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*Creating opportunities
for everyone*

Monday 4th September 2017

Welcome Back

Given by the amount of smiling (relieved) faces I saw on the school gate this morning, I have no doubt that many of the parents are just as glad as the children that they are back at school. It's been a long six weeks and I hope that they have been enjoyable.

In assembly this morning I reminded the children that there may be some people who may be worried or anxious about the start of the school term – they may have a new teacher or be worried about the harder work that comes with moving up a year group. We spoke about what we could individually do to make sure that everyone has a good start to the year and I'm looking forward to hearing about some of these acts of kindness in Friday's assembly.

Staffing

With the new academic year, comes staff changes. Miss Humphries is beginning her teacher training and will primarily be working in the Year 4 class. I also have to inform you that over the holiday, Mrs Setter handed her notice in. She has been with the school for nearly 10 years and has made a huge contribution during her time. I know that she'll be missed by staff and pupils alike and wish her well.

Changes

This term, the children will be learning all about changes and we have already scheduled in the learning exhibition for **Monday 18th December at 1.30pm**. Please put this date in your diaries as it is great for the children to be able to show you their learning.

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.

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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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

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.

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|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Monday 4 th September | Home Visits (new Year R children) | Children back to school | |
| Tuesday 5 th September | Home Visits (new Year R children) | | |
| Wednesday 6 th September | Home Visits (new Year R children) | | |
| Thursday 7 th September | Home Visits (new Year R children) | PESE Tests (11+) | 3.30pm PGL Parents' Meeting |
| Friday 8 th September | Home Visits (new Year R children) | | |

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|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--|
| 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) | | |

PESE Test

On Thursday, the children who have been registered for the PESE (11+) Test will take this. Results will not come out until 4pm on 12th October. Good luck to those children.

Parents' Evenings

These will take place in a couple of weeks' time - more information in Friday's newsletter.

PGL Parents' Meeting

There will be a meeting this Thursday for the parents of those Year 6 children who are going to PGL in a few weeks' time.

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.

Clubs start

Clubs will start from Monday 18th September - more information in Friday's newsletter.

Year 3 Swimming

This year, we have reluctantly had to make the decision to decrease the amount of swimming that the children do.

The current Year 3 children will start swimming after the February half-term and continue swimming until the October half-term in Year 4, i.e. they will get four terms of swimming instead of six.

Swimming still remains free! There will be no charge for lessons or the transport.

Weekly Mile

Our hugely popular weekly mile will continue this year. We have been hearing a lot of comments about how much better the children are at running and how much fitter they appear. Remember that parents are also invited to join in and are welcome to run or walk!

Obviously if the weather is too wet then we won't be doing the weekly mile. We wouldn't want any children slipping and injuring themselves.