

Headteacher: Mr Chris Johnson

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*Creating opportunities
for everyone*

Friday 23rd April 2021

Monday 26 th April		
Tuesday 27 th April	Private Music Lessons	
Wednesday 28 th April	Year 5 and 6 PE day Come to school in your PE kit	
Thursday 29 th April		
Friday 30 th April		Year R, 1, 2, 3 and 4 PE day Come to school in your PE kit
Monday 3 rd May	Bank Holiday – school closed	
Tuesday 4 th May	Private Music Lessons	Year 6 swimming lessons
Wednesday 5 th May		
Thursday 6 th May		
Friday 7 th May		
Monday 10 th May		
Tuesday 11 th May	Private Music Lessons	
Wednesday 12 th May		
Thursday 13 th May		
Friday 14 th May		

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.



Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer,

The first week back after Easter has been very busy in class, ensuring children are happy, settled and getting back into good work habits. Many children have been visiting Miss Town and myself to show us superb work and we are always keen to reward pupils who demonstrate resilience, those who have made individual progress (it needs to be their best, not the best) or those who have collaborated successfully to learn something new.

'Catch Up'

You may have heard this phrase being used by government ministers or in the press. It is true (and perfectly understandable) that the majority of children are behind where they otherwise would be in many subjects as a result of Covid and the lockdowns. All schools must make a plan to support children filling these gaps and we believe we have created a comprehensive and well-thought out plan which is suited to our children.

As headteacher it was important to me that all pupils have a right to be supported to reach their potential. This means pupils are being offered a range of opportunities, not always because they are struggling, but because we want them to reach their full potential, this includes children who have the potential to exceed their age expectations. Some of the catch up support being put in place include:

- Dedicated 'return to school' support for those anxious or in need of additional help
- Academic 'morning booster sessions' re-established and increased to cover more groups/classes (these start next week)
- Additional 'in class' support to support pupils make accelerated progress
- 'Bounce Back' small group support from mental health charity MIND
- Pupil 'Well-Being' day organised (29th March) with additional sport, activities and a magician
- Small group Sports Science coaching
- Extra 'Forest School' sessions
- Additional 'pastoral support' experts bought in, for example therapeutic play
- Additional school staff employed to support social and emotional well-being
- Additional swimming sessions for target groups
- Charlton Football 'Joy of Moving' program
- Additional staff time dedicated to support parents with high attendance needed to make good progress at school

It is worth saying that one of the biggest things that is helping children to bounce back is your support at home. The effort parents put in to supporting their children with remote learning has made our job easier and I want to say thank you for this. We will continue to ask you to get involved and make sure children are completing the home learning that will help them shine at school. This is all the basics such as daily reading, times tables and number skills.

Reports:

Everyone should have received their child's report by now which hopefully will give you a clear idea of where your child is currently in their learning and the priority targets going forward. Mrs Davis has emailed you separately with a link to a form confirming you have received a report and giving you the opportunity to make comments. Many thanks for those who have already responded, I really appreciated the comments you have made.

We are currently looking at the Covid relaxation guidance and planning parent consultations which may be immediately after the half term. Planning these and deciding whether they have to be virtual or can be done safely in person is always difficult and we will let you know as soon as we completed the risk assessment and planning.

As always, we pride ourselves at Phoenix at being accessible and approachable so please come and ask us questions. We are on the gate every morning and evening and always enjoy talking to you about your child.

Mr Johnson
Headteacher

Newsletter

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.

After school clubs

After school clubs have re- started this week. Anyone who was due to attend the Team Theme sports clubs on Wednesday and Friday in January are automatically still in that club.

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 you should have received 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.

Residential trip – Year 6

We have managed to book a new venue for the Year 6 residential trip. We are now going to Grosvenor Hall, Kingswood Activity Centre, Ashford on Friday 25th June to Sunday 27th June. We will arrange a meeting nearer the time to run through the details and what the children will need.

Red Nose Day

Red Nose Day was held on Friday 19th March. Thank you to everyone who took part in the activities and donated to this charity. As a school we raised £200.94.



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 DO NOT your child to school if they have any sickness or diarrhoea symptoms and then please ensure that your child remains at home for 48 hours after their last bout of sickness and/or diarrhoea.

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Colds

As always with this time of the year there are a lot of children who have colds and temperatures. If your child has normal cold symptoms they are still welcome in school if they are able to.

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

Book Swap Shop

Phoenix 'Book Swap Shop' is located by the main office and is available for everyone to use before or after school everyday. You can gift, borrow or have a book of your choice. Reading is the most important lesson for the children to learn; 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/Phoenix_Ashford) 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

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:

- Friday 21st May 21
- Friday 25th June 21
- Sunday 27th June 21

- Class photos
- Year 6 Residential trip
- Year 6 Residential trip return

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.

