



Phoenix Primary School

Where we rise to the challenge

Dear Parents/ Carers,

A belated Happy New Year to you all! I hope you had a good Christmas break.

At Phoenix, we are all extremely relieved that the snow and ice has melted and the children can play outside. Last week was a challenge to say the least! Thank you so much for your support in trying to keep everyone safe. It was a very difficult decision to close the school on Thursday, but we just didn't have the time or capacity to make the grounds safe enough; whereas for Friday, we'd had time on the Thursday when children were at home, to carefully risk assess and carry out the necessary tasks to make the grounds safe, for example – main walkways and fire escape routes cleared.

Huge thanks go to Mr Peters, our Site Manager, who worked relentlessly through the week – assessing, shovelling and gritting repeatedly – in order to keep people safe and keep the school open as much as possible.

Family Cookery

Yesterday, Phoenix held their first Family Cookery Session of the year, in the hall after school. Unfortunately, I was in a meeting so didn't get to take part but I believe it went very well! I hope the families who took part learnt lots about cooking and enjoyed the chilli-con-carne they cooked together 😊. The sessions will continue for the next four weeks. I look forward to trying the recipes – next week it's veggie curry! Thanks very much to Miss El-Saiegh for organising it and Mrs Wright for running it.

<p>Choir – Thursdays 3:20 – 4:10pm</p> <p>Our first choir session of 2025 takes place today. Following the success of the Christmas visit to the residential home, the children are working towards another performance, at the 'Phoenix Summer Showcase' during summer term.</p> <p>This is a perfect time for new children to join the club, as we are learning new songs! The club is free – the only requirement is that children are dedicated and attend every week.</p> <p>If you wish your child to attend, you can either write a note, giving permission, or ask at the office for a letter with a reply slip.</p> <p>Please note – and adult must collect their child promptly from the front entrance at 4:10pm.</p>	<p>Football Club</p> <p>The first Phoenix football fixture of the year is tomorrow, for the Year Fives. Good luck team – we wish you well!</p> <hr/> <p>SEND Coffee Morning</p> <p>The first SEND Coffee Morning of 2025, with our new SENDCo - Mrs Barlow - is taking place tomorrow morning at 9am, in Mrs Kavanagh's room (portacabin). If you have a child with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities, or need advice if this is suspected, please do come along and chat with staff and other parents.</p>
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OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning)

I'd like to repeat our request from before Christmas, for any old, unwanted pans, kitchen utensils and plastic jugs/bowls (thank you if you have sent any in 😊) and add a further request. If anyone has an old suitcase or child's buggy they no longer need, they would be greatly appreciated. I know these sound like strange requests, but with OPAL, we recognise that there are many different types of play, and to enable the children to access these play-types (see below), we need a range of resources. It also helps us reduce waste and saves you throwing unwanted things away! The only thing we ask is that any items you send in are safe (eg. no sharp edges).

- Imaginative play
- Deep play
- Dramatic play
- Exploratory play
- Locomotor play
- Mastery play
- Object play
- Recapitulative play
- Role play
- Symbolic play
- Social play
- Fantasy play
- Rough and tumble play

Here are some of the items that have been sent in being used in one of our 'mud kitchens!'



Key Dates This Academic Year January 2025 – July 2025

Friday January 17 th 9:00am 10:00am	SEND Parents/Carers Coffee Morning PTA Meeting
Friday 24 th January 9:00am	ESOL Assessment Day (see next page)
February 3 rd – 7 th	Children's Mental Health Week
Tuesday February 11 th	Safer Internet Day
Thursday February 13 th 9:00am	Free School Meals for All Campaign Parents/Carers Coffee Morning
Monday 17 th to Friday 21 st February	Spring Half Term Holiday
Monday 24 th February	Children start back at school – Spring 2
February 27 th	Whole School Chester Zoo Trip
Friday 4 th April	Last day of Spring term – school closes at 1:00pm
Tuesday 22 nd April	Children start back at school – Summer 1
Monday 5 th May	May Day Bank Holiday
Monday 26 th May to Friday 30 th May	Summer Half Term Holiday
Monday 2 nd June	Children start back at school – Summer 2

Term: Spring Term Date: 16th January 2025 Headteacher: Mrs T. Cheung

Friday 18 th July 2025	Last day of Summer term for children– school closes at 1:00pm
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