



Newsletter

Autumn Term 2025

Welcome to Autumn Term 2025!

A special welcome to our new starters, thank you for choosing Potley Hill Early Years and we hope your 'onboarding' has gone as smoothly as you'd hoped! It has been particularly hard this year having to turn away so many applicants as we are really popular so can't cope with all the additional enquiries due to the government expanding the funding criteria. We'd love to have taken everyone! We've started on our programme of events for the term—so make sure you make a note of the diary dates on the back page—all dates are on our website as well. We have our AGM coming up this term, so please come along and support the Committee. We need some new members as some children have left to go to school. Especially important to us is if you'd like to help with the Events/Fundraising team. New ideas and enthusiasm are all that's needed!

Just before the end of the Summer Term, we had our Ofsted Inspection and I'm pleased to report that we received a 'Good'. We've summarised some of their comments in this newsletter for you.

We are still working towards our new Lodge in the Eco Garden. We've had to submit a planning application and there is a target date of next month for a decision. As soon as we get the go ahead we will move on that straight away. The new Lodge will provide a new muster facility for Forest School, a shelter in inclement weather and a break out space for small group play.

In line with our Parent Partnership philosophy, we are organising an evening session this term, to give some expert advice on sleep patterns/worries for toddlers from Megan from @lullabynetwork. Please come along for some help and support.

Here's to enjoying another new year. My door is (nearly) always open if you need to discuss anything, just drop me a line.

Hayley



Shopping Trips begin



On Thursday 2 October we will re-commence our shopping trips to Tesco. We used to do this before COVID struck and they were really popular with the children. We catch the Number 3 by the footbridge to Tesco, do some shopping and then return on the Number 3. We leave around 9am and get back around 11am. We will take 6 of the older children at a time with 2 adults, all wearing hi-vis jackets. We will shortly be seeking updated permissions for these trips.

New Learning

Journey/Management system

We decided last academic year to move away from the Connect / Parentzone system. They did away with the App and became all cloud based which became tricky for us given we have barely any wifi signal in or outside the preschool. We hope that you will like the Tapestry system we have chosen. The summer holidays were taken up with porting all the information and setting up all the new parameters so that we were ready for September. Bear with us while we get used to all the features and how we can make better use of the system.



Staff News

We are pleased that after October half term, we will be welcoming back our Lucy H who will be returning to us from maternity leave.

Many of you will remember Lucy or will have seen her at the gate dropping off her older son Alfie.



Hardwicks Fruit and Veg collaboration

We decided from this term that we would charge a little extra on Parent Plus and provide all snacks for children. Hardwicke's in Sandhurst now hand pick top quality fruit and veg and deliver to us twice a week. The children are loving the quality and variety they provide and an added bonus is that we are also getting produce to use in our cooking sessions, eg apple crumble, carrot cake Yum Yum!



Ofsted Visit

On 3 July we received the phone call to say that an Ofsted inspector would be with us the following day. Our inspector, Kelly Lane, had a full tour of the preschool and Forest School with Hayley, observed the children and the staff and chatted to some of our parents too.

The resulting report gives us 'Good' in all categories with some lovely comments:

Children are happy and independent and thrive in this caring pre-school. From the outset, staff get to know the children and their families well. This helps them gain a good understanding of children's interests and stages of development. Children feel safe and have strong bonds with the staff. As such, children behave well and quickly settle into their chosen play activities.

Leaders and staff plan a highly ambitious curriculum that is designed to motivate and engage children. Staff thoughtfully set up learning opportunities for children to choose and follow their curiosity.

Communication and language are woven into children's play and learning.

Staff promote the importance of maintaining healthy lifestyles.

Staff teach children how to keep themselves safe

Children listen well

Overall, children behave well.

Staff have good partnerships with parents.

Leaders place importance on staff's well-being and professional development.

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. There is an open and positive culture around safeguarding that puts children's interests first.

You can read the full report on the Ofsted website or on our homepage.



If you are having a sort out, our next collection for recycling is

Tuesday 4 November

Here is a handy list of what is and isn't accepted for donation.

We accept the following **'good quality'** items:

- Men's, Ladies' and Children's clothing
- Paired shoes (tied together or elastic band around)
- Handbags, hats, bags, scarves, jewellery, belts and ties
- Soft toys
- Household linen, curtains, towels and bedding (sheets/pillow cases/duvet covers)

We **CAN'T** accept:

- Duvets and blankets, pillows and cushions
- Carpets, rugs, mats (including bath, shower and toilet mats)
- Soiled, painted, ripped or wet clothing
- School uniforms with and without logo
- Corporate clothing and workwear
- Textile off cuts, yarns or threaded material.



Statutory Requirement change—Nutrition Guidance

From September 2025, there is a new requirement in the safeguarding and welfare requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) that providers must have regard to this nutrition guidance. This means providers must take this guidance into account and should follow it unless there is good reason not to. This guidance will support providers to understand how to implement the existing EYFS requirement that states: *'Where children are provided with meals, snacks and drinks, these must be healthy, balanced and nutritious'*.

Why this guidance is important Providing healthy, balanced and nutritious food ensures that all children:

- Get the right amount of nutrients and energy they need while they are growing rapidly, which is especially important for children who might not have access to healthy food at home. This can help prevent children from becoming overweight or obese.
- Develop positive eating habits early on. Children's early experiences with food can shape future eating habits. This can impact children's long-term health including maintaining a healthy weight, and good oral health. The early years are a crucial time to reduce health inequalities and set the foundations for a lifetime of good health.

Please note that we are a Hart Foodbank Partner Referral Agency—If you are struggling, speak to the office and we will be able to help you.

We have a very useful blog article for parents on our website: www.potleyhill-preschool.co.uk/useful-documents/



Committee news

Hi there!! Welcome to all the new families joining preschool this year, and welcome back to everyone else. I hope you all had a lovely summer and are looking forward to a fun-filled autumn term at Potley Hill.

For those of you who don't know me, I'm Caroline and I am the Chairperson of the Preschool General and Events/Fundraising Committees. My eldest daughter was at Potley Hill Early Years and is now in Year 2 and my youngest daughter, Darcey, is in her final year here at Potley before heading off to school. We have just had baby number 3, Toby, who will surely end up at Potley when he is old enough too! Having just had a baby, I really need some more help on the committee too! Read on...

The Preschool is committee led and this means that without parents volunteering as trustees to form the committee, we can't run the preschool and provide the service we do. There are two committees at preschool: the General Committee and the Events Committee. The General Committee members meet once a term to discuss the running of preschool, monitor finances and policies. The Events Committee meet as needed to organise events for the children and social events for parents. This term we are already thinking about our Halloween disco, Christmas Fair and Christmas Event – please do keep an eye on the communications for updates for these, as they are such great fun for the kids and offer the opportunity for parents to socialise too.

We've got just a few weeks left until some of the committee say goodbye and we elect this year's committee at our AGM. This year we are looking for a Secretary, a Chairperson for the Events Committee, and general members for both committees. Please do reach out to the office and join us on Monday 13th October at 7:30pm if you would like to find out more about being on the committee; however big or small your contribution, you would be most welcome. I would like to extend my thanks to all of last year's committee members for all their hard work; I really couldn't do this role without such a fantastic group of parents around me.

I look forward to meeting/seeing you at the school gates, or an event very soon.

Caroline (Clara, Darcey and Toby's mum) – Chair of the Committee

September

Fundraising / Social Events

MacMillan Coffee Morning 9am—10am

Friday 26 September

Last year we had a great turnout for coffee and cake in the Forest School—weather permitting, we'll do it again!

Halloween Party 5.30pm—6.30pm

Friday 24 October

We'll have games, activities, pizza slices and cake on offer too.

October

AGM

Monday 13th October at 7:30pm

Please come along to find out more about the preschool and how you can help support the team.

Events/Fundraising Committee Meeting

Thursday 16 October at 7.30pm

We are looking for new ideas and help to organize our social and fundraising events for this year. Come along and find out more.

Photographer

Friday 17 October

Johnny from ECP Studios is coming into preschool to take photographs of the children. If it's not your day to attend you can bring your child in during the morning for their photograph—siblings welcome too! Watch this space!

November

Bag2School Clothes and Textiles Recycling Collection Day

Tuesday 4 November 2025

We collect all types of unwanted textiles which are sorted and mostly go to Eastern Europe for resale.

Committee meeting at 7.30pm

Thursday 13 November 2025

To welcome our new 2025/26 Committee. All parents are welcome.

Christmas mini fair and Santas Grotto

Friday 28 November

Come and meet Santa and his elves in his magical grotto and visit our Christmas Mini Fair.



Diary Dates

Autumn Term 2025

Autumn Term Diary Dates may be added to during the term—keep an eye on email, Parents of Potley Hill Early Years Facebook group and the calendar on the website.

Friday 26 September	MacMillan Coffee Morning
Monday 29 September -	
Friday 3 October	Harvest Festival collection for the Foodbank
Monday 13 October	AGM 7.30pm
Thursday 16 October	Events Committee meeting 7.30pm —All parents welcome!
Friday 17 October	School photographer
Tuesday 21 October	7.30pm Expert advice on toddler sleep issues from @lullabynetwork
Friday 24 October	Halloween Party 4.30pm—5.30pm (PRESCHOOL CLOSSES AT 3.30pm to give time for us to prepare)
Monday 27 October to	
Friday 31 October -	HALF TERM—PRESCHOOL CLOSED !
Tuesday 4 November	Bag2School Recycling Collection
Thursday 13 November	Committee meeting 7.30pm
Monday 17 November	Parents Evening—a chance to chat with your keycarer
Friday 28 November	Santa's Grotto and Christmas Fair
Friday 19 December	Christmas event—(Preschool finishes 11.30am)
Monday 5 January	New Starter Inductions —PRESCHOOL CLOSED
Tuesday 6 January	Preschool re-opens for the Spring Term

Don't forget you can always check our online calendar for dates.

<https://www.potleyhill-preschool.co.uk/parents-page/#calendar>

Important Reminders

- Please bring in a named water bottle and we will replenish with fresh, cold water throughout the day as necessary. They are also offered glasses of water which they can fill from a jug. We will be encouraging the children to sit down and eat their snack (which we provide) and drink such that we only have 5 children at the table at any one time, with an adult supervising.
- Packed lunches should be brought in in an individual, named, insulated lunchbox with an icepack as we can't refrigerate them. We ask for **no nuts** at all to avoid allergic reactions and please don't include sweets or drinks in their lunchbox.
- Please name **ALL** belongings. With so many children and so many belongings, it makes life so much easier!!
- And finally—please do not use the Staff Car Park for drop off and pick up. You can use the bottom car park or the Leisure Centre.