Enquiring Minds for Inspiring Futures



THE PALMER ACADEMY Spring 2 Celebration Newsletter 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope this newsletter finds you well and you enjoy looking at the different learning activities that have taken place this term.

Palmer is filled with anticipation for the exciting events and activities we have planned for the Summer term.

Here are a few of the upcoming experiences in the Summer Term.

Our Year 3s going horse riding, while Year 5 will have the unique opportunity to spend a night under the stars. Year 6 will venture to London for an unforgettable theatrical experience, watching the performance of Wicked. Meanwhile, Year 2 will explore the wonders of Beale Park, and Year R will explore the underwater world at the Southsea Aquarium.

But the excitement doesn't end there! Stay tuned for "Palmer's Got Talent," a thrilling competition set to take place in the second half of the Summer Term. After Easter, we'll provide more details on how your children can participate and showcase their talents.

We're looking forward to sharing these wonderful experiences with our children at Palmer and witnessing their growth, creativity, and joy throughout the term.

Kind regards,

Adigginble

Miss A Higginbotham Headteacher



Nursery

This term in Nursery has been incredible!

In Topic, we have been doing 'Growing and Changing'. We have been thinking about how we grow and change in our lives, the life cycle of chickens, and the life cycle of butterflies! We have also been thinking about how the environment around us changes! We have done some amazing drawings of the animals and have created some amazing drawings linking to our learning of life cycles!

To link to our Topic, we hatched chicks! We saw the chicks in their eggs, watched them hatch, watched them grow, and then set them, off to their new homes on some farms! We all suggested names for the chicks, and their names were Ken, Fred, Feathers, Barbie, Daisy, Chef, Beanstalk, Bondi, Belle and Dave! We all loved them lots and they were such a great way to see the life cycle of a chick come to life!

Everybody got the opportunity to hold the chick, and we loved it! The chicks were very friendly and enjoyed spending time out of their brooder and sat on our laps.

We also have hatched some butterflies! We got them as tiny caterpillars and watched them grow, go into their chrysalis' and watched them become beautiful butterflies! We fed them lots of delicious fruit and released them into our garden!

We have also learnt so much in Maths and are enjoying looking at patterns, shapes and numbers!

Also, we have learnt about healthy and unhealthy foods, and why it is important for us to have a good, balanced diet.

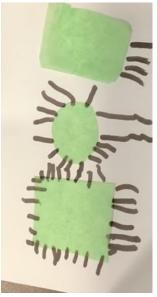
The improving weather has also allowed us to spend a lot more time outside, playing games, drawing with chalk, and reading books! This has also been wonderful for our outdoor learning and letting us go on Spring hunts!

Next term, our new Topic is Up, Up and Away! We are all so excited to learn about things that fly and to spend lots of time outside learning!

We hope that everyone has a wonderful Easter break! 2

















Reception

At the beginning of the term the children came in to find that a beanstalk had grown from the ceiling of our classroom. There was a letter from the Fairytale Police saying that one of the characters had escaped and they needed us to write a letter back to let them know who we thought it was. The children decided that it must have been the Giant from Jack and the Beanstalk. We spent some time learning the story of Jack and the beanstalk and then started to learn about plants, the names of the parts, how to plant them and the Lifecyle of a plant.

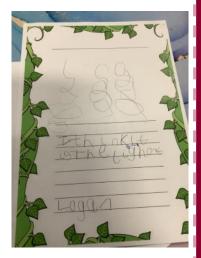












As part of our 10 Good Deeds challenge the children delivered some of the carrot seeds that we had planted to some of the staff in school, the children wrote instructions to help the children in Nursery to plant seeds, the did some weeding of the communal areas in school and did some litter picking around the grounds.





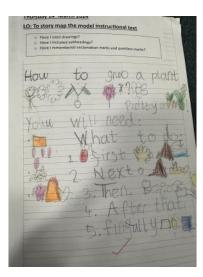








This term Year 1 have been learning all about plants. In English we were writing instructions on 'How to grow a plant'. The children were then able to use these instructions to help them grow their own cress in Science! We watered and observed the plants each day as they grew.





We also started our design and technology unit on bridges this term. The children learnt about different types of bridges and thought about the properties a bridge would need to have. The children needed to make their bridges strong enough to hold some toy animals!



Year 1 were very lucky to get to have a chat with someone we have been learning all about in History. The children got to chat to Florence Nightingale as she told us all about her life and being a nurse. They even got to ask her some of the questions they had prepared.

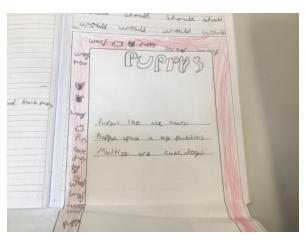


In Maths, we have been learning about length and height as well as place value with numbers up to 50 this term! The children enjoyed a scavenger hunt around the school field finding a certain number of objects. We also used teamwork to order numbers to 50!

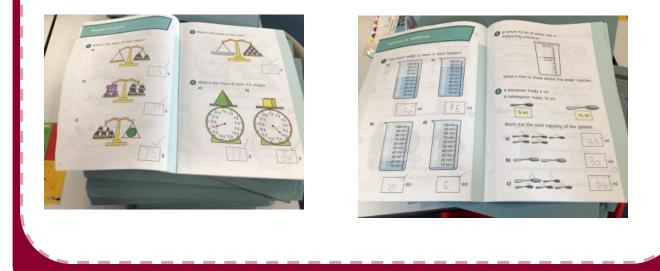


We hope you have a lovely Easter break!

In English this half term, we have been learning about fairytales and Haiku poems! Children have enjoyed using their imagination to create their own pieces of writing and used the correct number of syllables in their own Haiku poems.



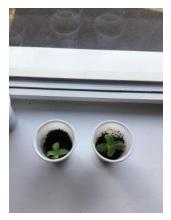
In maths, we have been focusing on length and height, volume and capacity and temperature. During our temperature topic, the children used real thermometers to measure the temperature in different cups of water. Practical methods were also used to measure the volume and capacity of different containers and jugs.



In science year 2 have been focusing on the topic Plants. The children took part in an experiment where they planted sunflowers seeds and tried to grow them in different conditions. We were very surprised by the outcome of the experiment, and this led to some fantastic class discussions.









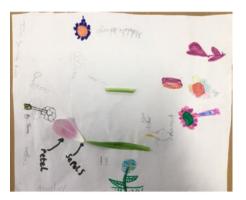
In History our topic this half term was 'Explorers'. Children learnt about the amazing achievements of Neil Armstrong and other famous explorers. Everyone was very interested in learning more about Space and the different planets once this topic was completed.

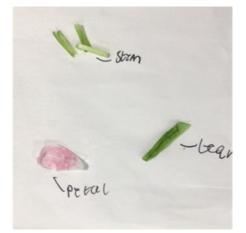
We have had a fantastic term.

We are really starting to take pride in our learning and doesn't it show!

We continued learning about plants in science,

and even dissected a flower to learn more about the parts and how they grow.

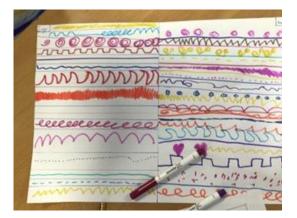




We have been learning about all things prehistoric in our history lessons and particularly enjoyed learning about the Beaker people and recreating pots with clay.

Speaking of designing, we are well on our way to building our own photo frames in DF and have been working on getting our prototypes ready







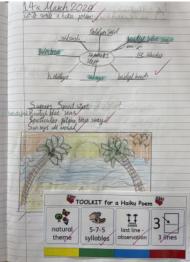


English

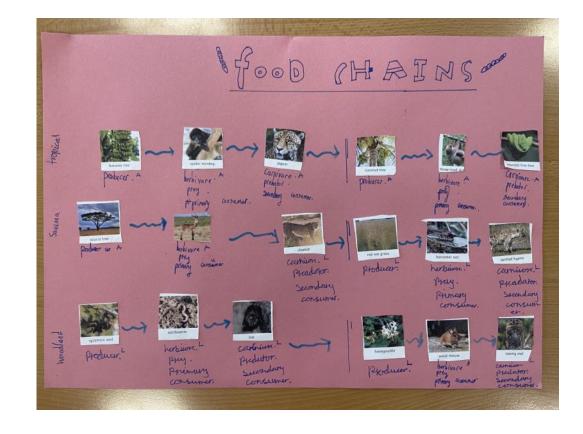
Year 4 have been learning about poetry; specifically, haikus and narrative poetry. All the children were given the challenge to write a chocolate themed narrative poem, and some even performed their poems to the class. When performing, the children made sure to use expression, both in their voice and face, and body language to bring the story to life.

Science

Animals including humans has been our area of study this half term and the children have loved learning about different types of animals (herbivores, carnivores and omnivores), food chains, the digestive system and human teeth. When learning about tooth decay, we carried out an experiment to see what effect coke, milk and water would have on eggshells (acting as teeth). We discovered that water was the best liquid and in turn would keep our teeth nice and healthy.







This half term, Year 5 have been learning all about non-chronological reports. We have linked them to our Science topic, Space. Throughout the unit, we learnt a lot about Mars and then created our own planets! As part of the unit, we focused on relative clauses and parenthesis. Some grammatical features which we are all getting lots better at using. Here are some examples of the planets we created.

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In reading, we have recently started a new book called 'Wonder' by R.J Palacio. As a way of further improving our reading, we have been recapping the importance of highlighting key words and question words within a question. We have also been practising our skimming and scanning in order to improve our comprehension by playing 'fastest finger first'. Moving forwards, we are going to be focusing more on predicting, inferring and summarising. Are these skills you help the children develop at home when reading with them?



In Science, we have been learning all about Space. We have absolutely loved learning about this topic and have had many opportunities to make and create models to represent the interesting facts we have been learning. The first picture is a model demonstrating how the Earth, Moon and Sun move in relation to each other. This has helped us memorise facts about our solar system.



During our most recent Science lesson, we learnt about the phases of the moon. This is a complex concept to understand so what better way to help us than using cookies! In partners, we used Oreos to recreate a model demonstrating the phases of the moon from full moon all the way through to the new moon. We found this really interesting and learnt a lot. We even got to eat the cookies at the end of the lesson!



In music this half term, we have been learning all about improvisation and how to read notes on a stave. Alongside these skills, we have been practising our ability to vary dynamics when playing an instrument and staying in time by listening closely to the tempo of a piece of music.



A few weeks ago, we were lucky enough to have the fire brigade visit us. It was so exciting! We started our session off with a brief talk led by the firemen who explained what their jobs entail and different experiences they have had whilst in the job. We were very keen to ask lots of questions. So many, that the firemen were blown away by our curiosity and said that they would have to return another time. During this session, a few of us got to try on the uniform they get to wear. Once the classroom session had finished, we got to go and see the fire engine! We all got to sit inside whilst the firemen told us all about the equipment they use when doing their jobs. It was a great experience







What an exciting half term it has been in Year 6! We have continued to work hard to consolidate our understanding of skills learnt throughout our time at The Palmer Academy which has resulted in improved assessment results across the year group. We have continued to enjoy a rich and broad curriculum, learning about the Ancient Maya civilisation in History, Evolution in Science and world charities in R.E. to name a few.

History:



in the

We continue to add to our display, showcasing what we have learned about Maya civilisation. We began the unit by writing in role as Spanish conquistadors who had discovered Maya ruins for the first time. Did you know that the temples aligned with the different star constellations? And the temples, believe it or not, used to be red. We also learned about the Maya social structure and how the higher and more complicated the headdress, the more powerful the person was.

The children also studied the Maya gods and what they represented. We are looking forward to ending the topic with food tasting.

We have also started reading 'Oh Maya Gods' by Maz Evans as our class text. I wonder what things we can recognise from our History lessons as we go through the book

Maths:

In Maths, we have become algebra superstars! Many children were somewhat nervous about the topic however, they have blown us away with their resilience and ability to use manipulatives to support their understanding. What's more, they have then been applying this new knowledge in other areas of Maths too. We have recently been using algebra when finding missing angles.

Reading:

We have completed our reading book 'Holes' which the children really enjoyed. When we finished, we discussed our likes and dislikes along with the connections we could make to other books we had read and questions we still had that were left unanswered.





English:

The children's writing continues to develop as we write in different styles and for different purposes. Most recently, we tried our hands at brochure writing: we created brochures for our own theme parks. To be successful we had to consider our audience and constantly make adaptations to our writing to suit their needs



Spring Term Awards:

Well done to the Spring Term winners!

Libby-Mae was awarded the Maths trophy for her resilience and progress in Maths. Robert was awarded the Humanities trophy for his independent research around our topic of the Maya civilisation.

Tanchhoma was awarded the resilience award for her ability to persevere with challenging tasks.

Harper was awarded the Literacy award for her huge improvement in writing and sharing imaginative ideas.

In other news:

Some of our House captains and Eco Council representatives took part in a debate across our family of schools. They discussed the topic of single use plastics and whether or not the use of plastic should be banned. Well done, Lola, Lexi-Grace and Arjun – you spoke with such passion and it was clear that you were well researched.

We enjoyed dressing up for World Book Day and celebrating the books we love to share

together!











The Building Resilience in YoungMinds (BRiYM) team joined Year 6 for an enrichment day in which they were able to unleash their inner boxer, show off their basketball skills and demonstrate their artistic flair in a series of workshops throughout the day. Children also discussed 'empathy' and were mature in discussing the different points of view that people may have on the same situation.























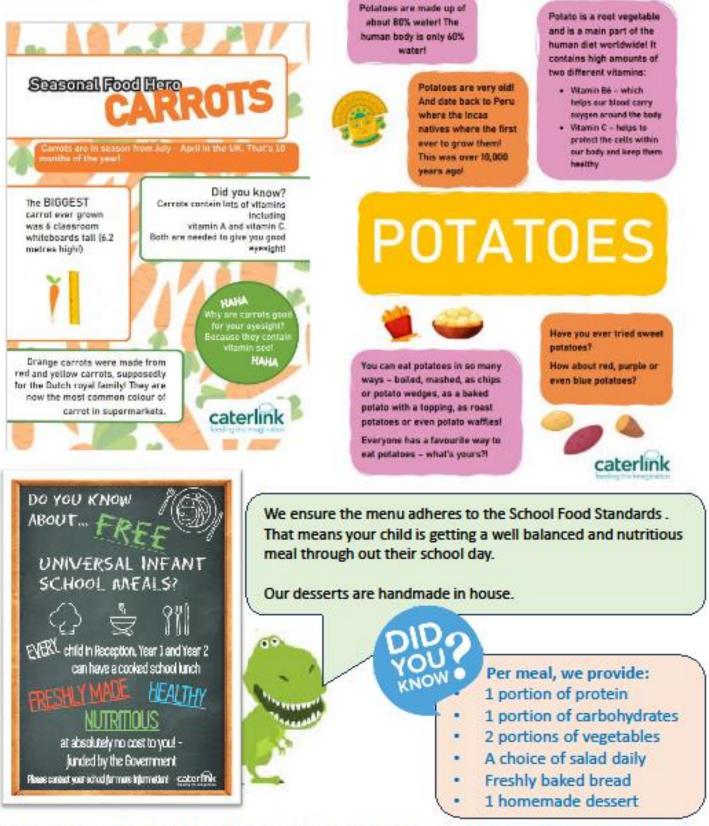
WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY	Roast Chicken with Roasted Polatoes Greek Chicken Ritha with Roasted Polatoes Greek Chicken Ritha with I Gravy Wedges & Jopfional) Taatalà I Gravy Wedges & Jopfional) Taatalà	Vegan Sauzages with or or or or React Potatoes Cheese While with Wedges BBQ Quom with Chips & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & &	Peas Chunky Mixed (Greek style) Baked Beans Sweetcom Salad	NEW Berry Mouze Iced Vanila Sponge Vanila Shortbread	Roast Turkey, Stuffing, Beef Lazagne 📢 Fishfingers at Salmon Roast Potatoes, & Gravy with Garlic Bead 🚺 Fishfingers with Chips & Tomato Sauce	Vegetable Wellington. Vegetable Curry NEW Vegan Sausage Roll Stuffing, Roast Polatoes & with Rice with Chips & Tomato Sauce Gravy A	Spring Greens Sweetcom Baked Bean Camot Green Beans Baked Bean	Fruit Medley 💊 Jelly with Mandains 👞 Oaty Cookie	Roast Chicken, Roasted NEW Chicken Fajitas Fishfingers with Chips & New Potatoes & Gravy with Rice 🛞 🚯 Tomato Sauce	Parrip & Sweet Potato Loaf with Roosted New Macaroni Cheese & Bean Pasty Potatoes & Gravy with Garic Bread with Chips	Peas Mixed Salad Bears Sweetcom Baked Bears	Fruit Matter 🔶 Chocolate Shortbread 💊 Summer Lemon Cake	Chef's Special Autorities (Internation) Typu weak the taknow about parts for a known accord for a known akk a member of the celering seam for information. If your child has a	extract largely and have a fixed all weight or to complete w form the areas in weight area to to control for your child. We use a large or preparation of our manuals and club to the not pees blot to completely remove the re	all meals caterlink testing te
TUESDAY	Perne Bolognaise With Garic Bread	Vegan Perne Bolognaise With Garic Bread	Green Bears Carrots	Apple Coumble with	Beef Burger with Potato Wedges & Tomato Sauce	Vegan Burger with Polato Wedges & Tomato Sauce	Rainbow Slaw	NEW Iced Biscuit	FIESTA ESPANOL	Veggie Medibals with Patakas Bravas	Roasted Pepper, Onions & Butternut squash	Syrup Snap Biscuit 👞	🔹 vegan	<mark>sily:</mark> heese, baked bean alad.	on also available for
MONDAY	Cheese & Tomato Fizza with Potato Wedges	NEW Vegetable Stack with Potato Wedges	Rainbow Slaw	Fruit School 💊	W	Mac N Cheese Station A choice of different Mac & Cheese flavour, with a selection of toppings	Garic Bread Mixed Salad	NEW Chocolate Brownie	Cheese and Tomato Pizzo-Roll with Potato & Chive Salad	Vegan Chili with Rice	Mixed Salad	Fruit with Ice Cream	tant Power	Available Daily: * Freshly Cooked Jacket Potatoes with either cheese, baked bean or tuna-mayo. All served with salad.	Freshly baked bread and salad selection also available for all meals
	Option One	Option two	abi j		Option One	Option two	Side	Dessert	Option One	Option Two	Dessert		Added Plant Power	ked Jacket P	/ baked bred
Spring Summer 2024	WEEK ONE 15/04/2024	06/05/2024 03/06/2024 24/06/2024	15/07/2024 09/09/2024 20/09/2024	21/10/2024	WEEK TWO	22/04/2024 13/05/2024 10/06/2024	01/07/2024 22/07/2024 16/09/2024	07/10/2024	WEEK THREE	29/04/2024 20/05/2024 17/06/2024 08/07/2024	02/09/2023 23/09/2024	14/10/2024	MENU KEY	* Freshly Cool	· Freshly

Reading Contract Newsletter – Parent/Guardian April 2024



Dear parent, guardian

Welcome to our monthly newsletter, where we can share information with you from across our business here in Reading.



If you would like to work as part of a GREAT team here in Reading, we offer school hours, term time, full training, uniform including safety shoes and employee benefits, all our vacancies are advertised on our website <u>www.caterlinkltd.co.uk</u> under careers (search READING)





FOOTBALL COACHING COURSE

READING

AT: BLESSED HUGH FARINGDON CATHOLIC SCHOOL

FAWLEY ROAD, READING, RG30 3EP

STARTING: MONDAY 15TH APRIL 2024

Mondays:	Group 1: Reception & Year 14.15pm-5.1					
	Group 2: Year 2 & 3					
	Group 3: Year 4, 5 & 6	6.15pm-7.15pm				

Dear Parents,

I am pleased to inform you that, due to the huge success of our football courses over the last 22 years, we are following up the football coaching programme for the season starting in April 2024. The course will run for approximately 12 weeks and the programme is for boys and girls aged between 4 and 12.

About our Course

- The unique practice techniques are specifically designed to work with children of all abilities, ranging from the absolute beginner to the more advanced player.
- The course is run by F.A qualified coaches, who are DBS checked, and hold an advanced premier skills qualification, they are currently working with children, enabling them to learn essential football techniques, building CONFIDENCE, improving FITNESS and providing the most important ingredient FUN!
- Children will be fully supervised at all times.
- Each child will be provided with a football for individual practice and their progress will be recorded each week.
- It is an indoor course held in the sports hall, therefore children may wear trainers and sportswear. We may
 go outdoors in good weather.
- Ex Premier League Birmingham City, West Bromwich Albion and Fulham player Geoff Horsfield quotes, "I've coached on these courses with the team and they are fantastic in the way they deliver their coaching sessions!"
- Ex England World Cup star and Sky Sports pundit Paul Merson quotes, "I have presented trophies to the children on these courses and it's great to see the smiles on their faces and sense of achievement!"

Presentation of trophies and award

- On the final week of the course, we hold a presentation, whereby EACH CHILD WILL RECEIVE AN ENGRAVED TROPHY.
- Children also have a chance to win many other special individual awards and trophies for various skills, including 'premier league' and 'penalty shoot out' competitions.
- Parents and friends are most welcome to attend the presentation and watch the children being presented with their awards, as this encourages a fantastic atmosphere.

 The cost of the course is £8 per week; payment is made every 4 weeks with the first payment of £32 due on week 1.

 Please Note: Places are limited, therefore bookings will be taken on a first come, first served basis.

 Mark Frith (course co-ordinator)

TO RESERVE PLACES PLEASE TEXT: READING + CHILD'S FULL NAME + AGE + GROUP NO. (1, 2 or 3) and receive confirmation by text to:

07827 322780



Foil Recycling competition that is available to primary age children.

We hope, children might be keen to take part and use the endlessly recyclable foil for example from the chocolate eggs to make some fantastic creations. We will be grateful for adding the information about the competition in your school newsletter, ahead of holidays. To enter, we ask to simply email a photo of the entry along with name and school to <u>re3info@reading.gov.uk</u>, with the subject line 'Fantastic Foil'. We are happy to receive individual entries, or submitted via school. The closing date for entries is 19th April, and winners will be announced within two weeks. For full details, including some resources to use, please <u>visit the re3 website</u>.

Prizes for winning schools:

£100 voucher each to the winning school in Bracknell Forest, Reading and Wokingham Borough

£50 voucher to the runner up in each borough.

Prizes for winning pupils in each borough:







Diary Dates

New term

starts 15th April

New school lunch menu starts 15th April - see new menu

Thank you we raised £304.66 on Red nose day for Comic Relief



