



We are in the final term of the year, with lots of important dates and exciting events planned - please do keep an eye on the diary dates at the end of this letter so you don't miss anything!

Alongside all of the events, there is also lots of exciting learning taking place across school. The children love talking about their learning and we regularly add snapshots and updates onto Seesaw and Tapestry throughout the week. Taking time to talk to your child about what they have been learning really helps them to consolidate and embed their understanding.

Our current "Ask Me About..." themes are:

- Nursery - *Can I name different shapes?*

The children have been learning to recognise and name different 2D shapes such as circles, squares, triangles and rectangles.

- F2 - *How can we look after the world?*

In Foundation, we have been learning about how to care for our planet and the important role we all play in protecting the Earth. We have made promises about ways we can help the environment, explored the importance of recycling, and discussed how small actions can make a big difference. We have also written instructions explaining how to grow a big, beautiful tree from a tiny seed.

- Hummingbirds - *Can you tell me facts about an orangutan?*

The children have been learning about orangutans and can talk about what they look like, such as their long arms and orange-brown fur, what they eat, including fruit and leaves, and where they sleep.

- Kingfishers - *What do plants need to grow?*

In Kingfishers we have been investigating what plants need to grow and flourish. We set up a science investigation in which we planted seeds in different conditions such without water, without light, without the correct temperature and observed our plants closely. We have also learned about germination and each planted and cared for our own bean in the classroom. It was very exciting to see the first roots and shoots appearing!

- Woodpeckers - *How do Jewish families celebrate Shabbat?*

The children have learnt that Shabbat is a special day of rest in Judaism. They can recall that God rested on the seventh day and have explored some of the ways Jewish families celebrate and spend time together during Shabbat.



Happy 100th Birthday Sir David Attenborough!

It was a very exciting week in Foundation because we have been learning all about Sir David Attenborough and celebrating his 100th birthday. The children were fascinated to discover how Sir David has spent his life exploring the world, teaching people about animals, plants and oceans, and helping everyone understand how

important it is to care for our planet.

We began by watching clips about his adventures around the world. The children loved learning about the incredible creatures Sir David has seen, from tiny insects in the rainforest to enormous whales in the ocean. We talked about how he has helped people learn about protecting wildlife and looking after the Earth for future generations.

During our Forest School session, the children worked together to create a wonderful portrait of Sir David using natural materials. They collected leaves, sticks, bark, petals and moss to make his face and hair. The children showed fantastic teamwork, creativity and respect for nature as they explored the outdoor environment. They were very proud of their finished artwork and enjoyed discussing why natural materials were the perfect way to celebrate someone who loves the natural world so much.

It has been a wonderful learning experience that encouraged curiosity, creativity and a love of nature. This afternoon the whole school watched the live assembly alongside 6000 other schools to celebrate the special day. The children have thoroughly enjoyed discovering the life and achievements of Sir David Attenborough and celebrating the amazing work he has done — and continues to do — for our world. Happy Birthday Sir David!



Who is he?

Sir David Attenborough is a famous TV presenter and conservationist, who has spent his life exploring and explaining the natural world.

What has he done?

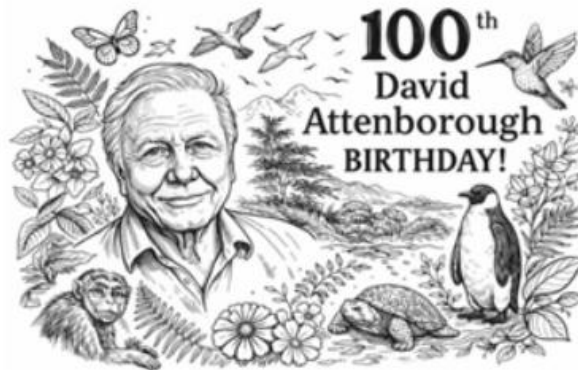
Sir David has made nature programmes for over 70 years!

He has created famous series like Planet Earth and Blue Planet, travelling all over the world to film animals and habitats.



Sir David Attenborough is 100!

Sir David aims to help people understand how the planet works, showing the beauty of nature and explaining why it's important to protect the environment.



Above: A graphic to commemorate Sir David's special birthday.
Source: Nathan Burns/Mrmetacognition

What are some of Sir David's key messages?

1. Humans need to take care of the Earth.
2. Small actions can make a big difference.



Interesting facts!

- Sir David has visited every continent!
- He has filmed some of the rarest animals on Earth.
- He's helped millions of people learn about wildlife.



Next week, we are very excited to begin swimming lessons on our school site for our Year 2 children. Learning to swim is such an important and vital life skill and we are delighted to be able to provide this opportunity for the children. Alongside developing confidence in the water, swimming also helps children to build resilience, coordination and independence, and we know the children will thoroughly enjoy the experience. Having the pool on site is a new experience at Phoenix and we hope that the children will gain so much from the intensive series of lessons. Please remember that kits will need to come into school every day - they will be returned each evening to be washed and dried.

Some children have also signed up for swimming clubs, and you will have information directly. Please can we ask that all children attending swimming clubs are collected from the main entrance doors at the end of their session.

Finally, at the end of this half term we will be sadly saying farewell to Mrs Shepherd. During her time here she has been truly amazing and has made such a positive difference to the lives of our children and families. Mrs Shepherd will be greatly missed by both staff and children alike. She is moving on to pastures new where she will be able to utilise her brilliant skills in a different way to support families. We would like to thank her for all of her hard work, dedication and care, and we wish her every success and happiness for the future.

Thanks as always for all of your support - it means so much! Have a wonderful weekend,

Mrs Harper and the Phoenix Team!

Diary dates

Summer Term

- **Half Term** - Monday, 25th May 2026 to Friday, 29th May 2026
- **Foundation 2 Visit to Bestwood Education Centre -Tuesday 2nd June 2026**
- **Year 1 Phonics Screening** - Week commencing 8th June 2026
- **School class photographs** - Tuesday 9th June 2026
- **Year 2 Residential Trip to Gulliver's Valley** -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)
- **Parents informed of child's class for next year -Monday 29th June, 2026**
- **KS1 visit to the Sealife Centre** - Wednesday 1st July, 2026
- **Moving up Morning** - all children in new classes - Thursday 2nd July, 2026
- **Carnival (after school fundraiser for children)** - Thursday, 2nd July 2026
- **INSET Day** - Friday, 3rd July 2026
- **End of Year reports to parents** - Friday 10th 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
- **Back to school** - Thursday 3rd September 2026