



# The Palmer Academy

## Weekly Round-up



Edition 20

Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021

### ***Note from the Executive Headteacher***

We are really looking forward to having all the children return to school next week at Palmer; after what feels like a long few months of home-learning, we are all set to see everybody back on Monday!

Thank you for taking the time to speak with your child's class teachers this week as part of the parent consultations; I hope this was really valuable in helping you to discuss how your child has been doing since Christmas, and how they are feeling about the return to school next week.

Naturally, there are going to be some anxieties with the children, and perhaps yourself, with the return next week. Please be assured that we have risk assessed for the re-opening and ensured that we are following the government guidance to us on operating safely, including keeping to our bubbles, keeping socially distant, increased cleaning and regular handwashing or sanitising. Please help your child prepare for next week by ensuring that messages about returning to school are positive and supportive, particularly after such a long period of not being in school. I am sure many of them are very excited to see their friends next week, and we are planning to ensure that we are flexible in the first day or so to allow the children the time to re-adjust.



**Mr. Aaron Wanford**

### **School Office**

Please be reminded that the school and nursery offices remain closed to parents/carers and we cannot allow access to the building unless under exceptional circumstances due to COVID restrictions. We are finding many people with general queries are queuing up at the window to speak to someone, however, this does not allow our staff the protection of remaining isolated in their bubble. ALL general enquiries, questions or requests must be made by phone or email allowing staff to respond safely. If your request is urgent, please ring the bell on the intercom to speak to staff safely. Please make sure your child brings everything they need each day, some parents/carers are coming back with forgotten water bottles/PE kits, etc. We will leave a large plastic box outside the front door for urgent items to be left in, please make sure they are labelled so we know who to pass them on to; however, please avoid doing this unless absolutely necessary, as it means admin staff breaking their COVID bubbles if they have to go to other areas of the school.

### **Water bottles**

There are a number of children across the academy who do not have a personalised water bottle with them each day. For reasons of hygiene as well as convenience and practicality, we ask that your child is sent in with a named water bottle that they can refill as necessary. We do not have sufficient cups or washing facilities to provide each child with an individual cup each day. Reminder letters will be sent home next week for those children without named bottles in school each day. Thank you.

### Plea for help

If anyone has any small world figurines (preferably farm based!) that they would like to donate to the school – please can you bring them in to Mr Gardner in Year 2. Thank you!

### Well-Being Tips

As we prepare for all our children to return to school next week, it may be useful to look at some top tips for going back to school [here](#). There is a lovely story you could also read to your child/ren that is linked to coming back to school [here](#).

### Red Nose Day



This year's Red Nose Day will be on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March. The theme for 2021 is to **Show Your Superpowers**. To raise money for Comic Relief we are asking the children to bring in £1 in to their class teacher. The children can do the following:

From Wonder Women and Black Panther!  
To Air Guitar Girl and Bakes Brilliant Cakes Boy!

Three Choices – Please pay a donation of **£1** to your class teacher on the 19<sup>th</sup> March:

1. Create a superhero of your choice- there will be a prize for each class, for the child who comes up with the most imaginative new superhero
2. Dress up as a current superhero
3. Wear something Red

### Help Us Celebrate World Book Day 2021 and Create a Community Garden!

In celebration of World Book Day on Thursday the 4<sup>th</sup> of March, we asked our Palmer Families to help us create a community garden of our favourite book characters. To get involved was simple: just decorate a wooden spoon in the likeness of your favourite character from any story or graphic novel! Then, bring it into the school Reception and we will add it to our special character garden in the flower bed next to the Reception office. We can't wait to see all the creative wonderful characters you come up with and create a lovely celebration garden for years to come! Have a look below to see some fantastic examples. Here's one of our spoons from Robin which was shared on Twitter yesterday for Captain Underpants! We love this and can't wait to see more as they are sent in – keep them coming!

### Wokingham Library Writing Project

**Teen Writing Group**  
**'WRITE WITH AN AUTHOR'**  
**SARAH HAGGER-HOLT**  
EXPLORING FAMILY AND FRIENDSHIPS

SATURDAY 13 MARCH 2021  
10:30AM – 12NOON

EVER WANTED TO WRITE STORIES WITH STRONG BONDS BETWEEN THE CHARACTERS?

IF SO, JOIN IGNITING WRITING, WOKINGHAM LIBRARY'S TEEN CREATIVE WRITING CLUB, FOR OUR ONLINE WRITING SESSION WITH TALENTED AUTHOR SARAH HAGGER-HOLT.

THE SESSION IS FREE AND OPEN TO ALL 11-18 YEAR OLDS. IT'S A GREAT WAY TO SHARE STORY IDEAS AND BUILD FRIENDSHIPS WITH OTHER YOUNG WRITERS.

SESSION WILL INCLUDE:  
AN AUTHOR Q&A  
USEFUL WRITING TIPS  
FUN WRITING ACTIVITIES

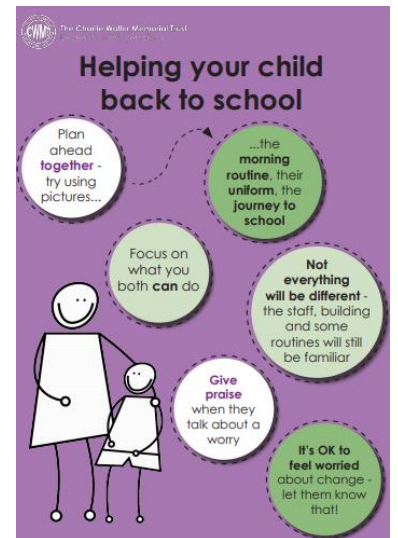
TO REGISTER, EMAIL [LIBRARIES@WOKINGHAM.GOV.UK](mailto:LIBRARIES@WOKINGHAM.GOV.UK)

### Pupil Focus Groups

Thank you to the children who joined Miss Thomassen and Miss Druce in some pupil focus groups to find out how remote learning has been and what we have learnt about working in this way! This means that in future, should we need to use remote learning again, we can ensure we have refined our processes to get the best outcomes!

Thank you to: Brooke, Jaspreet, Khadijah, Cooper, Robin and Anvi for your beautifully articulated comments.

Thank you to: Abdur, Ariel, Ashwath, Khirad, Marianne, Divina, Richardson and Aarna who joined the KS1 meeting!



Just planted Robin's story spoons at [@R2PalmerAcademy](#) for [#WorldBookDayUK](#). Great idea, great fun. His big brother is doing some too. [#CaptainUnderpants](#) [#DogMan](#) [#DavPilkey](#) [#PilkeyPower](#)



What have Nursery been learning about this week?

For book week this week the children have enjoyed listening to different Aesop Fables. We have read The Boy Who Cried Wolf, The Grasshopper and the Ant and The Lion and the Mouse.



We have also been holding the chicks and watching them grow. The children were nervous at first, but they got used to it and wanted to hold them again!

The children at home have been creating their own chick pictures too. Well done everyone!



What have Reception been learning about this week?

Congratulations to all of our children for completing what we hope is the last week of home learning. We can't wait to see you all next week and are looking forward to hearing all about your lockdown experiences. We will still have some of our chicks so that you will all get a chance to see them, and we have some new arrivals too – have a look at the photo below and see if you can work out what they are! It's all part of our Growing and Changing Topic and we're looking forward to sharing what we've been learning together.

Special shoutouts to Catalina, Shownal, Ruth, Yodhin, Brooke, Annabel, Ava, Norika, Amelia and Alice who have posted activities to Tapestry every day, you guys are brilliant!

Also, a massive thank you to all our parents who have had to become home-school teachers for the last 8 weeks, you have been amazing and have continually impressed us with your hard work and determination.



Getting our classrooms ready for you all to come and learn and play, and can you guess who our new visitors are?

What have Year One been learning about this week?

What a week we have had in Year One! We have been so impressed with how so many of our Year Ones have persevered and continued to work so hard right up to the very end of this period of home learning! We have enjoyed celebrating world book day this week – listening to different teachers share some of their favourite books on the Palmer Academy world book day playlist on youtube (if you haven't had a look yet – make sure you do!) and learning all about the fable 'The Ant and the Grasshopper' in our reading lessons. In our English lessons, we have been learning about letter writing and have written fantastic letters from the point of view of the poor Year One crayons,

who are extremely unhappy about the neglect they have experienced over the past few week and cannot wait for their friends to return to school! We loved seeing all the photographs of the objects in your houses that you have been using to help with counting in 2s in maths. We have continued learning about plants in science and have seen some beautiful labelled garden designs (see below!) and so much more! We are so excited to welcome you all back next week and continue all the fantastic learning that we have started.



### What have Year Two been learning about this week?

This week Year 2 have done some fantastic learning and we have been so impressed. We are so excited to see everyone again next week! In Reading this week we finished off our Flat Stanley book before moving on to our fable The Boy Who Cried Wolf to celebrate World Book Day. We're starting a brand new book next week... The Sheep Pig! In Maths we were also finishing off a topic – shape – with the children focussing more on 3D shapes this week. They've done brilliantly at identifying all the different shapes and their properties. In writing we have continued to look at Prince Cinders and writing a letter to our Fairy Godmother which we shall continue next week when we are back in school! We've been so impressed with everybody's efforts over lockdown and so this week our shoutout to all of you, it's been tough but everyone has done amazing! See you on Monday!

### What have Year Three been learning about this week?

As home learning comes to a close, we would like to start off by saying the biggest thank you to both children and families for all the fantastic effort, support and commitment that has gone into making learning from home a success! We cannot wait to see you back in the classroom on Monday and we have been busy this week getting things ready 😊

Your learning this week has yet again been fantastic! In English today, we have written poems to express how we are feeling about returning to school- we are happy to see you are mostly excited, but we also completely understand any apprehension or worries that comes with this. We will do our best to support you as you start back at school and get back into a routine. Shoutout to Jolita and Mila for their expressive poems, pictured below.

In honour of World Book Day yesterday, we continued our Art topic of portraits with a twist! Children were challenged to create a portrait of their favourite book character- something that we are hoping to display in our book corner! Take a look at some of the wonderful creations below from Amelia, Milir and Riley!

We hope you all have a restful weekend and we will see you bright and early on Monday morning 😊

I am very excited to go to school and meet my friends and teachers.

I am very happy I have new shoes.

I am truly proud of my school teachers that they teach us very good.

I am brave as I have done my maths lessons on my own.

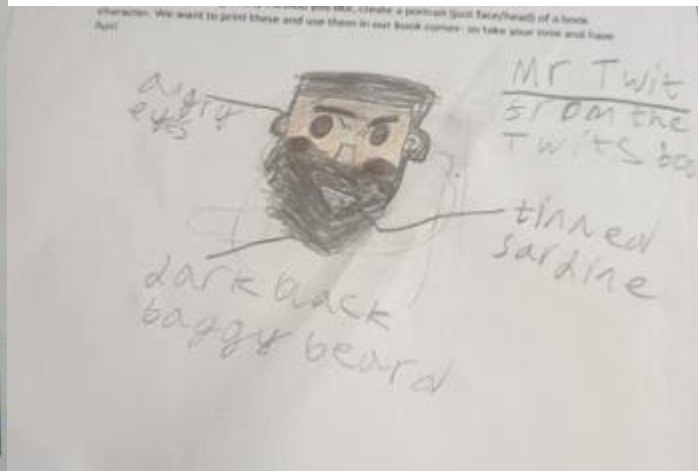
### Mila's Feelings Poem

Proud, my head is bursting like popcorn as my family are proud of my schoolwork.

Brave, as a lion searching for his prey as I walk down the school drive.

Excited, to see all my friends and to see all my teachers.

Happy, as I grin like a Cheshire cat to get back to normal.

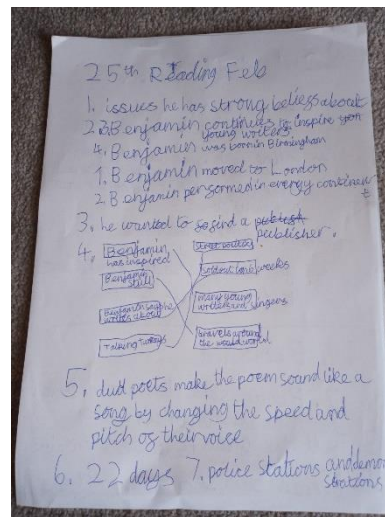


What have Year Four been learning about this week

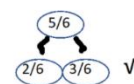
It has been a busy week again in Year 4. In maths we have really enjoyed learning about fractions and applying this to word problems. So many children have also been working really hard learning their timetables. In English we have written some lovely Haiku poems. The children have been really creative and have put a lot of effort into their poems about the seasons. We have also had an exciting week celebrating World Book Day by reading the Fable 'The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse.' We read different versions of the story while also learning about the moral. The Year 4's enjoyed answering questions about the story during their reading lessons. In the afternoons, we have learnt about the Roman Soldiers in History and looking at reasons why they were such a strong army.

We really enjoyed speaking to so many children in our catch up calls on Friday and are all really excited to have you all return to the classroom.

Shout out to all the Year 4's that have done so much amazing learning during lockdown, whether it has been at home or school- you have made us all so proud!



- Starter:  
 $5000+200+43+12=5255 \checkmark$   
 $7451-5232=2219 \checkmark$   
 $24 \times 3 = 72 \checkmark$   
 $6 \times 6 = 36 \checkmark$   
 $100+100=1 \checkmark$
- KITKAT –  
 $4/4-1/4= \frac{3}{4}$
- $7/7-3/7= 4/7 \checkmark$   
 $8/8-5/8= 3/8 \checkmark$   
 $4/6-1/6= 3/6 \checkmark$
- $5/7-3/7= 2/7 \checkmark$   
 $\frac{1}{4}-2/4= \frac{1}{4} \checkmark$   
 $7/8-6/8= 1/8 \checkmark$   
 $9/10-7/10= 2/10 \checkmark$



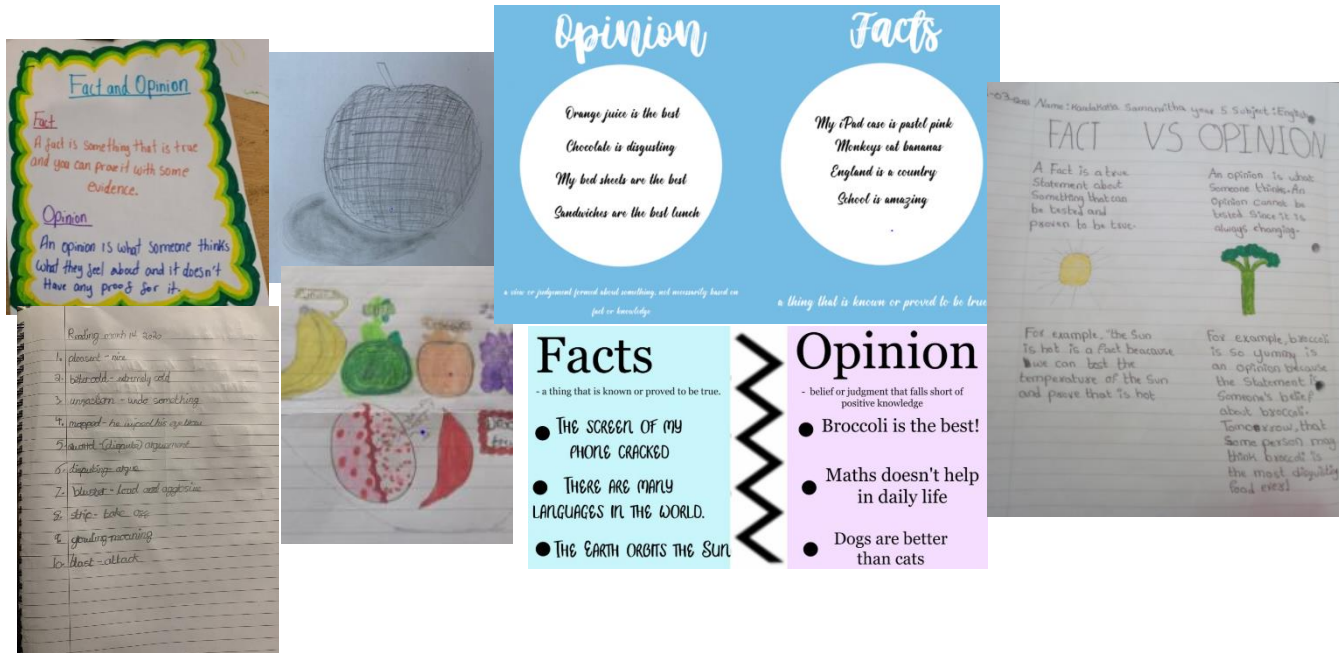
$4/5-3/5 = 1/5$  - There is 1/5 left of the pizza. ✓

What have Year Five been learning about this week?

Wow, our last week of home learning has really blown us teachers away. It has been wonderful to see the children continue to work diligently and try their best at the quizzes and assignments. Our English topic has allowed children to really understand the meaning between fact and opinion, as we explored balanced argument features of writing. In maths, many children have really shown resilience to their fraction knowledge—not giving up and continuing to persevere with this concept. In History, we have enjoyed learning about the Mayans and exploring this ancient civilisation. In French we have been learning a few short phrases, such as being able to express if we are hungry or thirsty. All in all, this has been a busy week and we have enjoyed seeing what the children have been producing. We encourage all children to rise to the challenge of creating a book cover of our Reading fable challenge, The North Wind and the Sun and the best one will be selected when we return to school.

The year 5 teachers cannot wait to welcome all the children back on Monday.

Some celebrated work, which has really caught our attention this week, from Amaan, Deborah, Daniella, Kulreet, Kara and Sam.



What have Year Six been learning about this week?

Oh My Word! Year 6 have done such an amazing job in their last week of remote learning. They have been producing brochures for their own theme parks. In school we have a park named 'Family Fanatics', one called 'Space Park' and another named 'Cloudy Land'. As you can see, all the children have let their imaginations run wild! In Maths, we have consolidated our understanding of Ratio and Scales and next week we will begin looking at Area and Perimeter. We are so excited to have everyone back in school! We are eager to continue with our learning on descriptive writing, Area and Perimeter, Mayans. Evolution and inheritance, Sketching and much much more.

We would love to give a massive shout out to Jake who has had a fantastic week being so absorbed in his learning and working hard to edit his work as you can see in the pictures below. Vienna has been creative at home completing this masterpiece you can see in the photos. Again, Hibbah has managed her distractions well and absorbed herself in creating an impressive brochure for her theme park, Family Fanatics! She really impressed Mr Simmonds who thought it was finished and then turned the page to see the opener: "If you thought that was all, ..."



What's happening next week at Palmer

Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> Mar	Return to school (see letter dated 25/02/21 for further details)
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Mar	
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mar	
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> Mar	
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> Mar	

Remote Learning Engagement Information

This week we are celebrating the children who have accessed remote learning across the week. Although all children will be back in school on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March we want to see all children working remotely to access their final week of learning on teams and tapestry to ensure you are best prepared for your return to school!



Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
67%	47%	73%	75%	69%	78%	77%	89%

