

POTTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter 17th April 2026



From the Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers,

It was lovely to welcome the children back this week after the Easter Break. I hope you all had an enjoyable and restful time. When walking around the school this week it has been great to see the children ready and engaged in their learning.

As the weather has improved and our school field is more available we have introduced some new and different lunchtime sporting activities. Each day there a different sport for the children to play. Sports include cricket, tennis, rounders, basketball/netball and football. It has been lovely to be out at lunchtime seeing the children enjoying the different sports.

A huge thank you to Ri Ri's cafe who have recently been hosting an Easter themed raffle and have kindly donated a whopping £350 to the school which will be used to fund new resources for our Hummingbirds.

Are you able to lend a hand?

We are looking to develop an outside reading zone as part of our OPAL Play and need some help in transforming the space. This includes repairing the wooden gazebo, painting the fence and summerhouse and some gardening. Please let the school office know if you able to spare an hour or two, this can be during school time. Thank you!

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Kindest regards
Miss J Watts
Headteacher

Diary Dates



Friday 17th April - Final Payment Date Year 6 Caythorpe Trip

Tuesday 21st April - 3:30 - 5:20pm - Robin Class Parents Evening

Thursday 23rd April - 3:30 - 5:20pm - Robin Class Parents Evening

Tuesday 28th April - 9:30am - Year 3 & 4 Play Performance to parents

Wednesday 29th April - 3:20pm School Council Cake Sale - Year 4 to bring in cake donations.

Thursday 30th April - 2:00pm - Year 3 & 4 Play Performance to parents.

Friday 1st May - Year 2 Trip Ferry Meadows

Week Commencing 11th May - Year 6 SATS

Wednesday 13th May - Year 2 Learn Together Afternoon - More Info to follow

Wednesday 13th May - School Council Cake Sale - Year 1 to bring in donations

Monday 18th May - EYFS Ark Farm in school

Wednesday 20th May - Sports Day

Letters Home

EYFS - Robins
Parents Evening

Year 3
History Off The Page

Year 3 & 4
Play Tickets

Year 6 -
Caythorpe Final Payment Date

Save The Date PTFA Summer Fayre

Saturday 11th July
12:00 - 4:00pm

This year the PTFA will be hosting the Potton Primary PTFA Summer Fayre. This event is being held to help raise funds to install a Learning Pod for our EYFS classes.

The PTFA are in need of volunteers on the day if you are able volunteer to help for some or all of the event either setting/packing up, running a stall etc. your help would be much appreciated. If you can help please contact the PTFA on ptfa@pottonprimary.co.uk

Attendance Data

You MUST inform us if your child is not going to attend school.

If we hear 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 for Studybugs to inform the school of any a

Attendance This week

EYFS = 92.0%

Year 1 = 95.3%

Year 2 = 94.0%

Year 3 = 92.1%

Year 4 = 94.1%

Year 5 = 93.0%

Year 6 = 95.3%

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

Summer Term 1 - Attendance Data

Wk Beg 13th April - 93.7%

Our attendance for this week is :

93.7%

Our attendance for the year to date is:

93.68%

Awards this Week

In today's assembly, we celebrated...

Class Superstars

Peacocks: Lilly-Rose J
Puffins: Santi S
Mallards: Laura R
Moorhens: Caiden D
Wrens: Alfie H
Woodpeckers: Martha L
Hawks: Kaylie R-J
Hérons: Kaden C
Swifts: Beau K-S
Starlings: Archie H
Kites: Mia-Bella MS
Kingfishers: Aina R

Values Superstars

Peacocks: Lucas S
Puffins: Ella-Rose G
Mallards: Charlie S
Moorhens: Grace G
Wrens: Coen C
Woodpeckers: Leo C
Hawks: Ella B
Hérons: Macie T
Swifts: Layla N
Starlings: Lia C
Kites: Ava M
Kingfishers: David G

Numbots Star Of The Week

Puffins: Etta M-M
Peacocks: James W
Mallards: Dominik T
Moorhens: Rosie B

Times Tables Rockstars Star Of The Week

Wrens: Ryder S
Woodpeckers: Hayley O'L
Hawks: Ariah B
Swifts: Charlotte D
Starlings: Theo L-H
Kites: Hal M
Kingfishers: Bonnie G

Housepoints This Week

Ash: 163	Birch: 192	Elm: 171
Oak: 160	Sycamore: 108	Willow: 148

Ash:	Birch: 1	Elm:
Oak:	Sycamore:	Willow:

House Cup Winners This Week are.....



Birch



Safeguarding Information

What should you do if you have a concern?

If you have a worry or concern about the welfare or safety of a child in our school what should you do?

Please contact our safeguarding team via safeguarding@pottonprimary.co.uk

Our Safeguarding Team



Miss Jordana Watts
Designated Safeguarding Lead



Mr Stephen Boyd
Deputy Head &
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Hazel Desborough
Family Support Worker &
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Christine Ives
SendCo & Safeguarding Office

Mrs S Gurney - Designated Safeguarding Governor

At The National College, our [WakeUpWednesday](https://www.wakeupwednesday.com) guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formally delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](https://www.nationalcollege.com).

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP

WhatsApp is a free messaging app owned by Meta, allowing users to send text and voice messages, share multimedia, make video calls, and chat in groups. With end-to-end encryption, only the sender and receiver can view messages. This may offer privacy, but it also comes with risks that parents and educators need to be aware of.

AGE RESTRICTION 13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- GROUP CHAT PRESSURES**
Group chats enable multiple users to message in the same space, but this can also make it easier for young people to feel excluded or overwhelmed. Negative comments can escalate quickly, and young people may feel pressure to respond or stay engaged when the conversation is uncomfortable or upsetting.
- SCAMS TARGETING YOUNG USERS**
Scammers are increasingly using WhatsApp to trick users into sharing personal information. Common scams include translators posing as family members in an emergency or tricking users into revealing security codes. These can lead to identity theft or access to private conversations.
- DISAPPEARING AND HIDDEN MESSAGES**
WhatsApp offers features like disappearing messages and 'Chat Lock', which can give users a false sense of security. While intended to protect privacy, they can be used by young users to hide inappropriate conversations or content, making it harder for adults to spot potential issues.
- EXPOSURE THROUGH CHANNELS**
'Channels' are an optional feature that allows users to follow updates from public figures or organisations. However, there is no way to block this feature or filter its content by age. Young users may encounter adult or distressing content, including misinformation and harmful messages.
- UNWANTED CONTACT AND LOCATION SHARING**
WhatsApp users can share their live location, and if not managed carefully, this can allow others – even those in mutual groups – to track someone's whereabouts. Also, without the right privacy settings, young users may be contacted by strangers.
- COMMERCIAL AND AI CONTENT**
WhatsApp now includes ads in the 'Updates' feed and has introduced an AI assistant – Meta AI – across the app, which cannot be removed. These additions raise concerns about targeting, privacy, AI use, and the type of content children and young people might interact with.

Advice for Parents & Educators

- REVIEW PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER**
Help young users check who can see their profile photo, status, and location. Activate the 'Silence Unknown Callers' setting and set group chat invitations to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...' for added safety.
- TEACH HOW TO SPOT SCAMS**
Encourage caution around unusual and unexpected messages, especially if they involve money or codes. Help young users understand the signs of scams and what to do if they receive a suspicious message. Enable two-step verification to add an extra layer of protection.
- BE OPEN ABOUT HIDDEN CHATS**
Discuss why children and young people might use features like disappearing messages or 'Chat Lock'. Encourage them to show if something feels them uncomfortable, even if the messages are gone. Let them know that privacy should not mean secrecy.
- TALK ABOUT ADVERTISING AND AI**
Explain that WhatsApp now includes ads and AI tools. Discuss the difference between genuine and sponsored content, and the potential for AI to share inaccurate or age-inappropriate responses. Encourage young users to think critically before trusting or interacting with these features.

Meet Our Expert
Dr Claire Buchanan is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and texting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

#WakeUpWednesday **The National College**

See full reference list on our website

@wake_up_weds | www.thenationalcollege | @wake.up.wednesday | @wake.up.weds

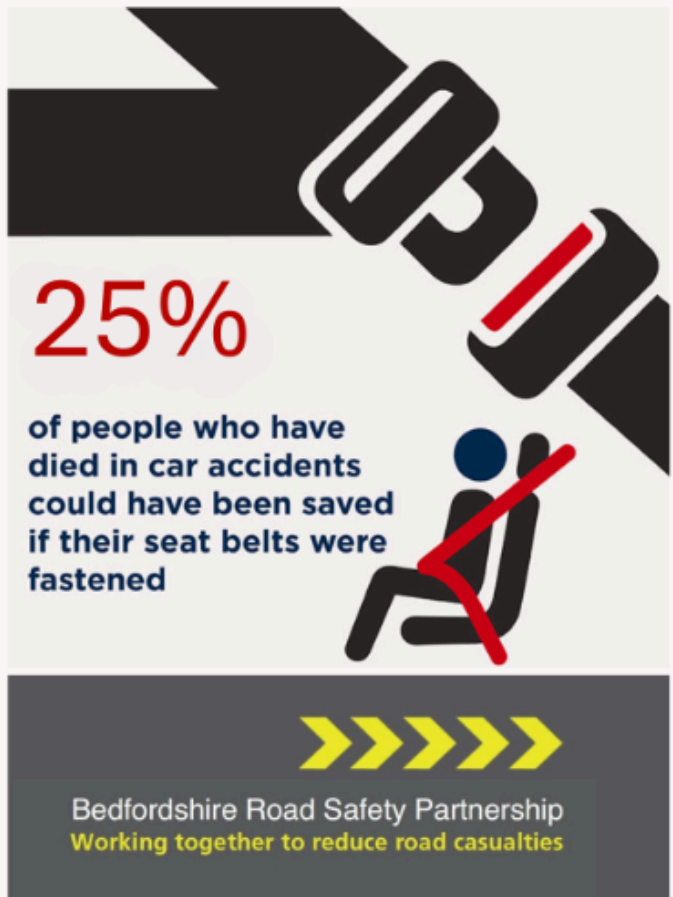
Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 18.03.2024

Information from CBC Road Safety Team


BUCKLE UP BUTTERCUP!

- Wearing a seat belt reduces the risk of death by 50%
- 4 unbelted young people were killed/seriously injured every week in 2022
- 41% of people who dies in a vehicle collision at night could have been saved if their seat belts were fastened
- 40% of back seat passengers killed in collisions were not wearing a seat belt
- **Children under 12 years olds MUST be in a car seat or booster seat unless they are over 135cms tall**
- If a car travelling a 30mph stops suddenly, everyone and everything in the vehicle will continue to move at 30mph until something stops them. At a force of 2-3 tonne! **Make sure its the seat belt that stops you!!!**

The driver is responsible for all passengers under 14 year old and can receive an on the spot fine of at least £100. Passengers over 14 years old are responsible for themselves and can receive the same fine.



School Uniform Supplier

mapac  Your Official School Uniform Supplier

WELCOME TO MAPAC

We are delighted to be working with your school who have entrusted us with providing your children's school uniform.

1. HOW TO REGISTER & ORDER

- CLICK THE UNIFORM LINK FROM YOUR SCHOOLS WEBSITE...or...
- Visit www.mapac.com/education/parents or search online for 'Mapac find your school'.
- Use the 'LOGIN/REGISTER' tab at the top of the page and fill in your details (even if you don't need to order straight away, it means you'll start receiving Mapac updates and offers!)
- Once on your dedicated school page, simply add everything you need to your basket, register (if you haven't already) and then check out.

2. ORDERING GUIDE

Under normal circumstances we aim for all orders to be sent out within 10-15 working days. During our busier periods (especially over the summer) or if anything unexpected occurs, it can take longer, so please allow us some extra time to get your order to you.

Delivery to your home / work all year round!

or

FREE delivery to your school

(This service will not operate during any school holiday this includes the 6 week summer holiday – order cut off date is 26th June for last delivery in to school before the end of term. Our aim will be to resume in September, you will be informed when this happens.)

IMPORTANT SUMMER ORDERING INFORMATION

To receive your order before the start of term please order by 31st July.

We do everything we can to send out all items as soon as possible but a high volume of orders or unforeseen circumstances may occasionally lead to delays.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to call or email us. We are happy to help!

T: 01923 255525 | **E:** parentcustomerservices@mapac.net

Other Information



I am delighted to be able to invite your child along to the Talent Dance & Gymnastics Academy Clubs at Potton Primary School. In the Summer Term we are very lucky to be able to offer your child the exciting opportunity to attend our club!

Club	Cost	Times & Collection	Day & Dates	Venue & Coach
Street Dance Lunch Club KS2	12 Weeks £42.00	12.30-1.00	Thursdays 16 th April to the 9 th July Watching Week 9 th July	Gym Miss Charlotte
Dance Club Years 1-6	12 Weeks £66.00	15.20- 16.20 Collection from the Red Side Doors	Thursdays 16 th April to the 9 th July Watching Week 9 th July	Gym Miss Charlotte
Gymnastics Club Years 1-6	12 Weeks £66.00	16.25-17.25 Collection from the Red Side Doors	Thursdays 16 th April to the 9 th July	Gym Miss Charlotte

HOW TO APPLY

Please go to www.talentedanceacademy.co.uk and follow the "Book Now" instructions online.

Places are limited so it is essential you book and pay online!

Children will need to wear trainers for dance and their PE kit or appropriate Dance/Gym clothing.

There are some pupil premium funded spaces available for our clubs!

Please get in contact with us for more information and assistance before you book. A code will then be issued to you to input into the website.

If you would like more information about our clubs, or are having difficulty with signing up online, please email talentedanceacademy@hotmail.co.uk and we will be more than happy to answer any questions and assist you. You can go to our website www.talentedanceacademy.co.uk or also find us on Facebook "Talent Dance Academy".

Here you will find lots of useful information and also our up-and-coming camps, and events.

Many thanks and we are very excited to welcome your child to our clubs!



Charlotte Cooney
Head Coach



Other Information

Are you finding
parenting a bit of a
Puzzle?

Free 10 week supportive course for parents
and carers of 2 - 11 year-olds



Come and Join us for our Parent Puzzle course delivered by Sandy and Biggleswade Children's Centre staff.

A 10 week course on Wednesdays starting 22nd April 2026 at Potton Primary School 1.00pm – 3.00pm. Creche available.

Parent Puzzle is a free course for parents and carers of 2 – 11 year olds covering many topics including :

Praise, Criticism, Kindness, Time to Calm Down, Discipline, Rewards and Penalties, Feelings, Stress in Children, Keeping Safe in a Digital World and Problem solving and negotiating and lots more.

To book your place, please speak to Mrs Ives or call the Children's Centre on 0300 300 8114 or email

sandy.childrenscentre@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Come along and put the fun back into family life!

Other Information

🌸 PLANT SALE 🌸

Brought to you by The Potton Show

📍 Potton Market Square, SG19 2NP

📅 Saturday 9th May

🕒 8.30am – 1.00pm

Come and stock up on your favourite plants! 🌺 🌿

Children - 🌱 Come and build a Lego plant or flower to be photographed and entered into the Potton Show 🏆 50p entry



Other Information



Football Development Centre
Sandy Sports Centre – SG19 1BL
by 4 Corner Coaching



Individual skills



UEFA coaches



Team play

High Quality Football Coaching by very experienced coaches.

Developing - **Technical skills** – **Physical skills** – **Psychological skills** – **Social skills**

Start Back Date - Friday 24th April 2026

£4.50 per session – 12 week block of Development

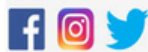


Times/ages: 5-6pm = ages 5 - 9 & 6-7pm = ages 10 - 16 & Girls Only = ages 9-15

**UEFA B coaches – Youth Award Level 3 - Enhanced DBS - Safeguarding
BFAS (Basic First Aid for Sport)**

Contact: Natasha – 07957980492 – natasha@4cornercoaching.co.uk

www.4cornercoaching.co.uk



Other Information



- ✓ Independent theatre school with professional staff with industry credits.
- ✓ Lots of performing opportunities, including full-scale musicals and performances on West End stages.

WHAT PEOPLE SAY!

"The confidence she has gained is incredible." - *Parent*

"Everyone is really friendly and always helps each other." - *Student*

"Vision kickstarted my love for musical theatre and has led to my great achievements." - *Student*

SINGING | DANCE | ACTING | MUSICAL THEATRE
ON EVERY FRIDAY



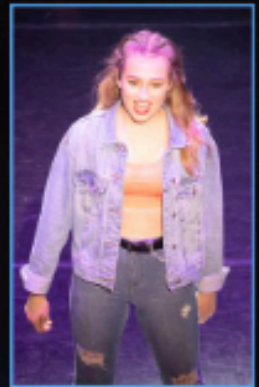
JUNIORS

🕒 16:00 - 17:00



VISION

🕒 16:30 - 19:30



SENIORS

🕒 17:00 - 20:00

ALL LESSONS ARE AT **IGNITE STUDIOS**

TO BOOK A FREE TRIAL
AND FOR MORE INFORMATION

CONTACT US

✉ visiontheatrearts@hotmail.com

📘 @Visiontheatrearts

☎ 07814571460



Other Information

THEATRE DANCE
TRAIN ACT
SING

OUTSTANDING PERFORMING ARTS CLASSES FOR 4 - 18 YEAR OLDS

Find us at Biggleswade Academy, Mead End,
Biggleswade, Bedfordshire, SG18 8JU

Classes run on **Thursdays**

Junior Company: 4.15 - 5.45pm

Main Company: 4.30 - 7pm

To register for a taster session or for further info
please visit www.theatretrein.co.uk/biggleswade

Contact us on 07757495906

or biggleswade@theatretrein.co.uk

BELIEVE **ACHIEVE** **EXCEED**
in yourself your dreams expectations

