



10<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Welcome! The sun certainly waited for the children to return before making an appearance. 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. 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.

This week as well as welcoming new families we have also welcomed two hens! Our two lovely hens have joined the school this term (take a look in the main playground) and all the children will get the opportunity to spend time with and look after the hens. The hens have their own hen house and run, and once they have settled in (and done a little treat training) they will be free ranging so staff and children can spend time with them.

The hens will be a brilliant addition to our school and the children will really get to know them and find out lots about them too. Currently they are about 19 weeks old and in the next few weeks will start laying lots of tasty eggs!

They will be collected every school holiday and go back to the farm for a little holiday and then be back at the start of the new term. We are hiring them from Claire at 'Hens for Hire' and she has been setting up schools with hens across the country for the last 12 years - this is important as it ensures that the hens are well cared for, and appropriate care standards are met and risk assessments in place.

We have set up a hen webpage and this is where we will add lots of information starting from next week - look out for the link coming soon!



At the moment the hens are called Hen 1 and Hen 2 until we name them. We would love your help in deciding names. We will be asking the children for names over the next week but if you come up with names at home then let us know on Seesaw or Tapestry. We will collect them in and then have a vote. We will announce the names next Friday....

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 this will be added to over the term.

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 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 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 \(Classes 3, 4, 5 and 6\)](#)

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 and see their learning environment. Please take a look below at how we settle the children in and support their wellbeing.

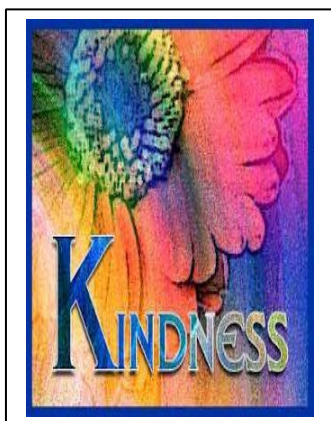


Building healthy relationships and nourishing mental health and wellbeing is a key driver in our healthy and happy school community. Through our well-being approach to education, we talk about feelings and emotions from the moment children enter foundation stage and help pupils build strategies to manage 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.

## Diary dates



### Autumn

- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023 - Year 2 swimming starts
- Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023 - F2 parent's Phonics open morning
- Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October and Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023 - F2 Parents evening (Classes 1 and 2)
- Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October and Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023 - Key Stage 1 Parents evening (Classes 3, 4, 5 and 6)
- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023- Last day of term
- Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023- INSET DAY - school closed
- Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2023 -Open morning for families starting September 2024
- Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023 - F1 (Nursery) Christmas performance 10.30am / 2.00pm
- Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023 - F2 (Classes 1 and 2) Christmas performance 2.00pm
- Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023 - KS1 (Classes 3,4,5 and 6) Christmas performance 2.00pm
- Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023 - KS1 (Classes 3,4,5 and 6) Christmas performance 9.30am
- Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023 - Pantomime in school and Christmas Dinner/party day
- Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023- Last day of term

### Spring

- Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024- Safer Internet Day
- Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024- INSET DAY & Last day of term
- Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024 - First day of term
- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024 - World Book Day
- Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March and Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024 - F2 Parents evening (Classes 1 and 2)
- Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March and Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024 - KS1 Parents evening (Classes 3,4,5 and 6)
- Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024 - Easter disco for children -3.30 - 5pm
- Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024- Last day of term

### Summer

- Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2024- Bank Holiday- School closed
- Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2024- Last day of term
- Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024 - First day of half term
- W/C 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024 - Year 1 Phonics Screening
- Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2024 - Year 2 Residential to Gulliver's Valley
- Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2024 - F1/F2 Sports day 10am / 2pm
- Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2024 - KS1 Sports day 2pm
- Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July - Phoenix Garden Party -3.30pm
- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024- INSET DAY
- Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2024 - Year 2 Leavers assembly 2pm
- Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2024- Last day of term- END OF ACADEMIC YEAR 2023/24

## 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**

Mrs Knapczyk

Miss Zullo

Mrs Betts

Mrs Richardson

Mrs Shepherd

Mrs Bowles

### **Year One**

Miss Greasley 4 days / Ms Lounds Friday (Class 3)

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

### **Year Two**

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

Miss Gossington (Class 6)

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

Mrs Smith

Mrs O'Hare

Mrs Key

Mrs George

Have a wonderful weekend  
Mrs Harper and the Phoenix Team!