

WEEKLY ROUND-UP

Friday 16th October 2026

HEADTEACHER UPDATE

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was wonderful to see so many parents and carers attending our Phonics Workshops this week. Thank you to everyone who joined us. These opportunities are invaluable in helping us strengthen the partnership between home and school, ensuring that our children receive consistent support with their learning.

At Palmer, we firmly believe that children achieve their very best when families and school work together. Attending workshops like these gives parents a greater insight into how we teach key skills in school and provides practical strategies that can be used at home to support early reading and writing. Even small amounts of regular practice can make a huge difference to a child's confidence and progress.

We are incredibly proud of the strong phonics teaching at Palmer and the positive outcomes our children achieve.

Last year, 88% of our Year 1 pupils passed the Phonics Screening Check, which was above the national average. We were even more delighted that 95% of our Year 2 pupils had successfully met the expected standard, meaning that almost all of our children had secured the crucial early reading skills needed to access the next stage of their learning journey in Key Stage 2.

Thank you for your continued support. By working together, we can help every child develop a love of reading and build the strong foundations they need for future success.

Kind Regards

Anne Higginbotham
Headteacher



Dates for your Diary

Date	Event
Tuesday 20 th - Thursday 22 nd October	Year 6 PGL Residential Trip
Wednesday 21 st October	Reception Tour 9:30am Reception Tour Booking Form
Thursday 22 nd October	Second Hand Uniform Sale (after school in playground or in the main hall if raining)
Friday 23 rd October	INSET DAY - SCHOOL CLOSED TO ALL PUPILS
Mon 26 th Oct - 30 th October	OCTOBER HALF TERM BREAK (Pupils return to school Monday 2nd November)
Mon 2 nd - Fri 6 th November	Arts Week
Mon 2 nd November	Prison Me No Way Workshop Yr 5 and 6 (More information to follow) Poppy Appeal - Items available at school for a donation.
Tues 3 rd November	Ella's Kitchen Trip & Rushall Farm (Reception) (Letter and booking form sent to parents)
Weds 4 th November	School Photographer Yr 3, 4, 5 and 6 – Fencing Club Assembly
Thurs 5 th November	Hot Chocolate Story Time (EYFS - KS1) (More information to follow)
Wednesday 11 th November	Armistice Day 2026
Thursday 12 th November	Reception tours for September 2027 intake
Friday 13 th November	Students and member of staff from Hartland High for Readers

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!



ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

Weekly Class Attendance Figures

Nursery		Reception		Year 1		Year 2	
AM	PM	Kerr	Rosen	Cole	Donaldson	Ahlberg	Butterworth
89.60%	86.01%	91.38%	92.00%	95.38%	95.36%	92.14%	95.71%
Year 3		Year 4		Year 5		Year 6	
Benjamin	King-Smith	Binch	Pullman	Hughes	Morpurgo	Horowitz	Lewis
91.54%	97.20%	92.00%	96.55%	95.00%	96.93%	94.33%	95.33%

Well done King-Smith on having the top attendance this week!

Do I need to keep my child off school? HSC Public Health Agency

Chicken Pox Until all spots have crusted over	Conjunctivitis No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Diarrhoea & Vomiting 48 hours from last episode	Glandular Fever No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Hand, foot & mouth No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Impetigo Until lesions are crusted & healed or 48 Hours after commencing antibiotics
Measles or German Measles 4 days from onset of rash	Mumps 5 days from onset of swelling	Scabies Until after first treatment	Scarlet Fever 24 hours after commencing antibiotics	Slapped Cheek No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Whooping Cough 48 Hours after commencing antibiotics
Flu Until recovered	Head Lice No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Threadworms No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Tonsillitis No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed		

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 Garrett 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.

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](#)

Parent/Carer Updates

Year 6 pupils: Apply for your secondary school place



If your child is currently in Year 6 of a primary or junior school, you will need to apply for a Year 7 place in a secondary school for **September 2027**.

You can name up to four schools on your application and must apply through your home authority even if your preferred schools are in another local authority area.

Reading residents (who pay Council Tax to Reading Borough Council) should **apply using the link below**. If you live outside Reading (e.g. West Berkshire or Wokingham), you must apply through the school admissions service of your own local authority.

Deadline for applications is 31 October 2026

Apply online at:

www.brighterfuturesforchildren.org/secondary

It's quick, easy and secure.



Or scan the QR code

For help and information:

Web: www.brighterfuturesforchildren.org/school-admissions

Email: schooladmissions@reading.gov.uk

Tel: 0118 937 3777

Community Updates



Family Workshop Cyber Safety For Families

Protecting you in the Digital World

**A fun, interactive workshop for Adults, Carers,
Grandparents and their children aged 9+ years**

- Get smart and overcome your fears about cyber security
- Protect yourself and your family online (phishing emails, scams and password security)
- Unlock the full potential of the digital world (what are cookies?)
- Get practical advice and friendly guidance (know what to do when things go wrong)

Booking is Essential

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



**Tuesday
27th October
2026
9.30am - 11.00am
OR
12.00pm - 1.30pm**

Fee £12 per Family

(Maximum 2 children per adult)

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

INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

 universalvoices@reading.ac.uk

 @universalvoices.readinguni

 @UniRdgUV

 **University of
Reading**

UNIVERSAL VOICES



Musicianship



Performance



Community

Director: Dr Rebecca Berkley

Universal Voices is a community choir for children in school years 3-6 (aged 7-11). We provide an excellent choral education to all children in the Reading area. We teach inclusively, with musicianship training embedded in our rehearsals so the children learn through creative and fun practical learning. We sing a variety of music in different styles. We perform regularly in Reading and beyond. Universal Voices is also a teacher training choir, with Institute of Education students developing their professional music teaching skills by working with the children

Join us now for Autumn 2026

Universal Voices rehearses every Wednesday during term time, 16:00 – 17:30 in Building L29 on the University of Reading London Road campus, RG1 5AQ.

To sign your child up, complete the [Universal Voices Application form](#) or scan this QR code.



You can also email us on universalvoices@reading.ac.uk.

Community Updates



A Friendly session for individuals with intellectual and developmental needs

Juniors - Age 8-17



**EVERY TUESDAY 4-5PM
(EXCLUDING SCHOOL HOLIDAYS)**



SOUTH READING LEISURE CENTRE

Seniors - Age 18+



**EVERY TUESDAY 7.30-8.30PM
(EXCLUDING SCHOOL HOLIDAYS)**



**Theale Green School
Church Street, Theale**



To Book Your Place
Please Visit

www.readingrockets.co.uk

Select

“Community” Then
“Want To Play”

steph.johnson@readingrockets.co.uk

Community Updates



READING ROCKETS WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL PROGRAMME



JUNIOR AND ADULT SESSIONS

ALL SESSIONS @ READING UNIVERSITY SPORTSPARK

FANCY GIVING IT A TRY THIS SUMMER?

ALL ABILITIES & DISABILITIES

JUNIOR WHEELCHAIR SESSION

THURSDAYS 5-6PM

FOR 6-17 YEARS OLD

ADULT WHEELCHAIR SESSION

THURSDAYS 5-6PM

FOR 18+ YEARS OLD

THURSDAYS 30TH JULY, 6TH, 13TH, 20TH, 27TH AUGUST

£5 PER SESSION

For your summer session Contact Steph Johnson at:
steph.johnson@readingrockets.co.uk

Aldermore

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

READING IASS FOR SEND

SEND SUPPORT IN SCHOOL AND BEYOND

ONLINE TRAINING
summer and autumn 2026

For parent/carers who live
in Reading Borough
via MS Teams



Sessions for those who do not have an EHCP:

Understanding SEND: Primary
Thurs 25 June, 10am-12pm
Tues 13 October, 10am-12pm

Understanding SEND: Secondary
Thurs 2 July, 10am-12pm
Thurs 15 October, 10am-12pm

These sessions will cover:

- The legal framework
- SEND support in schools – what to expect
- What EHCPs are and when they are needed

Sessions for those who do have an EHCP:

Getting the most from your EHCP
Tues 23 June, 10am-12pm
Weds 21 October, 10am-12pm

These sessions will cover:

- Enforcing the EHCP
- Annual Reviews
- School choice and school moves

Preparing for adulthood

Weds 24 June, 10-11.30am
Tues 20 October, 10-11.30am



For more information and to book, email:
iass@reading.gov.uk

Include your name, home address, child's DoB and
tell us if your child has an EHCP or not

© Reading IASS for SEND 2026

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



Free funded spaces for
children adults £6.50

High Score Arcade Farnborough



Sunday 25th October

1pm-2pm

2pm-3pm

3pm-4pm

Under 7s must be accompanied by paying adult

Bookings must be in advance please email
activities@spotlightuk.org
www.spotlightuk.org Reg Charity 1129258

We are donating **200 free** funded
spaces for children to **High Score
Arcade in Andover and
Farnborough.**



Free funded spaces for
children adults £6.50

High Score Arcade Andover



Sunday 18th October

1pm-2pm

2pm-3pm

3pm-4pm

Under 7s must be accompanied by paying adult

Bookings must be in advance please email
activities@spotlightuk.org
www.spotlightuk.org Reg Charity 1129258

To book, please email
activities@spotlightuk.org

Please state in your email:

- The number of tickets
- Date
- Time
- Venue

Community Updates



Spotlight UK

HALLOWEEN PARTY

**Atmosphere Trampoline Park
Basingstoke**

28th October

6pm-8pm

Tickets £3.50

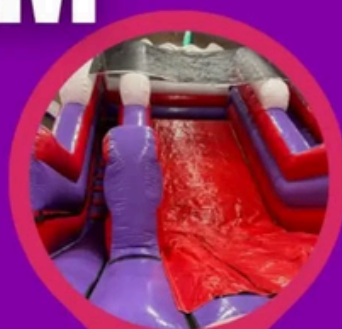
Email louisa@spotlightuk.org to book

Community Updates

Where to find us this **HALF TERM**

Didcot

Open every weekend
+ 26th October, Monday
10AM – 5PM
Willowbrook Leisure
Centre, Didcot, OX11 7AF



Reading

27th – 30th October
10AM – 5PM
River Academy,
7 Richfield Avenue, RG1 8EQ



www.TheBouncePark.com

● Open & Family Bounce

● Party Packages & Private Hires

● Toddlers & SEN Sessions

Community Updates

SPOOKTACULAR EVENTS

26th - 30th October 2026

Children Swim for £1
at all centres before 10am
during the school holidays

Rivermead Leisure Centre

- Family Fun Swimming
- Toddler Splash
- Pool Inflatable and Slide
- Table Tennis
- Junior Gym

**INTENSIVE SWIMMING
SHORT COURSE**
Four days of 30minute
intensive swimming
lessons

Palmer Park Leisure Centre

- Family Fun Swimming
- Toddler Splash
- £1 Football Drop In
- Wheelie Fun Cycling Sessions
- Junior Gym



South Reading Leisure Centre

- Family Swims
- £1 Football Drop In
- £1 Multi-Sport Drop In
- Junior Gym

FAMILY SWIMS
2 adults and 2 children
swim for £5

Meadway Sports Centre

- Family Fun Swimming
- Family Badminton
- Soft Play with arts and crafts
- Pool Inflatable
- Junior Gym

**Halloween Colouring
Competition & Fancy
Dress.**
T&Cs in centre.



Book Activities Online

www.better.org.uk/leisure-centre/reading/rivermead-leisure-centre/news/october-half-term-2026

BETTER