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Phoenix Community  
Primary School  
Belmont Road  
Ashford  
Kent  
TN24 9LS



*Creating opportunities  
for everyone*

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> Dec	KS1 to start recording the nativity The Donkey's Christmas		
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> Dec		12.30pm - Year 5 Swimming	
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> Dec			
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec			
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> Dec	House reward treat – Treasure trail in school; in class bubbles 2.00pm – school council meeting		
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec			
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Magic Virtual class parties		
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper day		
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec			
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Staff development day – no children in school		
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan			
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan			
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan			
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> Jan			
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> Jan			

### School opening times

**Gates open between 8.40am and 8.55am.** Children must be in school by 8.55am; 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.

### 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.

### PE Kits

For the foreseeable future can you please ensure your child comes to school in their **P.E kit top, school sweatshirt/cardigan and black or blue joggers** on their designated P.E days. They will remain in their P.E for the whole day.

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.



# Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer,

## Christmas at Phoenix:

Despite or because of the challenges of Covid, we are determined to make Christmas 2020 memorable for our pupils. You will have noticed the amazing efforts that have gone in to getting Santa's grotto set up in our reception area and many thanks go to Mr King, Mrs Davis, Miss Hattan and Mrs Brisley for all their hard work. I heard one child saying it was the best day ever when they saw it on the 1<sup>st</sup>. Other planned highlights include:

- Class personalised messages from Santa (he may have already paid a secret visit to Phoenix!!)
- Christmas lunch on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> (done differently from normal but it will be brilliant)
- Christmas jumper day (Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup>)
- KS1 recorded nativity
- Recorded Christmas music performance
- Magician visit (online)

There will also be other class based activities and we hope that it will be a Christmas to remember. With so many restrictions to 'normal service' it will take more effort and collaboration in what Mrs Davis has named 'Operation Rescue Christmas'.

## Thanks to families having to isolate

Being Covid free as a school so far is in a large part thanks to our families, parents and staff following the guidance and our school protocols. We know that it is really challenging to have to isolate, especially having to teach & occupy your child whilst missing out on work or trying the tricky juggling act of remote work and childcare.

I completely understand these pressures and we are experiencing the same challenges as we try to maintain a normal education whilst many of us are isolating, looking after children and trying to work. All of our staff, no matter their role, have followed these rules diligently in the knowledge it protects our whole community. I have done the same and am currently juggling work with childcare as I await my daughter's test. Phoenix staff have been amazing filling the huge gaps that contact tracing and isolation have left and I thank them for supporting each other and going the extra mile every single day.

If the staff member that you need to speak to has not been in or has been difficult to get hold of, please be understanding and patient, they have probably been doing 2 different jobs. Unlike many schools, we nearly always have a lot of staff available at the start and end of school and they will try to help out where they can.

## Remote Learning

Don't forget that if your child is isolating we will endeavor to set work on the first day of isolation. Your child will have been trained to use most of the programs required including Seesaw, Spelling Shed and Purple Mash. If you haven't received anything please do remind us, a little nudge in these busy times is always welcome!

## Arrival at school:

Please remember to keep your child by your side until there is a gap at the gate. Once the gate is open, please wait a minute to not allow a rush to get in (we know most children are desperate to be learning which we love 😊).

NOT LATE GATE is now back up and running. At least once a week (but maybe more occasionally) we will dress in a onesie to indicate it is NLG day and anyone on time will get a raffle ticket in the prize draw during Monday celebration assembly. This is part of our attendance strategy – pupils being on time every day make better progress as they are 'ready to learn' and the day starts with 10-15 minute early work – This means late arrivals miss an hour of learning a week!

# Newsletter

## Attendance

We place a very high priority on attendance as low attendance means your child will fall behind their friends and struggle academically.

- It is a parent's responsibility to inform the school of absence. Where this is not done, the absence will be recorded as 'unauthorised' in all but exceptional circumstances.
- We have a legal duty to follow up any absence that a parent has not reported for safeguarding reasons
- A child with very low attendance (90% or below) or extended absence (more than 3 days) will need medical evidence for the absence to be authorised.
- Low levels of attendance will be referred to the Local Authority attendance service and may be subject to a Fixed Penalty Notice

## Eco Council Elections

Eco Council elections have not yet taken place due to the staff shortages. Hopefully this will happen next week. Pupils interested will need to read out a short, prepared speech before voting starts. You may want to help them with this over the next week so that they can say how they would help their class and school be more Eco-friendly or support wildlife on our site.

## Million Word Readers

Well done to our first and second 'million word readers' on Accelerated Reader – Esther & Harry. Reading is the key to doing well at school and we are very proud of these two and look forward to the next pupils achieving this fantastic mark.

Many thanks

Mr Johnson  
Headteacher

## Head lice

As with every school head lice is an ongoing problem. The best advice we can offer is that you brush your child's hair for 5 minutes **every night** with a special designated 'nit comb'. If your child should 'welcome an uninvited guest' during the day it will take 24 hours before that visitor can lay an egg and so if you brush out that visitor every night then they will not be able to breed. If you could include this as part of your normal daily routine this should soon resolve the issue. You could combine this task with hearing your child read to you; or while you are watching some TV together or while you are just chatting about what they have done during the day. We do have some free combs so please come and get one. Children with visible lice will be sent home to have their hair treated as it can be very uncomfortable for a child but also not fair on their classmates.

## September 2021 Year R in take

If your child was born between 1 September 2016 and 31 August 2017 they will be due to start school in September 2021. Online applications opened on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020 and close at midnight on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Please ensure you register and then complete the application form before this date.

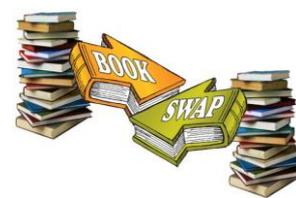
## Attendance

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 absent 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.

# Newsletter

## 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.

## Holiday requests/penalty notices

Any request for holiday leave will need to be made in writing to Mr Johnson. 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 sessions (5 days) within a 100 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.

## 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](mailto:reception@phoenix-primary.kent.sch.uk).

Following us on Twitter at [@Phoenix\\_Ashford](#) on [Facebook](#) or via our [website](#) is also a great way of finding out what is happening in school.

## Term dates

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

Staff development days – closed to children

- Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020
- Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020
- Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021
- Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021
- Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> 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:

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> May 21

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June 21

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 21

Class photos

Year 6 Residential trip

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.

