



Phoenix Infant and Nursery School Newsletter

17th July 2026



As we approach our final week of the school year, it is a time of mixed emotions. We are preparing to say goodbye to our wonderful Year 2 children as they move on to the next stage of their learning journey.

They have been such a brilliant group of children who have formed fantastic friendships, built strong connections and worked so well together throughout their time with us. Their kindness, enthusiasm and smiles have made them a much-loved part of our school community. They will be greatly missed by the children across the school and by every member of staff.

On **Thursday at 2.00pm (doors open at 1.45pm)**, we warmly invite our Year 2 families to join us for a very special leavers' assembly. It is always a memorable occasion as the children reflect on their time at school and say their goodbyes. **You may want to bring a few tissues!**

Whilst there is naturally some sadness in saying goodbye, there is also so much excitement. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of our Year 2 children and cannot wait to see all they will achieve as they begin their next adventure. They leave us with wonderful memories, and we know they have bright futures ahead of them.

On **Friday**, children are invited to come to school in **non-uniform** to celebrate the end of another fantastic year. If you have any good-quality school uniform that your child has outgrown, we would be very grateful for any donations. These make a real difference in supporting families within our school community.



At Phoenix, we are incredibly proud to be part of the Gedling community, and today we were delighted to welcome our local MP, Michael Payne, to our school.

Michael toured our classrooms and met our amazing children. It was a wonderful opportunity to share all of the fantastic things happening at Phoenix and to showcase the vibrant learning environment our children enjoy every day.

Our pupils, as always, did us proud. They were warm, polite, and enthusiastic, sharing their early understanding of democracy and asking some fantastic questions. These included, "Is your job hard?", "How do you become an MP?" and, perhaps the favourite of the day, "Where do you get your hair done?"

They were excellent ambassadors for our school, and we couldn't have been prouder of the way they represented our community.

A big thank you to Michael Payne for taking the time to visit us. We hope he enjoyed seeing Phoenix in action and look forward to welcoming him back again in the future!

As we approach the summer holidays, we encourage all of our children to keep reading regularly. Reading for pleasure is one of the most important ways to support children's learning, helping to develop vocabulary, comprehension, imagination and confidence. Even just 10-15 minutes of reading each day can make a real difference.

Continuing to read over the summer also helps to prevent the "summer slide", where children can lose some of the progress they have made during the school year. By making reading an enjoyable part of the holidays, children can return to school feeling confident and ready to learn.

The Inspire Summer Reading Challenge is a fantastic opportunity to motivate children to read throughout the break while having fun along the way. We hope as many families as possible will take part and enjoy sharing stories together this summer.

We would love to celebrate our readers when we return to school in September! Children who complete the challenge are invited to bring in their Summer Reading Challenge medal so we can recognise their achievement. We'll also take a celebration photo in the library to showcase all of our fantastic readers!



Summer Reading Challenge 2026: Read to the Beat at Nottinghamshire Inspire Libraries 4 July - 6 September

Join the FREE Summer Reading Challenge and earn rewards for reading. This year's theme is Read to the Beat, celebrating music & sound - exploring how music and storytelling unite. This summer Inspire libraries will be asking children age 4 - 11 to find their reading rhythm in the 2026 Summer Reading Challenge: Read to the Beat.

Children select and complete six reading goals of their choice over the summer, collecting rewards along the way. Every child who completes the challenge will receive a certificate and medal.

Produced by The Reading Agency and delivered in partnership with libraries across the country the Summer Reading Challenge is a great opportunity for children to find books they love.

They choose what they want to read - story books, information books, e-books, audio books, poetry, comic, joke books, and graphic novels, all reading counts - children set the tempo!

Read to the Beat is running in all Inspire libraries until Sunday 6 September, suitable for children aged 4 - 11. It's completely FREE to take part. Under 4s can take part in our mini challenge too.

Find out more at www.inspireculture.org.uk/summerreadingchallenge

HELP US ENHANCE

KEY STAGE ONE RESOURCES

Our Key Stage One team are working hard to develop our curriculum to offer more opportunities for children to explore and learn through play in the classroom.

With this in mind, they are looking at ways to enhance the classrooms and would be very grateful for any donations you may have to support this.

Children explore, learn and grow through play!



If your child has items they no longer play with, we could love to give them a new home.

We are particularly looking for:



SMALL WORLD CHARACTERS

people, plastic animals, dinosaurs etc.



SAND AND WATER RESOURCES

buckets, scoops, funnels, measuring jugs, sieves, moulds etc.



CRAFT RESOURCES

buttons, ribbons, sequins, pipe cleaners, feathers, stickers etc.



CONSTRUCTION TOYS

small wooden blocks, marble run, magnetic tiles, stickle bricks etc.



These resources will be used to support children's creativity, imagination, problem-solving and communication as they learn through their play.



Please drop any resources you have off to either the KS1 team or the main office by

FRIDAY 24TH JULY.



Thank you for your ongoing support and generosity!



Stay & Play



Our final Saturday Stay & Play session of the year is taking place on Saturday 18th July from 12:00pm-2:00pm. Come along and enjoy a fun play session with your children, meet other families and spend some quality time together in a relaxed environment. We'd love to see as many of you there as possible!

Have a great weekend everyone!

Diary dates Summer Term

- Rock Steady Concert - Wednesday 22nd July at 9.30am
- Year 2 Leavers Assembly - Thursday, 23rd July 2026 at 2:00pm
- Last Day of Term - Friday, 24th July 2026 - End of Academic Year
 - Back to school - Thursday 3rd September 2026

See below for a reminder of the term dates for the next academic years as well as the INSET days.

Nottinghamshire School Holidays 2026-27
August 2026 to July 2027



**Nottinghamshire
County Council**

2026/2027

August							September							October						
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31																				
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31																				

School Holidays
 Public Holidays
 Administration Day

Autumn Term

1 September - 16 October **6 weeks 4 days**
2 November - 18 December **7 weeks**

Spring Term

4 January - 12 February **6 weeks**
22 February - 25 March **4 weeks 4 days**

Summer Term

12 April - 28 May **6 weeks 4 days**
7 June - 28 July **7 weeks 3 days**

INSET days - school closed for children
Tuesday 1st September 2026
Wednesday 2nd September 2026
Monday 2nd November 2026
Friday 12th February 2027
Monday 12th April 2027