



**Phoenix Infant and Nursery School**  
*Flying high at Phoenix*

# Welcome...

*to our wonderful school!*

What makes Phoenix so special?

I am delighted to share with you all the great things about our school and I hope you all enjoy playing a part in our continued success. We are very proud of our school ethos which is always commented on by all who visit. We have approachable, professional and committed staff, dedicated and effective governors, supportive and caring parents and wonderful children! It is essential for our children to feel safe and happy in school in order for them to thrive. We are committed to making school the most enjoyable time possible. OFSTED (Dec 2016) recognised, "Phoenix is a happy and welcoming school where care, guidance and support for pupils are outstanding. There is an exceptionally good and extremely productive engagement with parents and carers"

By offering a broad and balanced curriculum that engages and enthuses the children, we can ensure that every child has the opportunity to reach their full potential. The Phoenix Team look forward to welcoming you and your family to our school. For further information please visit us online at [www.phoenixinfant.co.uk](http://www.phoenixinfant.co.uk). You are welcome to come and see the school in action throughout the year - just call the school office to make an appointment.

**Mrs L. Harper, Headteacher**





*'Phoenix is a fantastic school which knows my son really well. He has made excellent progress already this term and loves his class!'*  
Parent

## Our school

Phoenix was originally opened as an Infant School in 1962. It stands proudly at the top of the hill overlooking Gedling and Carlton. A Nursery was built in 1996 at the side of the main school by converting the caretaker's bungalow. At the age of seven children move to our partner school Priory Junior. Phoenix Infant and Nursery School is a purpose-built building serving a wide catchment area. There are six classrooms in the main building plus a hall, dining room and resources room. The Nursery is at the side of the school. Phoenix has a large outdoor area with a playground, adventure play area, sensory room, library area as well as a wildlife area. The school has a secure entry system, the site is all fenced and visitors must call at the main reception area to gain admittance.

### What does Phoenix offer my child?

At Phoenix we offer an inclusive school where every child is a valued member of our community.

- We work in partnership with parents and carers to help each child fulfil their dreams and ambitions
- We have a dedicated team who work hard to support the children in achieving their very best
- We offer a broad and balanced curriculum where achievement in all subjects is valued
- There are a range of after-school clubs open to all children
- Our Phoenix Parliament shares the children's ideas with the staff
- We have an active and supportive Governing Body



# Our school aims

At Phoenix Infant and Nursery School we strive to create an atmosphere that is happy, caring and challenging. We want every child to feel they belong here and to feel secure. We believe in the importance of developing the whole child through offering a broad, balanced and creative curriculum where both independence and team-work are valued. We will help our children to begin to develop learning skills that will last a lifetime, so that they can make their best contribution to the community and society.

Our aims are:

- To create a happy and caring environment
- To nurture a sense of belonging to the school family and a sense of pride in our school
- To provide a broad, balanced and enriching curriculum
- To make learning a positive and enriching experience
- To encourage all children to reach their potential and enjoy learning
- To develop independence
- To respect themselves and others
- To foster positive relationships with parents and the community
- To encourage healthy, happy lifestyles within a safe environment

Central to this vision are the core elements set out in the 'Every Child Matters' in which we strive to help to secure five main outcomes for each child:

- Being healthy
- Staying safe
- Enjoying and achieving
- Making a positive contribution
- Achieve economic well being

Phoenix Infant and Nursery School is a fully inclusive school with a mission of working together to achieve the best for all children.

Values-based education at our school supports the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of every child.



# Curriculum

## creative and inspiring!

At Phoenix we offer a broad and balanced curriculum where every child is encouraged to build on good foundations and develop their individual talents and interests. The curriculum follows the National Curriculum but this is personalised to ensure the intent meets the needs of our own specific community.

The curriculum is divided into two stages:

1. Early Years Foundation Stage: from ages 0-5
2. Key Stage 1: from ages 5-7

### Reception

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum is based on seven areas of learning:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

### Key Stage 1

In Years 1 and 2, subject areas covered by the curriculum policy are:

- English (Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening, Phonics)
- Maths (Number and Calculation, Shape, Space and Measures, Data Handling)
- Computing (including e-safety)
- The Creative Arts (Art and Design, Music, Dance, Drama)
- Physical Education
- Design Technology

- PSHE including well-being
- Foundation subjects (Science, Religious Education, History, Geography)

### High Expectations

We treat every child as an individual. We have high expectations that all our children will excel and achieve their very best on all areas of their development. We encourage the children to become well rounded individuals with a thirst for learning. We ensure the children understand what a growth mindset is and how this can support their learning.

### Sport

We give the children many opportunities to be active throughout the school day, ranging from using our Anomaly board in the playground to active learning opportunities throughout the school day, playtimes, access to the Tram Trail as well as structured PE lessons. At Phoenix our children participate in swimming lessons at the local pool in Year 2. We hold Sports Days in the Summer Term as well as competitive sports with other schools.

### Curriculum Enrichment

At Phoenix we ensure that the children have a range of experiences to enhance learning opportunities. This includes visits from authors, drama groups, sporting heroes and the NSPCC. We also ensure the children get to experience school visits. In the past these have included visits to White Post Farm, Skegness, Nottingham Castle and the Birmingham Seal Life Centre. We have a fantastic local community too and utilise these resources such as Gedling Woods, All Hallows Church, local shops and cafes as well as the library, fire station as well as special guest visitors such as members of the community with local area knowledge.

### Clubs

We arrange a wide variety of clubs according to the time of year and the interests of the children. Examples of clubs include:

- Dance
- Multi sports
- Gymnastics
- Golf
- Arts and Crafts
- Ukulele and Rocksteady band
- Gardening



# School day: Settling in

## School hours

The main school day starts promptly at 8.50am. The gates will open from 8.30am and children must be supervised at all times. As soon as the morning bell goes, we expect all children to line up. To help with a smooth start to the day we kindly ask that you try to leave your child at this point and not to follow them in school. This encourages the children to become independent as well as preventing congestion in our narrow corridors. Our school day ends at 3.20pm.

In Nursery we offer 15 hours universal provision – either mornings or afternoons or, for eligible families we can offer 30 hours provision. (see information on admissions)

Nursery am – 8.30am – 11.30am

Nursery pm – 12.30pm – 3.30pm

Nursery 30 hours provision 8.30am until 3.30pm





*'We always knew that we wanted our daughter to attend this school, and we are so pleased she does. She is improving her knowledge and skills everyday, and we thank everyone who is involved in her care and education. Brilliant school.'*

*Parent*

## School meals and snacks

The school provides a free nutritious, freshly prepared cooked meal as part of a government initiative for infant age children. Menus are available to view on the school website. The children are well cared for at lunch time with a dedicated team of midday supervisors. The children sit on the same table each day with a midday supervisor for each table, keeping a caring eye on the children. We operate a family service where the older children serve the younger children - with supervision of course. If you choose to send you child with a packed lunch, then please remember that we have a number of children with severe nut allergies.

## Break times and drinks

All children should have their own named water bottle in school (no bottles of juice please). The children are encouraged to drink regularly throughout the day. All children are provided with fresh fruit daily. Parents can also subscribe to having a carton of milk if they wish through Coolmilk.

## Our school uniform

Full uniform selection available from Just School Wear.

- Red polo shirt
- Navy/Grey trousers, skirt or pinafore dress
- Navy/Red checked pinafore dress (Summer)
- Navy sweatshirt or cardigan with the school logo
- Navy fleece with the school logo
- Black/navy low or flat shoes

The school reading bags and summer caps (navy/red) can be purchased from the school office

- PE Kit - White t-shirt, navy shorts, plimsolls or trainers

PE bags can be purchased from the school office.

Please name all of your child's belongings.

Jewellery is **NOT ALLOWED** in school for safety reasons.



# Inclusion: a school for every child

## Equality

We work hard to ensure equality for all our children, staff and members of our school community. All our children are special... they develop at different speeds for a variety of reasons and, like us, have unique strengths and areas to develop. Some children will need the opportunity to extend their learning while others may need support in certain areas. We believe that it is vital that all children are given the opportunity to thrive and appropriate adaptations are made.

## Inclusion

At Phoenix we recognise that all children have their own individual talents and abilities at different times in their school life. Through working with parents and carers as partners and by continually tracking individual progress, we are able to







adjust support to meet the child's needs at all times. We work closely with outside agencies, where appropriate and always involve parents and carers in supporting their child's needs.

Phoenix Infant and Nursery School has achieved the Dyslexia Friendly School Quality Mark.



### **Children working at greater depth**

We recognise that all children have their own specific gifts and talents. With that in mind, our lessons are stimulating, and we provide regular opportunities for children to extend their learning and explore areas in greater depth where necessary.



# Encouraging positive behaviour

The ethos of our school encourages a caring attitude not only between adult and child but also between the children. Children are encouraged to exercise a high level of self-control and to be aware of the needs of others. We make every effort to create a community which cares for each individual. A positive approach is taken to behaviour with a variety of rewards used to recognise and encourage positive attitudes and work. Children are taught to self-regulate and be able to talk about their feelings using a wide range of strategies. A copy of our Positive Behaviour Policy is available on our website.

## Growth Mindset

At Phoenix we promote and embed the ethos of a Growth Mindset. Growth Mindset is a term coined by psychologist Carol Dweck and her team. It is the idea that success is not just based on our genetics and natural talent alone and having a growth mindset - the belief that we can improve and get better at something - can increase success. Whilst we cannot necessarily change our natural talents, we can change our mindset to a more positive one.



## First Aid for Feelings

We deliver very specific sessions to children to help them discuss their feelings positively. We ensure that the children have all the necessary skills to enable them to have the tools to support their positive self esteem and mental health as they get older.

## Phoenix Parliament

We have our very own Phoenix Parliament with members elected in the Autumn term. The children learn about democracy as part of this. The members of the parliament are encouraged to discuss and make decisions about a variety of issues in school.

## Take Five

Take Five is delivered throughout school. It is a resilience and capacity building skill set based on breathing, grounding and awareness. Take Five enables our school to remain calm where children feel valued and safe.



# Your child's achievements

## How is my child doing?

A record of academic and social achievements begins as children join Phoenix Infant and Nursery School. These records begin in Nursery and Foundations Stage 2 and are added to throughout the children's time at Phoenix. The record is a three-way communication where the child, home and school comment and share special achievements. Added to this the teachers write a more detailed annual report covering all areas of the curriculum. We also offer parent consultations twice a year where parents/carers can come and talk to the class teacher and discuss their child's progress.

## National Assessments

In Year 1 children will take part in a national phonics screening check. The children are shown a number of real and made up words that draw upon their phonic (ability to hear, recall and use sounds) knowledge. Parents/carers will be informed whether their child has met the required standard on their annual report. In Year 2 during the month of May, children will participate in Standard Assessment Tests (SATs) in reading, writing and maths. The results from these are used to support the end of Key Stage 1 teacher assessments. More information is given to parents regarding the SATs during the summer term in Year 2. Please be reassured that these are carried out in a sensitive manner suitable to the age of the children and should not give children or parents any concerns.





# Admissions

## Admission into School

The majority of children are admitted to our school in September of the academic year in which they are going to be aged five. This will be birthdays between 1st September and 31st August. We currently admit 60 children per year into our school. All admissions, including mid-year pupil moves, are dealt with by a common application form submitted to the local authority.

## Can I visit the school before I apply?

Yes, we want to meet you and your child/children! Around October each year we organise tours for you to come and see the school, meet the Headteacher, staff and children. Tour dates are displayed on our website but please call us to book a place as we want you to have lots of time and opportunity to make the most of your visit so we limit places on each tour. To visit the school please telephone 0115 9539927 or email [office@phoenix.notts.sch.uk](mailto:office@phoenix.notts.sch.uk)

## Transition

Our successful transition programme of introductory talks and visits starts from May allowing both child and carer to build up trusting relationships with our staff. This ensures that children and parents/carers look forward to their first day at Phoenix.

## Starting Phoenix at other times during the year

Before children can be admitted midyear, parents/carers and their children are encouraged to visit the school. Applications to our school are again completed with the Local Authority.

## Applications

Nottinghamshire Local Authority Admissions Team processes all our school applications. This link contains all the necessary information to make an application. <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/school-admissions/apply-for-a-school-place> alternately you can telephone them on 0300 500 80 80.

## Nursery Admissions

We have our very own wonderful nursery can admit children from the term after their third birthday. You can register your child by collecting a form the school office. We can offer a universal 15 hours, or, if eligible you may qualify for 30 hours. <https://www.gov.uk/30-hours-free-childcare>. Please come and visit and we can discuss these options with you.



# Getting involved

## Friends of Phoenix

All parents are very welcome to join our friendly PTA. They meet regularly to plan and organise exciting school events such as the Summer Garden Party, Discos, Fun Runs and a whole host of exciting child-based activities. The funds raised support school resources and facilities whilst providing wonderful social opportunities for the whole school community. Recently, the fundraising has been used to pay for buses to subsidise school trips and buy T-Shirts for our Year 2 leavers. The PTA is currently helping to raise funds towards the new library.

## Our School governors

The school has a full and active Governing Body, which includes Parent Governors as well as representatives from staff, the local authority and the local community. Governors monitor all aspects of the school's everyday business, from classroom teaching to agreeing policies. They are always here to offer advice or explanations, or even to hear of any worries you have about the school and can be contacted through the School Office. It is wonderful to have parents/carers, with their many varied skills and viewpoints on the Governing Body. There are so many helpful ways you can become involved with this school; being a governor is just another one of them. Vacancies for Parent Governors are advertised as they arise.







# Flying high at Phoenix

Phoenix Infant and Nursery School  
Phoenix Avenue, Gedling, NG4 4EL  
☎ 0115 9539927

✉ [office@phoenix.notts.sch.uk](mailto:office@phoenix.notts.sch.uk)  
🌐 [www.phoenixinfant.co.uk](http://www.phoenixinfant.co.uk)