



# Phoenix Infant and Nursery School Newsletter

Flying High at Phoenix! 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025



## Happy New Year to you all!

Welcome back to a new term and a New Year. What a chilly week to come back to! The children are pleased to be back with their friends and are already working hard. Thank you to the children who have sent in some Brilliant Beginnings research conducted during the holidays -this is being displayed in each classroom.

### **The value for the month of January at Phoenix is 'Determination'**

We will be thinking of Determination as 'not giving up when things get difficult'. Many of us make New Year's Resolutions in January but we can make resolutions at any time of the year. Determination is key to our success in making the changes we are wishing for. Whether you have made a resolution or not, the value of determination will only help in a positive way. For our children, we encourage them constantly to try their best, to not give up when they find things difficult and to welcome challenges. We teach them strategies to help them when they get stuck and to persevere when things get tough!

Determination is fuelled by a 'growth mindset'. When children have a growth mindset, they understand that intelligence can be developed. Children then focus on improvement instead of worrying about how smart they are. They work hard to learn more and get smarter. We explicitly teach these skills to our children throughout their time here at Phoenix. There is a really useful article here that explains Growth Mindset.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/grownups/help-your-child-try-new-things>

**A favourite saying at Phoenix is..." It's not that you can't do it - you just can't do it YET!!!"**



### Building works update

The building works in F2 has been delayed slightly and will now begin on 27th January. Additional details will be shared with F2 families separately to ensure everyone is well-informed about the developments.

While the works are underway, we anticipate an impact on the rest of the school. The school hall will be utilised primarily by F2, as it will be transformed to support their curriculum and continuous provision. This will necessitate a more static setup, which may limit access for other classes.

In terms of Physical Education (PE), we recognise that our usual PE sessions will be affected. For Year 2, swimming lessons will continue as scheduled on a weekly basis. However, please be aware that due to limited access to the hall and the unpredictability of the weather, children will not have a dedicated PE day. Instead, we aim to enhance physical activity throughout the school day. This will include active movement breaks, yoga sessions, and opportunities to utilise the adventure playground when conditions permit, alongside chances for outdoor running.

As for special assemblies, children will be awarded trophies or special effort certificates during class. These achievements recorded and then sent to parents via Tapestry or Seesaw so that you can share with you child at home. I will be recording a weekly assembly too so that can still take place virtually instead.

We anticipate that the building works in F2 will be completed by the May half-term, at which point we will resume all usual activities and warmly invite families back into the school for assemblies.

We genuinely appreciate your support during this time. Both staff and children have demonstrated remarkable adaptability, and we truly appreciate your understanding.

### PE kit

We would like to provide an update regarding our Physical Education (PE) arrangements from the Summer Term. Following the adjustments made during the Covid-19 pandemic, children have been arriving at school in their PE kits on designated days. While we recognised the convenience of this approach, we have also identified several disadvantages that we believe warrant a change. One significant challenge has been the limited flexibility this arrangement offers for delivering PE sessions, also children not being in uniform on different days can make it difficult for families to plan. Additionally, we wish to encourage children to develop their independence by getting dressed for PE within the school setting. Therefore, in **KS1** (classes 3.4.5 and 6) starting from **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February**, we will revert to the previous policy where PE kits are kept in school throughout the week. This means that children will need to wear their regular uniforms daily, with their PE kits stored at school, ready for use. In **F2** (lasses 1 and 2) the policy of leaving PE kits in school will begin after May half term and you will get a reminder a few weeks before.

The PE kit remains the same and consist of a **white T-shirt, blue shorts or joggers, and trainers or plimsolls**. Children will bring their PE kits home every Friday for laundering but must return them on Monday. We appreciate your understanding and support as we implement this change and hope you will find this easier too.

# Attendance Matters



The Spring term is an incredibly short period in the academic year but a time when children make so much progress. It is important that your child's attendance is as close to 100% as it can be. Like every other school, the impact of the last few years has been significant on our children, and we have to make sure that every day counts. Of course, we understand that children at this age do get lots of bugs and will need time of school if too unwell to attend. This website is really useful in giving advice about then your child is too ill to come to school. <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

However, we have a small number of families, where despite taking this into account attendance is very low. Letter have been sent to families where attendance is a concern so that we can work together to improve it. A huge thank you to our families that work hard to ensure the best possible attendance and ensure that the children come to school on every day that they are well enough. We also ensure we recognise good attendance, and this is done on a termly basis. Certificates went out before the holidays to acknowledge attendance above 97% for the Autumn Term as well as 100% certificates and badges too.

Whole school attendance this week is 97% - brilliant. Let's keep this up Phoenix!

97% and Above	Above 97%. <i>Excellent Attendance.</i> Less than 6 days absence a year: Pupils with this attendance should achieve the best grades they can, leading to the best possible start in their junior/secondary education.
95% - 96%	96%. <i>Below Average.</i> Approximately 8 days absence in a year: This means half a year of school is lost over the course of a child's total school career. Pupils with this attendance are below the national average and are less likely to achieve their target grades and less likely to be prepared for starting junior/secondary education.
90%	90%. <i>Too Low!</i> 19 days absence over the year: Pupils with this attendance are missing a month of school per year and are likely to fall behind in Maths and English; it will be very difficult for them to achieve their best. It means that a child will miss a whole year of school if this rate continues across their whole school career. Parents of pupils with this level of attendance could be issued with a Penalty Notice.
85% or less	85%. <i>Serious Problem.</i> 29 days absence in a year: These pupils are missing 6 weeks of school a year. It will be almost impossible for them to keep up with their group and achieve their best. Parents of pupils with this level of attendance could be issued with a Penalty Notice.

# ‘Theatre Kids’

**Saturday Mornings from the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

(Term Time Only) with Ms Key

**10.00 - 11.00am**

@ Phoenix Infant and Nursery School

**For all children in Yr 1 – Yr 6**

**£5.00 per session**

★ Drama ★ Dance ★ Singing ★



★ Songs from Musicals ★  
★ Drama and acting games ★  
★ Dance routines ★

To book, email [charissakey@gmail.com](mailto:charissakey@gmail.com)

**Free taster session for all  
newcomers!**



# Parent/Carer Coffee and Chat



Does your child have difficulties at school, at home or in the community?

Would you like to talk, voice the challenges, share ideas, and help to improve things for you and your child?

**Session 2: Friday 31st Jan, 9.30 - 11am**

**Session 3: Friday 14th March, 9.30 - 11am**

**Where: Phoenix Infant & Nursery**



**Project for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools [PINS]**

**For further information please  
contact: [enquiries@nottspcf.org](mailto:enquiries@nottspcf.org)**



*This project is independent of schools, or the educational dept of Nottinghamshire County Council. It is funded by Health and is being run by Nottinghamshire Parent Carer Forum - an independent charity run by and for parent carers.*

### Diary dates

- **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> January - Theatre Kids 10-11am**
- **Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January - Parent/carer coffee and chat (see information below)**
- **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2024- Safer Internet Day**
- **Half term: Monday, 17th February 2025 to Friday, 21st February 2025**
- **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025 - First day of term**
- **Thursday 6th March 2025 - World Book Day**
- **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March and Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024 - F2 Parents evening (Classes 1 and 2)**
- **Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March and Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024 - KS1 Parents evening (Classes 3,4,5 and 6)**
- **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2024- Last day of term**

### Summer

- **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April - First day of summer Term**
- **Half term - Monday 26 May 2025 to Friday 30 May 2025**
- **W/C 9th June 2024 - Year 1 Phonics Screening**
- **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2025 - Year 2 Residential to Gulliver's Valley - details to follow**
- **Wednesday 18th June 2025 9.30 am - KS1 Sports day 9.30am**
- **Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2025 - F1/F2 Sports day 10.00am / 2.00pm**
- **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2024- INSET DAY**
- **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2025 - Year 2 Leavers assembly 2.00pm**
- **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2025- Last day of term- END OF ACADEMIC YEAR**

**Have a great weekend everyone!**



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