



Phoenix Primary School
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Head Teacher: Mrs T. Cheung

6th June 2025

Important News

Dear Parents and Carers,

I have two things I would like to share with you today. First of all:

BREAKING NEWS



You may have seen the fantastic news yesterday - *the Government announced that half a million more children will get Free School Meals. The announcement extends Free School Meals to include all families on universal credit. That's a giant leap forwards for our campaign to win hot healthy school dinners for every child in primary school.*

I want to say a HUGE thank you to all of the children, staff, parents and carers at Phoenix who were involved in the campaign – writing letters to the Prime Minister; designing posters and banners; talking with MPs; being filmed for the wonderful 'Two Cities' film; signing petitions; and demonstrating at the Labour Party conference in Liverpool. This is proof that when people care about important issues, and work together, they really can make a difference! I am so proud of all of the children who played a part in this journey. They are making history!

Second of all:

Some of you may have see the article entitled '*The 23 worst performing Liverpool Primary Schools based on latest reading, writing and maths scores*'. In my opinion, using headlines such as this is unfair, unhelpful, and unkind. We all felt very strongly about this and felt it was important to address it with the journalist. Please see the letter to Emma Dukes, from Mr Kelly, over the page:





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Dear Miss Duke,

I am writing in response to your recent article listing the '23 worst performing primary schools in Liverpool', in which Phoenix Primary School was named. As the newly appointed Headteacher of Phoenix, I feel compelled to highlight the impact that this kind of reporting has on the children, families, and staff who make up our school community.

While we recognise the importance of transparency in education and accountability in public service, the nature and tone of the article have caused unnecessary distress among our parents and carers, many of whom have contacted the school with deep concern. It has raised questions that undermine the hard work and daily commitment of a staff team working tirelessly to serve a vibrant, diverse, and high-need community.

Phoenix is so much more than a line on a data table. We are a school that champions inclusion, nurtures emotional wellbeing, and provides a lifeline to many families facing significant social and economic challenges. We are proud to host a dedicated SEND unit, led by skilled staff who deliver specialist provision that changes lives. Our pupils show daily acts of resilience, kindness, and growth—and these stories deserve to be told too.

With that in mind, I would like to extend an invitation for you to visit Phoenix Primary School. I would welcome the opportunity to show you the excellent work that goes on here every day: the passion of our staff, the warmth of our school community, and the progress—both academic and personal—being made by our children.

I believe strongly in the power of the press to inform and to uplift. I hope you will accept this invitation and give Phoenix the chance to be seen for all that it is—not just the data, but the heart behind it.

Kind regards, Mr Peter Kelly

Ms Dukes responded and said that the last thing she wanted to do was cause distress to the parents, staff or pupils, and that it wasn't her intention to imply that these schools were 'bad' or to damage any schools' reputation.

Hopefully, she will come and visit Phoenix to see what a wonderful school it really is.

Have a lovely weekend, warm regards, Mrs Cheung

