



Contents:

Welcome

Kids Eat Free

Potterspurry Lodge
Breakfast Club

Primary Update

Subject Updates

Head of Key Stage
Update

Residential Summer
Term Overview

2023/2024 Term Dates

Staffing Update

New Appointments

Welcome from Sarah Stacey, Principal



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you are all enjoying the Summer break so far!

Firstly, thank you to all of the Potterspurry Lodge community for welcoming me into my new role as Principal. I have wanted to work at Potterspurry Lodge for a number of years and although change can be a daunting experience for some people, I am relishing the challenge of the role.

I hope to continue to build upon the good work of my predecessor in ensuring the very best outcomes for all of our students, ensuring they achieve their own personal bests and creating an educational experience which thoroughly prepares them for adult life. I join Potterspurry Lodge having worked for the past 19 years with students of all ages who have SEND. My main educational ethos is that every student can achieve and succeed; it is up to us as educators to create the right environment, curriculum offer and opportunities for personal development to ensure that this happens for every individual.

It was fantastic to meet so many parents and carers at our Celebration Day in July, when students' achievements from throughout the year were shared. The sense of confidence and pride displayed by our young people was overwhelming and provided some very special moments throughout the day. We are hoping to schedule more frequent 'open' days and events next academic year and welcome ideas from parents and carers about what these may include.

As the Summer break progresses we look forward to welcoming the Year 11 students back into school for Results Day on Thursday 24th August 2023. Students are welcome to collect their results between 10am and 12pm, any that are not collected will be sent to the student at their home address via secure mail.

Next academic year brings a number of new staff members to Potterspurry Lodge in a range of roles, the team look forward to welcoming our new colleagues and I am keen to explore how their individual talents and interests can support our students to achieve their own personal bests; academically, socially and emotionally.

These changes will naturally bring about a development of staffing structure for the school, details of which will be shared as we start the new academic year. However, in the meantime, if there is anything you wish to discuss please do not hesitate to contact a member of the school administration team who will direct your query to the appropriate person.

I hope that you enjoy the rest of the summer and I am excited to see what extraordinary achievements our staff and students can accomplish next academic year!

Sarah Stacey
Principal



Kids Eat Free

PLACES WHERE KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) DURING THE 6 WEEKS SUMMER HOLIDAYS 2023
COURTESY OF MONEY SAVING CENTRAL

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| <p>ASDA Kids eat for £1 All Day, Every Day at Asda cafes, with no adult spend required.</p> <p>TESCO Kids eat free with a purchase of 60p+ from Mon 24th July - Fri 1st September 2023</p> <p>SAINSBURYS CAFES Kids eat for £1 with the purchase of an adult hot main. From 11.30am every day.</p> <p>BEEFEATER & BREWERS FAYRE Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult!</p> <p>THE REAL GREEK Kids under 12 eat FREE every Sunday for every £10 spent by an adult</p> <p>TABLE TABLE Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult!</p> <p>TRAVELOGUE Buy 1 Adult Breakfast from just £8.99 & up to two kids eat breakfast for free</p> <p>HUNGRY HORSE Kids eat for £1 on Mondays & up to 2 Kids get free breakfast with 1 adult breakfast</p> <p>PREMIER INN Buy 1 Adult Breakfast from just £8.99 & up to two kids eat breakfast for free</p> <p>SIZZLING PUBS Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm, kids' mains are £1 with every adult meal.</p> <p>IKEA Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am</p> | <p>MORRISONS Spend £4.49 & get one free kids meal all day, every day.</p> <p>GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS Kids under 8 eat FREE all day, every day at selected Gordon Ramsay restaurants</p> <p>PRETO Kids up to age 10 eat free all day, every day with paying adults at Preto in Half Terms</p> <p>BILLS 2 kids eat FREE all day, every day from Monday 24th July - Friday 1st Sept 2023</p> <p>BELLA ITALIA Children eat for £1 with any adult main. The offer is valid 4-6pm Mon to Thurs.</p> <p>WHITBREAD INNS Two kids under 16 eat for FREE with every adult breakfast purchased</p> <p>SA BRAINS PUBS Children can eat for £1 with any adult main. Valid All Day Wednesdays</p> <p>FUTURE INNS Under 12's eat for free with any adult meal. During the school holidays</p> <p>PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM Kids get 1 mini main, 2 snacks & a drink FREE with every £4 spend after 3pm</p> <p>YO! SUSHI From Mon 17th of July until Fri 11th of Aug kids eat free with every £10 adult spend</p> <p>TO BE CONFIRMED... M&S and Farmhouse Inns</p> |
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Potterspurty Lodge School Breakfast Club



As we all know, breakfast is an important meal of the day however for a variety of reasons, not all of our students like to eat early in the morning. Therefore, effective from the start of the Autumn Term, we will offer a Breakfast Club, which is open to all students.

Breakfast Club will run every day from 08:45 - 09:05, allowing students to reset after their commute to school, ready for the first lesson of the day. It will also allow students to socialise with other members of the school community. Currently the breakfast club offer is cereal (Coco Pops and Frosties), but over time this may

expand if enough students take advantage of the offer.

Primary Update:

Year 4

We have had another hardworking, busy term in Year 4. We have been continuing to build our confidence and asking for help. Reading has been a part of our days and we have read two Horrible History books about World War 1 and World War 2, we have also read a Marvel book about Ant-Man. We have been doing art where we have been learning about pointillism – this is a tiring method of art but we enjoyed making our own creations!

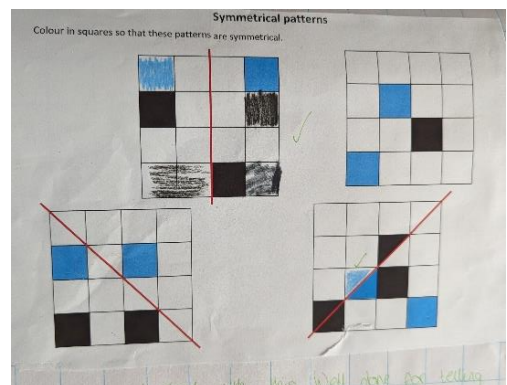


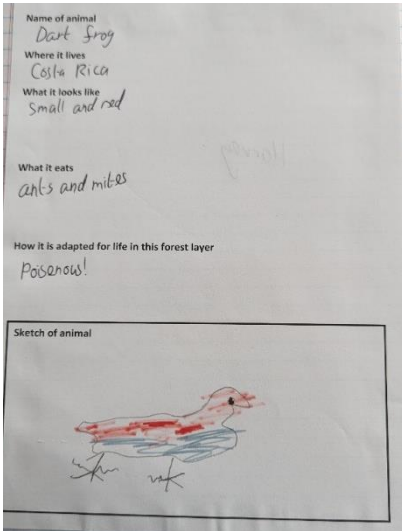
In English we have been working really hard. We have covered lots of topics; report writing, compound words, adventure stories, advertisements, persuasive writing, poems and playscripts. After reading *The Hodgeheg*, we got to make our own compound words for animals - our favourites we created were jillyfesh and worthag! We have written adverts for existing and new products – Harvey has some great ideas for products (you might get scammed though!). When learning about plays, we are able to explain what the features of a play are and the



importance of adverbs in them – how else will the actors know what to do?

In Maths, we have been doing more work on our addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. We find multiplication and division quite tricky but we are getting there. We have been using different methods for addition and our favourite is the column method. Sequences were tricky to begin with but the more work we did on them, the easier they got – we were able to say what the sequence was without help! We have also been learning how to add and subtract money using place value which we know will help us when we are older! 2D and 3D shapes have been fun to learn about – we can recall the properties of lots of different shapes. We have even been learning about symmetry – we found this quite tricky but persevered with it. Recently we have been learning how to tell the time which has helped us a lot – especially to know when lunch is!





In Science we have learnt about the states of matter. We really enjoyed being the particles in solids, liquids and gasses, especially in gasses as they bounce around everywhere! We are also able to explain how water changes state – when it freezes it turns to a solid then when it melts it turns back into a liquid and when it evaporates it becomes a gas. We have also been learning about sound where we can explain that it is energy and is caused by vibrations. We can explain what pitch and volume are and had great fun finding different sounds in the classroom – we especially liked making the loud sounds!

In Topic we have learned about Crime and Punishment. We have looked at the changes in crime and punishment from 1066 all the way up until today! Did you know that women were allowed to become police officers in 1914? Learning about the different roles in a courtroom was interesting – we enjoyed acting out our own courtroom and sending people to prison! Our other Topic that we have been learning about is The Rainforest. We

have learnt a lot about the different animals and how they are suited to live there. Our favourite was the dart-frog. We liked this because it is small, red and black – oh and it is poisonous!

We have had a busy year and have worked really hard. We are looking forward to summer and we hope that everyone else has a wonderful summer too!

Miss Cox

Year 5



In the KS2 department we have continued to develop our understanding across a wide range of subject and topic areas during the Summer Term 2023. In English we have been consolidating all of our knowledge and skills we have learnt over the academic year with students stating *“World War 2 was my favourite topic”* and *“I really enjoyed Goodnight Mister Tom”*.

In Mathematics we have been looking at converting units, decimals, measurement, negative numbers and maths investigations. Some comments from students - *“I loved the mermaid maths investigation. We had to do the*



maths to find the clues as to who made the mermaid sculptures. It was really fun!” and *“I really liked negative numbers, I found them really easy and I enjoyed the harder questions”*.



As part of our Topic curriculum, we have been looking at ‘Marvellous’. Through this topic we have looked at mountains from around the world, learnt about contour lines, discovered how mountains are created, and used the internet to find out the names of the largest mountain in each continent. We have even calculated the contour lines of a potato!

Scientifically, we have studied Forces and Animals including Humans. During our Forces topic we discovered facts about Newton and the Laws that he created, looked at parachutes, discovered why friction is so important and investigated drag, up-thrust and buoyancy!



In addition to the above work we have tried our hands at drawing feathers, plants and flowers; expanded our French conversational and geographical skills; looked at how diverse Britain is and how the way in which we see ourselves and treat others can impact on our life; researched how different religions 'forgive'.



During our PE lessons we have tried to get outside as much as possible. We have improved our badminton skills, completed the PLS orienteering course and even used Pokémon Go! to help us become even better orienteers.



This has been a really exciting year in Primary for both students and staff, especially as we have

doubled in size. It's been an amazing year all round and we wish all students a safe and happy summer and look forward to welcoming everyone back in September.

Mr Kemp and Ms Mulvaney

Subject Updates:

English

Year 7s have been working hard consolidating their spelling, punctuation and grammar skills in addition to their daily handwriting practice.

We have also been practising the following text types: Information Text / Story Writing / Letter Writing / Story Telling / Writing Information Text / Recount and have had the opportunity to explore text from 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone'.

The students have worked incredibly hard and are ready to begin their next academic year as year 8s!

Ms Mulvaney

The past few months have been both busy and exciting in the subject of English. In Year 8, students have studied the modern world-literature classic 'Annie John' - a highly engaging book which supported the transition into the next unit, Creative Writing Memoir. The final unit of the year has been the classic Shakespearian tragedy 'Julius Caesar', a text through which students are able to combine linguistic analysis with their learning of interesting historical detail.

Year 9 students have undertaken an in-depth study of the classic 19th century novel 'Jane Eyre', covering a range of interesting focus areas such as proto-feminist themes, character evaluation and language analysis. Students are currently concluding their studies of the classic gothic mystery 'Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde'.

Our Year 10 students have re-dedicated themselves to their studies with a renewed focus, revising in detail for their recent mock examinations while also engaged in the detailed study of the AQA power and conflict poetry collection. The determination exhibited by these students as the academic year has drawn to a close has been a shining example to younger students.

Mr Richards

Forest School

This year in Forest School, students have learned a variety of survival skills including shelter building, lighting fires and navigation. They have also continued to maintain the gardens and have chosen a number of plants to grow, including chilli peppers and pumpkins that should be ready in time for Halloween!

Enterprise

The enterprise students' project this year successfully raised £150 for the Bus Shelter MK. They have completed their portfolio and have been looking at life skills including CV and cover letter writing to begin to prepare them for the world of employment.

Mr Hickson

Geography

The summer term unit in Geography combined the coastal features with the RNLI (Royal National Lifeboat Institution) based water safety awareness course. On the course, students learned about the dangers of rips, submerged objects, RNLI flag meanings, and how to stay safe around rivers, lakes and oceans. Most importantly, all students were given over two hours of informative training and practical assessments on CPR and Dr's ABC. All students were able to demonstrate how to give rescue breaths and compressions on our CPR dolls.



In addition, to coincide with the weather unit this term, several year 7 and 8 students were lucky enough to visit the Turweston Aerodrome for a private tour of the landing tower and all of the equipment that is used on site. Students had the opportunity to observe up close all of the meteorological and aviation equipment that is required to help land the planes and while there, they got to see several take-off and landings happen.



In addition, students were surprised to see Colin McRae's racing car testing its new engine on the runway between landings and take-offs.

Mr Handby

History



Another fun term in history has seen our Year 7s and 8s learning about the English Civil War, in which Englishmen fought Englishmen. They have considered issues such as: should we be taxed and should we have a say in how our country is run? Some have taken part in role playing the trial of a king and several students have designed an improved flag for the United Kingdom. Two wonderful examples of this can be see here – to the left

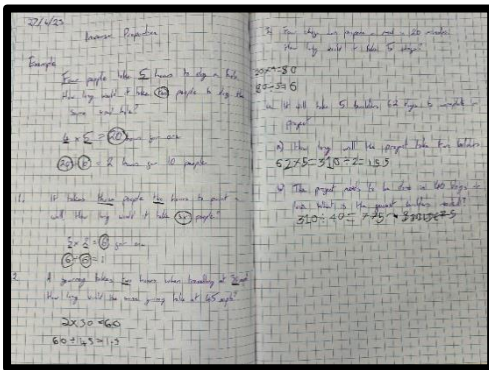


is the idea created by Dale Collier, and to the right, a vision created by Sophie Burrige.

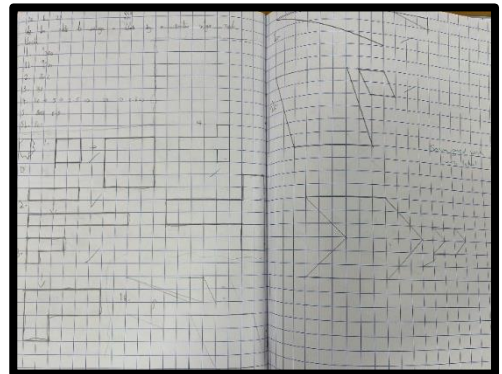
Our Year 9s have completed their study of medicine in the British trenches of the First World War, finding out about the impact of manure in the soil on open wounds, the high death toll caused by broken legs and the necessity of having a live human donor to give blood to an injured soldier at the start of the war. Some students have taken part in role playing injuries and evacuation from the trenches as well as gruesome surgery through the ages! Year 10 have all but completed their study of Elizabethan England, finding out about English success at sea against the Spanish and the beginnings of what would later become the British Empire – the start of turning England from a small and insignificant country into a leading power in the world. The students have worked hard and deserve a good break now!

Mrs Lowry

Mathematics



This term the students have been working hard as they near the end of the year. Year 7 have started work on probability. Year 8 have been working through angles and area of quadrilaterals. Year 9 have been working through their



geometry topics before starting on proportion work. Year 10 have capped off their hard work by completing their mock maths papers with some fantastic results. The students have worked really well this year and we are proud of the work they have completed.

Mr Mayer and Mr Darley

Personal Development

We have had an exceptional term here at Potterspurty Lodge School. Within personal development, all years have shown great maturity during their sex and relationships topics. Our students have asked some thoughtful questions and participated in open and healthy discussions, showing respect for others.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all our students on their efforts throughout the year. Their dedication and hard work, celebrating successes, mitigating setbacks, and persevering even when things get tough have truly paid off. I'm confident that each one of our students will carry the skills and confidence they develop at school throughout their lives.

We would like to express our enormous gratitude and thanks to our whole school community. We are particularly proud of Key Stage 3 students for their excellent academic performance, positive attitude, and respectful behaviour towards themselves and others.

As the school year ends, we would like to celebrate the achievements of all of our students. Thank you for an amazing final term at the school. You will all be missed.

Wishing you all a happy and safe summer.

Miss Harvey

Science

The end of the academic year saw all Year 11 students sitting six GCSE papers each as the culmination of their Science studies over the last three years. This is an enormous achievement for them all and they should be so pleased with themselves.

For other students, this has been a term filled with practical work, revision and exams! The experiments ranged from collecting forensic data to solve a murder, to investigating the respiration of sprouting broad beans. All students pushed themselves to achieve far more in their exams than they expected, which is vital practise for the future.

Investigating whether boiled and unboiled sprouting beans respire



Ms Goodgame

Head of Key Stage Update:

Key Stage 3

It has been an honour and privilege to lead such an exceptional group of students over the past few years, and I am sincerely grateful for the trust and support you have bestowed upon me.

As I look back on the past year, I am filled with pride and admiration for each and every one of our Key Stage 3 students. Their enthusiasm, dedication and hard work have been truly remarkable. I have been constantly impressed by their resilience, creativity and positive attitudes towards their learning, and I can say with confidence that they are a credit to both themselves and the school.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to the students for their unwavering commitment to their studies. It has been a great privilege to watch them grow and develop into confident, independent and capable individuals, who are well-prepared for the challenges that lie ahead. I have no doubt that they will continue to achieve great things in the coming years, and I am excited to see what the future holds for each of them.

To the parents/guardians, I want to thank you for entrusting me with the responsibility of overseeing your children's education. Your support and partnership have been invaluable in creating a positive and productive learning environment, and I am grateful for the trust you have placed in me. Together, we have helped your child to build a strong foundation for their future academic and personal success, and I feel privileged to have been a part of this journey.

In closing, I want to assure you that although I will be stepping down from my role as Head of Key Stage 3, I will continue to be an advocate for your children and for their achievements. I wish the students and the school all the very best for the future, and I will look back on my time here with great fondness.

Miss Harvey

Residential Summer Term Overview

Here in Potterspur Lodge Residential we are going through a period of change to move the service forward to ensure the best support for our young people in residential care.

Our young people have been very busy and enjoying a variety of activities and outings including; BBQ's, bowling, cinema, eating out in restaurants, gym sessions, playing hide-in-seek within the grounds, horse riding, ice cream parlour visit, Pony Club, target shooting, water fights, and an amazing trip to Alton Towers. This summer break, we are off on holiday in August to Perranporth in Cornwall for 5 days with two of our young people. While there, we will be horse riding on the beach, sea fishing, going on a speed boat trip, visiting the Eden project, trying Cornish pasties and cream teas, having days on the beach and eating ice cream. We're very excited!

Sadly, we have had to say goodbye to three of our young people at the end of this summer term. One young person will be continuing with his current college education, another young person is going off to college in London, and the third young person is still exploring his options. We wish them all the best for their futures!

We are also having to say goodbye to a number of our team staff and while they will be missed, we wish them well on their new adventures. This is giving us an opportunity to bring in and develop new staff and we will be working hard over the summer to ensure a strong team is created ready for a fresh start to a new term in September.

Some renovations are occurring in Residential which includes a new large kitchen being created inside Oakmore House. This new kitchen will be found in what is currently our downstairs living room and our living room will move to the middle floor. We are really excited about this project and how it will enable us to support our young people to learn how to cook and become more independent. Our new kitchen will also allow us to have a large, 12-person table within it so that we can all eat together and share our day.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone in September!

Ms Murr

Term Dates 2023 - 2024

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| <u>Autumn Term 2023</u> – Monday, 4th September to Wednesday 20th December 2023 |
| Monday, 4 th September, Tuesday, 5 th September & Wednesday 6 th September – Staff Training Days |
| <i>Residential students return Wednesday, 6th September between 6-8 pm</i> |
| Thursday, 7 th September – Friday 20 th October – Term 1 |
| Monday, 23rd October – Friday, 27th October – Half-Term Holiday |
| <i>Residential students return Sunday, 29th October between 6-8 pm</i> |
| Monday, 30 th October – Wednesday, 20 th December – Term 2 |
| Thursday, 21st December – Wednesday 3rd January 2024 – Christmas Holiday |
| <u>Spring Term 2024</u> – Thursday, 4th January to Thursday 28th March 2024 |
| <i>Residential students return Wednesday, 3rd January between 6-8 pm</i> |
| Thursday, 4 th January – Friday, 16 th of February – Term 3 |
| Monday, 19th February – Friday, 23rd February – Half-Term Holiday |
| <i>Residential students return Sunday, 25th February between 6-8 pm</i> |
| Monday, 26 th February – Thursday 28 th March – Term 4 |
| Friday, 29th March – Bank Holiday (Students and Staff) |
| Monday, 1st April – Friday, 12th April – Easter Holiday |
| <u>Summer Term 2024</u> – Monday, 15th April to Tuesday, 23rd July |
| <i>Residential students return Sunday, 14th April between 6-8 pm</i> |
| Monday, 15 th April – Friday 24 th May – Term 5 |
| Monday, 6th May – Bank Holiday (Students and Staff) |
| Monday, 27th May – Friday, 31st May – Half-Term Holiday |
| <i>Residential students return Sunday, 2nd June between 6-8 pm</i> |
| Monday, 3 rd June – Tuesday 23 rd July – Term 6 |
| Friday, 19th July – Start of the Summer Holiday for students |
| Monday, 22 nd July & Tuesday, 23 rd July – Staff Training Days |

Staffing Update:

We sadly have to say fond farewells to some staff leaving us at the end of this academic year

Senior Leadership Team

Miss Sharon Taylor

Education Team

Miss Shauna Cox, Miss Niamh Davis, Miss Emily Fergusson, Ms Sam Goodgame, Miss Katie Harvey, Mr Phillip Hickson, Mr Harry Mayer, Ms Lauren Mulvaney, Mr Robert Richards, and Miss Brogan Rock

Clinical Team

Dr James Winkworth and Miss Sydney Bird

New Appointments:

Education Team

Mr Ben Billington has been appointed as Head of Education

Ms Louise Powell has been appointed as our SENCO

Miss Clare Cooper has been appointed as our Assistant SENCO and Family Liaison Officer

Ms Julie Palmer has been appointed as Transition Lead

Miss Millie Hughes-Salter has been appointed as Primary Instructor

Mrs Miranda McGarry has been appointed as Science teacher

Miss Patrycja Herec has been appointed as an instructor of RE and PSHE

Miss Taia Steele has been appointed as Higher Level Teaching Assistant

Clinical Team

Ms Kat Phoenix has been appointed as our Occupational Therapist

Residential Team

Miss Beth Donachie has been appointed as a Residential House Manager