



Learning at school is like building a skyscraper. Each day builds a new floor to the building. First we have to lay the foundations. They have to be secure. Without secure foundations of learning (good attendance at school), children will have gaps in their knowledge.

Our curriculum is very much like building a skyscraper. Each day a new brick (piece of knowledge) is laid. This knowledge is built upon day after day and then year after year.

When children have gaps in their learning, there is a chance that they can feel anxious and potentially disengaged from their curriculum.



Being in school every day will ensure that your child/ren reaches their full potential and beyond. Attendance matters. It builds tomorrow's future today.

## Latest News:

- **Bike ability – Year 6; this starts on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January.** If you have signed your child up for this don't forget to bring their bikes in on Monday.
- **Young Voices –** if your child is going to this event on Tuesday don't forget they need enough food for lunch and dinner! Children are due back about 10.45pm; children are expected to be in school as normal on Wednesday 😊
- **Road works –** we have been advised that there will be some work being carried out on Bybrook Road next week; please bear this in mind when getting to school you maybe better off coming up Rylands Road.

*If you need to report your child absent please email [office@phoenix-primary.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@phoenix-primary.kent.sch.uk)*

*Whole School Attendance target is 100%*

*Whole school attendance: Year to date 92.6%*

*This week: 82.8%*

*No class achieved above 97% this week*

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



- **Head lice – please regularly check your child’s hair and treat any headlice found immediately.**

**Other news:**

- **World Book Day** – this will be held on 7<sup>th</sup> March. As a school we will be all be following the same theme which this year is Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. If your child would like to join us that would be amazing if not they are welcome to come dressed as another character or they can come in their school uniform if they do not want to take part.
- **Parents appointments** – this is being held on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February; appointments are now available for you to book via Parent Mail. Any issues please speak to the office.
- **Breakfast and Owls club** – if you need to book your child into one of these clubs please book via Parent Mail. You need to go to accounts and then choose the service you require; choose the date and then make payment.
- **Residential trip** - Year 6 residential parents meeting to be held on 26<sup>th</sup> March 24 at 3.20pm. If your child is going on the trip please try and attend this meeting.
- **KCC attendance officer visit** – we have had another visit from our KCC attendance officer regarding low attendance. 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.

**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**

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



***Diary Dates:***

21 <sup>st</sup> February	Parents appointments
5 <sup>th</sup> March	NHS Hearing & vision Year R
7 <sup>th</sup> March	World book day
8 <sup>th</sup> March	PTA Mother’s Day stall
25 <sup>th</sup> March	Bake and donate sale
26 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents residential meeting
28 <sup>th</sup> March	PTA Easter Egg hunt
24 <sup>th</sup> May	School closed
14 <sup>th</sup> June	PTA Father’s Day stall
26 <sup>th</sup> June	Sports day
28 <sup>th</sup> June	Summer Fair 2pm
22 <sup>nd</sup> July	School closed

**Yearly House points total:**

Blue	1 <sup>st</sup>	1186
Purple	2 <sup>nd</sup>	868
Red	3 <sup>rd</sup>	816
Green	4 <sup>th</sup>	638

Well done to **Blue** 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

- Penguins – 56 missed learning sessions this week.  
**16 children achieved 100% attendance.**
- Pelicans – 53 missed learning sessions this week.  
**16 children achieved 100% attendance.**
- Parrots – 19 missed learning sessions this week.  
**22 children achieved 100% attendance.**
- Robins – 79 missed learning sessions this week  
**15 children achieved 100% attendance.**
- Ravens - 52 missed learning sessions this week.  
**15 children achieved 100% attendance.**
- Flamingos - 44 missed learning sessions this week.  
**15 children achieved 100% attendance.**
- Eagles - 59 missed learning sessions this week.  
**19 children achieved 100% attendance.**

### Donation uniform

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

### PTA (Parent Teacher Association)

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

### 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.**

### 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.**

**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. **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](mailto: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** – 1<sup>st</sup> Sept to 20<sup>th</sup> October 23**Term 2** – 30<sup>th</sup> October to 21<sup>st</sup> December 23**Term 3** – 5<sup>th</sup> January to 9<sup>th</sup> February 24**Term 4** – 19<sup>th</sup> February to 28<sup>th</sup> March 24**Term 5** – 15<sup>th</sup> April to 24<sup>th</sup> May 24**Term 6** – 3<sup>rd</sup> June to 22<sup>nd</sup> July 24**Staff Development Days (children not in school)**1<sup>st</sup> September 2321<sup>st</sup> December 235<sup>th</sup> January 2424<sup>th</sup> May 2422<sup>nd</sup> July 24