

Potton Primary School Newsletter



Friday 16th October 2026

From Miss Watts

Dear Parents/Carers,

On Tuesday this week our Year 3 & 4 children were all looking cozy in the PJ's as they took part in a Sleep Hygiene Workshop run by the Biggleswade and Sandy Mental Health Support Team. I hope the children enjoyed their day.

Also on Tuesday afternoon we welcomed parents/carers of our Year 6 children into school to take part in their Learn Together Afternoon. I hope that those of you that were able to attend enjoyed yourself. There are some lovely pictures on the following page.

As we head into the last week of this half term there are a few things to be aware of for next week...

On Monday at 8pm it is the PTFA AGM in the Branches Hall. Everyone is welcome.

On Tuesday and Wednesday it is Parents Evening. Please ensure that you have booked a slot with your child's teacher if you wish to attend.

Just to highlight there has been a slight change in day for the Individual and Sibling photos. These will be on Wednesday 21st October 2026.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Kindest Regards
Miss Watts
Headteacher

Awards Board



Class Superstars



Peacocks: Evie
Mallards: Mahlia
Wrens: Isla
Hawks: Holly
Swifts: Emily
Kingfisher: Lilly

Puffins: Ethan
Moorhens: Harry
Woodpeckers: Teddy
Herons: Dexter
Starlings: Ethan
Kites: Brooke



Tidy Toucan Award

Awarded to the class with the tidiest class:

**Wrens
Hawks**



Neat Nightingale Award

Awarded to the class with the neatest cloakroom.

**Puffins
Starlings**



Smart Swallow

Awarded to the class with the smartest line.

**Peacocks
Kingfishers**

Whole School Attendance

This Week: 94.1%

To date: 93.7%

Diary Dates

Upcoming Dates for the diary....

PTFA AGM - Monday 19th October - 8:00pm - The Branches Hall

Parents Evening - Tuesday 20th October - 3:30pm-6:00pm
Wednesday 21st October - 3:30pm-6:00pm

Individual and Sibling Photographs - Wednesday 21st October

SAVE THE DATE...

Christmas Fayre - Wednesday 25th November - 3:30pm

Learn Together Afternoons

Sessions run 1:30pm to 3pm

Year 5 = Wednesday 18th November

Year 4 = Tuesday 19th January

Year 3 = Tuesday 16th March

Year 2 = Wednesday 12th May

Year 1 = Monday 21st June

EYFS = Monday 5th July

Sports Day

Years 1-6 Wednesday 19th May

EYFS Sports Day - Monday 5th July

Performances

EYFS Carol Concert - Monday 7th December at 9:30am & 2:00pm

Year 1 and 2 Carol Concert - Monday 14th December at 2:30pm & Tuesday 15th December at 2.30pm

Year 3 and 4 Performance - Tuesday 8th December at 1.30pm & Wednesday 9th December at 9.30am

Year 5 and 6 Performance - Monday 12th July at 1:30pm & Tuesday 13th July at 9.30am

Year 6 Learn Together Afternoon

It was wonderful to welcome so many parents and grandparents into school for our Parent and Pupil Learning Afternoon. Working together, families designed and created these fantastic model playgrounds showcasing a wealth of creativity, imagination and problem-solving skills.

We were delighted to see such strong support from our school community and were particularly impressed by the teamwork on display throughout the afternoon. Children and adults collaborated brilliantly, sharing ideas, overcoming challenges and taking pride in their finished creations. Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make the event such a success.

Mr Griffiths & Mrs Hornby



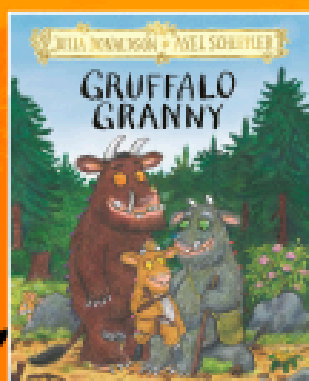
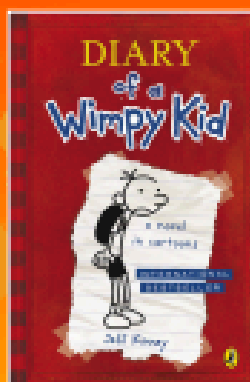
School Event Information

SCHOLASTIC TRAVELLING BOOKS

Every book
you buy earns
FREE
BOOKS
for our school!

COME TO OUR BOOK FAIR

And find your next favourite read!



3 for
£10.00



GO
ALL
IN.

DATE:
Monday 9th November and
Tuesday 10th November 2026

TIME:
3:30 - 4

LOCATION:
Roots Hall

Scan to pay
securely online!



Safeguarding

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday 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. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators ENCOURAGING OPEN CONVERSATIONS AT HOME

With tricky topics and occasional clashes of opinion, it can be challenging to maintain an environment where children feel able to talk candidly and honestly. However, encouraging such conversations helps to develop trust – making it easier to unpack even sensitive subjects as children get older. Here are our top tips for promoting open conversations at home.

1 CREATE A SAFE SPACE

Criticism, blaming or shaming can all prevent children from feeling emotionally safe – while showing affection, positive attention and an interest in what a child has to say builds their sense of security. These formative years are when children's opinions and values begin to take shape, so it's important to provide a non-judgmental environment in which to discuss them – especially if their opinions differ from your own.

2 CONSIDER OTHER OUTLETS

Some children may find it easier to talk while they're participating in another activity such as drawing, writing, walking or sport. If it's possible, taking part in these activities together presents you with an opportunity to communicate while doing something side by side. A child may feel less pressure that way and can be more inclined to open up of their own accord.

3 NORMALISE CHATS ABOUT FEELINGS

Incorporate mental health and emotional wellbeing into everyday conversations, using age-appropriate language and examples to help children understand their emotions. Ask questions like "How are you feeling today?", "What was the best and worst part of your day?", "If you could start today again, what would you do differently?" and "Is there anything you want to talk about?"

4 LISTEN ACTIVELY

When children express themselves, make it obvious that you're listening closely and giving them your full attention. Maintain eye contact and validate their feelings without immediately trying to solve the problem. It's not helpful to dismiss their issues as childish or "teenage angst" – or to assume that they'll simply "get over" whatever they're feeling. Children don't have your life experience; their resilience is still developing as they learn to push through difficulties and handle problems.

5 ASK OPEN QUESTIONS

Encourage children to share their thoughts by asking open questions about their feelings and experiences. Closed questions (such as "Did you enjoy school today?") are more likely to elicit a simple "yes" or "no" response. Instead, you could ask things like "Who did you spend time with at break?" or "Who did you sit with at lunchtime?"

6 RESPECT THEIR BOUNDARIES

If a child isn't ready to talk to about something yet, respect their boundaries: this reinforces that their feelings are important and worthy of consideration. Ideally, you're aiming to let them know you care without smothering them, so just make it clear that you're there for them whenever they're ready to chat. Gentle, regular check-ins can sometimes be the best form of progress.

7 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Model open, honest and healthy communication in front of children and young people. Try to demonstrate kindness when talking about others and yourself, because if children hear adults being overly harsh, critical or judgmental, or see them having unrealistic expectations of themselves, it makes them more likely to adopt and repeat this behaviour themselves as they grow.

8 HAVE REGULAR CHECK-INS

Check in with children periodically to discuss how they're feeling and what's going on in their lives. This could be a weekly or monthly conversation, where the child has an opportunity to share whatever's on their mind. For parents and carers, getting away from the house and other distractions might be productive here: you could consider regular trips to a coffee shop or a café, or just a weekly walk.

9 PROVIDE RESOURCES

It's often beneficial to let children know about other support that's available to them if they're struggling to talk to you specifically. Encourage them to talk to school counsellors, trusted adults or even a therapist, if necessary – while normalising this route and dispelling the harmful stigma around asking for help. Older children could engage with resources such as *Kooth* or *YoungMinds*.

10 CELEBRATE EMOTIONAL EXPRESSION

It's beneficial to praise children for expressing their feelings honestly – emphasising how important it is to talk about their emotions and how proud you are of them for doing so. This can be especially pivotal for boys, who often experience more of a stigma around talking frankly about their feelings and their mental health – a barrier that can be overcome, with enough love and support.

Meet Our Expert

With 30 years' experience as a teacher, trainer, consultant and interim executive board member, Anna Salaman has a superb understanding of what works in pedagogy, school improvement and leadership. She has also advised the Department for Education on their mental health green paper.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

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FEEDBACK
from other SNAP
PCF SEND
Roadshows

"It was incredible to have those important conversations with services in one room."

"We achieved more in that hour than months, if not years of phone calls, referrals and emails."

About Us

Our Roadshows bring together services that support children/young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and their families, all in one place.

When and Where?

Wednesday 21st October 2026
Weatherley Centre Biggleswade,
SG18 8JH
10:00am-12:00pm
No need to book, just drop in
www.snappcf.org.uk



Please note: Free parking is available at The Weatherley Centre but you will need to log your registration at the venue on the day

What is on offer:

- ✓ Find out how to access SEND support and information
- ✓ Find out about local services
- ✓ Find out about education and SEND
- ✓ Chat with SEND professionals



Help us to accurately reflect what life is like navigating SEND in Central Bedfordshire in readiness for an imminent OFSTED and CQC SEND Inspection.

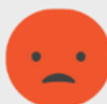
Please complete the Parent & Carer Survey

- ✓ Quick and easy to complete
- ✓ Share your experiences
- ✓ Help improve SEND services
- ✓ Make your voice heard to Ofsted

WE NEED

YOUR

FEEDBACK!



Please give us just 3 minutes of your time, scan the QR code or click on the link below and complete our survey.

THANK YOU!

SNAP PCF – OFSTED Ready Survey

SCAN ME



Inspectors need to hear about:

- Education support
- Health services
- Social care support
- Communication with families
- Outcomes for children and young people with SEND

We cannot do this work without your feedback

CLICK HERE!

Half Term Activity Information

PICK
EXPLORE
PLAY
MAKE
MEMORIES

THE SECRET FARM
WATCH US GROW

A GREAT
DAY OUT FOR
FAMILIES,
SCHOOLS,
NURSERIES
& GROUPS!

PUMPKIN PATCH

2026

YOUR OCTOBER ADVENTURE STARTS HERE!

 **OPENING 3RD OCTOBER**
3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 OCTOBER
9:30AM – 6:00PM

£5
ENTRY
PER PERSON
UNDER 3s FREE

 Pumpkin picking	 Play equipment & ground trampoline	 Loads of photo opportunities
 Straw maze & straw bale climbing	 Arts & crafts	 Food, drinks & treats available
 Children's shows & entertainment	 Friendly monsters tunnel	 Optional extras & rides
 Hunt the golden pumpkin	 Spooky beach & graveyard	 Free parking
 Mini tractors & pedal go-karts	 Activity trail & games	 Toilets on site

 **PUMPKIN SEASON**

 **FRIENDLY MONSTERS**

 **FIREWORKS NIGHT**
FRIDAY 30TH OCTOBER
A SPECTACULAR END TO HALF TERM!

BOOK NOW
www.theseecret.farm

 Moggerhanger, Bedfordshire

 
@theseecretfarm

 PUMPKINS •  PLAY •  FRESH AIR •  HAPPY DAYS 

Half Term Activity Information

IGNITE STUDIOS

DANCE
GAMES
CRAFTS
AND MORE! ♥

YOU
BRING THE
MOVES! ♥

STUDIO 1

HAPPY HALLOWEEN

A FUN
& SAFE
ENVIRONMENT ♥

TREATS
IN OUR
CAFE! ♥

FANCY
DRESS
ENCOURAGED! ♥

ALL
LITTLE
MONSTERS
WELCOME! ♥

SPooky
DECORATIONS!

AMAZING
LIGHTS
& MUSIC!

**HALLOWEEN
DISCO**

AT IGNITE STUDIOS

FRIDAY 30TH OCTOBER

15:00 - 16:30
AGES 2 - 5
(so our littlest friends
don't get squashed!)

17:15 - 18:45
AGES 6+

**£12
PER CHILD**

SIBLINGS WELCOME IF THEY DON'T FIT INTO AN AGE CATEGORY.
DISCO GAMES WILL BE TAILORED TO THE AGE GROUPS.

**DANCING
& PARTY
GAMES**

**CRAFTS &
TATTOOS**

**SQUASH, WATER
& TREATS
INCLUDED**

**A QUIET AREA
TO TAKE A
BREAK**

Siblings get 20% discount.
£4 off if you're also booking our Halloween day.
Please let us know if your child has any allergies.
We do ask that parents stay at this event.

> BOOK NOW <

vision-theatre-arts.pembree.app

SPACES ARE LIMITED!

GET CREATIVE! ♥

A NIGHT
THEY'LL
REMEMBER! ♥

IGNITE STUDIOS | BIGGLESWADE