

# Cambian Potterspury Lodge School

## Bulletin 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition

21 November 2025

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## Autumn 2 early celebrations!

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our third edition of the school bulletin. Since our second edition just before half term, we have seen our staff and pupils celebrate the group wide "Purple Tuesday" inclusion event, observe and learn about Remembrance Day, engage in the sparklers activities linked to Guy Fawkes Night and continue the Student Council's work around Anti-Bullying. As you know our focus for this academic year is led by the resources provided by the Diana Award and most recently our pupils engaged with the national Anti-Bullying Week theme "Power for Good" by seeking to support others in different ways each day and producing a diary of how they embrace the values.

So far this half term it has been fantastic to see the work developing in classrooms, some of which is included here. Of course as always it has not been possible to include all the pieces of work sent in, but well done to all the pupils as many more have been recognised not only by class teachers but also myself, visitors I have taken round this half term and other staff dropping in on lessons each day.

Can I thank all those that completed the **Parent/Carer survey** last time around. At Potterspury Lodge School, we want to listen to parents and work to provide the best possible platform for your children to thrive both personally and academically. It is our intention to survey parents each half term across the academic year as part of our whole school reflection and development plan and we hope these surveys, along with personal contact between our staff and you, allows us to gain the quality information we need to be able to keep developing.

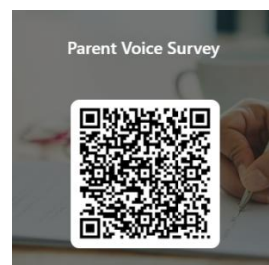
Since the last survey we have reviewed the content of our reporting platform and hope that this term's reports include more of the information you need. Please can I ask that you again complete the survey by clicking on the link below from your computer or tablet, or by scanning the QR code in the bottom right of this first page.

And finally, I would like to draw your attention to the very back of the bulletin as we are now in a position to release the term dates for the academic year 2026/27. I hope this helps you as a family with forward planning.

Sincerely,

Mr J Amps  
Head Teacher

Parent Survey Link: [Parent Voice Survey – Fill in form](#)



## Cambian Purple Tuesday Event



As we explained in our last bulletin we, like all our other education and care partners ran a "Purple Tuesday" event on our first Tuesday after the half term break.



The support we received from you as parents and the children was fantastic! Thank you so much for all who dressed in purple on the day and for all the creative purple food bank donations given to us that have allowed us to make a huge donation from all of you to the local food bank. As you can see from the photo we had fun doing it while raising awareness of inclusion and will have, I hope made a real difference to those needing food bank support at the same time.

### Anti-Bullying Week

For Anti Bullying Week, the students' task was to create a diary where each would list all the good things that they had done across the week to help others. Through the theme of "Power for Good" pupils really met the challenge coming up with lots of creative ways to take action in line with this theme. Well done to all those who produced diaries of the actions taken

ANTI  
BULLYING  
WEEK



Helped my friend  
Played football  
fair  
Helped to put chairs  
up in my tutor  
checked on my friend  
I helped my mum  
I helped my dad at  
the farm  
I looked after animals

I helped Miss Steek tidy the pool room  
I showed patience when dealing with a younger  
Student.  
I helped tidy Ash up before going to bed's



## Remembrance Day

On November 11<sup>th</sup> we as a staff and a pupil body fell silent at 11am to remember all those affected by war. Our pupils had 2 minutes of reflection, supported by our staff, and covered specific sessions to remind us all of the sacrifice made by so many involved, directly and indirectly, around the conflicts of the past as well as the present.



Thank you to the staff and pupils for donations made again here to the Royal British Legion and for the respect shown through the wearing of poppies and the observing of our whole school silence. We raised £59.01.

We also want to mention Stanley from Year 11, pictured right, for his lead participation through his local cadets, well done.



## Bonfire Night



All students had the chance to toast a marshmallow over the fire and enjoy a sparkler as we celebrated Bonfire Night (day) together. For some students this was the first time they had the chance to enjoy a sparkler and every student that took part managed amazingly.



## Halloween trail



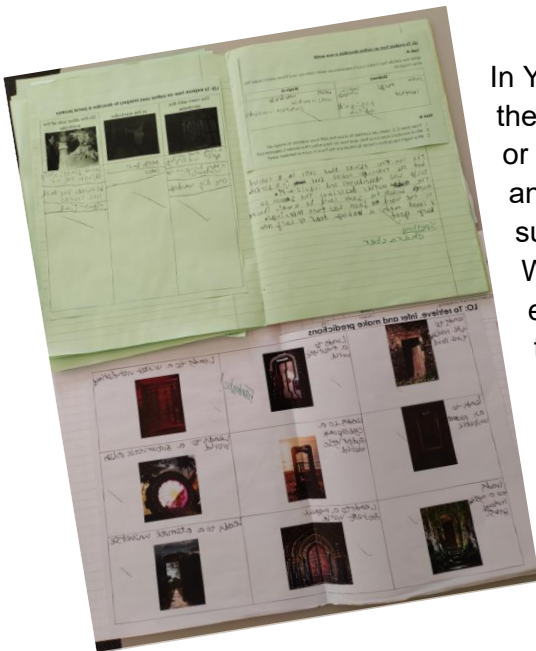
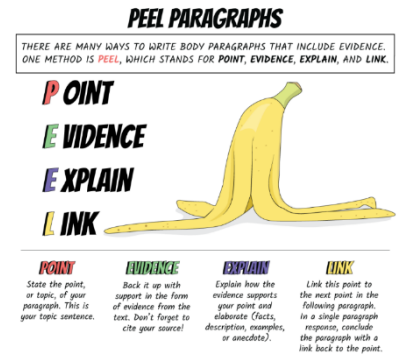
As one of the Primary offsite trips, staff took some students to Evenley Woods Garden and had fun completing their Halloween trail, enjoying a hot chocolate by the fire afterwards.



## English

In Year 7, we have been continuing our learning based on 'Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo'. We have been exploring the relationship between the main characters, the factors that lead to their conflict, and how that conflict is resolved. Next, we will be writing non-chronological reports on orangutans, which are featured in the novel.

This half term, we have been reading 'Refugee Boy' by Benjamin Zephaniah. Year 8 have really impressed staff with their maturity and enthusiasm when discussing some of the themes of the book (including war, persecution, immigration, asylum seekers and racism). We have been practising selecting evidence (quotations) from the text and writing short analytical paragraphs -using the P.E.E.L. structure.



In Year 9, we are exploring 'Portal Stories'. These are stories where the main characters travel from a 'normal' location to a new magical or fantastical world through a portal or doorway. Students have read and explored how 'portals' have been used in famous portal stories such as 'Alice in Wonderland', 'The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe' and 'The Wizard of Oz' – as well as lesser-known examples from fiction, poetry and film. Following on from last half term's topic (Gothic Literature), students have also been consolidating and extending their understanding of techniques writers use to build a story

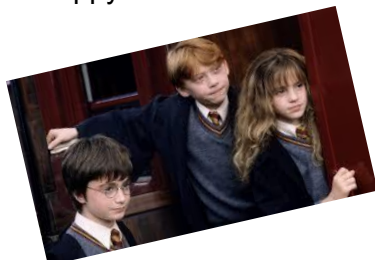


## Nurture

This half-term we have continued our journey in Nurture. We have worked hard to improve our skills in Maths and English and as an addition to the English lessons, we have introduced "My love for reading"-lessons.

During these lessons, we have read Harry Potter together and afterwards discussed the scenery and characters.

We have also moved classroom. The students took part in sorting our things and packing everything we wanted to bring to the new classroom. We have now settled and are happy with our new "home".





## Primary News

Billy and Ms Palmer have been talking about and researching the history of Milton Keynes' famous 'concrete cows'

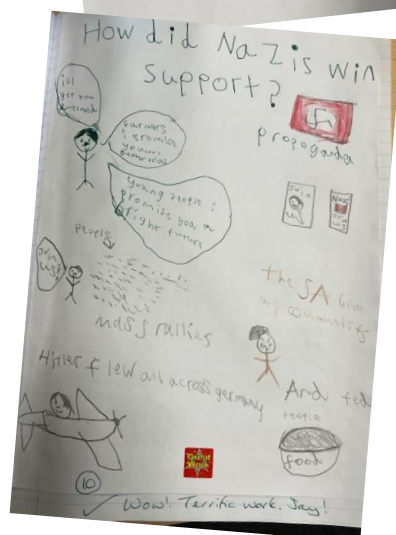
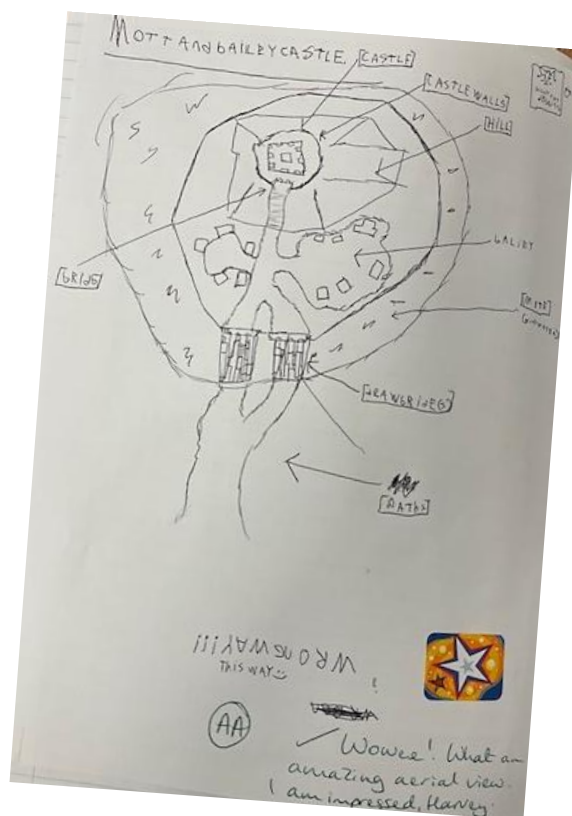
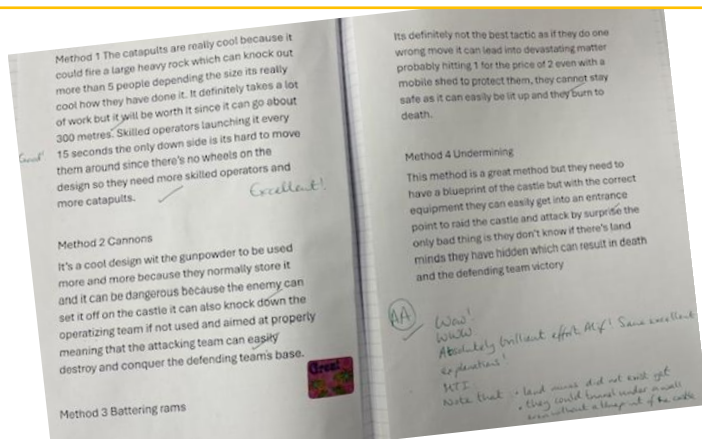
We went to visit them in their home at Bancroft Park and read up on some more of their history whilst there.



## History

### Year 7

In Year 7 the students have created amazing work on castles. Students have designed castles and to avoid being attacked by enemies, they have looked at defense systems such as cannons and battering rams.



### Year 10

The students in Year 10 have shown an excellent understanding of the Nazis' rise to power.

As part of prep for GCSE, the students have been looking at World War 2, focusing on Hitler's journey to power.

## Looking forward to Christmas Plans

We are excited to invite you to Potterspur Lodge School's Christmas Cheer Fundraiser, a festive celebration that brings our community together to spread holiday cheer while supporting a meaningful cause!

The event will take place on **Wednesday, 17th December, starting at 1:20 PM** at **Potterspur Lodge School**. Upon arrival, please sign in at reception.

This Christmas, we're embracing the spirit of giving, and we need your help to make a difference. **The funds raised during this event will go directly to support a cause chosen by our students.** This means that **100% of your generous donations will be used to benefit those in need**, and every contribution will make a real impact.

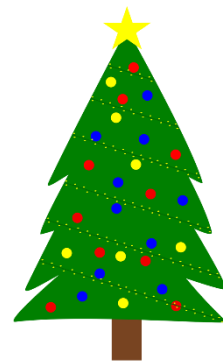
In addition to the fundraising efforts, we have a variety of festive activities for you to enjoy, including:

- **A Bake Sale**, featuring delicious homemade treats prepared by our students.
- **A Craft Sale**, showcasing unique, handmade treasures from our talented pupils.
- **Face Painting & Temporary Tattoos.**
- An exciting **raffle**, with fantastic prizes to be won, and many other surprises to add to the festive spirit!

Your participation and support will help us spread joy, warmth, and hope this holiday season. Let's come together as a community to enjoy the festivities, support a great cause, and make this Christmas truly special for those in need.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please feel free to contact Miss Herec via email at [patrycja.herec@cambiangroup.com](mailto:patrycja.herec@cambiangroup.com).

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to celebrating with you.



## 🎄 Christmas Card Competition



We are very proud to let you know that our school took part in this year's edition of Sarah Bool MP's Christmas Card competition.

We recognised this as an amazing opportunity for our students to showcase their creativity and spread some holiday cheer. Out of all the school's entries, we picked three that were delivered personally by our students to Mrs Bool's office.

It was such a heartwarming experience to see our students; Joe, Harrison and Billy being so polite and enthusiastic.

We can't wait to see the outcome of the competition and are very proud to have had the chance to participate



## Announcement from our Clinical Team

Don't forget about the exciting announcement from our Clinical Team to get involved in a research project run by Cambridge University. The study is aimed at understanding the unique challenges faced by autistic children and seeks to identify the factors that contribute to the challenges autistic children face.

If you haven't done so already, please click the link below to take part:

[https://cambridge.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_9NdpCEqp0el2RM](https://cambridge.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9NdpCEqp0el2RM)

Your child's unique pin will have been emailed to you already but if you cannot find it, please contact Nicky Berry: [nicola.berry@cambianguroup.com](mailto:nicola.berry@cambianguroup.com) for support.

As a school we would like to encourage you to participate as such research often improves practice which can have a hugely positive impact on our children as the research develops as well as inform future practice here at PLS and in other settings.



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## And finally...

As always we will finish with a safeguarding notice...

Back in July of this year the government enacted new laws to help us as adults keep our young people safe online. The details can be found at this link: [What's changing for children on social media from 25 July 2025 - GOV.UK](#)

Of course laws and online rules that now need to be adopted by platforms that hold inappropriate content for children only go so far in protecting our young people and we would encourage parents to remain vigilant, especially over the Christmas period when potentially providing and setting up any new tablets, computers or mobiles using the parental controls highlighted in our first bulletin this year.

While young people should now find it more difficult to access inappropriate websites, as they will need proof of age, we have also placed a reminder below outlining what age a young person should be before accessing common social media platforms.



Do you know the minimum age restrictions on social media platforms?



## Social media safety tips for children:

- Switch off location settings on posts
- Explore and explain safety and privacy settings on apps
- Check the age ratings and features of apps to make informed decisions



# Potterspury Lodge School

## Events Across The Year

<p align="center"><b>Autumn Term 2025</b>  <b>Monday 1st September – Friday 19th December 2025</b></p>	
Macmillan Coffee Afternoon	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> September 2025
Half-Term Holiday	Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> October – Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> October
Purple Tuesday (Cambian Charity)	Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2025
Guy Fawkes	Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> November 2025
Anti-Bullying Week	Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> November 2025
Christmas Card Competition Send off	Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> November 2025 (Internal date 06/11/25)
Remembrance Day activities	Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> November 2025
Christmas Jumper Day	Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December 2025
Christmas Fair	Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2025
Christmas Lunch	Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2025
Christmas Form Event	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December (Early finish 12:30pm pickup and taxis)
Christmas Holiday	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December – Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January 2026–
<p align="center"><b>Spring Term 2026</b>  <b>Wednesday 7th January – Friday 27th March 2026</b></p>	
New Year, New Opportunities Event	Form Theme Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> January 2026
Pancake Race	Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> February 2026 (National Event 17 <sup>th</sup> in half term)
Half-Term Holiday	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> February – Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> February
Easter Crafts & Parent/Child Egg Hunt	Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> April 2026
Easter Breakfast & Form Events	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> April 2026 (Early Close 12:30pm pickup and taxis)
Easter Holiday	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> March – Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> April
<p align="center"><b>Summer Term 2026</b>  <b>Monday 13th April – Friday 17th July 2026</b></p>	
Half-Term Holiday	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> May
Celebration and Awards Day	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> July 2026
Educational Visits & Personal Development Trips week	Week Commencing Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> July 2026 – Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2026



## FOR INFORMATION TERM DATES 2026/2027

<b>Autumn Term 2026</b> <b>Tuesday 1st September – Friday 18th December 2026</b>	
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> September, Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September Staff Training Days 1 and 2	
Autumn Term 1 Starts	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September
Autumn Term 1 Ends	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October
Half-Term Holiday	Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> October – Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> October 2026
Autumn Term 2 Starts	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November
Autumn Term 2 Ends	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December - Early dismissal -Students finish at 12:30pm
Christmas Holiday	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> December – Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2027
<b>Spring Term 2027</b> <b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January – Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2027</b>	
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> January, Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2027 - Staff Training Days 3 and 4	
Spring Term 1 Starts	Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> January
Spring Term 1 Ends	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> February
Half-Term Holiday	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> February – Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2027
Spring Term 2 Starts	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February
Spring Term 2 Ends	Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> March – Early dismissal – Students finish at 12:30pm
Easter Holiday	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> March – Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> April 2027
<b>Summer Term 2027</b> <b>Monday 12th April – Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2027</b>	
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> April 2027 – Staff Training Day 5	
Summer Term 1 Starts	Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> April
Bank Holiday	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May
Summer Term 1 Ends	Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> May
Half-Term Holiday	Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> May – Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2027
Summer Term 2 Starts	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> June
Summer Term 2 Ends	Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July - Early dismissal – Students finish at 12:30pm