



17th September 2023

At Phoenix we are proud of the family feel of our school, a place where children feel a special part of our diverse 'jigsaw' We are all different and this makes our World, our community and our school a better place. Diversity means difference. Our school is diverse because we are all different. There are lots of ways people can be diverse; by what they wear, how they look, their religion, the languages they speak, their gender, their family make up etc. Being all different is something to celebrate. We want to celebrate every single person in our school community. No-one in our school should be treated differently due to who they are because we celebrate the joy of being different to each other; this is what makes us special.



We ensure that children understand and celebrate who they are as soon as they start in nursery and in school. In Nursery the children bring in photographs of their families to show to their friends. In school the F2 children's first learning theme is 'This is Me' and as part of this the children create Family Boxes. The Family Boxes are created at home and give each child the opportunity to show their new friends what makes them special. Last September we developed an art project in which we created a whole school display of all our families and staff that form our community and would like to do the same again this year. To support this, we would like a photograph of your child and their family. This can be as a hard copy or added onto the Learning Platforms and we will print off. The images will be used for the children to draw their families as well as forming part of the display too. We would like all images in by Monday 25th September please for this exciting project. Please do not hesitate to ask if you have any questions.



This week the children have begun to get to know our school hens by ensuring their food and water is filled, cleaning them out and giving them their daily treats. Names are still being decided so please send in your suggestions and we will share the winning names in the next newsletter.

Reading at Phoenix

On Wednesday 20th September we will be holding a reading meeting at 9.15 am for our new families in F2. Reading has to be a key priority as we know that a solid foundation in reading is crucial to a child's success as they progress through primary school, into secondary school and then in later life. We are following the "Little Wandle Letters and Sounds revised programme" a research-based programme to ensure that children make maximum progress in developing reading skills. The children will be taught reading in small groups or 1:1 and will work with a member of staff three times a week on the same book. The book they have been working on will then be sent home. Reading sessions will take place at different times of the day with some taking place at 8.30am and parents have been informed if your child is in an early morning session. Utilising this time means that we can ensure that all children access these three weekly sessions. If your child has been invited to the morning sessions, then please drop them off promptly so that the sessions can begin. If the timings are a challenge, then please let your child's class teacher know. We are looking forward to seeing the impact of this on our children's reading skills.



Diary Dates

- Wednesday 20th September 2023 - F2 parent's Phonics open morning
- Monday 16th October and Wednesday 18th October 2023 - F2 Parents evening (Classes 1 and 2)
- Tuesday 17th October and Thursday 19th October 2023 - Key Stage 1 Parents evening (Classes 3, 4, 5 and 6)
- Friday 20th October 2023- Last day of term
- Monday 6th November 2023- INSET DAY - school closed
- Saturday 11th November 2023 -Open morning for families starting September 2024
- Wednesday 13th December 2023 - F1 (Nursery) Christmas performance 10.30am / 2.00pm
- Thursday 14th December 2023 - F2 (Classes 1 and 2) Christmas performance 2.00pm
- Monday 18th December 2023 - KS1 (Classes 3,4,5 and 6) Christmas performance 2.00pm
- Tuesday 19th December 2023 - KS1 (Classes 3,4,5 and 6) Christmas performance 9.30am
- Wednesday 20th December 2023 - Pantomime in school and Christmas Dinner/party day
- Friday 22nd December 2023- Last day of term

Pupil Premium

Although you have a child who may be benefiting from a 'universal free school meal', your child may also benefit from additional funding from central government known as Pupil Premium Grant. The government introduced the Pupil Premium to help children from low-income families reach their full potential. Your child will also benefit from free school milk and half price clubs/trips during the year as well as extra support for learning. Eligible families have also been entitled in the past to supermarket vouchers during the school holidays as part of the free school meals voucher scheme - this may continue this term too (awaiting clarification) In order to determine if your child qualifies and to allow us to claim the funding it is important that all parents and carers who feel they may meet the criteria apply.

Qualifying benefits

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods).
- Income Support
 - Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
 - Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual gross income of no more than £16,190
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for the four weeks after the person stops qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

How to apply

We want to make sure as many eligible pupils as possible are claiming Pupil Premium. The Local Authority uses the Department for Education's eligibility checking system to determine eligibility.

To apply, you will need to register and provide:

- your National Insurance Number or National Asylum Support Service Reference Number
- your last name
- your date of birth

Please register online. If you are unable to apply online please contact us on 0300 500 80 80 or complete an application form. If successful, then school will be informed.

Please do not hesitate to ask at the School Office if you have any queries

**Have a wonderful weekend
Mrs Harper and the Phoenix Team!**