

WEEKLY ROUND-UP

Friday 25th September 2026

HEADTEACHER UPDATE

Dear Parents and Carers,

At The Palmer Academy, we believe that wearing school uniform helps children feel a sense of belonging, pride and readiness to learn.

We have recently updated our School Uniform Policy and would like to encourage all parents and carers to take a few moments to review the latest guidance. The updated policy provides clarity around our uniform expectations and aims to ensure consistency for all pupils. If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to speak with us.

This week, we are delighted to celebrate National Teaching Assistants' Day and recognise the incredible contribution made by ALL our support staff across the school.

While the day highlights the important work of Teaching Assistants, we want to take this opportunity to celebrate ALL of the amazing people who help make The Palmer Academy such a special place to learn and work. Every day, our support staff go above and beyond to ensure children are safe, happy, supported and able to flourish.

From our Early Years Practitioners, Learning Support Assistants and Higher Level Teaching Assistants, to our office team, pastoral team, site team and kitchen staff, each person plays a vital role in the success of our school community.

On behalf of everyone at The Palmer Academy, I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to our wonderful support staff for all they do.

I would also like to invite all parents and carers to join me in thanking our support staff. Whether it is a smile, a kind word, or a message of appreciation, your recognition means a great deal. Together, let's celebrate the people who quietly make such a significant impact on the lives of our children and families every day.

Thank you to every member of our support staff team. We are incredibly grateful for all that you do.

Anne Higginbotham
Headteacher



Dates for your Diary

Date	Event
Tuesday 29 th September	PGL Residential Trip - Parent Meeting 3:30pm Horowitz Class
Thursday 1 st October	Black History Month Flu Immunisations - Reception to Yr6 School Dinner - Burger Day!
Monday 5 th to Friday 9 th October	No after school clubs this week
Tuesday 6 th October - Thursday 8 th October	Parents Evening 3:40 to 6:00pm - Book through Arbor (Donaldson, Benjamin & Binch Tues and Thurs only)
Friday 9 th October	World Mental Health Day - Wear Yellow for Young Minds
Monday 12 th October	Year 2 Phonics Lesson Visit 9:00am Year 2 Phonics - Booking Form
Tuesday 13 th October	Year 1 Phonics Lesson Visit 9:00am Year 1 Phonics - Booking Form
Wednesday 14 th October	Phonics Workshops - Reception, Year 1 & Year2 9:00am School Hall
Tuesday 20 th October	Year 6 PGL Residential Trip
Wednesday 21 st October	Reception Tour 9:30am Reception Tour Booking Form
Friday 23 rd October	INSET DAY - SCHOOL CLOSED TO ALL PUPILS
Mon 26 th Oct - 30 th October	OCTOBER HALF TERM BREAK

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
92.44%	90.10%	96.25%	96.90%	97.73%	95.86%	97.14%	96.21%
Year 3		Year 4		Year 5		Year 6	
Benjamin	King-Smith	Binch	Pullman	Hughes	Morpurgo	Horowitz	Lewis
95.77%	97.41%	97.76%	93.67%	94.12%	95.62%	97.67%	97.00%

Well done Binch 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



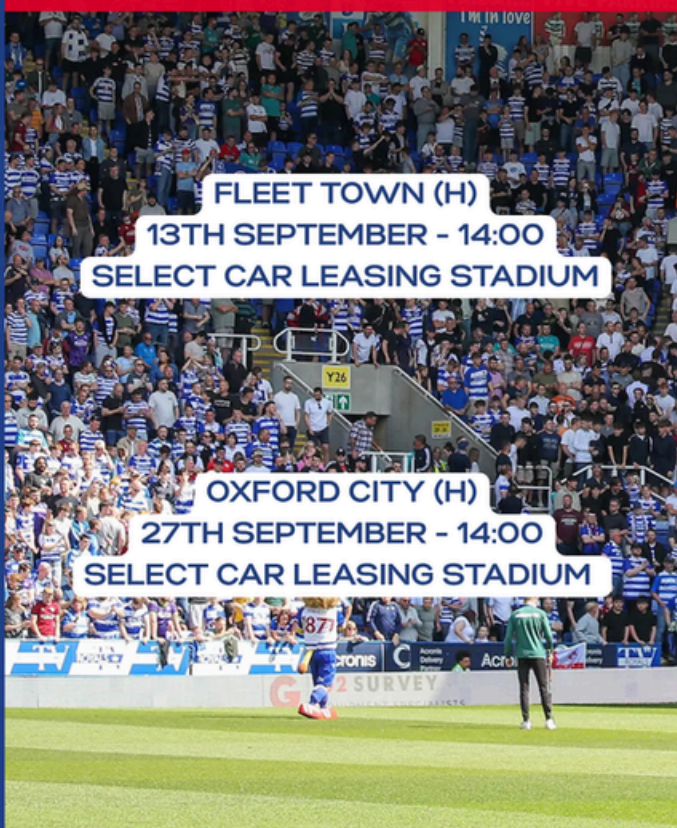
Reading FC Women 2026/27



FLEET TOWN (H)
13TH SEPTEMBER - 14:00
SELECT CAR LEASING STADIUM



OXFORD CITY (H)
27TH SEPTEMBER - 14:00
SELECT CAR LEASING STADIUM



SELECT CAR
LEASING

Reading FC Women are returning to the Select Car Leasing Stadium this Sunday.

As your local women's football team, we pride ourselves on creating a welcoming and family-friendly matchday atmosphere.

Supporting the team is a brilliant way to inspire young people, celebrate local sport, and enjoy a fantastic day out together.

Tickets for under 16's are completely free with a paying adult and are on sale now: [Fanbase](#) | [Club dashboard](#)

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

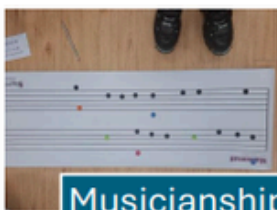
 universalvoices@reading.ac.uk

 @universalvoices.readinguni

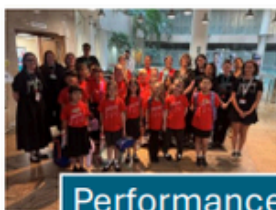
 @UniRdgUV

 **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