

# Newsletter

December - 14

## Lower School

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Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to our autumn newsletter, there were certainly no shortage of events to report on in this newsletter as this has been a busy term at both schools. Our fantastic children have also entertained you in a variety of ways over the last few weeks bringing their Christmas cheer to us all. Our Christmas celebrations ended with a Carol Concert on the Reception playground on Wednesday afternoon, thank you to everyone who attended, and we hope you enjoyed it!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank two members of staff who are leaving the Federation this week. Mr Wilkinson is leaving to teach at a primary school in Cambridge, nearer to his home. Mrs Walker leaves us after twelve years of service across the Lower and Middle School. Mrs Walker is taking up a full time teaching position locally at Everton Heath Primary School. I am sure you will join me in wishing them both success in their new roles. We will be welcoming Mr Anthony Lock to the Middle School to teach Humanities.

The schools are well supported by the Governing Body who visit school each term to view the impact of the School Development Plan, and to assess the impact of expenditure such as on the new Climbing Wall at the Lower School which we purchased with a PE funding Grant. We are very grateful for both the Governing Body's support and their challenge!

We still have a few more fun filled days ahead with our Christmas jumpers! We break up on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December and return on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020**.

We hope that your child (ren) enjoyed receiving their gifts from Mrs Claus when she visited the classrooms on Thursday. PLS children received a stationary set and PMS children received a chocolate reindeer. We just wanted to get the children a little something to open from the staff and Governors at the Potton Federation.

And so all that remains is for me to wish you an enjoyable and restful break whatever you may be doing. I know that all of the staff are looking forward to recharging their batteries so that we can start the new term refreshed and revived. We look forward to seeing you in 2020 and we would like to say a big thank you for all the support you have given our schools and your children in 2019.

Have a Merry Christmas!

Kind regards

Cathy Smart

Executive Headteacher

## **A message from Emma Foreman – Attendance Link Governor, The Potton Federation**

### **Attendance**

We are a school that sets ourselves high expectations in all areas and attendance is no exception. Attending school is extremely important for children's social, emotional and educational development and children who miss a lot of time at school can suffer in the long term from significant gaps in their learning.

As we come to the end of our first term I would like to thank all of our parents who have supported the school by ensuring their children attend regularly. Our current attendance figures are 96.2% for the Lower School and 96.8% for the Middle School, punctuality is excellent in both schools. Attendance is important to allow all children to achieve their potential, to develop new skills and build confidence and self-esteem. It also forms positive habits as children progress through the school and beyond.

Nationally, an attendance figure of 95% is considered to be good, however, 95% attendance means one week and four days of learning has been missed so aiming for 100% attendance is very important in order to fully support children's learning.

In both the Lower and Middle schools the number of students who are persistently absent is low. Persistent absence is attendance which is below 90%. This equates to three weeks four days of learning being missed and persistent absence will result in a letter being sent in line with the school's Attendance Policy. Please can you provide evidence of medical appointments and book non-emergency appointments outside of school time where possible.

We appreciate your continued support with attendance and ensuring your children have every chance to learn at school.

### **Attendance Policy**

The Federation's Attendance Policy sets out our systems and procedures for ensuring regular school attendance. The policy can be found on our website <http://pottonlower.co.uk/parents/attendance/>. If you have any queries relating to the Attendance Policy please contact the school offices on: [plsoffice@pottonfedrtaion.co.uk](mailto:plsoffice@pottonfedrtaion.co.uk) and [pmsoffice@pottonfederation.co.uk](mailto:pmsoffice@pottonfederation.co.uk)

I hope you have a lovely Christmas holiday and we look forward to seeing you back in school in the New Year!

## **A message from Charlotte Coppenhall – Acting Deputy Headteacher**

How quickly time has flown since the beginning of the academic year, and what a fantastic autumn term we have had! As always we have managed to pack a huge amount into the last eight weeks, much of which is highlighted in this edition of the newsletter.

This is an amazing time of year for us in school, it is a time when all of our Potton community come together to share the Christmas spirit and joy of Christmas. Pupils from Potton Lower and Potton Middle enjoyed singing at Potton Christmas Lights Switch On, an event we love joining the community for every year. Pupils across the Federation also visited Jake's Court this December where we all had such a wonderful time singing together, eating biscuits and drinking juice. We are already looking forward to visiting next year with some special song requests too.

This term certainly wouldn't have been as memorable as it has been if it wasn't for all of the additional fun events in school. A special thank you to the staff for making this term so special for the children, with Carol Concerts, performances, quizzes, a pantomime and so much more. The children have certainly enjoyed encouraging and watching our staff play such a huge part in being involved in fun and charitable activities this term, and they have told me that they will 'remember these moments forever'. Watching their smiles light up and hearing them cheer with excitement throughout the term means we too will remember these moments fondly.

We have had a wonderfully festive time over the last few weeks. There has been singing, dancing and Christmas preparations right across the school! With so many highlights across the term, it all just reminds me of what wonderful, polite, determined and inspirational children we have in our school. We are so lucky! As the school closes for the Christmas break (and Mr Clarke starts hoovering up the glitter), I would like to wish all of our families a jolly and peaceful Christmas holiday. See you in 2020!

Miss Coppenhall

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## News from the Key Stages

### Foundation – Mrs Harrison-White

WOW!! What a fantastic first term Reception have had! They have made us so proud on how well they have settled in this term. Every day they surprise us in their learning and have come on leaps and bounds.

The topic this term has been 'What happens when you go to sleep?' and the children have really enjoyed learning about space, nocturnal and diurnal animals and changing seasons. We started off with an amazing experience evening where the children got to explore a planetarium, make a dream catcher and go on a nocturnal animal hunt. Children created their own constellations, learnt about stars and why owls hunt at night.

They have begun to write sentences using their phonic knowledge, and find rhyming couplets in their Literacy lessons, and they have been learning about estimation, 2D and 3D objects and number problems in Numeracy.

On top of all of this learning the children have also been working super hard with their Christmas performance- 'A Wiggly Nativity'. Every child learnt their lines, sung their hearts out and learnt about the traditional Christmas story. We are so proud of their efforts as it takes a lot of courage to stand up in front of the school and parents and perform at such a young age!

We wish all the children and their families and very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! See you all again in January.

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### Key Stage 1 – Miss Fordham

#### Year 1

We began our topic, 'Moon Zoom', by travelling to the moon in a rocket exploring the planets and stars. We have studied different astronauts and significant events in space, including the first insect in space which the children found very funny! We also became engineers and designed our own rockets – we were very creative and used a range of different materials to make them look exciting and realistic. We have immersed ourselves in a range of space themed texts, a favourite of ours was Aliens Love Underpants. We loved the story so much that we even invented our own aliens and described their colourful underpants using a range of interesting adjectives.



#### Year 2

In Year 2, we began our topic of 'Street Detectives' by exploring our local communities with our families and sharing some interesting information about Potton with each other. We have looked at buildings around Potton in the past and present and have had some great discussions comparing them. We've been sketching buildings and have been using our observational skills in Geography to identify physical features of different buildings.

In Literacy this term we have read many books linking with our topic – our favourite was ‘Charlie and the Chocolate Factory’ in which the children wrote fantastic character descriptions and even designed their own new invention for Willy Wonker’s chocolate factory.

This term is definitely my favourite, being in school during the run up to Christmas is filled with excitement, singing and Christmas spirit. Key Stage 1 ended the term with a fantastic Carol Concert which they’ve worked so hard to learn and rehearse songs and actions for. They made us very proud!

Well done Key Stage 1 for a fantastic term 😊

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## **Lower Key Stage 2 – Mr Adams**

### **KS2 Performance**

This year we veered away from a traditional Christmas performance and decided to produce a production of Sleeping Beauty ‘The Ugly Truth’.

In a short space of time, the children have worked tirelessly to learn their lines at home; and the support from parents to encourage their children has been fantastic. Nearly all the children were able to make it back to school for the evening performance and this is a credit to the support of parents and families to ensure this was possible. The teachers, staff and also the pupils have enjoyed every performance, and the individual attributes of each pupil contributed to a fantastic whole KS2 performance - with added humour.

We are so proud of you all – well done KS2!

### **Year 3- Mr Hodgson and Ms Kerfoot**

We have come to the end of our term, and it has truly flown by! There have been so many wonderful learning opportunities within Year 3, it is difficult to pick out a few just in this newsletter.

Our Term started off with our first topic of ‘Tribal Tales’ where we have been studying the Stone Age through to the Iron Age. A memorable part of this was our first lesson where we completed an archaeology dig around the school site. The children thoroughly enjoyed digging, washing and sorting their findings. We analysed these findings and decided who might have lived there in the past... our findings were truly inspiring with lots of children having wonderful ideas. Since then, it has been delightful seeing photos of the children completing their own archaeology dig for their topic learning. The children have particularly enjoyed learning about the settlements of the past and creating a range of artefacts throughout the topic.

After the October half-term, our next topic was ‘Mighty Metals’. The children enjoyed their memorable experience of visiting the park. The children discussed and explored the forces on the playground equipment, this learning was vital in expanding their knowledge of everyday forces. We would like to thank our helpers on the trip, without this help it wouldn’t have been able to go ahead. More recently, the children have been exploring magnetic force and how magnets work. The children then designed and created their own magnetic games.

Ms Kerfoot and I were so impressed with the children’s performance of Sleeping Beauty- The Ugly Truth. The children worked so hard in learning and performing all of the different songs. This performance also infused the children’s creativity in ICT, as they were asked to use shape tools and publisher to create their own digital posters. More recently in ICT, the children have been designing digital Christmas cards using the Publisher Document.

Next half-term the children are moving onto ‘God and Mortals’ with a focus on ‘Ancient Greece’. This is always a favourite for the Year 3 pupils and I am excited to explore this with them.

## Year 4 – Mr Adams and Mrs Mooring

Year 4 have been very busy this term and the children can look forward to spending time with their families over the Christmas period.

With our Grafham residential and performance of Sleeping Beauty, the children have been brilliant and grown in confidence in a very short space of time. In our 'I Am Warrior' topic the children have learned what it would have been like to be a Roman or Celt Warrior and thought about life in Roman times. We learnt that a lot of it was very rotten indeed! The children really enjoyed our music session across the middle school field. We looked at how sound travelled and which instruments struck fear into the Celtic Warriors as the Romans invaded Britain.

In our Potions topic they have researched anaesthesia throughout history and written some interesting accounts of surgery that took place when it was first used. Their homework project has proved to be very successful. After creating their own perfumes, the children have enjoyed the '*smell test!*' many of the potions made at home used natural ingredients and possibly some of these creations may be perfumes of the future!

Thank you for all your hard work and support this term, reading with children at home and encouraging them to share their learning with you.

I would like to finish this newsletter piece by thanking Miss Grimmer and Mrs Minter for their help in Dragons' Class and Miss Dent for her efforts in Salamanders. Unfortunately, Miss Grimmer and Miss Dent are leaving us at the end of this term as they complete their university degrees, but they are hoping to come back and visit the school.

Have a safe and rested Christmas break!

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## Upper Key Stage 2 – Mrs Chamberlain and Miss Carrington

### Year 5 – Mrs Chamberlain

Wow what a busy half term we have had in Year 5!

The children have really got stuck-in to our latest topic 'Peasants, Princes and Pestilence' where they have learnt all about the dreaded Black Death. Pupils have had so many exciting opportunities to learn all about Medieval life, from baking their own bread to studying herbs and medicines used to treat victims of the plague. Hopefully these interesting experiences will create long-lasting memories for our children! Earlier on in the term, the students learnt all about germs and bacteria, hunting down some of the dirtiest places in the school and watching these invisible germs grow into all manner of horrid, fascinating bacterial colonies on agar plates.



The children have learnt all about the Peasants' Revolt in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century, writing stirring speeches as Wat Tyler to encourage the British to rise up in retaliation for high taxes. In addition to all of these exciting lessons, the children have studied the plague village of Eyam in the Peak District, learning of the sacrifice the villagers made by quarantining themselves to prevent the plague spreading to the outside world.

As always, the children have produced some amazing topic homeworks which have really impressed the staff and showcased how hard our pupils are working both in school and at home.

Well done for a fantastic term Year 5 – have a wonderful Christmas and a well-deserved break.

## Year 6 Topic – Frozen Kingdom

From carving bars of soap into Inuit-style sculptures in art, to describing winter wonderlands in English, this half term's topic has been creative and exciting for Year 6! We have delved into the 'Frozen Kingdoms' of our planet, learning about and comparing the topographical features, wildlife and climates of the Arctic and Antarctic. We have also learned about how these areas were discovered. The children have researched explorers such as Ernest Shackleton and Captain James Cook and we have looked at Robert Falcon Scott in detail, learning of his heroic, yet tragic attempts to discover Antarctica. In our more recent lessons, we have considered the damage done to our planet, and its Polar Regions, through climate change. All of the children understand the importance of protecting our environments, as shown in their emotive and persuasive speeches about what governments need to do to save our world. Please ask your children at home to share their ideas!

Experimenting with the variety of art techniques used by the Inuits has been focus for us in topic lessons. We have sketched, carved bars of soap and used stencilling techniques to produce art work in the same style as the Inuit people. All of the children's work has illustrated animals and natural aspects of the Polar Regions.

In English the children have applied their knowledge of cold climates to create stunning descriptive pieces. Their Northern Lights and Winter Wonderland Haikus demonstrated everyone's skills at selecting and using the most appropriate vocabulary and imagery. Similarly, our narrative writing inspired by The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe showed off the children's creativity as they described thrilling journeys into wardrobes.

Our 'Frozen Kingdom' topic was brought to a brilliant climax by the children's topic project homework. Once again, they amazed us with their skill, creativity and knowledge. From shoe-box winter scenes to Arctic and Antarctic crosswords and word searches, the children excelled themselves and we have really enjoyed sharing their work in the classroom and also to parents at our Topic Project Celebration afternoon. We can't wait to get started on our next topic: Blood Heart!

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## Key Stage 3 – Mr Griffiths

What a fantastic term it has been for our Key Stage 3 pupils. We have so many pupils in Year 7 and 8 who really take responsibility for their own learning; and have the maturity to work towards our common goal of giving them the best possible springboard to the next stage of their education.

The pupils have worked hard in all subjects this term and our wide and varied curriculum gives our pupils the best opportunity to showcase the work that they do. Pupils are valued wherever their strengths lie and given support in topic areas that they find more difficult. We have some excellent art work displayed around the school and many pupils contribute to these fine displays. In sport we have had many successes when competing against other school and our sportsmanship does our school proud. Many of our pupils have shown a creative flair in their writing and I am sure that means that in years to come I will be reading some of their published work.

In science many pupils have had the opportunity to 'Reach For The Stars' and have enjoyed looking at distant galaxies. In mathematics we have some extremely talented individuals who have a mathematics understanding that will out-weigh my own in the near future. Hopefully this isn't now and I can manage to keep up :-)

Wishing all pupils, parents, guardians and families a very happy Christmas and we look forward to working on different challenges in the New Year.



## Key Stage 3 Prefects – Mr Brooks

### Extra-Curricular Clubs Week

What a thoroughly eventful term it has been for our School Prefects.

From Manga and Craft Club to Dodgeball and Just Dance, KS2 were spoilt for choice during our first ever 'Prefect Club Week'. Week commencing 4<sup>th</sup> November, our troop of KS3 Prefects led a variety of exciting extra-curricular activities, demonstrating admirable leadership qualities and organisational skills. We couldn't be prouder of the way in which the Prefects managed their activities and I know so many of our Year 5 and 6 pupils cannot wait for the next round of clubs to come around in Spring 2020.

### YMCA: Charity Week

On Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November, we were fortunate enough to have welcomed to our school Paul Kellett and Emma Cook from YMCA Bedford. YMCA are a charity seeking to serve the local community through its extensive accommodation and resettlement work, providing support for children and adults who are sleeping rough, sofa-surfing and suffering from mental health conditions. Working for YMCA for over 20 years, Paul and Emma delivered an inspiring and thought-provoking assembly for our children. Some of the statistics they later shared with our Prefects in a supplementary workshop session left them speechless – noteworthy, in 2017, over 100,000 children across the UK were left homeless on Christmas Day and in the very same year, sixty-seven people were living permanently on the streets of Bedford.

The build-up to Christmas provided our school an ideal opportunity to raise awareness of the incredible work YMCA do, as well as affording our pupils the chance to support those less fortunate than them. As such, our Prefects led a remarkably successful Charity Week in the bid to aid YMCA's efforts in ending homelessness across Bedford. They each organised and managed a number of fantastic events across the week including; Pie the Prefect, Crossbar Challenge, Penalty Shootout, Trampolining, a Bake Sale and the small matter of leg waxing!

I am thrilled to report that we were able to raise a whopping £480 across the week! The kindness of the Potton Middle community has no bounds and I thank everyone for coming together once more to support such a worthy cause.



## English at The Potton Federation – Mr Bick

### Reading Recommendations

As the holiday season approaches, I thought it might be a good time to share some useful websites that are full of great reading recommendations for children.

The Booktrust website is an absolute treasure trove of inspiration for young readers. From information about new releases to themed book lists, it's a fantastic resource for those moments when you and your child aren't sure what to read next. It's worth having a good look round the whole website, but the links below are good places to start:

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/our-recommendations/>

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/bookfinder/>

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/booklists/p/prize-winning-books-to-read-from-the-last-year/>

The reading lists on the World Book Day website (themed) and Books for Topics (arranged by year group) are also excellent resources:

<https://www.worldbookday.com/reading-ideas-youll-love/>

<https://www.booksfortopics.com/yeargroups>

Have a wonderful Christmas!

Mr Bick

## The Voice and Values Committee – Mrs Darlow

What a busy term it's been for our Voice and Values Committee! During the first full term of the school year they have successfully planned and executed five different fundraising events all with flair and enthusiasm and as a result have raised a massive £842.63 for charity. Well done guys!

Not only have the Voice and Values Committee been planning charity events, the children have also been working hard, listening to their friends to improve general day to day life in school too. They have made suggestion boxes to be put in each classroom and even had a meeting with Sarah Pryer, Chair the Potton Federation Governing Body, to discuss the ongoing work that the committee do.

As the new year approaches we will be focussing on the value of "Happiness" and rolling out even more ideas suggested by the children across the school. This will involve a feelings chart in each classroom and "Feedback Friday" when a few children from each class will be interviewed about the week they have just had and then feeding back to members of staff for them to reflect on too.

When asking the children across the school about the impact the Voice and Values Committee had made it was clear that we must be a really thoughtful bunch as it's our charity days that seem to be the days that we love! Our favourite by far this year was helping to raise money for Children in Need where the staff (who were all great sports) participated in Potton Lower's first ever Marshmallow eating contest.

As the term comes to an end, the Voice and Values Committee would like to thank you for all your support and send wishes for a very Merry Christmas (as well as some pictures to make you giggle of our marshmallow eating competition!!)



## School Council – Miss Carrington

This term, our School Council have again put in a great deal of effort into raising money for charities. They began by running the annual Poppy Appeal at school. Our council member's worked tirelessly selling poppy merchandise in the playground in the week leading up to Remembrance Sunday. Our main event of the half term was Children In Need in November. All activities were chosen by the School Council and on the day, we had our traditional non-uniform day, which this year had a 'Get Together' theme: the children got together in groups to come dressed the same way. From pyjamas to sportswear, we had some very creative outfits! We also held a cake sale which was as popular as ever. This year we also ran a 'Draw the best Pudsey' competition in the week leading up to Children In Need, in which children were encouraged to draw Pudsey in the most creative way they could. Ashika Raj in Year 6 was our winner! Overall, we raised over £300 for Children In Need. Thank you to everyone who contributed, whether by donating money or cakes! It was all hugely appreciated.

More recently, the School Council have been involved with the organisation for the annual Christmas Quiz. The School Council worked hard selling raffle tickets to ensure they were ready for the 12<sup>th</sup> December. In the last week of term, our School Council members were presented with their new badges so it is clear who they are to all members of the school. Well done to everyone for their efforts so far this year!

## The new Climbing Wall at Potton Lower School



Our new addition to school has been a roaring success and I thank you all for ensuring your children are not using it before or after school.

With the Sports funding grant we were able to purchase a new piece of outdoor adventurous activity equipment for the children to use. As the weather changes, it gives the children the opportunity to remain physically active when the weather does not permit us to use the Burmolator.

The traversing wall has four levels of difficulty and as the children develop their coordination, balance and physical strength, they will be able to challenge themselves on different routes across the wall. Many pupils have realised that the different muscle groups, skills and techniques needed to conquer the wall will take time to develop and we aim to get as many children using the wall as possible throughout the week. When your child knows it is their turn to use the wall, talk to them about their strengths and how they are going to challenge themselves on the wall.

## Potton Middle School Christmas Quiz – Mrs Topple



Christmas celebrations continued as we tried to raise the roof with Christmas cheer to start the quiz. The children had sorted themselves into groups and after fuelling themselves with cake and drinks they focussed to answer some tricky questions. I was amazed at how many of them named world flags, remembered key events in 2019, sports personalities and name Christmas films not to mention fantastic French facts. After the scores were calculated the worthy winners were announced. Everyone had fun and joined in the games including the staff who loved playing heads and tails with the children. Well done to all the children who put their knowledge to great use and showed such good team spirit.



## Sporting Achievements



During this term all classes have enjoyed getting their bounce on during trampolining lessons. In both KS2 and KS3 pupils have really enjoyed learning the swivel hips skill which requires you to complete two seat landings one after the other. Students have loved challenging themselves to see how many they could complete. I think the highest was eighteen in a row!

Our KS3 Basketball teams played against Edward Peake this term in a sports partnership event. Potton split into two mixed squads and competed against three Edward Peake teams across a round robin competition format. Potton Team 2 came out victorious with a total of eight points with Potton Team 1 and Edward Peake

Team 2 closely behind on seven points. The win means Potton Middle is entered into both the boys and girls County Finals on the 15th and 16th January 2020, at The Bunyan Centre in Bedford. We look forward to getting back on the court after Christmas.

Also this term our Year 6 sportshall athletics team travelled to Stratton Upper to compete against Biggleswade Academy and Edward Peake in the East Bedfordshire Schools competition. Athletes competed in both track and field events including individual races over one, two and six laps and also team relays on the track and standing long jump, speed bounce and javelin in the field. Points are added together in each event to give each school a finishing total. Overall Potton had lots of 1st place finishes with some excellent sprinting on the track and superb throwing and jumping in the field from both the boys and girls teams. Overall Potton accumulated forty-two points and finished in 2nd place only two points behind the eventual winners Edward Peake. A massive well done to the team who for their first sportshall athletics competition did brilliantly and showed some excellent sportsmanship throughout the whole evening.

## School Calendar

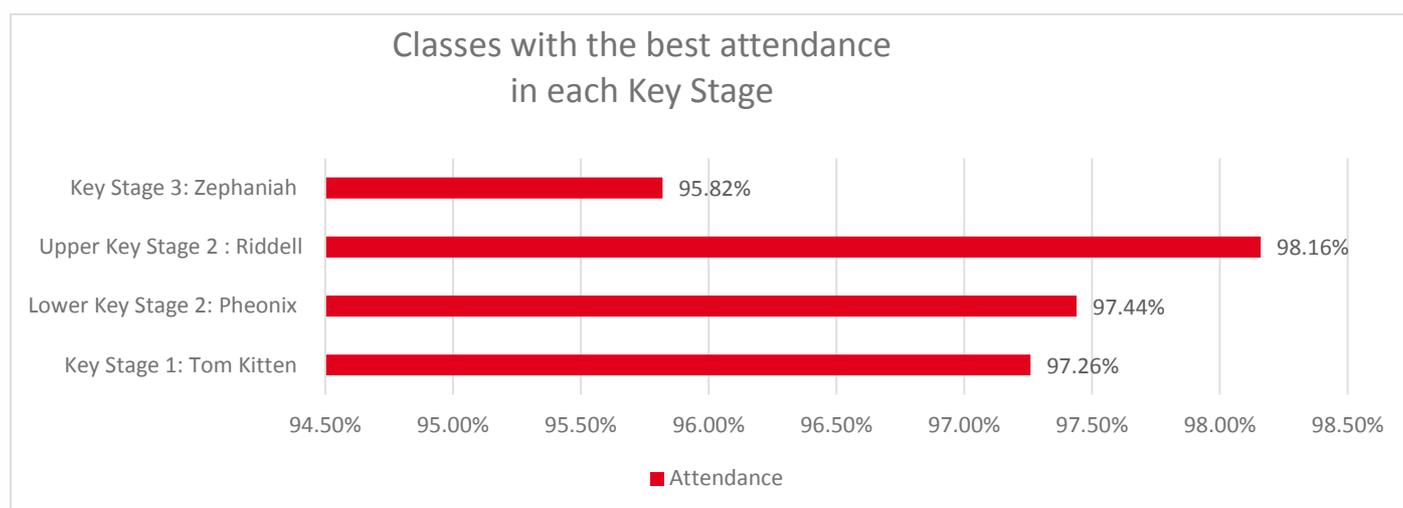
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	First day back in school for pupils
<b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup> – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February</b>	<b>HALF TERM</b>
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Mock SAT's week – round 2
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	Treasure Island Show – Reception – Year 6
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Parents Evening 4:00pm – 6:00pm
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	PLS – Scholastic Book Fair
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> – Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	PMS – Scholastic Book Fair
<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>EASTER HOLIDAYS</b> <b>Children back into school on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2020</b>

All dates for the academic year 2019/20 have also been added to the website. Please visit: <https://pottonfederation.co.uk/events/list/>

## Attendance

Well done to all of the children on their attendance this half term. The Local Authority set our attendance targets, the Federations target is 97%. This half term has seen the winter sickness bug have a huge impact on our attendance causing our figures to be lower than our target.

A special congratulations to the following classes who have had the highest attendance across their Key Stage so far this half term!



### Attendance

We are a school that sets ourselves high expectations in all areas and attendance is no exception. Attending school is extremely important for children's social, emotional and educational development and children who miss a lot of time at school can suffer in the long term from significant gaps in their learning.

#### Potton Lower School

Class	Attendance Present	%
Cottontails		94.10
Puddle Ducks		95.77
Squirrel Nutkins		95.71
Tiggy-Winkles		95.47
Jerry Fisher		95.05
Tom Kittens		97.26
Dragons		93.49
Phoenix		97.44
Salamanders		97.01
Hippogriffs		96.61

#### Potton Middle School

Class	Attendance Present	%
Elphinstone		96.99
Riddell		98.16
Stevens		95.75
Edge		96.44
Evans		97.58
Torday		94.54
Almond		94.65
Pullman		94.87
Zephaniah		95.82

## Reminders for parents

### Medicines in School:

A reminder that we **CANNOT** administer medication that is not prescribed to your child and/or is only prescribed for three times a day. This includes Calpol and Nurofen. Parents can come into school themselves if their child needs a dose of medicine although we do advise parents to keep their children at home if they are poorly.

### Reading:

We would really like to encourage all parents with children in Reception and Key Stages 1 & 2 to read daily with their child. Children in Key Stage 3 should be reading independently each day too!

### Water Bottles:

Please can all parents ensure that their child brings a named and filled water bottle into school with them each day, and that they **only contain water**. It is important for the children to drink regularly throughout the day. Children may of course bring juice to drink with their packed lunch, and juice and water are also available for children having a school dinner at lunchtime.

### Hand hygiene:

There are soap dispensers available in all of the school toilets with notices that remind children to wash their hands before they leave. We have antibacterial hand gel available in areas around school also and children are always encouraged to wash their hands.

In order to help minimise the spread of any infections/germs within school – if parents and carers would like to send their child/children in to school with a named bottle of antibacterial gel, this will be kept on their school desk for them to be able to use throughout the day if required.

### Parking:

Please can we remind **ALL** parents that Mill Lane carpark is open from 8:15am every morning. Please support the school in trying to keep our children safe whilst they arrive and depart school.

### Child Absences:

Please remember to phone into school if your child is absent for any reason. If your child has a medical appointment during school hours please provide evidence of the appointment to the office. If you do not notify the school on the first day of the absence your child will be given an unauthorised absence mark. Please be aware that 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 12 week period may result in a fixed penalty notice.

### Pre-Loved uniform:

Has your child outgrown their school uniform? Is your child moving to another school? Why not donate any preloved and now unwanted items of school uniform to the school to benefit other children in the school community?

Don't throw it away, donate it! Ties/ school jumpers/ PE kit/ trousers/ skirts/ shorts

Donations can be left in the donation bins at both school offices.

Thank you!

