Petherton Park School Newsletter

January 2026

Headteacher's Message

It has been an absolute joy to see our corridors and classrooms filled with life again since coming back and it's hard to believe it's already February!

The start of the Spring Term is always a special time. While we know that transitioning back into school routines can be a bit of a gear change for our pupils we have been incredibly impressed by how quickly everyone has settled back into their learning.

We have welcomed two new team members, Ella and Chloe and they have started to get to know the pupils and showcase their skills and added value to the existing team.

The weather has not been kind and we very much appreciate your support with the disruption caused by Highways flooding to our school site. We would like to reassure you that this is not an issue with the school premises but that our access is significantly affected and out of our control, but we are trying to be creative to ensure as little impact is possible to yourselves and the pupils.

Beccy, Laura and Vicky

February - Key Dates

3rd	Careers Day with Future Smart Careers
8th	Year 8 Vaccination session
10th	Mueller Careers trip
11th	International Day of Women & Girls in Science
13th	Last day of Term 3
23rd	First day of Term 4

Safeguarding

~ Is everyone's responsibility ~

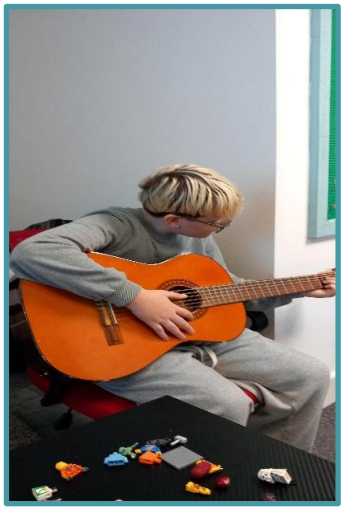
If you have any safeguarding concerns about any child (not just a child within our setting), please contact our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL):

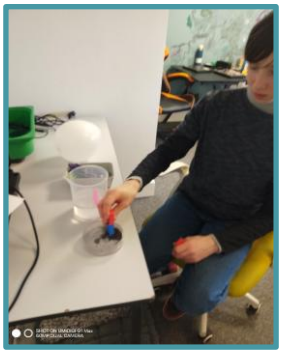
Zoey Shelley 07725 406993
zshelley@phoenixschools.org.uk
or
Beccy Wainwright 0330 1358 200
beccy.wainwright@phoenixschools.org.uk

Or alternatively, contact our Operations Director responsible for Safeguarding Governance:
Darren Jackson
djackson@plcl.org.uk

Pupils' Gallery

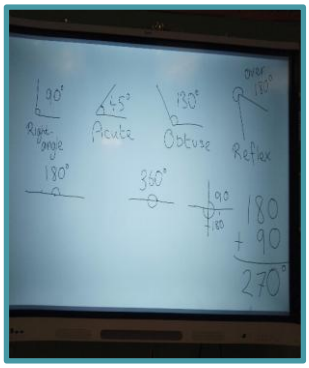
Our text this term is "I am Malala" by Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai. We hope our pupils are inspired by her personal story of courage and resilience in the fight for justice and equality.

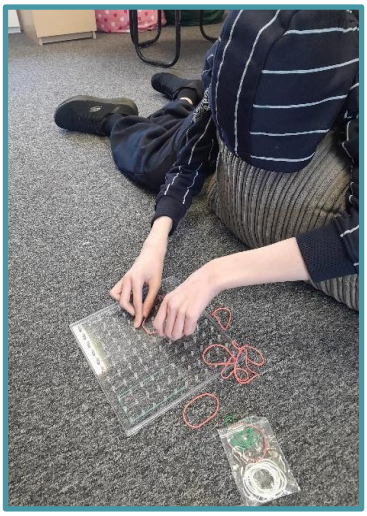




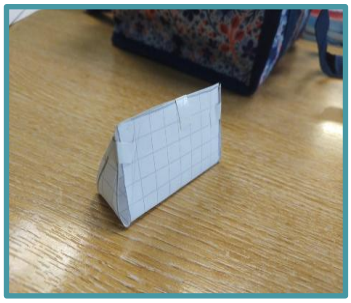
Many of our pupils are learning the guitar at Petherton. It's so lovely to hear their music around the school.

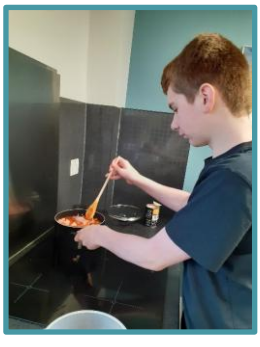
Science learning this month has involved lots of experimentation. Topics explored have included friction of different surfaces, magnetism and contact and non-contact forces.





Maths learning has been looking at various aspects of shape and space concepts. Pupils have been learning about directionality using programmable floor robots, measuring angles of turn using protractors and key angles terminology, exploring properties of 2D shapes using pinboards and simple paper to learn about lines of symmetry. Pupils have also made 3D shapes from 2D nets.





And as ever, cooking has been a popular activity this month with pupils expanding their culinary repertoire from curries to cookies, and kindly sharing their delicious dishes with others.

Therapies Team

We thought we'd share a bit about **PACE** and why Pheonix uses this approach across all their settings. At Phoenix, relationships are at the heart of everything we do. We know that children learn best when they feel safe, understood, and valued. That's why we use **PACE**, an approach developed by clinical psychologist Dan Hughes, to guide the way we connect with our pupils. It's a therapeutic approach designed to build trust, strengthen relationships, and support emotional growth in children.

What does PACE stand for?

PACE stands for **Playfulness, Acceptance, Curiosity,** and **Empathy**. These four qualities shape how adults interact with children, helping them feel secure and supported as they grow both academically and emotionally.

Playfulness brings joy and lightness into the classroom, making learning fun and reducing anxiety. Play is often a child's prefer way to connect and can help a relationship feel safe.

Acceptance means we value each child for who they are, even when they are experiencing big feelings.

Curiosity allows us to wonder together about feelings and choices, encouraging reflection without judgment.

Empathy ensures that children feel heard and understood, building trust and resilience.

Why It Matters in Pheonix

- Creating safety: PACE helps children feel secure, valued, and understood — essential for learning.
- Supporting emotional regulation: It gives team members tools to respond calmly and compassionately to our pupils' feelings.
- Building resilience: Children learn to trust adults and other pupils, which fosters confidence and independence.
- Promoting inclusion: Every child's voice and experience is respected, reducing feelings of isolation.

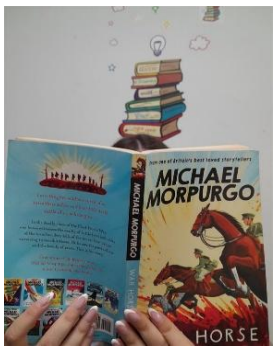
We hope that you find this helpful information – we look forward to sharing more with you in future newsletters.

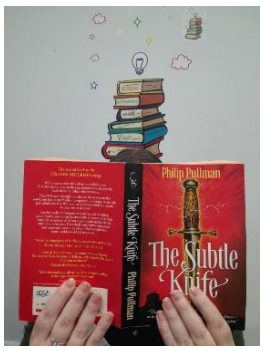
The Therapies team – Sharon, Megan & Charlotte

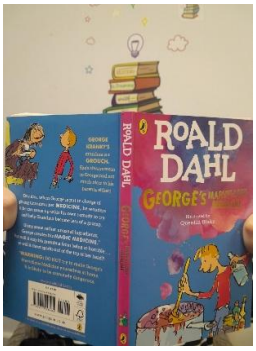
petherton parkschool
INSPIRING LEARNING

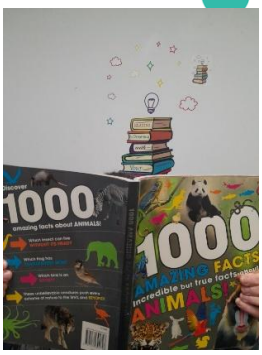
We ♥ reading!

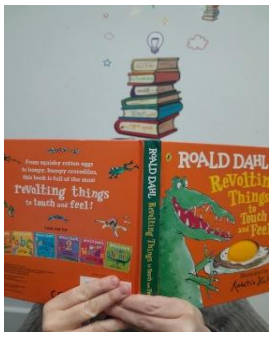
Can you guess which team members are reading in our library? Have you read any of the books they are reading?

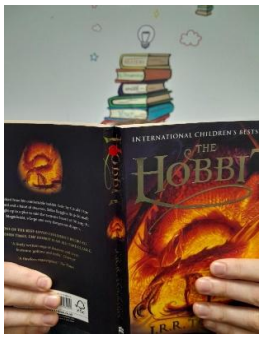


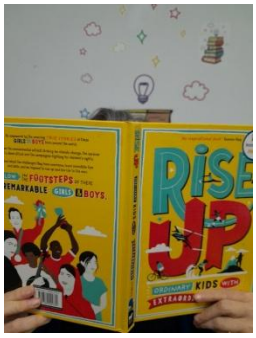


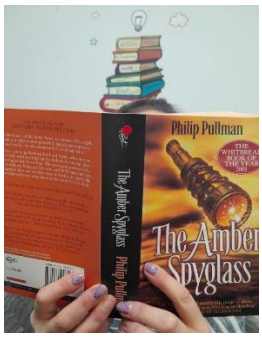


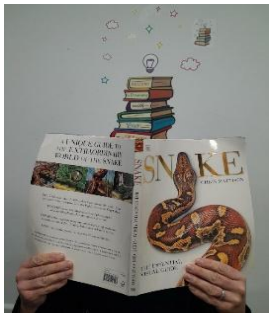


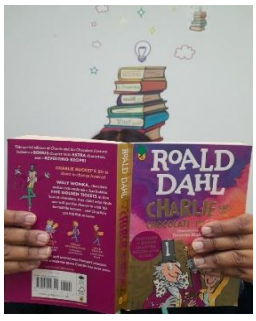


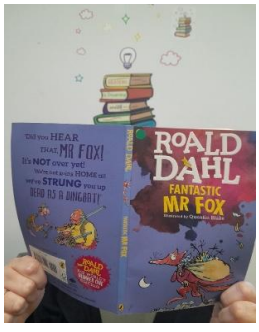




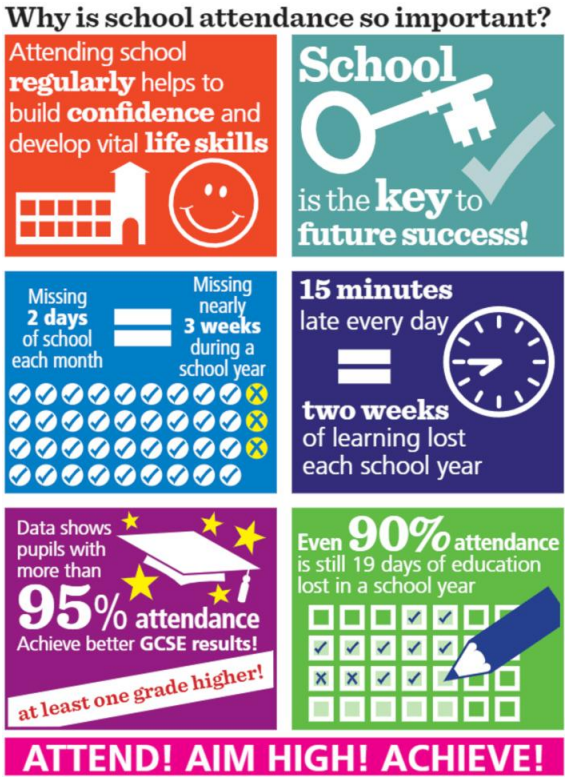


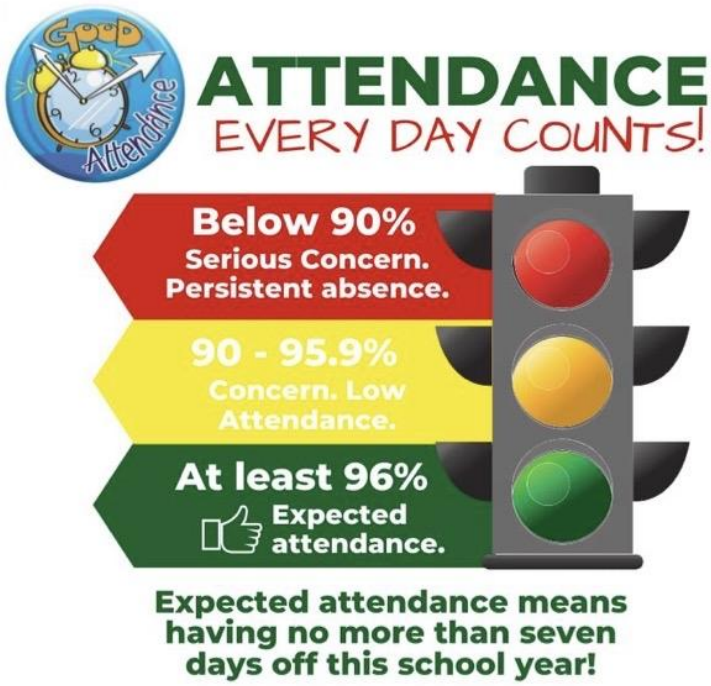






Attendance





Reporting Absence

If your child is unwell and unable to attend school you must notify school **by 9.00 a.m. on each day of absence.** Absences can be reported by:

T: 0330 1358 200 or E: Petherton@phoenixschools.org.uk

Remember to include:

1. Name of child 2. Reason for absence 3. Expected return date (if known)

2025-2026

Petherton Park School

Key
School Holidays
Inset Days
Bank Holidays
Occasional days

September '25

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

October '25

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

November '25

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December '25

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

January '26

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February '26

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

March '26

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

April '26

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

May '26

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June '26

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

July '26

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August '26

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						