted our work of art influenced by his shapes and use of colour. If you are able to look at your child's SeeSaw account, you will notice that in computing we have made our own Stop Motion Videos. The children all became very industrious with their creations. Our final science lesson was about a spillage in a supermarket. The children needed to put their knowledge to good use as they needed to separate out all the mixed up materials. They used magnets to spate out the paper clips, sieves to separate the large materials from the fine grain materials and filter paper to separate water from the solid. We managed to fit in some much this half term including multiplication, division, fractions and decimals.

### Sneaky Peak

After the half term holiday, year 5 will be looking at our new topic of Ancient Greek Chronicles. We will be looking at the question, 'What did the Greeks ever do for us?'.The Greek theme will continue in English and we will be looking at Detailed Timeline on Ancient Greece by Ben Hubbard. The main focus in English will be the wonderful story about a mysterious Emporium, where the children will use their imagination to explore the wonders of the mystery shop appearing overnight. We will be reading the book called, The Nowhere Emporium by Ross Mackenzie over the coming weeks. In maths we will be continuing to look at decimals before moving onto geometry. In science we will be exploring the changes of materials and the children will have the opportunity to experiment during this topic. In Design and Technology, we will be looking at creating exciting recipes.

# Class Catch Up/Sneaky Peek



## Year 6

It's been a fantastic half term in Year 6. Throughout our topic 'A Spark of Energy', we have explored the work of Nikola Tesla in English and built upon our knowledge of electricity in Science including working scientifically to explore the impact of voltage on components within a circuit. Whilst in Geography, the children demonstrated an excellent understanding of renewable and non-renewable energy sources and their impact on society. It was fantastic to see the creativity during our design and technology unit of work when designing and creating their own mini playground structures. The children really enjoyed this project. In PSHE, our focus has been 'Dreams and Goals' and the children were able to share ways in which they can achieve these goals. In maths, Year 6 have been learning all about fractions, decimals and percentages including converting between them and have shown fantastic accuracy when calculating with decimals and finding percentages of amounts. Well done Year 6 for all your hard work this half term!

### **Sneaky Peek**

Next half term, our topic is 'Blackout Blitz' where we will be learning all about WW2. In History, we will explore the question 'What was the impact of WW2 on British people?'. Throughout these lessons, we will be exploring the causes of WW2, learning about the Battle of Britain, the Blitz and evacuation. Whilst in music, we will be learning some WW2 songs. In English, we will begin by completing a non-fiction unit of work by writing a recount based upon the book 'Letters from the Lighthouse' by Emma Carroll. Later on, we will be writing a narrative based on Rose Blanche. In maths, we will begin our unit of work on algebra before moving onto learning how to calculate the area, perimeter and volume using formula.

# In Other News...

## EYFS Resources

As we continue to develop the different learning zones in our EYFS area, we are on the look out for:

- toy cars and other vehicles
- small animals
- wooden blocks (similar to those you get in a push along trolley)
- cushions for the reading area
- phones - with buttons to press
- role play items - toy kettle, highchair, dolls bed
- puppets
- puzzles suitable for reception aged children
- board games e.g. Connect 4, Pop Up Pirate, Snakes and Ladders, Frustration

Please bring any donations to the Roots School Office.



Last Friday we took part in NSPCC Number day and the children were invited to come into school wearing non-school uniform. We raised £253.43 in donations, thank you for your support of this event.



## MOTHER'S DAY GIFT SHOP

A pop-up gift shop will be open during the week of 24th March 2025 for children to visit during school time to buy a gift for their loved one.

Gifts will be wrapped and ready to give!

Each gift will be £2.50. You can pay online and your child's name and number of gifts purchased will be added to a register.

To pay for a gift please visit:

<https://potton-lower-school.sumupstore.com/product/mother-s-day-gift-shop-2025>

Please ensure that you enter your child/children's names not your own name when making payment.

Deadline for purchases will be 18th March 2025.



Potton Town Council's "Design a Christmas Light" competition is back this year. This is an opportunity for Potton children to design a Christmas light which will be installed ready for the 2025 season.

### The rules are:

1. You can enter a maximum of one design.
2. The design must be on A4 paper.
3. The competition closes on 31st March.
4. Children of all ages can enter, if they live in or attend a school in Potton.
5. Entries to be submitted to the town council office at the Community Centre, Brook End, or [pottoncounciladmin@btconnect.com](mailto:pottoncounciladmin@btconnect.com).



REGIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
PROGRAMME

# STRATTON HOLIDAY CAMP

## FEBRUARY HALF-TERM

Football & Multi-Sports Camps provide the perfect mix of football, sports and activities throughout the camp. Our Camps are perfect for any child looking to have fun throughout the holidays while improving their skills.



Stratton Upper School



Monday 17th – Tuesday 18th  
February



Ages 5-12

For more information contact:  
[rdpcommunity@canaries.co.uk](mailto:rdpcommunity@canaries.co.uk)