

Headteacher: Mr Chris Johnson

Tel: 01233 622510

Email: reception@phoenix-primary.kent.sch.uk

Web: www.phoenix-primary.kent.sch.uk

Twitter: @Phoenix_Ashford

Phoenix Community
Primary School
Belmont Road
Ashford
Kent
TN24 9LS



*Creating opportunities
for everyone*

Wednesday 10th March 2021

Welcome back everyone

After a long time away from school we are so pleased to have all children back into school and we are so proud of the way they have all adjusted back into school life.

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. Any child arriving after 9.15am will be recorded as unauthorised.

End of day arrangements – Social Distancing Please!

In order to help with social distancing children will be collected from the playground at 3.15pm. Please ensure you are wearing a face mask while on the school premises and that you follow the one way system. Please enter through the main gate (NOT the car park gates) and follow the path up to the playground via the side gate by the bike shed. While you are waiting on the playground for your child please keep as much distance as possible from everyone else. The class teacher will send your child over to you; this will take a few minutes so please bear with us. Once you have your child please exit the school premises via the slope and out through the car park gates. If for any reason you are not able to collect your child from the playground please speak to a member of staff and we will make alternative arrangements for you.

Secondary school places

You should have been advised of which secondary school your Year 6 child has been offered recently. Please ensure that you contact accept this place by **Monday 15th March 2021**.

After school clubs

After school clubs will start again after Easter. Anyone who was due to attend the Team Theme sports clubs on Wednesday and Friday in January will automatically be given a space to start in April. We will remind you nearer the time if your child is due to attend one of these clubs.

Last day of term

Last day of term is Thursday 1st April 21; children return to school on Monday 19th April 2021

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 closed on 15th January 2021; you will receive confirmation of your child's place on 16th April 21. If you have not applied for a place please contact KCC Admissions immediately on 01233 412121 or speak to the office.



Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer,

It has been amazing to have children back to school this week and as we have always been open for children of critical workers and vulnerable pupils I didn't realise how much we had missed full classes of children. We are so glad to have your children back and I hope you are enjoying handing back the responsibility of daily learning.

Social Distancing:

I will outline below how the local Ashford data is really encouraging in terms of dropping infection rates as we return to school, however, the scientific modelling shows there is still a danger this could be reversed if we are not following the remaining restrictions. In the excitement to be back, there is lots of interaction between families in the playground and on the way home. We desperately need to avoid a 3rd national lockdown of pupils and I politely ask everyone around and on the school site to respect social distancing. This includes:

- ❖ Using the one system (buggies up the path ramp) – exiting down the main playground ramp to the car park
- ❖ Wearing a face covering
- ❖ Not congregating in groups (National rules are still only meeting 1 other person outdoors)
- ❖ Children once released should remain by their parent (not playing with others) and you should leave the site quickly as separate families.

I know that we all are desperate to go back to normal but it is important to stick to the rules to prevent a worsening like we saw in November/December. I have asked for PCSO's to support this around drop off and pick up times and we will also have new signage to remind everyone in our community about social distancing.

- Estimated 'R' rate in the South East: 0.6 to 0.8
- 39.1 infection rate per 100K population in seven days to 2/3/21 – (national average 69 per 100K & 849 per 100K on 1st January)
- In 5-9 year olds this is 11.4 per 100K population
- The weekly rate of infection has been dropping by an average of 30% since mid-January
- The daily average of positive cases in Ashford over the last week is 7 per day (this was a daily average of 172 on the 1st January)

We have had one of the lowest rate of school infections and bubble closures in the Ashford area and will continue to work hard to sanitise, clean, wash hands, distance and ventilate within school but we also need your help and understanding.

Bouncing Back:

We have got to work with children straight away this week and have concentrated on:

- Basic skills refresher in maths, reading and writing
- Assessment of their current learning attainment – to identify their gaps (we will start formal catch up groups after Easter once assessments are complete)
- Supporting pupils' emotional wellbeing

We have planned a range of different support for pupils on return and some of these have already started from specific Mind mental well-being 'Bounce Back' sessions, transition work for Year 6 pupils ahead of secondary school, 1:1 support and specific class lessons around mental wellbeing and resilience. If you are concerned about how your child is coping, please do speak to us.

Many thanks for preparing your children so well for the return.

Mr Johnson
Headteacher

Residential trip – Year 6

Unfortunately the Year 6 residential trip to Downe Scout Activity Centre, Orpington has been cancelled by the organisation due to the centre closing down. I know this will be a massive disappointment to the children who look forward to this every year; this is not a decision made by us but by Downe Scout Activity Centre. We are looking for an alternative solution and we will let you know as soon as we have any further information.

Newsletter

Red Nose Day

Red Nose Day is Friday 19th March. This year we will be:

- Dress in red or white and donate 50p
- Choose a Super Hero name reflecting your best qualities e.g. Captain Kindness, Independence Girl, Dance Boy – decorate a name badge (you can dress up if you want)
- Enter the 'Funniest joke' competition for 20p
- Enter the Treasure Hunt competition for 20p (how many red items can you find around the school)



Swimming

After Easter Year 6 will be going swimming on a Tuesday afternoon every 2 weeks. Letters and permission slips have been sent home so please complete and return them as soon as possible.

PE Kits



For the foreseeable future can you please ensure your child comes to school in their P.E kit and trainers 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.

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.



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/or diarrhoea.

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.

- 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

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.

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.

Using Seesaw and following us on Twitter at [@Phoenix_Ashford](https://twitter.com/Phoenix_Ashford) on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/PhoenixPrimaryKent) or via our [website](https://www.phoenix-primary.kent.sch.uk) is also a great way of finding out what is happening in school.

If you have any questions, suggestions or comments for us please feel free to talk to a member of staff on the gate in the morning or email us at reception@phoenix-primary.kent.sch.uk

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



TERM DATES

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:

Friday 21st May 21

Monday 21st June 21

Wednesday 23rd June 21

Class photos

Year 6 Residential trip - CANCELLED

Year 6 Residential trip return – CANCELLED

As restrictions ease, we hope to fill up the events and be able to welcome parents back into the full life of school and events that showcase your child's learning.

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.

