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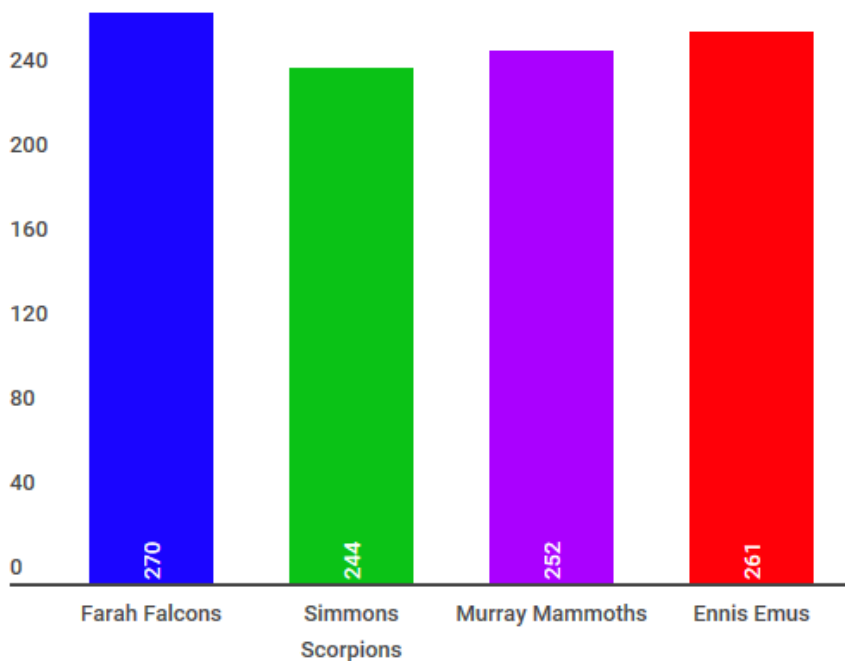
*Creating opportunities
for everyone*

Monday 11th September 2017

I hope all the children had an enjoyable first week back. There have certainly been a lot of happy faces and we've had a very calm start to the year – long may it continue!

We welcome our new Year R children today and I remember how nerve-wracking it can be for the parents. I'm sure that they'll settle in quickly. Quite often children adjust quicker than the parents!

House Points & Class Dojos



Attendance

- 1) Scorpions
- 2) Emu
- 3) Falcons
- 4) Mammoths

Class Dojos

- 1) Mammoths
- 2) Falcons
- 3) Scorpions
- 4) Emus

House Points

- 1) Emus
- 2) Falcons
- 3) Scorpions
- 4) Mammoths

Punctuality

Please remember that the children should be in school by 8.50am in order to avoid a disruptive start to their day. Gates open at 8.40am every morning.

Breakfast Club

Our breakfast club is the cheapest in Ashford (that we know of) at just £1 a session and runs from 7.45am to 8.40am.

School Dinners

The Contract Dining Company provide excellent food for the children and we would encourage all parents to sign their children up for school dinners, especially those in Key Stage 1 as it's free.

Owls Club

We will continue to run our after-school Owls Club at just £5 a session. Please speak to the school office for more information.

Sports T-Shirts

We are missing a number of blue Phoenix t-shirts with 'Sport' written across the back of them. If you have one then please could it be returned to the school office.



Responsibility ~ Courage ~ Collaboration ~ Reflectiveness ~ Independence ~ Resilience

Parental Consultations

These will take place across three days on Tuesday 26th to Thursday 28th September.

What will we discuss?

Many parents worry about what to ask at the Parent/Teacher consultation, so we have some questions which you may wish to ask your child's teacher.

- Is my child happy at school when he/she is learning?
- Do they join in the lessons?
- How does my child learn best?
- Does my child ask for help when stuck or having problems with the work?
- Compared to the national average, how are they doing academically?
- What does my child need extra help in?
- How can I help my child at home?

You may also wish to ask questions about your child's behaviour in school. You know their behaviour better than anyone but sometimes their behaviour is different in school. Does their behaviour sound like them?

- Does my child get easily distracted or do they distract others?
- Does my child follow the rules when playing games or do they make up their own?
- How does my child sit when they are learning, do they chat, sit quietly or play around?
- Does my child have friends?
- When they are near/with other children at break-time do they play with the children or by themselves?
- How does my child react when they are told that they have done something wrong or the work is wrong?

Making an Appointment

1. You can make an appointment through our booking system: <https://phoenixashford.parenteveningsystem.co.uk/> and log in by entering your details and those of your child. If you have more than one child then you will need to log in separately for each child.
2. Book your appointment time and, if you entered your email address, you will receive an email confirmation.

There will be an opportunity to look through your child's books prior to your appointment so you may wish to arrive 5/10 minutes early.

PESE

Well done to all those Year 6 children who took the Kent Test (11+) last Thursday. The whole process of selecting a secondary school for your child must be very stressful and I would sincerely recommend parents taking the time to consider and look around all of the local secondary schools.

Each of these schools hold open sessions for parents and these can usually be found on their school website. We will also publish this information on our school newsletter if we are informed.

Applications are via the Kent website: www.kent.gov.uk/ola and this is now open.

Results from the Kent Test will be sent to parents on Thursday 12th October.

School	Sessions
Highworth Grammar School	Open Eve 20 th Oct, 6pm to 8pm; Open Morning 21 st Oct, 9am to 10.30am
Homewood School	Open Evening 20 th Sep, 4pm to 8pm; Open Mornings 25 th - 27 th Sept
John Wallis C of E Academy	Open Evening 3 rd Oct; Open Morning 4 th October.
North School	Open Eve 4 th Oct 5pm to 8pm; Open Mornings 2 nd to 13 th 9am Oct (not 5 th)
Norton Knatchbull	Open Eve 9 th Nov, 6pm to 10pm; Open Morning 23 rd Nov 9am to 11am
Towers School	Open Eve 28 th Sept 4.30pm to 7.30pm; Open Morn 2 nd to 6 th Oct, 9am
Wye Free School	Contact school for details

After-School Clubs

At Phoenix School, we try our best to offer a wide range of clubs to our pupils and below you will see a list of clubs which are on offer this term. Clubs will start from Monday 18th September and will run for 10 weeks until Friday 1st December.

Children will be selected based upon a particular aptitude or willingness to improve in that area. We will be allocating clubs on Thursday. **Please note that it is not first-come first-served.** You can request as many clubs as you wish although children will be given just one club initially. If there are spaces, they are able to attend a second club – this is to ensure that every child gets a chance to attend. When requesting a club you will need to request to go on the waiting list. Places can be requested [here](#).

Before clubs start, you will receive a confirmation letter stating that your child has been given a place; **your child does not have a space unless you receive this letter.** The letter will ask if you will be collecting your child at 4.15pm or allowing them to walk home. No child will be permitted to walk home without consent. All clubs finish at 4.15pm and we would ask that children are collected promptly.

Please note that we have the same expectations of behaviour at clubs as we do at any other time in the school day and that if children are not behaving appropriately, then they may find that their place is offered to another child. We would also expect children to commit to attending all ten sessions.

Clubs Timetable

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
KS1			Football	Multi-Skills Games	
KS2	Samba (Lunchtime) Orchestra Netball Rotakids	Table Tennis	Digital Leaders	Ukulele Maths through Art	Football

Parental Language

I have had some complaints (understandably) from some concerned parents about the language that children are exposed to outside of the school.

I certainly would not wish my daughter to hear some of the language that I hear parents using and completely agree with those parents that have come and spoken to me.

I have no doubt that this is only a small minority of parents who feel that certain words and phrases are acceptable. All I can ask is that you all give due consideration to the people and children around you.

Stars of the Week

Every week, a member of staff can recognise a child as their 'Star of the Week'; someone who has impressed them by showing one of the learning behaviours we encourage.



- ☆ Daniel J (Year 1) – for being a kind friend and checking if another child was ok when they fell. *Miss Turner*
- ☆ Natalie T (Year 2) – for being an independent learner in all we have learnt this week. A fantastic start to Year 2! *Miss Holmes*
- ☆ Darcie-Mai P (Year 3) – for being a great partner during our dictionary challenge. *Mrs Thomson*
- ☆ George H (Year 4) – for showing kindness and consideration towards his teammates this week. *Miss Humphries*
- ☆ Jessica H (Year 4) – for being a considerate and caring friend to those in need this week. *Miss Leavey*
- ☆ Danny A (Year 5) – for being a supportive partner in Maths collaborating with his peers in a friendly manner. *Mrs Foreman*
- ☆ Logan M (Year 6) – for his unbelievable and unwavering kindness towards his peers during the first week of term. *Miss Downey*
- ☆ Pagan M (Year 6) – for showing resilience in her maths and demonstrating a good attitude to learning. *Mrs Godfrey*



Upcoming Events

Below is some information about upcoming events taking place at Phoenix School. If your child is directly involved, then you will receive a separate letter. If you have any questions about these events, then please feel free to speak to a member of staff in the office.

Monday 11 th September	Year R in (half-days)		
Tuesday 12 th September	Year R in (half-days)	6.00pm: FGB Meeting	
Wednesday 13 th Sept	Year R in (half-days)		
Thursday 14 th September	Year R in (half-days)	2.30pm: PTA Meeting	
Friday 15 th September	Year R in (half-days)		

Monday 18 th September	Year R in (half-days)	Clubs start	
Tuesday 19 th September	Year R in (half-days)		
Wednesday 20 th Sept	Year R in (half-days)		
Thursday 21 st September	Year R in (half-days)	7.45am Parental Surgery	
Friday 22 nd September	Year R in (half-days)		

PTA Meeting

There is a meeting of the PTA next Thursday, all are welcome. The meeting will be held in the Family Room and starts at 2.30pm.

Headteacher Surgeries

We deal with most problems promptly and efficiently but we also know that from time to time some of you may have a problem that just doesn't seem to get sorted out.

The Headteacher's Surgery offers parents and carers an opportunity to meet with Mr Tibbles on a one-to-one basis to discuss your child's education and experience of school. Whatever the reason, a surgery slot will give you time to talk effectively about issues that are important to you. These slots can be booked via our online booking system which you can access [here](#).

However, if at all possible, please raise your concerns via the usual route of contacting the school and speaking with a member of staff who will be able to help you. We are confident that this will be quickest and most efficient way to resolve your queries.

Attendance Letters

I have had a few parents come and see me about the attendance letters that were sent home last week. Given the conversations I have had I thought it best to clarify why these were sent.

When a child's attendance drops below 95%, our policy states that we will let you know about this in writing. This does not mean that you are facing a Penalty Notice – simply that we have to monitor your child's attendance.

As a school, the children's attendance is good and in the vast majority of cases, the absence is unavoidable, i.e. illness, hospital visits, etc. and attendance improves quickly. It should go without saying that these absences are authorised.

Where we do have concerns, we will be contacting you and asking you to come in and meet with us so that we can see if there is any support that we can offer.

Please do feel free to come and speak to me or Mr Johnson if you have any queries.