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*Creating opportunities
for everyone*

Friday 11th September 2020

Message from Mr Johnson

Many thanks for your continued support this week to get your children back to their learning. I have been really impressed and delighted with the attitude of children in class and although some are starting to flag in the afternoon, this positive focus will help fill the learning gap that many children have. A big thank you also with how fantastically you have supported the new pick up arrangements on the playground which has allowed us to release children in a safe way to an adult that we can see (waving!) I hope this is better than the initial situation with the staggered pick-up.

Much of my initial comments will focus on Covid as it is important to clarify arrangements and reassure parents about the extensive safety measures that have been put in place. I will also give further clarification around what is a 'symptom', general child illness and also access to Covid testing which I know has been problematic. I have attached the updated 'parent information' booklet which has updates relating to pick-up, testing, symptoms and general illness.

Symptoms

We have had lots of questions this week regarding what level of illness requires a child and their family to be isolating and hopefully accessing a test and we have providing information to reassure parents and advise isolation where necessary. The advice on the 3 symptoms has now been clarified as:

☑ a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)

☑ a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)

☑ a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If anyone has these symptoms, they must isolate for 10 days – or longer if you still have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. All other household members must isolate for 14 days. Alternatively the symptomatic person must have a confirmed negative test.

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.

We have recently changed the system we use to send emails. Our new system is called Parent Mail; please ensure you register an account with them so that you are able to access the full system. You should have previously received a communication from them with joining instructions. If you need any help please ask at the office. You should receive a notification of any new emails; please ensure you reading them regularly so that you don't miss out on events taking place at school.

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



Newsletter

Attendance

Attendance is an area that is always extremely important not only for us as a school but also for Ofsted and with the recent lockdown having children back in school everyday is even more important than ever!!!

This will mean that under KCC ruling NO holiday is to be taken during term time and that penalty notices will be issued to any parent who takes their child on holiday. Please also consider the implications of your child having to self isolate for 14 days if they return from a country on the quarantine list; don't forget this is an ever changing list!

In the past we have tried to prevent penalty notices from being issued however we are no longer able to continue this so please avoid taking your child on holiday during term time.

Please check the school policy and guidance for the consequences of taking your child out of school and speak to us before doing so.

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 look out for the permission letter from them.

Free school meals

If your child is in Year R, 1 or 2 they will be entitled to a free daily lunch under the government scheme Universal free school meal; however if your are entitled to free school meals under one of the government benefits scheme we would appreciate it if you still claimed your free school allocation as this enables us to qualify for extra funding which will be used to fund the children's educational needs.

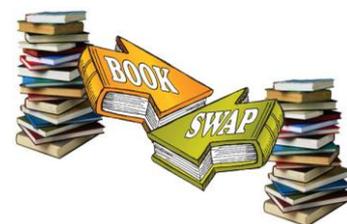
If your child is now in Year 3 they will no longer be entitled to Universal free school meals. Hopefully your child has enjoyed their school meal and they will continue to eat at school. Meals cost £2.20 per day and will need to be paid for in advance in the locked box located within the school office. If you think you may be entitled to free school meals please either apply online directly or collect a form from the office. If you no longer want your child to have a cooked meal you will need to provide them with a healthy packed lunch.

If your situation should change at any point; even if it is only for a short time please ensure you apply for free school meals immediately.

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 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.

School Uniform

Please ensure your child comes to school in an appropriate school uniform including black school shoes. Children are permitted to wear either black or grey school trousers/shorts/skirts with a plain white polo shirt or a blue and white checked dress for the girls. Please DO NOT send your child to school in leggings or jeans and no trainers.

Wearing the correct school uniform helps children to take pride in their school work and helps with their behaviour. We do have some donated school uniform in the school office if you would like to take a look.

Newsletter

PE Kits

For the foreseeable future and 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.

PTA

The PTA is a vital part of the school community and all parents, carers and their families are automatically enrolled as part of this group when you join Phoenix.

The PTA is made up of a small number of parents who raise much needed funds for the school as well providing fun activities and learning for the children; without them there would be no school discos for the children to enjoy. We desperately need some new members to ensure the children continue to enjoy these activities. As soon as we are able to hold a meeting we will let you know when it is.

Parent Mail

As you may have noticed you are now able to purchase school uniform via Parent Mail. To do this you will need to:

- Payments
- Shop
- Chose your items
- Collect from the office the next working day

Any problems please ask at the office.

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

Newsletter

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 12 th November	Individual school photos
Friday 21 st May	Class photos
Monday 21 st June	Year 6 Residential trip
Wednesday 23 rd June	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.