



Phoenix Infant and Nursery School Newsletter

5th December 2025

Another busy week at Phoenix!

What an exciting time of year it is at Phoenix! Our Christmas performances are just around the corner, and we couldn't be more thrilled to showcase the incredible talents of our children. These performances are not just about singing and acting; they foster creativity, teamwork, and confidence among our children. Engaging in the arts is a vital part of our curriculum, allowing children to express themselves and develop essential social skills. All details and information about tickets have been shared but here is a reminder about times -

F2 Christmas Performance (Puffins and Finches) - Tuesday, 9th December 2025 at 2:00 PM

Nursery Christmas Performance - Thursday 11th December 2025 (10:00 AM and 2:00 PM)

KS1 Christmas Performance (Woodpeckers, Hummingbirds and Kingfishers) - Wednesday, 17th December 2025 at 2:00 PM and Thursday, 18th December 2025 at 9:30 AM

We can't wait to see our talented children shine! Additionally, at each performance there will be a tombola and the opportunity to still purchase raffle tickets - please bring along cash if you would like to take part.



Earlier this week we announced the implementation of our new lunchtime system, designed to enhance the dining experience for our children.

Here's how the new system works: children have designated trays for their meals and get served as they go along the line, allowing for a smoother service and more time to enjoy their food and play. The children have shown amazing independence skills and wonderful manners too! We've already noticed positive changes in children's behaviour and their enjoyment of lunchtime. The lunch hall is much quieter as there is no waiting between courses, and the children also get longer outside playing. The children absolutely love the new system! We encourage parents to ask their children about their lunchtime experiences and any feedback with us.



OPAL play is going from strength to strength!

Our OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) initiative continues to thrive, and we are thrilled to see the positive impact it has on our children's physical and emotional health. Outdoor play is essential for young children, promoting creativity, social skills, and physical development. We had our second development day with Wedny, our OPAL mentor and she was really pleased with how we are implementing OPAL. We are currently introducing new zones that will enhance the opportunities for exploration and fun.

To support this initiative, we kindly ask for donations of the following items next:

- Scrubbing brushes/sweeping brushes
- Baby baths/dolls
- Umbrellas

It is amazing what we can use and how brilliantly the children are developing great play. There have been lots of rainy days this term and even with wellies there are still sometimes soggy socks. Please feel free to add a spare pair of socks into your child's bag and let them know they are there to change into if needed.



As we approach the festive season, we recognise that this time of year can present unique challenges for neurodiverse children. At Phoenix, we are committed to inclusivity and providing support for all our children. We understand that the excitement and changes associated with Christmas can sometimes be overwhelming, and we want to ensure that every child feels comfortable and supported.

To assist families at home, we have added a very useful booklet onto our website <https://www.phoenixinfant.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=245> as well as further resources here <https://littlepuddins.ie/?s=christmas> We encourage parents to explore these resources and reach out if they need additional support.

Holiday activities and food

We are pleased to inform you about the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme, which is designed to ensure that children accessing benefits-based pupil premium (free school meals) can access engaging activities during the holidays. Here are some key benefits of the HAF programme:

- Access to healthy meals
- Fun and engaging activities

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/holiday-activities-and-food> We hope that this programme will make a positive difference for our families, and we are here to support you in accessing these resources. For infant school (Reception, Year 1, Year 2) in Nottinghamshire, meals are *universally* free, but *applying* for benefits-based free school meals (FSM) helps the school get extra money (Pupil Premium) for support, so you should still apply if you get benefits like Universal Credit, Income Support, or Pension Credit, even for infants, via [Nottinghamshire County Council's website](#). Applying provides funding for attainment and supports your child's learning. We would encourage all eligible families to apply as soon as possible.

Why Apply for Infant Free School Meals (Even Though They're Free)?

- **[Universal Infant Free School Meals \(UIFSM\)](#)**: All children in Reception, Year 1, and Year 2 get a free meal anyway, you don't need to apply for *that*.
- **[Pupil Premium](#)**: Your application allows the school to claim extra funding (Pupil Premium) to help your child's education (e.g., extra support, resources).
- **Eligibility for Other Benefits**: Your application can also trigger help with milk, school uniform, or trips.

Who Should Apply (for Benefits-Based FSM)?

If you receive any of these benefits, apply through the Notts County Council website:

- Income Support, Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income-related Employment and Support Allowance.
- Universal Credit (with earned income less than £7,400/year).
- Guarantee element of Pension Credit, Child Tax Credit (not with Working Tax Credit).

How to Apply in Notts

- **Online**: Use the Nottinghamshire County Council website
- **By Phone**: 0300 500 80 80

<https://notts.cloud.servelec-synergy.com/SynergyWeb/Enquiries/Citizen/FreeSchoolMeals.as>

- Let us know if you have applied or have any issues so we can help

Diary dates

Autumn Term

- **F2 Christmas Performance (Puffins and Finches)** - Tuesday, 9th December 2025 at 2:00 PM
- **Nursery Christmas Performance** - Thursday 11th December 2025 (10:00 AM and 2:00 PM)
- **Santa's Grotto** - Saturday, 13th December 2025 <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofphoenix/?event=event&eventId=89763>
- **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