Poplar Farm Weekly Newsletter

Monday 23 November 2026

Thank you to everyone who completed our parent questionnaire earlier this term. We received almost twice as many responses as last year, which is fantastic. I was delighted to see that 96% of parents and carers agree that their child enjoys coming to school, and 97% agree that their child feels safe at school. You can find the full results, along with some of your wonderful comments, at the end of this newsletter. Thank you for taking the time to share your views. I will be responding to some of the additional feedback in the weekly newsletters over the coming weeks.
Article 17 - Access to information

Our autumn term parent consultations take place this week. If you are no longer able to attend, please contact the office to cancel your appointment. Thank you!
Article 17 - Access to information

Mrs Hodson
Head Teacher

Attendance

Last week, Class 6J had the highest attendance with 99.7%. Well done!

The whole school attendance for the week was 97.3%, which means the attendance for the year to date has remained at 96.5%.

Good attendance is essential for pupil wellbeing and academic progress. We aim for our attendance to be at least 97% and hope you can help us achieve this high attendance.

Article 28 - Right to an education

Bring a Bauble Day

We are getting excited for our December Poplar traditions!

Tuesday 2 December is 'Bring a Bauble' day, when the children can bring a decoration or bauble to decorate the Christmas tree in the hall. Please don't feel pressure to buy anything new - an old one from home or a homemade one would be perfect!

Younger siblings can decorate the tree in the foyer when they drop off or collect older siblings from school.

Article 13 - Freedom of expression

Parent Questionnaire Feedback

There are not enough trips

We are mindful of keeping costs manageable when planning trips and events, as we don't want families to feel under pressure to spend more than they can afford. It was wonderful to read in the comments how much many of you value the wide range of experiences and opportunities we provide for the children throughout the year. Our aim is to enrich learning and create lasting memories for all children.

Messages on Class Dojo again

As a staff, we have reflected on this feedback and will be reopening messaging. We request it is used appropriately, with urgent matters continuing to be directed to the school office, as staff are unable to read or respond to messages while teaching. Please note that any parent who sends abusive or inappropriate messages will lose access to messaging on Dojo.

Diary Dates

Monday 23 November - Start of UK Parliament Week
Monday 23 November - NHS Flu vaccination mop-up session
Tuesday 24 November - FoP Bag2School collection date
Tuesday 24 November - MHST parent bookable drop-in sessions
Tuesday 24 November - Y4 trip to the cinema
Tuesday 24 November - 5-7.30pm parents' evening
Wednesday 25 November - Well Being Ambassadors to visit Newton House
Wednesday 25 November - 3.30-6pm parents' evening
Thursday 26 November - Indoor athletics event for some Y5/6 children

Monday 30 November - Scotland, St.Andrew's Day
Tuesday 1 December - Bring a Bauble Day
Tuesday 1 December - Romania, Great Union Day
Thursday 3 December - International Day of Persons with Disabilities
Thursday 3 December - 2.50pm The Hive stay and play session

Monday 7 December - Start of Computer Science Education Week
Monday 7 December - 10am Rock Steady Club performance for parents
Tuesday 8 December - 2pm Open Afternoon for EYFS applications
Thursday 10 December - Human Rights Day
Thursday 10 December - EYFS visit to Rand farm Park
Thursday 10 December - 2.30pm Y3 Shared Christmas event with parents
Friday 11 December – Christmas Jumper Day

Parent Questionnaire Results - November 2026	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
My child likes being at this school	50%	46%	3%	1%
Staff treat my child fairly and with respect	49%	47%	3%	1%
I feel that my child is safe at school	51%	46%	2%	1%
I feel staff know my child as an individual	41%	52%	5%	2%
My child receives the help they need to do well	38%	55%	5%	2%
My child is making good progress at this school	43%	53%	3%	1%
I feel comfortable approaching the school with questions, suggestion, and/or a problem	47%	45%	5%	3%
The school supports my child's wider development	35%	58%	4%	3%
The school has high expectations for my child	31%	62%	4%	3%
I would recommend this school to another parent	Yes - 95%		No - 5%	

Please comment on the things you value most at the school

- Communication and support throughout the years. This helps my son know that information is passed on to me at home.
- Staff are very approachable & professional. School is very organised & things are communicated clearly & in a good time frame.
- The extracurricular offerings. The school trips. The two parents' evenings a year.
- Caring, strong communication.
- The Colour Run!
- The high level of education.
- That my child loves going, is happy, feels safe and is thriving.
- My children love going to school every day which is lovely to see. They are enthusiastic about learning and want to work hard.
- I value how safe and supported my child feels at the school.
- Poplar Pioneers.
- The enrichment opportunities.
- I really like the Poplar Peer Praise award with the comments from their peers!
- The teachers do care about their pupils. My child feels happy.
- Passion from staff and the ability to engage our child in learning.
- I value the ethos of the school which is implemented well, my children are aware of this and clearly articulate the values outside of the school. I really value the support of the school, particularly recently and with regards to transition where staff have been supportive and willing to work with parents to ensure a smooth transition for my youngest child. Communication has been excellent. As parents we are kept well informed of attendance, the curriculum and events happening within the school and we value the weekly newsletter. We also value the excellent food menu which ensures our children receive an excellent and varied cooked meal during the day. There are many opportunities for children and staff work hard to ensure that children are accessing a wide range of enrichment experiences, some of which have been fully funded. Staff also work hard to ensure children are safe and supported. Both of my children love coming to school. My eldest child has flourished at Poplar Farm and fully enjoys the holistic education and opportunities such as visits to Parliament and of course PopFest. As parents we appreciate the planning, time and commitment that goes into planning such events.
- The facilities are great, staff I've interacted with have been great, concerns raised have been taken seriously and sorted. Feels like the staff genuinely care.
- The welcoming and inclusive environment where every child is treated as an individual, encouraged to reach their potential and supported with their own needs.
- How happy he is, how much the staff genuinely care and the extra activities that the school have - PopFest, colour run, carols around the tree etc.
- I love the clear identity the school has and its commitment to supporting the holistic development of the children.
- The supportive and caring staff have a genuine love for the school and children!
- Giving kids emotional support.
- I value the school for its proximity to our home and because my child has built strong friendships here. He is settled and does not wish to move to another school. I also value my child's teacher in year 4.
- Quick action on any bullying concerns.
- I value hard working teachers who bring the best in my child, good communication between parents and school.
- The extracurricular activities such as PopFest.
- I value the caring and welcoming environment, the support provided by the teachers, and the focus on helping children feel safe, happy and confident while learning and making friends.
- I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the excellent support and care the school has provided to my son. I genuinely feel that the school has done an outstanding job in understanding his individual needs and providing the appropriate support to help him develop. It is particularly reassuring to know that he is happy, settled and enjoys attending school. Over the past year, I have witnessed significant progress in his development. As a parent, I cannot express how much this progress means to me. I recognise that it takes patience, consistency, understanding and dedication to support a child with additional needs. I am truly grateful to the staff for their continued commitment, hard work and the positive difference they have made in my son's life. Thank you for creating an environment where he feels understood, supported, valued and, most importantly, happy to learn.
- Poplar Farm is a fabulous school. My child has thrived during their time with you. Moving schools was the best decision.
- No birthday sweets being distributed to children.
- My kids come out happy and have no issues about being in school.
- Problems are resolved when reported to.
- I can't praise the EYFS team enough. My son absolutely loves being at school. I feel he is being fully supported and seen at this school. I feel very lucky that he has this team for his first year at school and they've already seen his abilities and moved him into the Year 1 class for Phonics. This was extremely impressive to me. I loved the effort with the banners etc on the gate for their first day, I like all the communication to parents about everything going on so thank you! I now can't wait for my 2 younger children to start there in the next couple of years.
- I love the school - keep it up!