



The Palmer Academy

Weekly Round-up



Edition 11

Friday, 11th December 2020

Note from the Executive Headteacher

This week has seen our first bubble closures of Year Two pupils, following a staff member testing positive to COVID-19. I am incredibly aware of the anxiety this causes, both to parents/carers, staff members and children. I want to re-assure you that we are doing all we can to minimise any further bubble closures, limiting staff movement and working across the school, and being extremely vigilant if any child or staff member develops symptoms of the virus. I want to thank all the parents/carers for their understanding and support over the last few days with the situation, and we will of course keep you updated if there are any further reasons to isolate children or bubbles.

At the start of the week, Miss. Chick and myself undertook a Special Educational Needs (SEN) review at Palmer, looking specifically at our curriculum and learning for those children with additional needs. The day was extremely helpful in supporting us to identify what is already working well at Palmer and seeing how some of our children with additional needs have support which is carefully tailored to their individual needs. We were also able to then look at ways we can further strengthen our practice over the coming terms.

Wishing you a great weekend, stay safe and I look forward to seeing you all on Monday.

Mr. Aaron Wanford

Christmas Jumper Day

Well done everybody The Palmer Academy have raised £282.53 for Save the Children.

Notifying the school

Please can we ask that if your child is unwell, when you call or e-mail us to notify us of your child's absence, that you carefully explain the reason for the absence – rather than just 'unwell'. In some cases, pupils may have potentially had symptoms of COVID-19 and we have needed to instruct parents/carers to seek a test, but we would not otherwise of known this, unless we had checked. It goes without saying that if your child is displaying any COVID-19 symptoms, they should remain off school until they have been tested to determine what needs to happen next.

INSET day

There has also been much in the media over recent days of the offer of applying an INSET day next Friday (18th December). We wanted to let you know that at this time, having liaised with other local schools and putting the interests of our children's education, plans parent/carer arrangements first, we are for now continuing ahead with our school day as normal, with face-to-face education for those who are not self-isolating. We believe this is the right thing to do given the potential short notice for parents/carers, but of course we will review this if we need in the coming days should anything change in our circumstances.

Local Governing Body Opportunities

It would be greatly appreciated if you could share the following information with local residents or anyone that you may know who you think will be interested in the post.



We are looking for local residents, businesses or people with a genuine interest in education, wanting to join us on our Local Governing Body (LGB). To be a member of the LGB, there is an expectation that you would attend meetings at the school approximately once a half-term during term-time, and visit the school at different points (remotely or in person) in order to monitor and evaluate how well the school is performing. Experience of education is not essential; we are particularly looking for governors who may have experience in finance, premises and charity work in order to strengthen our group of skilled governors. You can find out more about our governance structure, its roles and responsibilities on our website [here](#). If you would like an informal discussion about the role, or would like to find out more, please get in contact with Mr. Wanford through the school office. It is important to note that we are no longer looking for parent governors, as we already have our two nominated representatives, and those interested would be unable to be parents or carers of pupils currently attending Palmer.

Food Banks

At this time of the year it is always good to remember folk who are less fortunate than ourselves. If you wanted to donate any food items to a local food bank here are the details:

Readifood, 33 Boulton Rd, Reading RG2 0NH, [0118 987 2672](tel:01189872672)

Suggested items to collect

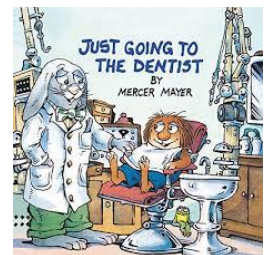
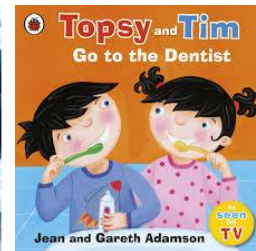
- Tinned fruit / Tinned vegetables
- Pasta sauce
- Long life milk
- Long life fruit juice
- Tinned meat / fish
- Packets of biscuits / Chocolate
- Rice, pasta or noodles
- Tea bags / Coffee
- Tinned soup
- Cereal
- Tinned & packet puddings / custard – it is Christmas after all.
- Toiletries – Shower gel / shampoo / deodorant / Nappies / wipes / sanitary products / dental products

Donations

Over the term we have received lot of donations of toys for our children to use in Nursery and Reception. The children have enjoyed using the animals, farm set, car track and many more items that have been received from some of our families. From all of us in the Early Years team, THANK YOU.

Dental Care

Our children in Nursery have been learning about cleaning their teeth, how dentists help us and what happens if we do not look after our teeth. We read some lovely stories about the dentists that have helped our children to understand this important topic. If you are worried about your child's teeth, please speak to your dentist.



What have Reception been learning about this week?

Reception classes have had a fun filled week of learning starting with a fire safety outdoor learning session with Giles and Danny from Ufton Court, the children collected and added sticks to the fires remembering their fire safety positions and then had the opportunity to toast marshmallows and warm chocolate biscuits. Also this week the

children have been learning about number stories specifically subtraction, they have also practiced their cutting skills by making paper snowflakes and learning about shapes whilst using the stencils to draw decorations on the tree.

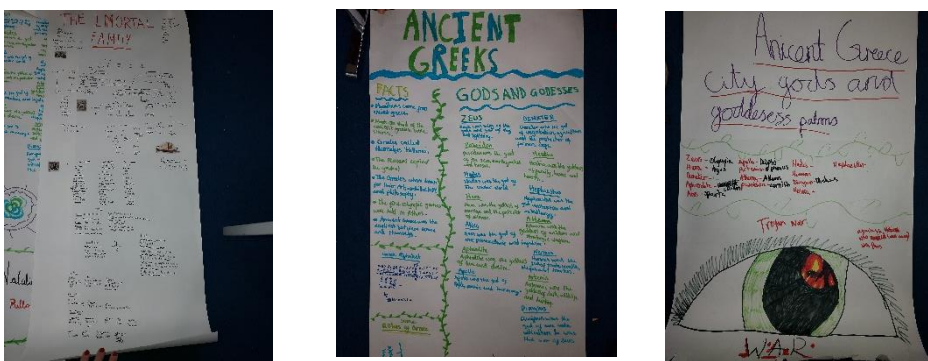


What have Year Four been learning about this week?

In our last two weeks of term, we have been finishing up our learning in our Topics. We have been learning about Ancient Greek gods and goddesses, and we also looked at how the Ancient Greeks affected our lives today. We discovered some of our alphabet and our suffixes and prefixes stem from the Ancient Greeks, we learned that the Olympics originated in Ancient Greek times and we discovered that some of the morals and phrases we use every day, as well as names of popular companies, come from Greek myths, such as Hermes and Pandora. In our science lessons, we have continued learning about the digestive system, and we carried out some experiments to look at how stomach acid helps us break down our food.

We have also been working on our recorder skills, and have been practising playing Blackbird by The Beatles as a class as well as learning the words.

In our English lessons we have been getting festive and looking at how Santa’s sleigh might be Covid safe, and this week we will be writing all about Santa’s workshop too.



What have Year Six been learning about this week?

Year six have had another fantastic week this week. Not only have we been completing our normal lessons, but we have also been looking back over our assessments from last week to identify gaps in our understanding in order to inform what we learn next term and which things we may need to revise at home again.

We have continued to learn about health in Science and have explored different muscle groups and began looking into the effects that drugs and alcohol can have on the body short-term and long-term. In History we have planned our final assessed piece which will be a non-chronological report on the Victorians. One lesson we have thoroughly enjoyed is Art! We have been learning all about photography and have taken our final portrait photographs today. We will be choosing our favourites and appraising them next week. Here are some snaps from our planning sessions last week. I think we have some budding photographers and models... don't you?



What's happening next week at Palmer?

Monday 14th	
Tuesday 15th	Virtual Pantomime of Jack and the Beanstalk
Wednesday 16th	Christmas Dinner Day
Thursday 17th	Afternoon Nursery Christmas Party
Friday 18th	Last Day of Term 2 Morning Nursery Christmas Party Class Christmas Parties R-6 Pupils return on Tuesday 5 th January 2021

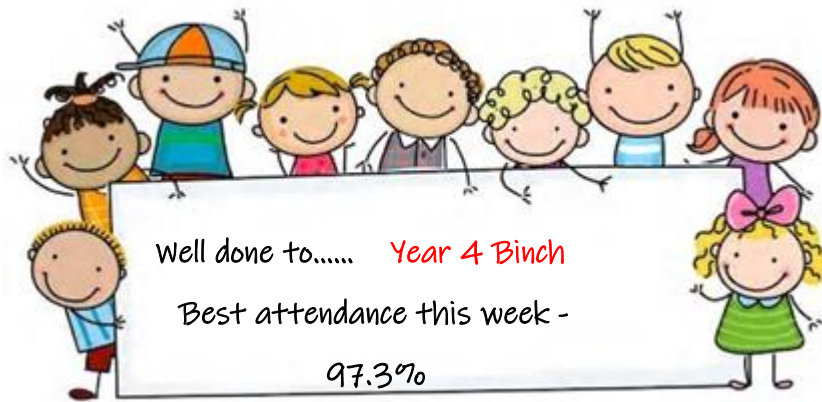
Attendance Information



Nursery Carle AM	Nursery Carle PM	YR Kerr	YR Rosen	Y1 Cole	Y1 Donaldson	Y2 Ahlberg	Y2 Butterworth
91.3%	88.9%	92.0%	96.4%	96.0%	95.2%	97.9%	96.1%



Y3 Benjamin	Y3 King-Smith	Y4 Binch	Y4 Pullman	Y5 Hughes	Y5 Morpurgo	Y6 Horowitz	Y6 Lewis
96.8%	96.0%	97.3%	96.9%	97.2%	96.8%	96.5%	94.2%



Attendance for whole school to date this academic year: 96.3%