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*Creating opportunities
for everyone*

Friday 23rd October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we come to the end of our first term back I just wanted to recognise the efforts of all our community, helping to make the return to school a success in such difficult times. This includes parents, other family members, children, who in the majority have adjusted well to new rules and ways of working safely, families and the staff of Phoenix who have really gone the extra mile to ensure the bubbles are staffed during lessons and breaktimes but also when we have been affected with staff isolating. Inevitably there are some children who have been more affected and I am always proud of how the rest of pupils show tolerance and care for these pupils who need additional support. Please note that from next term the gate opening times will return to 8:40am but will continue to stay open the extra 5 minutes to 8:55am. Please continue to keep distanced at the start and end of the day.

Attendance & term time holiday:

Through our assessments we know that most pupils learning has really suffered during lockdown, especially in writing and reading. Aiming for 100% attendance is what is necessary to help pupils catch up. Government guidance for schools is very clear that as a school we must use our normal attendance procedures to achieve this high attendance. As such term time holidays will not be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances (there are very few circumstances that qualify as exceptional) and will be referred to the local authority for a Fixed Penalty Notice.

When we received our visit from Ofsted last week this was a high priority area of questioning to check that procedures were being followed in this area. Although I understand how Covid has impacted badly on family holiday arrangements, we must follow government guidance to encourage high attendance which has a direct link with pupil progress and achievement. (More details below)

Remote Learning

We have worked hard to have plans in place to provide isolating pupils with remote learning. This falls into 2 categories, an individual child or siblings having to isolate because of symptoms/positive test of a household member or a whole class bubbles/local lockdown situation where a whole class are isolating. In both situations there is an expectation that your child will complete work and upload evidence of this work, for example on Seesaw

Individual isolating:

Your child will receive links to online video lessons for reading, writing, maths & science mainly through Oak National Academy and White Rose Maths

They will need to complete the work during the video lesson on paper. Photos can be taken of this and uploaded to Seesaw.

There are additional links to work including number bonds, times tables and topic work, much of which is through Purple Mash



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Whole class isolating:

Where a whole class is isolating, for example because of a confirmed positive case of Covid, there will be set work for all pupils:

There will be interactive contact with the class teacher (unless the teacher is suffering Covid symptoms), normally in the morning.

The teaching videos and schedule will be available online for those who miss the online teacher meeting

The weekly schedule will contain 4 maths and literacy sessions, times tables or number bonds lesson, spelling and a topic lesson.

Technology/Devices

We are working on developing a scheme to have devices available to loan to pupils struggling to access online learning. If you have old laptops or know businesses replacing their equipment, please suggest donating them so we can recondition them as a 'Chrome Book' – they need to be working, with a charger and have a minimum of 4GB RAM.

When should we self –isolate?

There has been some confusion about the rules regarding self-isolation. We will be authorising children's absence, or not, based on this guidance:

If a person is symptomatic then they must isolate for 10 days and everyone in the household for 14 days or until there is a negative Covid test result.

If you are contacted by NHS Test and Trace and advised to isolate (as a result of being in contact with someone with a positive result) this person needs to isolate for 14 days without leaving the house. This only applies to the person who is contacted – the remaining members of a household do not need to isolate unless someone in the house tests positive or develops symptoms.

School Council Elections: during the 1st week back

Slightly delayed, school council elections will be held in the 1st week back (week beginning 2nd November). We will be electing 2 representatives from each class from Year 1 to Year 6. They will need to read out a short prepared speech before voting starts. You may want to help them with this over the holiday, particularly helping them to think how they can reflect our Phoenix School Values.

I hope you all have a good half term.

Mr 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.

Attendance

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. If your child is off for 5 consecutive days you will need to provide medical evidence for this absence; if no medical evidence is received this absent will be recorded as unauthorised and may lead to a penalty notice being issued.

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Holiday requests

Any request for holiday leave will need to be made in writing to Mr Johnson explaining the reason why you are intending to take your child out of school and which days. Following KCC guidance and the School's Attendance Policy leave will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances. Any leave taken without authority will be recorded as G (unauthorised leave). Any leave of 10 school sessions (5 days) within a 100 school session period will be reported to the KCC Attendance office and will result in a penalty notice being issued. The Penalty Notice gives you the opportunity to pay a penalty fine instead of being prosecuted for the offence of failing to secure your child's regular attendance at school. The amount of the penalty is £120 per parent, per child, but if payment is made by you within 21 days of receipt of the Penalty Notice it will be reduced to £60 per parent, per child. If you pay the penalty within the time limits, no further action will be taken against you in connection with the offence as set out in the notice, i.e. your liability for the offence will be discharged.

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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.

Open sessions

If your child is in year 6 you need to apply for a secondary school for them **before by midnight on Monday 2nd November 2020**. 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. 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** – 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** – please contact the school direct or 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

You should have received an email via Parent Mail on 22nd October with a link to apply for a place. If you need any help please ask the office.

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Email Communication

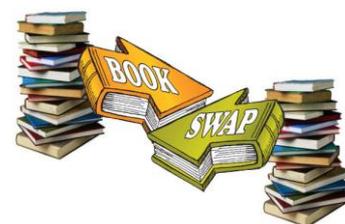
Communication between school and home is vitally important for your child's happiness, progress and to ensure you don't miss any event. Email is our main form of communication and so it is important that we have your correct email address. If you need to amend or **add a second email address** please 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.

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 24th October
- Saturday 5th December

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

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

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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 20	Individual school photos
Friday 21 st May 21	Class photos
Monday 21 st June 21	Year 6 Residential trip
Wednesday 23 rd June 21	Year 6 Residential trip return

House Points

Remember that children can earn house points for displaying any of our six Phoenix Values: Resilience, Collaboration, Courage, Independence, Reflectiveness and Responsibility plus there will a chance to win points by being the best house to show good lining up, completing homework on time and having a P.E kit in school, so you can help your child's house to win! You can now see the weekly updated figures on the website.

