

# Phoenix Infant and Nursery School

## Newsletter [www.phoenixinfant.co.uk](http://www.phoenixinfant.co.uk)



6<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Welcome! It has been great to meet the children and families this week. The children have made a wonderful start to the year, and it has been a real delight to welcome them back, as well as meet the new children starting in Nursery and F2 too. The children have taken on board all the changes due to the building works and we have been thrilled with their positive attitudes to school already and know that they will continue to make us all proud during the year. Thank you too for all your lovely comments about transition and how well the children have settled into school or the new classes.

I hope you find the weekly newsletters useful. Please take time to read them as there is lots of important information in them. There is always a section with diary dates - we try to give you plenty of notice where possible of future events. We have mapped out the main dates for the year (see below) and these will be added to over the term. The date is in for the flu vaccination in the diary dates and the link to sign up too.

Communication with our families is a key part of supporting the children. We use online Learning Platforms as one method of communication. In Foundation (Nursery and Classes 1 and 2) a platform called Tapestry is used and in Key Stage One we utilise Seesaw. All information and logins have been sent out but if you do not have this information then please let us know.

You will always see lots of adults in the playground greeting your children in the morning - this is a key part of our happy community. Do not hesitate to ask any questions - we are here to help.

We will be offering parents consultations this term. You will be able to choose either face-to-face consultation, phone call or Zoom - whichever you prefer. The dates for the parents' consultations are -

- [Monday 14th October and Wednesday 16th October 2024 - F2 Parents evening \(Classes 1 and 2\) 3.30pm - 6.00pm](#)
- [Tuesday 15th October and Thursday 17th October 2024 - Key Stage 1 Parents evening \(Classes 3, 4, 5 and 6\) 3.30pm - 6.00pm](#)

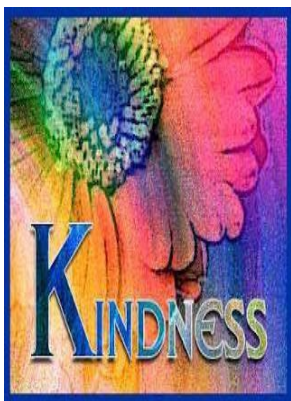
Information about booking an appointment will go out closer to the date. We are looking forward to these sessions so that you can see the teacher, find out how your child is settling in, discuss attendance and see their learning environment. Please take a look below at how we settle the children in and support their wellbeing.

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 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 from Mrs Harper and the Phoenix Team independently to help them manage difficult 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 a half term and are then encouraged to be able to manage their emotions using the tools.



To further raise the self-esteem of our children and help them acknowledge their strengths we encourage our children to write something positive about a child from their class each week. All children will be chosen during the year. The teacher tells the children who to write about, and then collects the notes afterwards. The notes are added into a card and then the child gets to read what their classmates like about them. The cards are displayed in school until half term and

then the child gets to take it home to keep. The children last year reported that they really value this.

## **ATTENDANCE UPDATE – Getting your child into good habits at the beginning of the year is vital.**

The Department for Education (DfE) has issued new statutory guidance for all schools regarding attendance. This guidance will take effect on 19th August 2024, coinciding with the new academic year. The full guidance is available via this link: [Working together to improve school attendance \(applies from 19 August 2024\) \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/125421/Working_together_to_improve_school_attendance_applies_from_19_August_2024.pdf)

Phoenix Infant and Nursery School believes that all our children deserve the very best and are entitled to a full education.

A huge thank you to parents and carers who already ensure that their child's attendance is as high as possible. We do have some families where attendance is a concern, and we want to improve outcomes for all our families.

### **Key information for parents and carers regarding the guidance**

- To manage and improve attendance effectively, the school and its partners will work with pupils, parents and carers collaboratively to remove any barriers to attendance by building strong and trusting relationships and by working together to put the right support in place.
- The DfE has changed the fining system which we are required to adopt. **Our school does not receive any money from any fines issued by the Local Authority.**
- Penalty Notice fines may be issued for term time leave of five or more consecutive days and for fewer days where absence has happened before.
- **10 Sessions of Unauthorised Absence in a 10-week period**: Penalty Notice fines may be considered when there have been 10 sessions of absence in a 10-week period.
- Follow the links for further guidance issued by DfE for parents and carers:

[How to improve your child's school attendance and where to get support - The Education Hub \(blog.gov.uk\)](https://www.blog.gov.uk/2024/07/19/how-to-improve-your-childs-school-attendance-and-where-to-get-support/)

[Fines for parents for taking children out of school: What you need to know - The Education Hub \(blog.gov.uk\)](https://www.blog.gov.uk/2024/07/19/fines-for-parents-for-taking-children-out-of-school-what-you-need-to-know/)

[DfE external document template \(childrenscommissioner.gov.uk\)](https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/2024/07/19/dfe-external-document-template/)

### **DfE Attendance Hubs**

Our school accesses the resources and best practice of three DfE Attendance Hubs which were created to support attendance improvement in schools. [Major national drive to improve school attendance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/major-national-drive-to-improve-school-attendance)

We also access different Attendance Hub resources via the White Hills Park Trust as well as the Local Authority.

**We are committed to improved attendance as this is the essential foundation to positive outcomes for all our pupils.**

High levels of attendance not only support academic learning but also fosters social skills, builds relationships with peers and teachers, and contributes to overall personal development. Being part of the school community on a daily basis enhances students' engagement, motivation, and sense of belonging, all of which are vital for their growth and success.

We are committed to working with families to overcome any barriers to attendance and to providing an environment where every child can thrive. Your partnership with us is crucial in promoting a culture of regular attendance and supporting your child's educational journey. If you have any concerns about your child's attendance, please contact the school.

Please work with us to ensure all children achieve their potential through good attendance.



# Should I keep my child off school?



## Yes

### Until...

Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

## No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek



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### Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfec>.



## Diary dates

### Autumn

- Friday 13th September 2024 - Year 2 swimming starts
- Tuesday 17 September 2024 - Flu immunisation - *If you would like your child to receive the flu vaccine in school this year, please follow this link to complete an online consent form. If you would like to decline, please complete a no consent form on the attached link.*

<https://nhslmms.azurewebsites.net/session/b1189d9b>

*The vaccinations will take place at your child's school on the 17th September 2024. The link will close on the 12th September 2024. If your child has already had the Flu vaccine elsewhere since September 2024, please disregard this message.*

- Friday 27th Sept Fun Run - Fun run -childhood cancer awareness fund raiser - [www.cclg.org.uk](http://www.cclg.org.uk) more details to follow
- Monday 14th and Wednesday 16th October 2024 - F2 Parents evenings
- Tuesday 15th and Thursday 17th October 2024- KS1 Parents evenings
- Half term: Monday, 21 October 2024 to Friday, 1 November 2024
- Tuesday 10th December 2.00pm - F2 (Classes 1 and 2) Christmas Performance
- Thursday 12th December -Nursery Christmas Performance (times to be decided)
- Tuesday 17th December 2.00pm and Wednesday 18th December 9.30am KS1 (Classes 3,4,5, and 6) Christmas Performance
- Friday 20th December Pantomime / party day (including Christmas dinner)
- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December - end of term
- Back to school: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January Spring term

### Spring

- Tuesday 11<sup>h</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 19<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

## Staffing

**Head Teacher** - Mrs Harper

**Deputy Head Teacher** - Miss McPhilbin (previously Mrs Broad)

**Key Stage One Lead** - Mrs Bloom

**Early Years Lead** - Mrs Henson

### **Foundation Stage**

Mrs Henson (Class 1)

Mr Farooq (Class 2)

### **Foundation Stage Teaching Assistants (Nursery and F2)**

Mrs Knapczyk

Miss Zullo

Mrs Betts

Mrs Richardson

Mrs Shepherd

Mrs Bowles

Mrs Key

Mrs George

### **Year One**

Miss McPhilbin (Class 3)

Miss Greasley 2 days / Miss Moretto 3 days (Job-share - Class 4)

### **Year Two**

Mrs Bloom 3 days / Mrs McArthur - 2 days (job share Class 5)

Miss Gossington (Class 6)

### **Key Stage One Teaching Assistants**

Mrs Smith

Mrs O'Hare

Have a wonderful weekend  
Mrs Harper and the Phoenix Team!