

PHOENIX INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL

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Head Teacher: Mrs L Harper



4/9/26

Welcome to a New School Year!

A very warm welcome to all our Phoenix families, both returning families and those joining us for the first time. We hope you have all had a wonderful summer and enjoyed some special time together.



We are delighted to be starting a new academic year and are looking forward to another year filled with learning, laughter, friendship and exciting opportunities for our children.

A particularly warm welcome to our new F2 and Nursery children and their families as well as three new children in Key Stage One. Starting school or nursery is a very special milestone, and we are looking forward to getting to know you and helping your children settle happily into life at Phoenix.

We are also looking forward to welcoming our Year 1 and Year 2 children back. We have lots planned for the year ahead and cannot wait to see them continue to grow in confidence, independence and resilience.

I would like to share an important staffing update with families. For this academic year, I will be working three days a week - Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Although my working pattern is changing, I want to reassure families that I remain the substantive Headteacher of Phoenix Infant and Nursery School and I am fully committed to our school, our children and our families. I will continue to lead the strategic direction of the school, work closely with staff and governors, support our children and families, and ensure that Phoenix continues to provide the very best possible education and care for every child.

On Thursday and Friday, Ms McPhilbin, our Deputy Headteacher, will take on the role of Acting Headteacher. Ms McPhilbin will continue to work closely with me throughout the week, ensuring that there is strong continuity and communication across the school.

We are very fortunate to have such a strong and committed leadership team. Mrs Harper and Ms McPhilbin have worked together for many years and share the same values, high expectations and vision for Phoenix. We will continue to work closely together as a team, alongside all of our staff, to ensure that the school continues to run smoothly and that our children remain at the heart of every decision we make.

Our Phoenix Team

We are incredibly fortunate to have a dedicated and caring team of staff who work hard every day to give our children the best possible experience.

Senior Leadership Team

Mrs Harper - Headteacher & SENCo

Miss McPhilbin - Deputy Headteacher / Acting Headteacher Thursday & Friday

Mrs Bloom - Key Stage One Lead

Mrs Henson - Early Years Lead

Early Years Foundation Stage

F1 - Ducklings - Nursery Mrs Betts and Mrs George

F2 - Finches: Mrs Henson

F2 - Puffins: Mr Farooq

Foundation Stage Teaching Assistants: Mrs Knapczyk, Miss Zullo, Mrs Betts, Mrs Richardson, Mrs Key and Mrs George

Key Stage 1 (Mixed Year 1 and 2 Classes)

Woodpeckers: Miss Greasley 2 days / Miss Moretto 3 days

Kingfishers: Mrs Bloom

Hummingbirds: Miss Gossington 4 days / Miss Greasley 1 day

Key Stage One Teaching Assistants: Mrs Smith, Mrs O'Hare and Mrs Key

The Nest / Enhanced Provision: Miss McPhilbin, Mrs Bowles, Mrs Harris, Miss Zullo and Mrs Key

We would like to take this opportunity to thank every member of our team for their continued hard work, dedication and commitment to our children.

Our school website is an important place to find information throughout the year.

You can use the website to access:

- School letters and newsletters
- Term dates
- School policies
- Uniform information
- Attendance information
- Lunch menus
- Clubs and activities
- Key school information
- Safeguarding information
- SEND information
- Information about our curriculum
- Contact details

Please make checking the school website part of your regular routine, as information and documents are updated throughout the year and the website is being fully updated this week.

School Website: <https://www.phoenixinfant.co.uk/>

Please also take a look at the key diary dates on the last page of this letter, as these will give you a helpful overview of important dates coming up in the school calendar, although more dates may be added. After this letter, we will send future letters and newsletters electronically online. If you would prefer to continue receiving a paper copy, please let the school office know.

We work hard and pride ourselves on the strong and positive relationships with all our families. If you have a question or concern, please speak to us. Our staff are always happy to listen and help wherever possible.

All children in Early Years will have their own Tapestry login, and children in Key Stage 1 will have access to Seesaw. These platforms can be used to send messages to class staff, and messages will be seen and responded to as soon as staff are able.

Alternatively, staff are available before and after school for quick messages or brief conversations. If you need a longer chat, please make an appointment so that we can give you the time and privacy needed to talk things through properly.

We believe that **working together with families is essential to ensuring the very best outcomes for our children.**

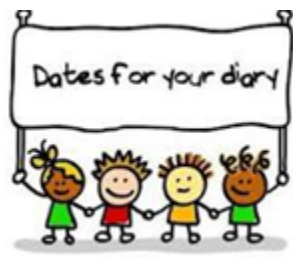
We want our children to come to school each day feeling **safe, happy, confident and ready to learn**. We want them to develop a love of learning, become increasingly independent and learn how to be kind, resilient and respectful members of our community. We are incredibly proud of our school and of the children who make Phoenix such a special place. We are looking forward to working with you throughout the year and sharing all of the wonderful things your children achieve.

Here's to a fantastic 2026-27!

With very best wishes,

Mrs Harper and the Phoenix Team!





First Day of Autumn Term - Thursday, 3rd September 2026
F2 Curriculum evening - Wednesday, 30th September at 5.30PM
KS1 Curriculum Evening - Wednesday, 7th October 2026 at 5:30 PM
F2 Parents' Evenings - Monday, 12th October and Wednesday, 14th October 2026
KS1 Parents' Evenings - Tuesday, 13th October and Thursday, 15th October 2026
Half Term - Monday, 19th October 2026 to Friday, 30th October 2026
INSET Day - Monday, 2nd November 2026 - School closed for children
F2 Christmas Performance (Puffins and Finches) - Tuesday, 8th December 2026 at 2:00 PM
Nursery Christmas Performance - Thursday, 10th December 2026 (10:00 AM and 2:00 PM)
Santa's Grotto - Saturday, 12th December 2026
KS1 Christmas Performance (Woodpeckers, Hummingbirds and Kingfishers) - Wednesday, 16th
December 2026 at 2:00 PM and Thursday, 17th December 2026 at 9:30 AM
Pantomime/Party Day (including Christmas Dinner) - Friday, 18th December 2026 (Panto pm)
Last Day of Autumn Term - Friday, 18th December 2026

Spring Term

Back to School - Monday, 4th January 2027
Safer Internet Day - Tuesday, 9th February 2027
INSET Day - Friday, 12th February 2027 - School closed for children
Half Term - Monday, 15th February 2027 to Friday, 19th February 2027
First Day of Term - Monday, 22nd February 2027
World Book Day - Thursday, 4th March 2027
Easter Disco - Friday, 19th March 2027
F2 Parents' Evenings (Puffins and Finches) - Monday, 22nd March and Wednesday, 24th March
2027
KS1 Parents' Evenings (Hummingbirds, Kingfishers, and Woodpeckers) - Tuesday, 23rd March and
Thursday, 25th March 2027
Last Day of Spring Term - Thursday, 25th March 2027

Summer Term

INSET Day - Monday, 12th April 2027 - School closed for children

First Day of Summer Term - Monday, 12th April 2027

Half Term - Monday, 31st May 2027 to Friday, 4th June 2027

Year 1 Phonics Screening - Week commencing 14th June 2027

Year 2 Residential Trip to Gulliver's Valley - details to follow - Thursday, 17th June 2027

KS1 Sports Day (Hummingbirds, Kingfishers/Woodpeckers) - Thursday, 24th June 2027 at 9:30 AM

F1/F2 Sports Day (Nursery, Finches, and Puffins) - Wednesday, 23rd June 2027 (times: 10 AM)

Carnival (after school fundraiser for children)- Friday 9th July 2027

Year 2 Leavers Assembly - Tuesday, 27th July 2027 at 2:00 PM

Last Day of Term - Wednesday, 28th July 2027 - End of Academic Year