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Phoenix Community  
Primary School  
Belmont Road  
Ashford  
Kent  
TN24 9LS



*Creating opportunities  
for everyone*

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2019

## Upcoming Events

Below is a quick overview of the events due to take place at school in the next two weeks. Please read the newsletter for further information. If your child is directly involved, then you will receive a separate letter.

Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> Dec		1.00pm – Garden of light tour for competition winners	5.00pm – Carols by Candlelight at Ashford International Hotel
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec	9.00am – Year 1 parent/child Christmas decoration session	NO SWIMMING	
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> Dec			1.30pm – KS1 Nativity
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> Dec	9.15am – KS1 Nativity		1.00pm – Whole school to St Mary's Church
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec		12.00 – Christmas dinner day	2.00pm – Music concert
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> Dec	10.00am – Highworth Swing Band performance		2.00pm – Learning exhibition All invited
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	9.30am – House treat Ashford Bowling Club		1.00pm – Cooking club meal
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec			3.15pm – normal finish time ~~NO OWLS TODAY~~
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Closed – Christmas holidays		
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Closed – Christmas holidays		
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan			
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> Jan		12.30pm – Year 3 swimming	
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> Jan			1.00pm – Year 6 booster swimming lessons
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> Jan			
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> Jan			



# Newsletter

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Dear Parent/Carer,

Christmas time in a school is always exciting and magical (and busy!). We have been teaching children this term about British Values: democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance. We see a lot of these qualities at Christmas time with people volunteering and helping others and pupils showing respect for each other, whether they celebrate Christmas or not.

We are lucky to have a school where tolerance and respect are the norm, however we do not take this for granted and any mistakes children (or adults) make are used to educate to produce kind and caring citizens.

Mentioning volunteering again, we wouldn't be able to provide so many opportunities for your children without the support of so many selfless volunteers. Thanks to the PTA for the hard work that went into the Christmas Fayre that raised over £500, your efforts are really appreciated. Also thanks to volunteers who give up their time to support in class or read with children, volunteers helping run clubs like the football team or cooking and staff who regularly give up their time to support extra-curricular activities. On behalf of the school I would like to say thank you and recognise that this time you give makes a real difference to our pupils.

Chris Johnson, Headteacher

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## Not Late Gate

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November – 8 children were late on this day.

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December – 13 children were late on this day.

## Why do we do this?

It is not just because we like dressing up (although we do!!)

Phoenix Community Primary School believes that arriving at school on time is essential for children to fulfill their potential. We want your child to succeed and be happy and we know that you do too.

Clear evidence shows that being late can:

- Embarrass/Upset your child
- Affect achievement
- Disrupt lessons and the learning of others in class

**10 minutes per day adds up to 6 days lost days of learning a year!**

## Attendance

Week commencing Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November – Whole school attendance was **94.4%**

Week commencing Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December – Whole school attendance was **96.0%**

Attendance below 95% is a concern to the school and Ofsted. Your child's attendance will fall below 95% after 10 missed days; every 2 weeks of school is 5% so it is vital that your child attends every day.

Good attendance is extremely important for your child's development and so it is vital that your child comes to school as much as possible. Please bear in mind that:

- at this time of year children will have coughs and colds and maybe feel under the weather but if possible please send them to school. If your child deteriorates over the course of the day we will always call you to come and collect them.
- having doctor/dentist appointments first thing in the morning will affect your child's attendance. Please try and arrange any appointments for later in the day or after school.
- the KCC ruling is that 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, so please avoid taking your child on holiday during term time.

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

If your child is unable to attend school please ring the school as early as possible and leave a message on the answer phone.

## KS1 Nativity

The performances will be held on:

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December – doors open at 1.30pm ready for 1.45pm start.

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December – doors open at 9.15am ready for a 9.30am start.

We will be holding a crèche for younger siblings; we would be grateful if you could use this facility so the children can concentrate on their performance without any distractions.

## PTA Christmas Fayre

Thank you to everyone for coming along to the Christmas Fayre yesterday. Your support is much appreciated. We will let you know how much you raised for the school once the money has been counted.

## PTA

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January at 2.15pm. As all members of the PTA are due to leave in July we be discussing whether the PTA can continue or whether we will need to fold. This will mean that there will be no more discos, pocket money stalls, Mother or Fathers day stalls, end of Year presents and party, movie nights etc. If you are considering joining the PTA please come along and join us. Everyone is very welcome.

## Christmas dinner and Christmas Jumper day

Both of these events will be taking place on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December. If your child does not normally have a school dinner but would like to join us this day please ensure you have returned your slip and payment.

## Learning exhibition

We will be holding a Learning exhibition on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 2.00pm. Parent/Grandparents are invited to come into school to look at and celebrate the amazing work the children have completed this term. You are welcome to take the children home afterwards.

## PE kit – outdoor

As the weather is getting colder can you please make sure that your child has an outdoor PE kit in school at all times as well as their normal PE kit. They need a sweatshirt and a pair for joggers (any colour). Please make sure everything is clearly named.

## Music concert

We will be holding a music concert in school on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December between 2pm and 3pm for those children who take part in singing or music in school. If your child is involved you will receive a letter. Please reply to let us know how many tickets you request asap.

## Owls club

This is available to everyone if needed. This clubs runs from 3.15pm to 5.30pm every night and is available to you as a one-off session or on a regular basis. There is a charge of £5 per child, per session which can be paid via our envelope service at the office. Children will undertake a variety of activities and receive a snack and drink. If you need to use this service please call the office and book your child in.

## 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.

# Newsletter

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.

## Term dates

- Term 1 – Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September to 18<sup>th</sup> October 2019
- Term 2 – Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October to Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2019
- Term 3 – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2020
- Term 4 – Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February to Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020
- Term 5 – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020
- Term 6 – Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June to Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2020

## 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:

Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	KS1 Nativity (1.45pm)
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	KS1 Nativity (9.30am)
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas dinner and Christmas jumper day
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Learning exhibition – parents invited from 2.00pm
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	PTA discos
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	World book day (dress up as a character)
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	Mothers Day lunch (option 1)
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Mothers Day lunch (option 2)
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Learning exhibition – parents invited from 2.00pm
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Class photos
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> June	Summer Fete
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> June	Fathers Day lunch
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> June	Transition Into School meeting
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Sports day
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	PTA discos
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 production
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 production
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Learning exhibition – parents invited from 2.00pm

## 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.

