REAch2 ACADEMY TRUST

Ambitious. Resilient. Kind.

THE PALMER ACADEMY EST: 2013

END OF TERM NEWSLETTER

Friday 23rd October 2026

HEADTEACHER UPDATE

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of another successful half term, I would like to thank our children, staff and families for their continued hard work, support and commitment.

It has been a wonderful start to the academic year. Across the school, our children have embraced new learning opportunities with enthusiasm and curiosity. From Nursery's autumn explorations and Reception's focus on building friendships and a love of reading, to Year 3's Stone Age artwork, Year 4's horse-riding experience and Year 5's Tudor learning, there have been so many memorable moments to celebrate. Older pupils have also shown great maturity through their studies, careers learning and participation in community events such as Jeans for Genes Day. We are incredibly proud of all they have achieved.

Thank you to the many parents and carers who joined us for our phonics workshops and lesson visits this half term.

Your support and partnership make a real difference to children's success and we greatly value working together.

There is plenty to look forward to after the break. We will be celebrating Arts Week, welcoming a range of exciting visitors and workshops into school, including the Me Prison? No Way! Programme for years 5 and 6 and Hot Chocolate Story Time. As we move further into the term, we will also begin preparations for our Christmas performances and celebrations, which are always a highlight of the year.

I hope you all enjoy a restful half term break and we look forward to welcoming everyone back for another exciting half term full of learning, enrichment and opportunities for our children to shine.

Kind Regards

Anne Higginbotham
Headteacher



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Nursery

The children have made a fantastic start to the new school year and have all settled well into the routines of Nursery.

They have been very busy exploring both the inside and outside learning environments and trying very hard to remember our Nursery rules to keep us all happy and safe.

We have been learning about our bodies; naming body parts and exploring our five senses.

We have been on listening walks both inside and outside and also exploring the sounds made by musical instruments.

In maths we have been learning lots of number rhymes and songs and exploring length.

We have loved our Outdoor Learning times! We have been looking for signs of Autumn, spotting different types of birds and generally exploring anything new and exciting that we have come across.

We are looking forward to next term and all the new learning we will be doing!

Ms D Collins
Nursery Teacher



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Reception

What a fantastic start to Reception! The children have settled into their new environment and routines incredibly quickly, showing confidence, enthusiasm and independence from the very beginning.

Our topic, "All About Me," has sparked wonderful discussions about our families, what makes us unique, and the similarities and differences we share. The children have enjoyed talking about their likes and dislikes whilst building new friendships and developing a strong sense of belonging within our classroom community.

Alongside this, we have been full steam ahead with our daily phonics learning, practising oral blending and developing the skills needed to become confident readers. The children's eagerness to learn and their growing enthusiasm for reading has been a real highlight of the term.

Collaboration, teamwork and friendship have been at the heart of everything we do. Whether learning indoors or exploring outdoors, the children have worked together, supported one another and embraced every new challenge with a smile.

We are incredibly proud of all they have achieved so far and look forward to another exciting term filled with learning, discovery and fun!

Ms T Franz
Reception Teacher



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Year 1

Year 1 has had a fantastic start to the academic year and have settled well into their new rules and routines, becoming increasingly independent learners.

In English, we enjoyed writing descriptive and statement sentences about different animals, while in Reading we explored Coming to England and developed our fluency using phonics.

In Science, we learned about the human body and our five senses through practical investigations.

In Maths, we practised counting, recognising numerals, matching numbers to words, and comparing numbers using greater than, less than and equal to.

In PE, we created dances while mirroring our friends, and in PSHE we explored emotions, feelings and identifying safe adults. We also learned about family trees and the lives of King Charles III in History.

In Music, we explored pulse and rhythm using instruments, clapping and marching.

in Art we learnt how to create spirals and made lots of spiral creations!

Well done, Year 1. We can't wait to see what next term brings!

Ms R Llanora
Year 1 Teacher



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Year 2

Year 2 have had a fantastic start to the academic year.

In Writing, we have been creating sentences about The Tiger Who Came to Tea and Claude Going for Gold. The children have shown great imagination and produced some wonderful descriptive writing.

In Maths, we have been learning about place value, including recognising tens and ones, comparing numbers and partitioning numbers to 100. The children have also practised their 2, 3, 5 and 10 times tables.

In Science, we have explored humans and animals, learning what they need to survive. We have discussed healthy lifestyles, balanced diets and the importance of good hygiene.

In Geography, the children have been learning about the countries of Europe, along with their cultures and famous landmarks.

This term, we also celebrated Jeans for Genes Day. Children wore jeans and helped raise money for a UK charity supporting children and families affected by genetic conditions.

Ms L Jeffery
Year 2 Teacher



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Year 3

In Year 3 this half term, we focussed on lots of new interesting learning.

This term we started French where we learnt how to introduce ourselves and start conversations in French. We learnt new vocabulary weekly learning how to say hello and how are you and learning how to respond. We finished it off by doing a puppet show in front of the Eiffel Tower conversing with each other in French.

In History we studied the stone age, starting in the Palaeolithic learning about how humans progressed from living in caves with basic tools; all the way through to the Neolithic, 5,000 years ago, where people lived in small villages and settlements like Skara Brae in Scotland.

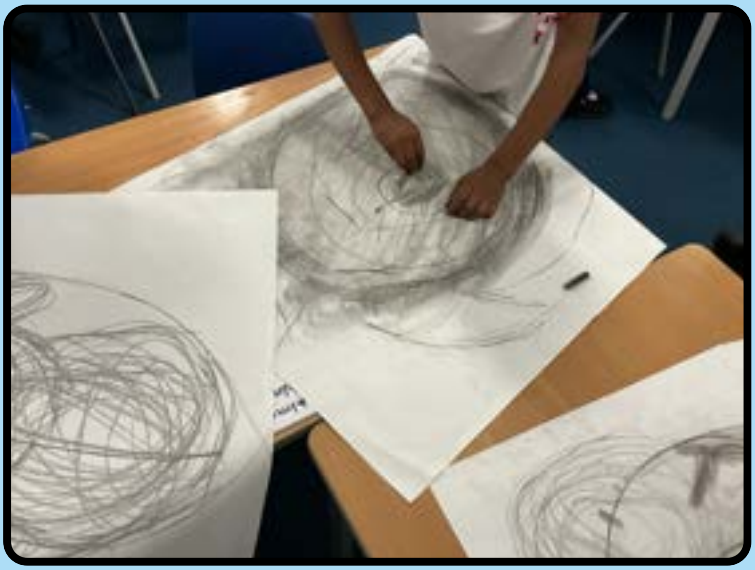
We also investigated stone age art using charcoal in Art to create our own caves paintings straight out of the Lascaux caves.

In Art art we experimented with charcoal as a medium looking at work from Laura McKendry and Edgar Degas. We focussed on gestural drawings looking at drawing with our whole body both to music and drama, creating emotion and movement within our pieces.

We explored different techniques working with the charcoal in different orientations and pressures seeing what worked and didn't. Please see the amazing art made in year 3 below:

Mr J Thomas
Year 3 Teacher





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Year 4

Year 4 have had a fantastic start to the school year, and we are incredibly proud of all they have achieved.

One of the highlights was our horse-riding experience, where the children showed courage, determination and confidence while learning new skills.

In Geography, we explored mountains, learning how they are formed and discovering famous mountain ranges from around the world.

In Science, we studied animals, including classification, habitats and adaptations. The children impressed us with their curiosity and enthusiasm throughout both topics.

In Music, the children created rainforest-inspired compositions, developing their understanding of rhythm and dynamics.

In Art, they designed and made beautiful accordion books, showcasing their creativity and attention to detail.

The children have also worked hard to strengthen their grammar skills and have made excellent progress in Maths, developing their understanding of place value and numbers into the thousands.

Thank you for your continued support. We hope you have a wonderful break and look forward to another exciting half-term ahead.

Year 4 Team



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Year 5

Year 5 have shown great enthusiasm and interest in our new topics!

Within our writing lessons, we focused heavily on sentence structures and how we can use these to create more interesting passages.

In Maths it was great to see the children make excellent progress with their addition and subtraction skills, whilst learning to estimate the outcomes of problems. The children demonstrated their scientific prowess as we looked at how materials and their properties changed through a variety of scientific experiments.

Throughout the afternoons, we focused heavily on our topic "Off With Their Heads" This revolved around Henry VIII and all things Tudors! This included his many wives and how he founded the Church of England.

The children also demonstrated their artistic side through our music and art curriculum. In music the children were keenly learning sheet music, inspired by the Egyptian period, creating a fantastic piece of funeral music to mourn the passing of an ancient Pharoah. Within Art, we focused on topography and how this can be woven into map work. Their final piece of a 3D map, inspired by Kensuke's Kingdom, were fantastic to see!

Mr E Anderson
Year 5 Teacher



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Year 6

Year 6 has made a fantastic start to the year, demonstrating enthusiasm, curiosity and determination across all areas of learning.

In Reading, we have been studying Letters from the Lighthouse by Emma Carroll. Through echo and choral reading, children have developed their fluency, confidence and expression while expanding their vocabulary and improving comprehension skills.

In Writing, we have revisited key grammar concepts and used our class texts to inspire our work. We are currently preparing to write our own endings to Rose Blanche, a story set during World War II.

In Mathematics, we have focused on place value and the four operations. Secure times table knowledge remains a priority, and regular practice at home, alongside MyMaths activities, will support continued progress.

In Science, we have explored the classification of living things, creating branching databases and learning how scientists group organisms based on shared characteristics.

Our Geography topic has focused on world biomes, where we have investigated different climates, plants and animals, and how living things adapt to their environments.

In PSHE, we have explored future careers, transferable skills and different pathways into employment. The children enjoyed interviewing adults about their careers and experiences.

We have also taken part in important personal development events, including Kindness Day, Yellow Day and Jeans for Genes Day, helping us reflect on empathy, wellbeing and supporting others.

We are incredibly proud of the positive start Year 6 has made and look forward to another exciting term of learning after half term.

Ms K Nightingale
Year 6 Teacher



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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
83.33%	79.38%	97.84%	88.75%
Year 3		**Year 4**	
Benjamin	King-Smith	Binch	Pullman
93.27%	91.50%	90.00%	94.83%

Year 1		Year 2	
Cole	Donaldson	Ahlberg	Butterworth
93.75%	94.64%	93.75%	96.88%
Year 5		**Year 6**	
Hughes	Morpurgo	Horowitz	Lewis
96.12%	96.12%	85.83%	91.67%

Well done Kerr 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 and equipment** 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

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REMINDERS & INFO FOR PARENTS

School Meals - Menu Change

Menu Changes

HCL

we have been listening to feedback and
are pleased to introduce a number of menu enhancements. These changes are designed to provide greater choice,
offer some simpler options for children and build on the healthy, nutritious and balanced menu already in place.

The changes include:

- Simplified filling options within the Jacket Potato and Baguette ranges.
- The addition of a plain tomato pasta option for children who prefer a simpler choice.
- Simplification of the cold menu, including the addition of cheese baguettes twice per week.
- Updates to the Jacket Potato menu to include cheese as a topping option twice per week.

JACKET POTATO VARIOUS	Cheese (v)	Tuna Mayo (v)	Tuna Mayo (v)	Cheese (v)	Salmon Mayo (v)
	Baked Beans (Ve)	Mild Bean Chilli (Ve)	Baked Beans (Ve)	Baked Beans (Ve)	Mild Bean Chilli (Ve)
COLD OPTION VARIOUS	Cheese Baguette (v)	Egg & Tomato Baguette	Ham Baguette	Cheese Baguette (v)	Egg & Tomato Baguette (v)
	Egg & Tomato Baguette (v)	Ham Baguette	Tuna Mayo Baguette	Ham Baguette	Salmon Mayo Baguette

These changes have been made in direct response to feedback and are designed to offer familiar, popular choices alongside the wider menu range, helping to ensure there is something for every child whilst continuing to meet School Food Standards.

Menus will be updated across the meal ordering platform on the afternoon of 23rd October, ready for the start of the new term.

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REMINDERS & INFO FOR PARENTS

Drama Club Update

StageAbility

This term at our StageAbility drama club, we have been building confidence and learning to create together.

We began by exploring our voices through fun, low-pressure drama games. Working together, the children have created short scenes, using their voices to introduce characters, describe settings and tell a clear story. Everyone has opportunities to share their ideas with the group, with plenty of encouragement and no pressure to take part before they feel ready.

We have also started exploring what makes a character unique. Next, we will choose a familiar character from a book, cartoon or film and identify their characteristics. The children can write or draw their ideas before sharing them with each other.

After half-term, we will build on this work through the fun of pantomime as we approach the festive season. The group has chosen Beauty and the Beast, which will give us plenty of opportunities to explore different characters and the lively style of pantomime.

At the end of each half-term, the children have the opportunity to earn a ribbon to add to their Skills Journey cards. This half-term, they are working towards their red ribbon for exploring their voices.

Our Monday club offers a relaxed, supportive space where children can try new things, create together and, above all, have fun!

We have places available for your child to join or book a trial.

Just click here: https://pbbl.uk/palmer-academy-drama

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REMINDERS & INFO FOR PARENTS

Premier Education - Afterschool Clubs

We are pleased to be working with **Premier Education** to provide a range of exciting **after-school clubs** for our pupils. These clubs offer children the opportunity to develop new skills, stay active, make new friends and most importantly, have fun in a safe and supportive environment.

A variety of clubs are available next term, including Football, Gymnastics Club and Nerf Game's Club suitable for pupils in Year 1 - Year 6.

To view the full details of the clubs and secure a place for your child, please click this link: **Premier Education Booking Form** to book your child's place.

Places are limited and allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, so we encourage families to book as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

For any queires please contact Premier Education via **this link.**

Premier Education



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Parent/Carer Updates

Year 6 pupils:

Apply for your secondary school place

Reading Borough Council
Working better with you

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

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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

READING IASS for SEND
Reading Information Advice and Support Service for SEND

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



Or click link here to book

Community Updates





Further information, can be found here:
https://spotlightuk.org/christmas-appeal-2026/

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Dates for your Diary

Date	Event
Mon 26th Oct - 30th October	**OCTOBER HALF TERM BREAK**
Mon 2nd - Fri 6th November	Arts Week Poppy Appeal - Donations welcome in school
Mon 2nd November	**Pupils Return to School** Prison Me No Way Workshop Yr 5 and 6
Tues 3rd November	Ella's Kitchen Trip (Reception) (More information to follow)
Weds 4th November	School Photographer
Thurs 5th November	Hot Chocolate Story Time (EYFS - KS1) (More information to follow)
Friday 6th November	Hartland High visits Palmer to read to Pupils
Wednesday 11th November	Armistice Day 2026
Thursday 12th November	Tours for prospective pupils of Reception Classes
Friday 13th November	Hartland High visits Palmer to read to Pupils
Monday 16th November	Anti-Bullying Week
Thursday 19th November	Y5 Junior Music Festival - 9:30-11:30 at Ridgeway
Friday 20th November	Children in Need 2026 Hartland High visits Palmer to read to Pupils