

THE PALMER ACADEMY

Autumn 1 Celebration Letter 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well. As we approach the half-term break, I wanted to take a moment to celebrate the fantastic journey of learning that has happened so far.

The first half of this school year has been filled with excitement, growth, and exploration. Our children have been engaged in a wide range of educational activities, and their dedication to learning has been impressive.

In this newsletter you will find a snapshot of learning shared from each year group. As we look forward to the half-term break, I encourage you to take this time to reflect on the journey your child has been on so far. Celebrate their accomplishments and encourage their passions.

We have lots of exciting things happening in school next term including open classroom sessions, which will provide another opportunity to see your child's learning. There will be more details about this next half term.

Additionally, I wanted to say thank you for your support in your child's education. Whether it's through attending parents evenings, volunteering, or simply engaging in conversations about school, your support is greatly appreciated.

I wish you all a restful and enjoyable half-term break.

Anne Higginbotham

Headteacher



Nursery

This term in Nursery has been amazing!

We have enjoyed getting to know our new friends this term and have settled well into Nursery life. We have learnt so much this term and have had the most amazing time ever! We are getting used to the rules, and routines, and our teachers are very proud of us!



We have loved our outdoor learning and look forward to it on Friday's! This term, we have focused on the rules of the outdoor area, how to look after our environment, and how to stay safe and protect nature. We love spending time there and using sticks, leaves, and other natural objects to make marks in the dirt as well as jumping in puddles!



In Topic, we have been doing 'All About Me'. We have been thinking about our physical appearance (such as our hair colour, eye colour and skin colour), what we like and dislike, the parts of our body, and our senses! We have also used this to help us



think about how we are different to our friends and have had wonderful conversations about how amazing it is to be the same and different to our friends! This has led to a lot of beautiful artwork being created, individually and with friends!



Additionally, we have had the best time doing Jigsaws and have learnt so much! We have learnt the ways in which we can help to be a good friend, as well as what

to do if we aren't feeling the best. We have also learnt the ways that we can fill our bucket, and how to help our friends or teachers who are in need.





In Maths, we have been counting and exploring the different ways to count. We have used a variety of methods such as clapping, using objects, and using dice, to help us count. We are becoming amazing counters!

In Phonics we have been thinking about sound and have enjoyed exploring the different types of sounds that we can make with our bodies, what types of sounds we can make with instruments or objects, as well as what type of sounds we can hear in our school environment. We have really enjoyed Phonics this term and cannot wait to start our letters next term!



Also, we have really enjoyed our music sessions with Lizzie, who comes to visit us every Monday! Lizzie always has exciting activities for us to do, and we have loved having her this term and cannot wait for her to come back next term and do more exciting activities with us!



We hope that everyone has a great half term, and we cannot wait for next term and to learn more!



Reception

This term we have started our Explore and Learn sessions with the children. We have practiced our Golden Rules, been on a hunt for the different colours of the rainbow and have been out looking for the signs of Autumn.



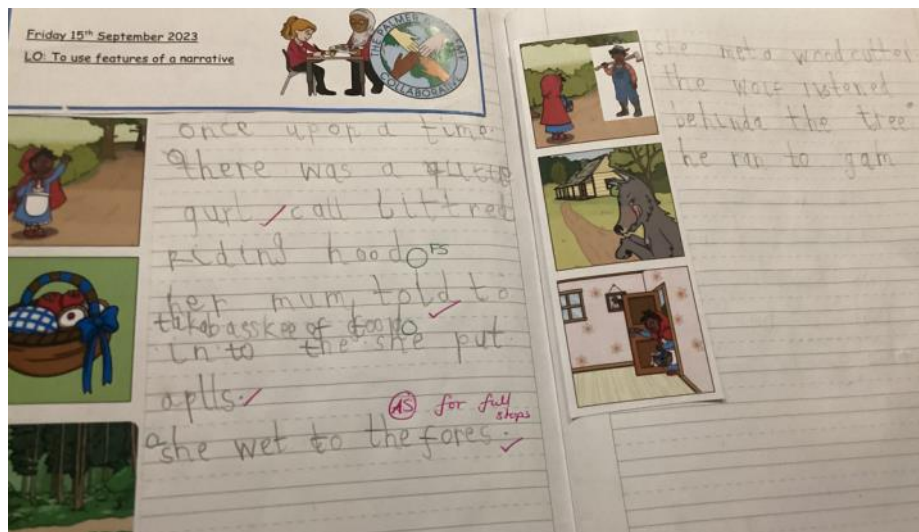
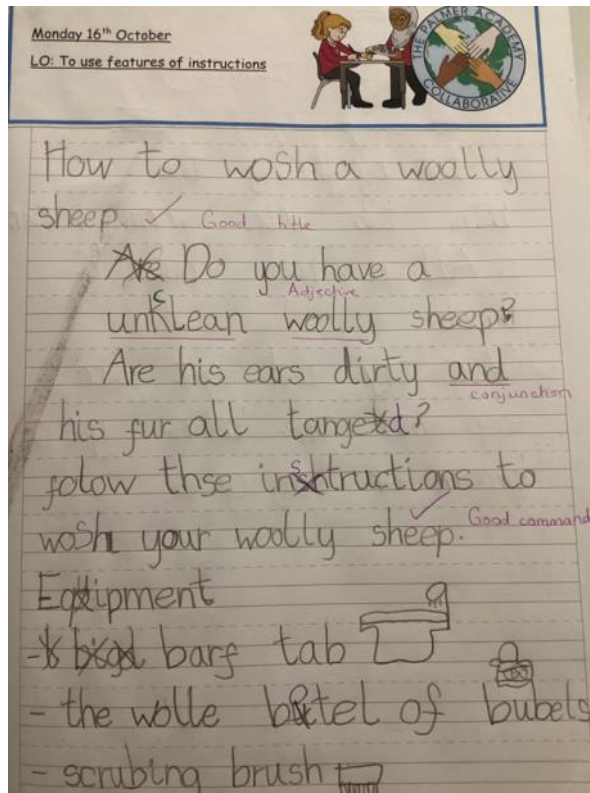
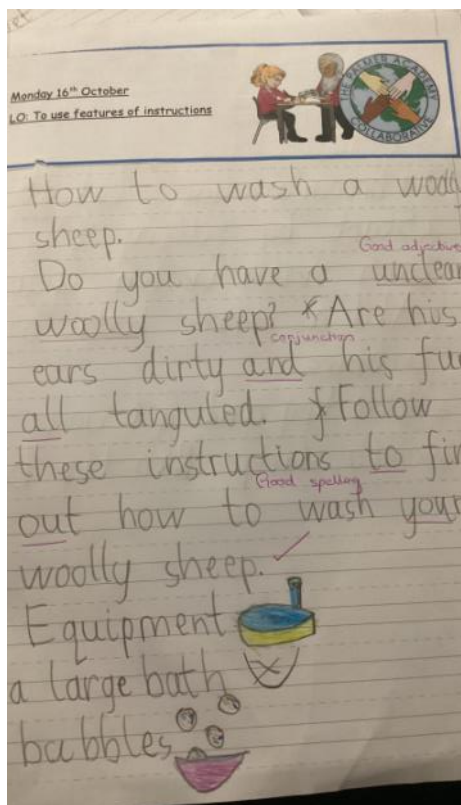
As part of Black History Month we have been learning about Alma Thomas. We looked at some of her paintings and used different materials to make our own version of her paintings. The children used duplo, pens, keys and many other materials.





Year 1

This term, in English, Year 1 have been learning how to write instructions and narratives. We started with the story of Little Red Riding Hood and talked about different features of a fairy tale. We innovated this to write about a princess meeting a pirate in the woods. Our instruction writing was 'How to Wash a Woolly Sheep.' We wrote titles and lists of equipment as well as introduction paragraphs. We also had the chance to wash our own woolly animals!



In Science this term, we have learned about the changing seasons. We observed how wind changes direction and what to expect as we move from Autumn into Winter. We discussed the different types of clothes we need to wear in the seasons and learned that we need to dress warmer in the winter.

We also learned about shadows and how they change throughout the day. We made shadow puppets and went outside to explore how shadows get longer.



In Math's, we have been practicing our counting our counting up to 10 but also developing a deeper understanding of these numbers by learning about fact families and systematic number bonds. We have learned different ways to make the same number and used resources such as numicon and counters to develop our learning further.



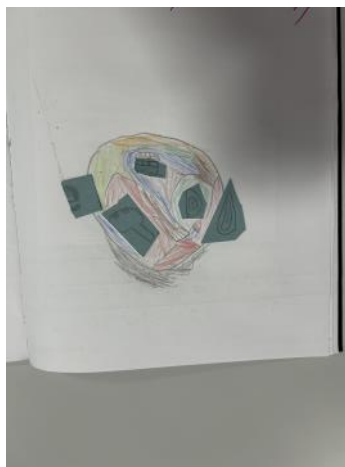
Finally, for Black History Month, we learned about the jazz musician Ella Fitzgerald. We combined History and Art lessons to draw portraits of her as we listened to some of her music.



Year 2

Year 2 have had a very busy half term!

In art, we have been learning about portraits and focusing on the artist Rembrandt. We even had the opportunity to create our own Picasso style portraits!



In science, we have been focusing on different materials and their properties. The children had the opportunity to experiment with different balls and discover which ball bounced the highest and why.

10. To conduct an experiment

Ball	Height of bounce
football	66 cm
basketball	91 cm
hockey ball	17 cm
dodgeball	43 cm

Betty should have chosen a basketball because in our experiment the basketball was the bounciest. The basketball is made out of rubber and air.

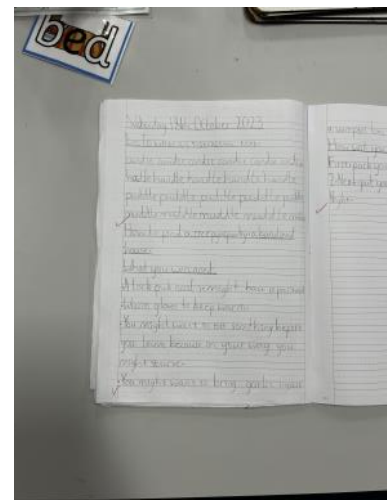
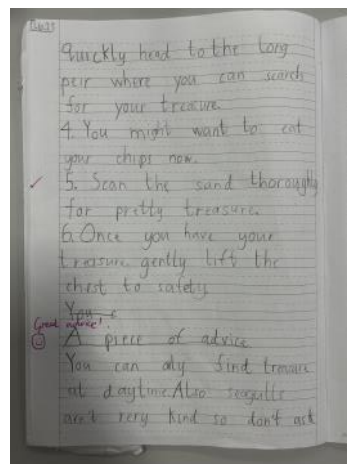
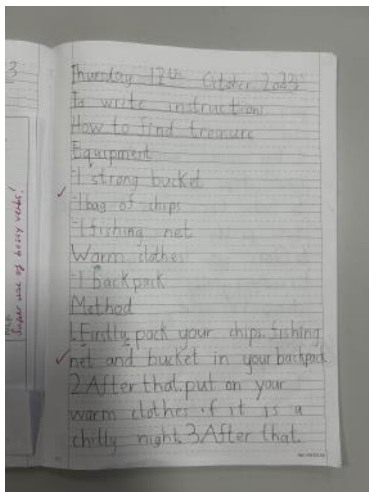
Ball	Height of bounce
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Betty should have chosen a basketball because in our experiment the basketball bounced the highest.

Black History Month afternoon was fantastic! Year 2's inspirational woman was Nicola Adams. Our activities were a PE lesson designed like a boxing work out and an art lesson creating Olympic torches.



Our writing lessons have been focusing on narratives and instructions. The children had some amazing ideas for their own pieces!



Year 3

In Maths, years 3 have been working hard at understanding the place value of numbers up to 3-digits. We have been exploring partitioning numbers into hundreds, tens and ones, using a range of different resources to achieve this. We have been applying this to our addition and subtractions skills, learning new methods to calculate with larger numbers. Next half term, we will be using formal methods to improve our use of the four operations, so practicing our times tables will be very useful for this!



In English, we started the year by creating narratives focusing on character description and using inverted commas to write direct speech. We wrote about secret items and how to trick bullies, using our PSHE lessons to come up with good solutions. We are now finishing our unit on advanced instructions, using adverbials of time and manner to clearly explain each step. The children really enjoyed creating their own puppets, recording each step in their book. They are creating a King-Smith recipe book currently, which may be appearing in bags to bring home – watch this space!

In science, we have been learning all about the wonderful world of rocks. We began our learning journey by recapping who May Anning was and why she is a Powerful Person; we even had the chance to dig for fossils ourselves. We then learnt about how fossils are made, using plasticine to recreate our own. The children have become confident at grouping and classifying the different types of rocks based on the observable properties. They have used their observational skills incredibly well and really impressed the year 3 team.



It has been a fantastic start to the year and the whole team wants to celebrate the way the children have settled into KS2 expectations. Well done year 3!



Year 4

Dinton Pastures

As we are part of a family of schools under the trust, Reach 2, we are set the task to deliver 11 promises of experiences to your child before they reach the age of 11. For the Year 4 children, one of these promises is the opportunity to become “Hiking Heroes”. To fulfil this promise, we went on a trip to Dinton Pastures! At Dinton Pastures, the children took an educational walk around a lake, enjoyed the community feel of a picnic lunch and got to explore the adventure playground!

Science

In science, we have been learning about states of matter. We have learned that there are three states of matter: solids, liquids and gases. Solids, liquids and gases are made up of particles but act in very different ways. To understand this better we went out on the playground and ‘acted’ like the different particles. The particles of a solid were densely packed together, liquid’s particles were close together but were able to move more freely, and gas particles could move about everywhere. Can you guess which states we are acting like in each picture?

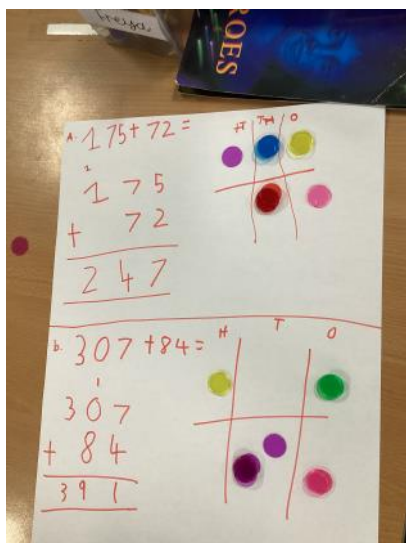
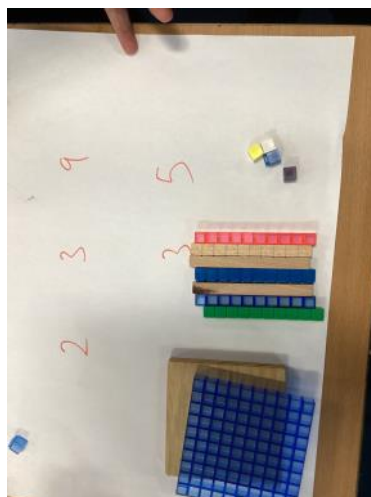


Maths:

The children have been focusing on place value and then using this knowledge to add and subtract, we've had great fun using counters, dienes and whiteboards to help our learning. We also spent some time learning how to set out column addition/subtraction nice and neatly to show off our learning.

Black History Month:

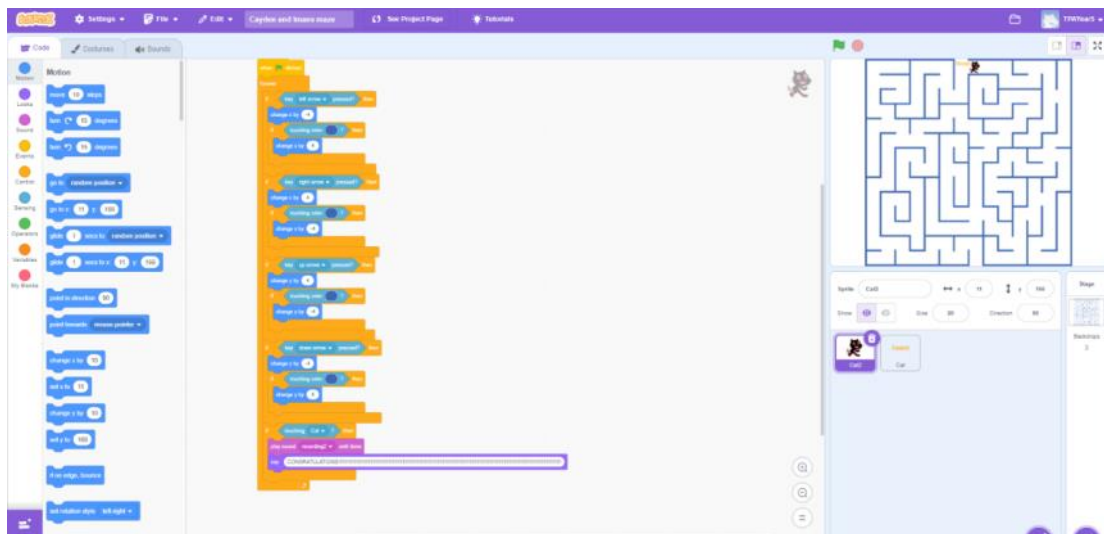
As part of Black History Month, we learnt about the amazing impact that Madam C J Walker had on the beauty industry, making herself the first black, self-made millionaire in the world. Inspired by this, we were entrepreneurs ourselves and built our own businesses. We even recorded a tv advert for our products!



Year 5

Morpurgo and Hughes Classes have had a fantastic start to Year 5! This term we have been geographers, programmers, artists, photographers, scientists, singers and much more ☺

In computing, the children have created maze games using Scratch (a visual programming tool). We were really impressed with how the children were able to debug their mazes and problem solve along the way.



In art, we have been looking at David Hockney's digital collages. We spent a lovely afternoon on the field being photographers and considering the background, foreground and midground of our photos. We have also created some fantastic collages inspired by David Hockney's work.



In science, we have been exploring the properties of different materials and exploring how we can separate them. We got hands on and tried to separate different materials by sieving, filtering, using magnets and even evaporation!



Year 6

Year 6 have had a fantastic start to their last year in primary school. We have explored shadows in Science, revising our learning from Year 3 and planning investigations to see what impacts how shadows change size and shape.



Geography has seen us explore the many biomes of the world. We have enjoyed the creative side of foundation subjects where we are able to present our work in different ways. We can tell you about the different biomes and the plants and animals you will find there as well as the climate and threats that impact them.



Take a look at our wonderful presentation. We have been taking great pride in our work and love to see when it is chosen to be celebrated with others on our displays in class and in the corridors.



PSHE - In PSHE we have worked on understanding rights and responsibilities but also setting goals and considering how we can overcome the obstacles we may face. Alongside this, we have completed work on our protected characteristics which led to us celebrating where our families originate from and the rich cultures we have. We have also explored feelings and emotions, discussing how they might be presented to others and how we can manage our emotions to ensure we are in the best place for learning.



Black History Month - In year 6, we learned about famous black activists and created our own posters as if we were protesting. We discussed the importance of speaking up for our rights and the rights of others.



The Year 6 team have been amazed at the wonderful writing we have completed based on the book 'Rose Blanche' from which we write a narrative. More recently we have designed our own wolves and written non chronological reports on them using a range of literary features we have learned in Y6 or revised from Y5.



PGL - Some of the children in Year 6 visited PGL just last week and boy did they have a fantastic time. They represented our school so well and enjoyed building great working relationships with each other, embodying our Palmer Power 'Collaboration'. The resilience they showed when faced with tough obstacles was astounding and the care and support they demonstrated for one another was truly admirable.

The children that did not attend PGL took part in many creative activities in school, including: creating vibrant cubist inspired portraits in the style of Pablo Picasso; planning, researching and presenting interesting Passion Projects on various topics and composing imaginative poems with illustrations. They have showed great artistic skills and lots of amazing ideas over the last few days!

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.

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

Nursery		Year R		Year 1		Year 2	
AM	PM	Kerr	Rosen	Cole	Donaldson	Ahlberg	Butter-
99.4%	98.0%	88.5%	93.0%	93.6%	94.8%	91.3%	91.6%
Year 3		Year 4		Year 5		Year 6	
Benja-min	King-Smith	Binch	Pullman	Hughes	Morpurgo	Horowitz	Lewis
90.8%	92.2%	90.4%	90.4%	94.0%	92.6%	96.0%	92.7%

Whole School Attendance is currently 93.2%

Attendance Raffle

You have to be in it to win it! If you attend school every day you will automatically be put into our attendance raffle which will be drawn on a Friday afternoon. A winner from each class will be selected and win a special prize. We are also now holding a half term raffle for those children who have 100 percent attendance where they can win prizes such as amazon vouchers, roblox points, art kits and pencil cases. All the children have to do to be in with a chance of winning is to be in school every day

Well done to Nursery AM and Horowitz Classes

Diary Dates

30th October: Inset day

31st October: Pupils back to school

31st October: Year 5 visiting Ridgeway for their singing rehearsal

6th November: School photographer

Parents reminders

Please note the new school dinner menu starts on 31st October— please remember to book your child's dinner before 9pm the night before and be aware of the special Diwali menu on the 7th November 2023.

Please do not use the car gates to walk in and out of the Northumberland entrance, this is for everyone's safety.

We would encourage you all to use zebra crossing whenever possible when crossing Northumberland Avenue.

