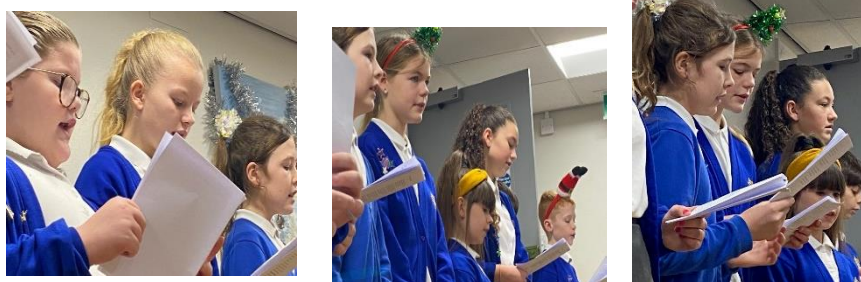


Phoenix Community Primary School

15th December 2023



This week has been filled with fun and festive cheer and that will continue on next week too. Our wonderful choir visited Gerlach House today to sing to the residents. Their beautiful voices were met with well-deserved applause. Many of the residents came over to speak to the children after to thank them for their time. We're really proud of our children and their commitment to support their community outside of school.



It was wonderful to see so many of you coming to see the reindeers today. The children visited the reindeers with their class at different slots during the morning. With the final three days of term approaching, we would like to wish all of our families and wider community a very Merry Christmas with best wishes for 2024.



We look forward to the three days next week and the 8th January 2024 after that!

If you need to report your child absent please email office@phoenix-primary.kent.sch.uk

Whole School Attendance target is 100%

Whole school attendance: Year to date 93.6%

This week; same as last week: 88.9%

No class achieved above 97% this week

Having 5 days off school a year will take your child's attendance below 97%



Latest News:

- Every week on the newsletter we do ask parents to keep their children off school for 48 hours after their last bout of sickness and diarrhoea. This will keep to stop the spread of any infections. Your assistance in this matter is much appreciated.
- There will be NO morning booster sessions this week. Breakfast club is available if needed; please book and pay via Parent Mail.
- The last day of term will be Wednesday 20th December at 1.30pm. There is NO owls club on this day.
- Christmas dinner day is being held on Tuesday 19th December.
- Children are allowed to wear a Christmas jumper/t-shirt to school on 19th December instead of their school sweatshirt.
- Well done to the children in Penguins, Pelicans and Parrots for two amazing nativity performances this week.
- Wednesday 20th December we will have a change to the dinner menu; it will be fish and chips instead of roast.
- When we return in January the PTA would like to collect some clear glass bottles; if you get any over the holidays please bring them into school.
- Year 5 swimming will recommence on Tuesday 9th January 24.

Other news:

- **KCC attendance officer visit** – we recently had a visit from our KCC attendance officer regarding low attendance. We are hoping that we can all pull together to increase the attendance before her next visit. If you have any issues around attendance please speak to a member of staff immediately so we can work together to overcome them.
- **Packed lunches** – As a healthy school we encourage children to have a healthy packed lunch. Please do not send your child to school with any fizzy drinks/energy drinks, sweets or chocolate bars as these are not permitted.

Free hot bagels with dairy free butter on offer most mornings; make sure you arrive in time to get one!



Diary Dates:

19 th December	Christmas dinner
19 th December	NO SWIMMING
20 th December	School closes at 1.30pm
21 st December	School closed
5 th January	School closed
24 th May	School closed
26 th June	Sports day
22 nd July	School closed

Yearly House points total:

Blue	1 st	7190
Red	2 nd	6980
Green	3 rd	6570
Purple	4 th	6260

Well done to **Red** for winning this week

Don't forget to try and do the following over the weekend:

- 10 minutes Doodle maths
- Spelling shed
- 10 minutes reading

Thank you for your support

- **No jewellery** – in the interest of safety please ensure that NO child comes to school wearing any type of necklace, bracket or hooped ear-rings.
- **PE kits** – Please ensure that your child comes to school in the correct PE uniform on their PE day. This makes a huge difference to their learning, behaviour and their ability to concentrate. Children need to wear plain black or blue joggers/shorts, their house colour PE top with black trainers.

Attendance this week

Good attendance is essential to ensure children reach their full potential. Please ensure your child attends daily; any child arriving after 9am will receive one unauthorised session. Any issues with attendance please speak to a member of staff.

Attendance is an issue; let's work together to improve this next term.

- Penguins – 35 missed learning sessions this week. 16 children achieved 100% attendance.
- Pelicans - **56** missed learning sessions this week. 16 children achieved 100% attendance.
- Parrots – 19 missed learning sessions this week. 22 children achieved 100% attendance.
- Robins – 42 missed learning sessions this week. 20 children achieved 100% attendance.
- Ravens - 22 missed learning sessions this week. 23 children achieved 100% attendance.
- Flamingos - 29 missed learning sessions this week. 20 children achieved 100% attendance.
- Eagles - 25 missed learning sessions this week. 20 children achieved 100% attendance.

Owls club

Owls club is available to everyone. Sessions run from 3.15pm to 5.30pm. Each booked session is £6 per child; this will include a snack and drink. Spaces must be booked and paid for in advance; if you need a space please book ASAP as spaces are limited. To book a space go to 'Accounts' in the main menu on Parent mail.

If you need an 'On the day space' please call the office first to ensure a space is available; then payment can be made via Parent Mail.

When collecting your child from Owls please call the number on the door for assistance; 07955 337459

Any child who is not collected by 3.30pm will be sent to Owls club and this will incur a £7 charge.

PTA (Parent Teacher Association)

The next meeting will be held in January; date and time to be confirmed.

Donation uniform

We have donated school uniform in the office. If you can make use of any of these items please come and collect.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast club – open to all every day for £1.75 per child. If your child attends you will need to make payment on Parent mail. You will need to book and pay for a space beforehand.

If your child attends without pre-booking unfortunately the cost will be £2 per child.

If you have any issues booking please speak to a member of staff.

Follow us on Instagram



Or Facebook



ACE Book Shed

We have free books for the children and adults to take home and enjoy in our Ace Book Shed outside the main office. Please feel free to help yourself. Thank you to Ace Sheds for donating this book shed; 01233 822042

<https://www.acesheds.co.uk>

Illness/sickness and diarrhoea

If your child is ill and unable to come to school please ensure you call the office and leave a message (24-hour answer machine available). If they have a bug (sickness or diarrhoea) which they could pass on to another child they will need to stay at home for 48 hours; if they are sick for any other reason (i.e. headache) they should return to school as soon as they feel well enough.

Holiday requests/penalty notices



All holiday leave requests will need to be made in writing to the Headteacher. Following KCC guidance and the School's Attendance Policy leave will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances. Any child whose attendance for the past 12 months is below 95% will be monitored regularly and letters will be sent home. Having 6 days a year off will take your child's attendance below 95%. This will have a negative effect on their learning.

School trips

At Phoenix we like to give the children as many varied learning opportunities as possible and this includes class trips which are only possible because we are lucky enough to have our minibus. Obviously, school trips involve extra costs which puts a strain on the school budget but by having our minibus does mean the cost of all trips at kept at a minimum. However, to allow trips to take place we do have to ask parents/carers for a voluntary contribution towards these events. We understand that times are hard but unfortunately without these contributions we will not be able to provide class trips. Contributions can be paid via Parent mail or by cash at the office and can be made in instalments. If you need a longer period to fulfil the contributions please speak to a member of staff who will arrange this for you. Thank you for your continued support.

PE Kits

Wednesday Year 5 and 6. Friday Year R, 1, 2,3 and 4.

Please ensure that your child comes to school in their PE on their allocated day. **Children need to wear their house PE top, school sweatshirt and plain black joggers/shorts. Earrings must be removed for health and safety purposes. This should happen at home. Our staff are unable to remove or replace earrings.**

Email Communication

All letters and messages will be sent to you via Parent Mail so it is important that we have your correct email address. If you need to amend or add a second email address, please let us know.

School hours

Gates are open between 8.40am and 8.50am. Any child arriving at school after this time will need to enter through the main office. Any child arriving after 9.00am will be recorded as 'unauthorised'.

Home learning

This is sent at the end of every week via the Seesaw Family App. Once you sign in you will have a message in your Inbox from the class teacher. Please open the message to see all the homework set i.e. Doodle, Spelling Shed and writing homework.

Each week the class teacher will set writing homework. The writing task will always reflect the skills the children have been learning in class that week.

Your support with this will help your child build on their learning!

School meals

School meals are provided by Contract Dining company. As a business they do not offer credit and therefore all meals MUST be paid for in advance. Meals cost £2.53 per day and can be taken any days needed (no need to book in advance). Any issues with payments please contact them direct on 07908 662878 or email Hilde at hilde-marie.smith@thecontractdiningcompany.co.uk. All lunches need to be ordered by the children with the class teacher in the morning; if your child is in KS1 they are entitled to a free meal.

Term Dates 2023 – 2024

Term 1 – 1st Sept to 20th October 23

Term 2 – 30th October to 21st December 23

Term 3 – 5th January to 9th February 24

Term 4 – 19th February to 28th March 24

Term 5 – 15th April to 24th May 24

Term 6 – 3rd June to 22nd July 24

Staff Development Days (children not in school)

1st September 23

21st December 23

5th January 24

24th May 24

22nd July 24