

Phoenix Infant and Nursery School

Newsletter www.phoenixinfant.co.uk



5th September 2025

Welcome! It has been a true joy to meet the children and families this week. What a wonderful start to the year we have enjoyed! It has been delightful to welcome back the children, as well as to greet the new faces joining us in Nursery and Foundation Two. The way the children have embraced the changes in KS1 as we move to mixed year group classes is truly commendable. With their positive attitudes already shining through, I am confident that they will continue to make us all proud throughout the year. We have loved hearing your fantastic feedback so far—thank you!

We hope you find our weekly newsletters helpful. Please do take a moment to read them, as they are full of important information. Each newsletter features a section for diary dates, and we do our best to give you plenty of notice about upcoming events. Below, you will find the key dates mapped out for the year, and rest assured, we will expand on these as the term unfolds.

Communication with our families is key to supporting the children's growth. To keep everyone in the loop, we use online learning platforms. In the Foundation Stage (Nursery and Foundation Two), we use Tapestry, while Key Stage One we use Seesaw. All the necessary information and login details have been sent out, but if you need any assistance with this, please do not hesitate to reach out. We also have a Facebook page [Facebook](#) so you can view key news stories and events.

You will notice plenty of familiar faces in the playground each morning, warmly welcoming your children. This friendly interaction is an essential part of our happy community, and we want you to feel comfortable asking any questions. We're here to help!

There's an exciting term ahead, packed with events designed to keep you updated on the curriculum and to encourage connection with our families. Here are some key dates to remember:

- F2 Phonics Information for Families Session - Wednesday, 17th September 2025 at 5:00 PM
- Coffee Morning - Friday, 26th September 2025 at 9:15 AM
- KS1 Curriculum Evening - Wednesday, 8th October 2025 at 5:30 PM
- F2 Parents' Evenings - Monday, 13th October and Wednesday, 15th October 2025
- KS1 Parents' Evenings - Tuesday, 14th October and Thursday, 16th October 2025

Details on booking appointments for parents' evenings will be shared closer to the dates. We're genuinely looking forward to these sessions as they will give you the chance to meet your child's teacher, discuss how your little one is settling in, address attendance matters, and explore their learning environment. At the end of this newsletter, you will find key diary dates for the entire academic year, including school holidays, alongside an overview of our lovely staff. We hope you find this information useful!

This term we have a real focus on children feeling happy and secure in school as the children transition into school or new classes. Building healthy relationships and nourishing mental health and wellbeing is a key driver in our healthy and happy school community. Through our well-being approach to education, we talk about feelings and emotions from the moment children enter foundation stage and help pupils build strategies to manage their own mental health. We encourage the children to talk about their own feelings and emotions and develop the language to share their emotions. At Phoenix we use a range of strategies to ensure our children feel happy and safe and in turn become confident learners. We always greet the children warmly on entry to school each day and then ensure the day is calm, purposeful and enjoyable. The information below gives you further information about some of the strategies we use.



All our children benefit from Take Five at school. Our staff have been trained to deliver this resilience building skill set based on breathing, grounding, and awareness to all our children. The children are taught short practices which help them to relax, feel refreshed and energised, release tension and ground themselves. The children in KS1 are familiar with these practices from last year and have started the sessions again this year. The children in Nursery and F2 will start their Take Five journey over the next couple of weeks.

To encourage all our children to understand and manage their emotions we also deliver a 'First Aid for Feelings' programme here at school. The children have a special first aid box in class that helps them to name and understand their feelings, and they have tools they can access to help them manage feelings they may have throughout the day. Just like a child may need a plaster for a cut, they may need one of the tools in the box for when they have hurt emotions. The children find out how to use the tools over the course of half a term and are then encouraged to be able to manage their emotions using the tools.



At our school, we are committed to fostering a nurturing environment that enhances the self-esteem of our children. To aid in this, we have implemented an initiative where each child is encouraged to write something positive about a classmate on a weekly basis. Throughout the academic year, every child will have the opportunity to receive affirmations from their peers.

The process involves the teacher selecting a student each week, after which classmates will write notes acknowledging the chosen child's strengths and qualities. These notes are then compiled into a personalised card, which the selected student will read aloud in class. The cards are proudly displayed within the school until the half term, after which they are sent home with the child.

Feedback from the children who participated in this initiative last year indicated that they found the experience immensely valuable, contributing positively to their sense of self-worth and community within the classroom.



Dates for
the Diary:

Diary dates

Autumn Term

- **F2 Phonics Information for Families Session** - Wednesday, 17th September 2025 at 5:00 PM
- **Coffee Morning** - Friday, 26th September 2025 at 9:15 AM
- **KS1 Curriculum Evening** - Wednesday, 8th October 2025 at 5:30 PM
- **F2 Parents' Evenings** - Monday, 13th October and Wednesday, 15th October 2025
- **KS1 Parents' Evenings** - Tuesday, 14th October and Thursday, 16th October 2025
- **Half Term** - Monday, 20th October 2025 to Friday, 31st October 2025
- **INSET** - School closed for children on **Monday**, 3rd November 2025
- **F2 Christmas Performance (Puffins and Finches)** - Tuesday, 9th December 2025 at 2:00 PM
- **Nursery Christmas Performance** - Tuesday, 9th December 2025 (10:00 AM and 2:00 PM)
- **Santa's Grotto** - Saturday, 13th December 2025
- **KS1 Christmas Performance (Woodpeckers, Hummingbirds and Kingfishers)** - Wednesday, 17th December 2025 at 2:00 PM and Thursday, 18th December 2025 at 9:30 AM
- **Pantomime/Party Day (including Christmas Dinner)** - Friday, 19th December 2025
- **Last Day of Term** - Friday, 19th December 2025

Spring Term

- **Back to School: Monday, 5th January 2026**
- **Safer Internet Day** - Tuesday, 10th February 2026
- **Half Term** - Monday, 16th February 2026 to Friday, 20th February 2026
- **First Day of Term** - Monday, 23rd February 2026
- **World Book Day** - Thursday, 5th March 2026
- **Easter Disco** - Friday, 20th March 2026
- **F2 Parents' Evenings (Puffins and Finches)** - Monday, 23rd March and Wednesday, 25th March 2026
- **KS1 Parents' Evenings (Hummingbirds, Kingfishers, and Woodpeckers)** - Tuesday, 24th March and Thursday, 26th March 2026
- **Last Day of Term** - Friday, 27th March 2026

Summer Term

- **First Day of Summer Term** - Monday, 13th April 2026
- **Half Term** - Monday, 25th May 2026 to Friday, 29th May 2026
- **Year 1 Phonics Screening** - Week commencing 8th June 2026
- **Year 2 Residential Trip to Gulliver's Valley - details to follow** - Thursday, 11th June 2026
- **KS1 Sports Day (Hummingbirds, Kingfishers/Woodpeckers)** - Wednesday, 17th June 2026 - 9:30 AM
- **F1/F2 Sports Day (Nursery, Finches, and Puffins)** - Wednesday, 24th June 2026 (times: 9:30 AM and 10:30 AM)
- **Carnival (after school fundraiser for children)** - Thursday, 2nd July 2026
- **INSET Day** - Friday, 3rd July 2026
- **Year 2 Leavers Assembly** - Thursday, 23rd July 2026 at 2:00 PM
- **Last Day of Term** - Friday, 24th July 2026 - End of Academic Year

Staffing

Head Teacher - Mrs Harper

SENCO - Mrs Harper

Deputy Head Teacher - Miss McPhilbin

Key Stage One Lead - Mrs Bloom

Early Years Lead - Mrs Henson

Foundation Stage

Mrs Henson (Finches)

Mr Farooq (Puffins)

Foundation Stage Teaching Assistants (Nursery and F2)

Mrs Knapczyk

Miss Zullo

Mrs Betts

Mrs Richardson

Mrs Shepherd

Mrs Key

Mrs George

The Nest (Enhanced Provision Unit)

Miss McPhilbin (Teacher)

Mrs Shepherd

Mrs Bowles

Mrs Harris

Year One/Two - Woodpeckers

Miss Greasley 2 days / Miss Moretto 3 days

Year One/Two - Kingfishers

Mrs Bloom 3 days / Mrs McArthur - 2 days

Year One/Two - Hummingbirds

Miss Gossington 4 days / Miss Greasley 1 day

Key Stage One Teaching Assistants

Mrs Smith

Mrs O'Hare

Mrs Key

August						
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September						
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29	30					

October						
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November						
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December						
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April						
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May						
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31						

June						
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29	30					

July						
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

School Holidays
 Public Holidays
 Administration Day

Autumn Term
1 September - 17 October 7 weeks
3 November - 19 December 7 weeks

Spring Term
5 January - 13 February 6 weeks
23 February - 27 March 5 weeks

Summer Term
13 April - 22 May 5 weeks 4 days
1 June - 27 July 8 weeks 1 day

School closed for INSET
Tuesday 2nd September
Monday 3rd November
Friday 3rd July
Monday 27th July