

Clarkes Lane, West Bromwich, West Midlands, B71 2BX

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15<sup>th</sup> December 2015

Dear Parent/Carer,

I thought I would take the opportunity to write to you before we break for Christmas to provide you with some important information, given that our winter edition of the newsletter will not reach you until next term.

As you will know the new build has started and is well underway. Carillion are currently preparing the ground for the foundations of the 'superblock' which has required them to drill over 5000 bore holes into the ground. At the end of January they will be piling over 400 concrete reinforced columns into the ground to a depth of 40 meters, before laying the slab. We should see the building come out of the ground in March. Despite the loss of circulation space and increased noise levels on site, our students have been brilliant in adapting to the modified environment and to a large extent life goes on as normal. Watch out for a link on our website to the time lapse camera that is due to be fitted shortly. This will allow you to keep an eye on the progress of the build.

In recent weeks we have experienced an increasing number of parents parking inconsiderately outside the school when dropping off and collecting their children. Could I ask that if you do have to drop your child to school by car that you observe all of the parking restrictions around the site? Not doing so is placing our students (your children) in unnecessary danger. May I also remind parents that the entrance to 'A' block car park on Clarkes Lane should not be used as a drop off point or for parking? Thank you for your support in this matter.

As in previous years school will be ending earlier than normal on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 12.30pm and will reopen to students on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at the usual time (to allow for staff training to take place on 04/01/16). Up to date information can be found on the school website.

School will start late on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January and Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March to allow for staff training. Students should arrive at school between 9.45am and 10.00am and go straight to period 2. I have taken the opportunity to provide you with full details of our term dates for the remainder of this academic year along with details of our emergency closure procedures should this become necessary.

Finally, on behalf of the governors and staff I would like extend our very best wishes for the festive season and a happy and healthy New Year.

Yours faithfully,



Gary Hill  
Head teacher

## **Procedures for school closure due to Bad Weather & Emergencies**

It is our policy to remain open unless we are forced to close because there is a risk to the health, safety and welfare of staff and pupils. The Head teacher in consultation with the Chair of Governors is responsible for making the decision to close the school due to inclement weather conditions in the immediate locality.

### **How parents will be notified that the school will be closed**

Closure due to poor weather conditions are very rare and will be avoided where possible. In some cases we may decide to open later than normal to allow time for the site to be made safe, this will be announced on the radio and the school website. There is no need for parents to contact the school to check whether or not the school is open. **Unless announced on the radio and school website, the school will be open.**

### **School Closure Procedures:**

If the school is to be closed, there will be an announcement on the following radio stations to state this:

**Radio WM**

**Free Radio Birmingham (formerly BRMB)**

**Heart FM/Capital FM**

**Free Radio Black Country (formerly Beacon Radio)**

Additionally this announcement will be posted on the school website, [www.aspirebelievesucceed.com](http://www.aspirebelievesucceed.com) (details will also be posted on the LA website following notification by the school to the LA).

#### **a. If the school is closed BEFORE the start of School Day**

Please refer to the procedures outlined above.

#### **b. If the school closes DURING the School Day**

Should the weather turn worse during a school day, pupils will only be sent home if there are satisfactory arrangements for them to return safely? Should any parent/carer wish to make any alternative arrangements for their child they should put these in writing to the Head teacher.

The school will inform West Midlands Travel and individual transport providers to ensure that adequate arrangements are in place for students to return home safely.

While we understand parental concerns, it would be helpful if parents/carers were aware of the difficulty for an office potentially responding to literally hundreds of calls. I would ask that parents do not telephone the school at these times unless there is an emergency.

### **PLEASE NOTE**

**In the unlikely event that the school should need to close due to a loss of services that render the site unsafe/unsuitable for staff and students we will follow the procedure above to inform parents and carers of the schools closure. Additionally, we will send a text message to those parents/carers who have a telephone number registered on our system.**

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## Phoenix Collegiate term dates and holidays 2015/16

### SPRING TERM 2016

- **Term starts: Tuesday 5 January**  
Training days – school closed to pupils: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2016  
Late start for pupils due to staff training (pupils to start at 10.10am): Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2016
- **Half term Holiday:** Monday 15 February to Friday 19 February  
Late start for pupils due to staff training (pupils to start at 10.10am): Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2016
- **Term ends: Thursday 24 March**
- **Easter holiday:** Friday 25 March to Friday 8 April

### SUMMER TERM 2016

- **Term starts: Monday 11 April**
- **Bank holiday: Monday 2 May – school closed**
- **Half term holiday:** Monday 30 May to Friday 3 June
- **Term ends: Friday 22 July**
- **Main summer holiday:** From Monday 25 July