REAch2 ACADEMY TRUST

Ambitious. Resilient. Kind.

THE PALMER ACADEMY EST: 2013

WEEKLY ROUND-UP

Monday 9th November 2026

HEADTEACHER UPDATE

Dear Parents and Carers,

As many of you know, we welcomed Ofsted inspectors into school last week. I could not be prouder of our children and staff for the way they represented our Palmer community.

Throughout the inspection, our children spoke confidently and enthusiastically about their learning, achievements and experiences at school. They shared their progress, successes and what makes Palmer such a special place to learn and grow. Our staff also demonstrated their unwavering commitment to providing the very best for every child.

I would like to thank all of our families for your continued support and encouragement. The strong partnership between home and school plays such an important role in our success.

We look forward to sharing the inspection report with you once it has been published.

Thank you for your support.

Kind Regards,

Anne Higginbotham
Headteacher



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Dates for your Diary

Date	Event
Wednesday 11th November	Armistice Day 2026 - Poppy Appeal week bring in donation of your choice
Thursday 12th November	Reception tours for September 2027 intake
Friday 13th November	Students and member of staff from Hartland High for Readers Children in Need - Students can wear spots, yellow items/ Children in Need merchandise. (Non school uniform) Bring in £1 donation.
Monday 16th - Friday 20th November	Anti Bullying Week
Wednesday 18th November	Reception Classes - Rescheduled Ella's Kitchen Trip
Thursday 19th November	Year 5 - Music Festival, Ridgeway School Visit 9:30am-11:30am
Friday 20th November	Students and member of staff from Hartland High for Readers
Wednesday 25th November	Book Fair School Photos
Thursday 26th November	Book Fair Nursery Stay and Play
Friday 27th November	Book Fair Students and member of staff from Hartland High for Readers

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ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

Attendance Information

Attendance is a key priority for our school this term. We want to ensure that all children's attendance percentages are in line or above national average of 97%. Children with an attendance of 97% above are more likely to be happier attending school, make better progress and eventually achieve better in formal exams. Please see below how even missing a few days of school can lead to many hours of learning missed.

Holidays in term time

This is a reminder that we will not be authorising any leaves of absence in term time unless for exceptional circumstances. Last academic year we had issued 20 fixed penalty notices (fines) to families taking holidays or leaves of absence in term time. Missing large periods of education consecutively has a large impact on children's understanding of key concepts and can lead to large gaps in learning. Thanks for your understanding and cooperation on this matter.

Yearly Attendance	Days Missed	Hours Missed
100%	0	0
97%	6	30
95%	10	50
90%	20	100
80%	40	200

How attendance can affect your child's learning!



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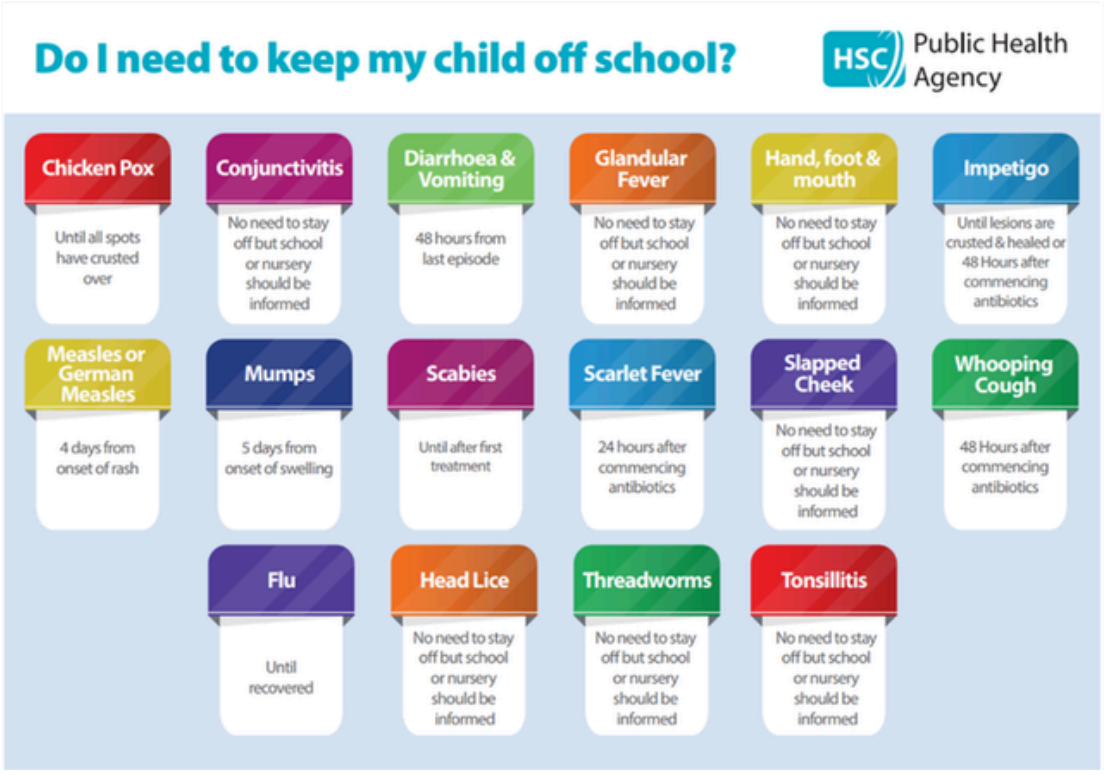
ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

Weekly Class Attendance Figures

Nursery		Reception	
AM	PM	Kerr	Rosen
93.64%	90.43%	96.55%	93.00%
Year 3		**Year 4**	
Benjamin	King-Smith	Binch	Pullman
90.38%	95.83%	94.33%	91.03%

Year 1		Year 2	
Cole	Donaldson	Ahlberg	Butterworth
94.62%	93.57%	91.43%	86.43%
Year 5		**Year 6**	
Hughes	Morpurgo	Horowitz	Lewis
97.86%	95.00%	92.00%	92.00%

Well done Hughes class on having the top attendance this week!



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REMINDERS & INFO FOR PARENTS

PE days

CLASS	DAYS
RECEPTION	TUESDAY
YEAR 1	MONDAY & THURSDAY
YEAR 2	TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY
YEAR 3	WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY
YEAR 4	MONDAY & THURSDAY
YEAR 5	TUESDAY and FRIDAY
YEAR 6	TUESDAY and FRIDAY

Year 5 and Year 6 pupils are permitted to come to school wearing their PE kit on their designated PE days, as outlined above.

Need to update contact details?

Please could we request if you have changed any of your contact details including mobile number/email or home address, please can you update this on the Arbor app.
If you have difficulties accessing Arbor, please contact main reception.

Parking

A friendly reminder to please refrain from parking on double yellow lines or zig zag markings. Doing so poses a danger to our children as they enter and leave the school premises.

Additionally, we kindly ask that disabled badge holders avoid parking in these restricted areas.
If you hold a disabled badge and require proximity to the school for accessibility reasons, please reach out to our office. We're here to support you in finding suitable parking arrangements.

Reminder to be respectful when parking in Ella Garett Close. We have had complaints from the neighbours of badly parked cars, which are blocking access and providing safety issues for residents and our students.

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REMINDERS & INFO FOR PARENTS

Uniform

Could we please ask Parents/Carers to make sure all uniforms are clearly labelled.
Nearly all the uniform emptied from the lost property bins is unnamed, making it impossible to return to the rightful owners.

School Lunches

Parents are now able to cancel and book school dinners up to **8am in the morning**. Please remember to order for your child before this time and cancel any meals not required should your child be absent for the day; you will still be charged if meals aren't cancelled.

Desserts no longer show on the parentpay app as pupils can select their pudding at lunch time.

Meals should only be ordered by the school office on the rare occasion that you may have forgotten to order. Please note the office are now only able to order jacket potato with beans.

We are still experiencing a high number of pupils every day that have no school dinner ordered – if this continues, we will phone parents to bring in a packed lunch so could you ensure you have booked for the week ahead.

Please speak to the school office if you need a reminder of how to order through Parent Pay.

Please remember we are a nut free school (this includes no chocolate spread as this contains nuts) – Please provide your child with healthy snacks for break times.

Mobile Phone Policy

This statement outlines the Trust's position on mobile phone use by children to ensure a safe, focused and respectful learning environment. It supports safeguarding, reduces distractions, and promotes positive social interaction.

Please view the policy here Mobile_Phone_Policy_June_26.pdf

Community Updates

Parenting Special Children

Fridays,18th Sept; 16th Oct; 20th Nov; 11th Dec 2026

Community Parent/Carer Support Group, WHITLEY

A support group for family members who have children/young people with additional needs living within the community of Whitley and Reading.

A safe and supportive space for sharing experiences and gaining support with the unique challenges faced by families of children with additional needs.

Each session will include an hour talk about a topic around being a parent of a child with additional needs. The remainder of the session will be for discussion of the topic and social support time.

Date & Time

Monthly, See above for details

9:30-11:30am

Venue

South Reading Community Hub, Northumberland Avenue

Reading, RG2 7QA

Main hall

Cost

Free (Refreshments provided)

Further information

Charlie Taylor

07831409731

charlie@parentingspecialchildren.co.uk

Reading Borough Council
Working better with you

Children welcome under parent supervision

Empowering Families, Preventing Crisis, Promoting Wellbeing
www.parentingspecialchildren.co.uk

Community Updates

Festive Family Craft

A fun, interactive workshop for Adults, Carers, Grandparents to do with the children aged 5 – 12 years

Scissors, glue and a sprinkle of creativity – come craft with us!

Come and enjoy making a card using various materials and folding a beautiful star.

Please bring along an old t-shirt or apron to protect your clothes and a bottle of water to stay hydrated.

Be aware you will need to complete a risk assessment.



Saturday
21st November 2026

12.15pm - 2.00pm
OR
2.15pm - 4.00pm
(includes registration)

Booking Essential

Fee £12 per family
(maximum 2 children per adult)

Due to funding restrictions this workshop is only open to residents of RG1, RG2, RG4, RG6 and RG41

Information and Booking:

The Earley Crescent Resource Centre · Warbler Drive, Lower Earley, Reading RG6 4HB
Bus Route 21 from Reading – Beech Lane · 0118 9210555 · www.earleycrescent.org
training@earleycrescent.org · www.facebook.com/earleycrescent/
Charity No. 1092607 Company No. 4383491

Community Updates

⚽ Reading FC Schools & Grassroots Offer ⚽

George Palmer Primary School has been invited to Reading FC's Schools & Grassroots fixture against Bromley on Saturday 21st November!

🎟️ Get 40% OFF tickets
Use code **#ThePalmerAcademy** when booking. The code is available on tickets in the Eamonn Dolan Stand and Y19/Y20 of the Sir John Madejski Stand. Codes are valid until midnight on Friday 20th November.

To redeem your discount, visit tickets.readingfc.co.uk, log in, select your tickets and enter your unique code in the basket. Your 40% discount will then be applied.

🏆 If we sell 25+ tickets, we'll be entered into a draw to win a Reading FC matchday experience!

⭐ We could also be named School/Club of the Match if we sell the most tickets!

Let's get as many of us there as possible! 💙💙

We look forward to seeing George Palmer Primary School at the Select Car Leasing Stadium!
Come on URRRZZ!!

Yours sincerely,

Reading Football Club Ticket Office