

Headteacher: Mr Chris Johnson

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*Creating opportunities
for everyone*

Date Friday 2nd October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Covid Update:

We are really pleased with the return to school and how children and parents have adapted to the new routines that are designed to reduce risk as much as possible. However, we know we face a number of challenges as we enter the winter months and it is good to be vigilant.

Risk of positive tests: We know most areas of the country have schools where a whole bubble or school has had to isolate due to a positive result, including Ashford. Please remember simple precautions:

- Distancing measures, especially at the start of the school day and at pick up on the playground.
- Follow the rule of six – if you are together with other parents, when your children join you, please remember to separate and keep groups to six or below as you arrive or head home
- Mask wearing – please wear a mask on entry to school, particularly to protect our office staff. We often meet in large ventilated rooms so masks may be removed in these circumstances.
- Follow the NHS guidance on symptoms – runny noses and colds are not symptoms and are treated as normal – a high temperature, a new continuous cough or loss of taste or smell are symptomatic and all family members (including siblings) will need to isolate for 14 days or until a negative test result is confirmed. NHS Guidance on symptoms is attached to this email.
- Obtaining tests seems to have improved, especially if you keep refreshing the page. Being tested when symptomatic gives us the best chance of acting quickly to protect others in the school and isolating selected bubbles rather than the whole school.

Daily Challenges: As a school, one of the biggest challenges as a result of the current situation is staffing. Managing class supervision when following the advice for symptomatic staff (or symptomatic family members) places significant pressures on the remaining staff to cover learning, playtimes and lunch. We are unable to move staff between multiple bubbles and it is down to the dedication of Phoenix staff that we have managed so far. If, like other schools, we have problems staffing class bubbles safely, we will seek advice, think it through carefully and be transparent with parents about any decisions we make. Fortunately, we are not in this situation yet.

Pupil behaviour that demonstrate our school values and follow our school behaviour policy are vital to allow staff to provide safe care. There will be more information below on a major focus on pupil conduct, particularly in regard to respect for adults they show in class and around school.

Remote Learning: As part of our contingency measures the teachers have been planning and preparing to set work through Seesaw, Purple Mash, Spelling Shed and others in case there is a year group shutdown or individuals isolating. There has been a lot of work and additional training for both pupils and staff and we hope to have this fully operational over the coming days.



Newsletter

Parent & Pupil Conduct:

Occasionally I have to remind parents and pupils that Phoenix is our safe place to learn and work. Aggressive or threatening behaviour will never be tolerated and where appropriate further action will be taken to protect staff and pupils. My staff are passionate and committed to providing the very best education they can for your children and should always be treated with respect in their work. This does not mean that we cannot disagree, but this must always be done in a constructive and respectful manner.

Since returning to school the majority of pupils have demonstrated how pleased they are to be back, and I have been very proud of them. However, I have also noticed that some pupils are choosing to speak to adults rudely or with disrespect. I will be reminding pupils in assembly of the expectations to speak to others with tolerance and respect, including adults and that rude behaviour or language is never acceptable at Phoenix. Where pupils are using inappropriate language or are disrespectful, we will use school sanctions and I will also write a letter home to let parents know. I would ask that you support us fully at home with this, reinforcing these expectations and speaking to your child.

Many thanks

Chris Johnson, Headteacher

School opening times

Gates open between 8.35am and 8.50am. Children must be in school by 8.50am; anyone arriving after this will need to enter through the main office and will be recorded as arriving late. If your child is going to be late please call the office and let them know beforehand.

Email Communication

Communication between school and home is vitally important for your child's happiness, progress and to ensure you don't miss any event. Email is our main form of communication and so it is important that we have your correct email address. If you need to amend or add a second email address please either speak to the office or email us on reception@phoenix-primary.kent.sch.uk.

Following us on Twitter at @Phoenix_Ashford or via our website is also a great way of finding out what is happening in school.

Absence

Attendance is an area that is always extremely important and with the uncertain times we are in at the moment it is even more important than ever that we know why a child is not in school in order for us to be able to keep all the children and staff safe. Please contact the school via phone or email first thing in the morning with the reason your child is absent including all symptoms they have.

Sickness and diarrhoea

In order to keep the amount of sickness and diarrhoea in school to a minimum please ensure that your child remains at home for 48 hours after their last bout of sickness and diarrhoea.

NHS visit

The school nursing team will be coming into school on Tuesday 10th November to undertake the National Flu Nasal Immunisation Programme to all children. Please ensure you complete the form before 5.11.20 at <https://www.kentcht.nhs.uk/forms/imms-consent-form/> using school URN 133961.

Newsletter

Open sessions

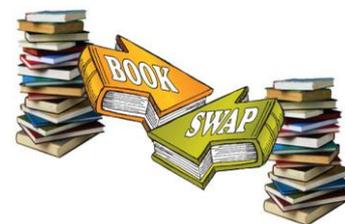
If your child is in year 5 you will soon have to apply for a secondary school for them. We would encourage you to take your child to any school they are interested in for a tour to ensure you chose the right school for your child. Please find below the information we have been provided. If you are interested in a school not listed please call them direct and ask about a viewing:

- **Towers School Open Events 2020** - Thursday 1st October 'Welcome to Towers' virtual tour will launch on their Website. Principal Richard Billings will be hosting a virtual 'Meet the Principal' webinar on Thursday 1st October at 5.30pm and 6.15pm... Plus they will be open on Saturday 3rd October for tours of the school facilities between 9am and 12.30 and will last for 30 minutes. Maximum number of each tour group will be 5. All members of the tour must wear a face covering. We would ask that only one parent/carer accompanies each Year 6 child on the tour. To book onto a tour please contact main reception on 01233 634171 or email: reception@towers.school.
- **North School** – 5th to 16th October; everyday at 8.45am or 9.45am. You need to book an appointment. Please call them on 01233 614600 or email at reception@thenorthschool.org.uk
- **Highworth** – virtual tour online. Please visit their website www.highworth.kent.sch.uk
- **John Wallis** – please contact the school direct at admissions@thejohnwallisacademy.org
- **Homewood** – Virtual Open Event. Please visit their website www.homewood-school.co.uk
- **Wye Free School** – Virtual Open Event Saturday 10th October 9am. Please visit their website www.wyeschool.org.uk
- **Swadelands** – virtual tour online. Please visit their website www.thelenham.viat.org.uk
- **Norton Knatchbull** – Virtual tour online. Please visit their website at www.nks.kent.sch.uk

Bockhanger Library

Due to COVID the library is unfortunately closed for the time being however this does not stop your child from reading – which is the single most important lesson your child needs to learn!

Hopefully you have noticed our new 'Book Swap' Shop by the main office where you can gift, borrow or have a book of your choice. Please encourage your child to use this facility; let's get everyone reading.



We will let you know when Bockhanger Library reopens.

PE Kits

For the foreseeable future can you please ensure your child comes to school in their P.E kits on their designated P.E days. They will remain in their P.E for the whole day; they do not need to bring anything to change into. Please ensure they are dressed appropriately for the weather conditions.

Year R, 1, 2, 3 and 4 take part in P.E on Fridays. Year 5 and 6 will take part in P.E on Wednesdays.

Affordable bike sale

We have been advised that the next 3 affordable bike sales will be held at Goldwyn School TN23 3BT between 10am and 1pm on:

- Saturday 26th September
- Saturday 24th October
- Saturday 5th December

These will be held with hygiene and social distancing procedures in place. Please feel free to go along.

Newsletter

Term dates

Term 1 – Wednesday 2nd September to Friday 23rd October 2020
Term 2 – Monday 2nd November to Thursday 17th December 2020
Term 3 – Monday 4th January to Friday 12th February 2021
Term 4 – Tuesday 23rd February to Thursday 1st April 2021
Term 5 – Monday 19th April to Friday 28th May 2021
Term 6 – Tuesday 8th June to Tuesday 20th July 2021

Staff development days – closed to children

Tuesday 1st September 2020

Friday 18th December 2020

Monday 22nd February 2021

Monday 7th June 2021

Wednesday 21st July 2021

Important dates

Please find below a list of dates for upcoming events at Phoenix for this school year. These dates are only provisional. We will do our best not to change them but unfortunately at school sometimes unexpected things crop up which may mean we will need to amend things. Hopefully you will find this helpful.

Dates are as follows:

Thursday 12th November

Friday 21st May

Monday 21st June

Wednesday 23rd June

Individual school photos

Class photos

Year 6 Residential trip

Year 6 Residential trip return

House Points

Until further notice we will not be giving children house points to help prevent the spread of COVID. As soon as we are able to start using house points and providing the children with a reward for winning we will let you know. Thank you for your patience.