



The Palmer Academy

Weekly Round-up



Edition 4

Friday, 16th October 2020

Note from the Executive Headteacher

We hear daily news updates continually reminding us of the seriousness of the country's situation in the rise of coronavirus cases. Whilst we hope that we never have to return to a full 'lockdown' situation again, schools are being asked to ensure that should this situation arise again, that we are fully prepared to deliver remote education for however long that may be. This week, one of the things I have been working with the leadership team on is what this remote learning looks like and the practicalities of this, in order that we can transfer to online, remote learning quickly and seamlessly, if we are required to do so. In the meantime, please continue to do all you can to support us and the children in keeping safe – 'Hands, Space, Face' as we are reminded regularly; this includes wearing face masks when on the school grounds at the start and end of the day, and keeping your distance from others not in your household. Thank you to those parents/carers who have written or spoken to me this week with your positive views about Palmer and how well things are going; this is great to hear! Have a wonderful weekend. Stay safe.



Mr. Aaron Wanford

Parent Volunteers

During our Local Governing Body this week we discussed the interest received from parents/carers who wished to volunteer in school and help out in a range of ways – with the edible garden, helping children with reading or with general admin. We are extremely grateful of the time that you are willing to give up, and up until now, we have been restricted on how many external parents/carers we can have in schools due to coronavirus. We are hoping that after Christmas we will be able to once again invite volunteers back into school to support, and next half-term we will send out a sign-up/registration sheet if you wish to be able to volunteer on a regular basis. We can then arrange for the necessary DBS checks to be undertaken and for you to have a safeguarding induction with one of the safeguarding team before you begin volunteering in the new year.

Parking complaints

Sadly, this week we received some feedback from the tenants of the property directly opposite the school where there are three flats within the old 'Reading Angling Centre' which shares the front and side driveway. We are aware that over the last few years they have asked parents to move their vehicles and generally, they have agreed as they understand the stress of the school run for parents/carers. Recently, however, they have found some parents/carers to be extremely rude to them when they have asked parents/carers to move, including parents/carers being verbally abusive, refusing to move and rude hand gestures.

Please can we ask all parents/carers to be mindful of our local residents and community when parking, particularly when property is private, and we have no lawful right to park there. By blocking entrances to the drive for the residents, we prevent those tenants from going about their daily business, which we understand is frustrating, particularly if there is an emergency. Thank you for your ongoing support with this matter; we do want to work with our local residents and community and help and support them however we can.

Medical Appointments

Please avoid making medical appointments during the school day. If an appointment is unavoidable then please let the school know at least 48 hours beforehand so the teachers can be prepared. All medical appointments should be made outside of the school day.

Lockdown practice

Our lockdown practice on Wednesday went well this week, and the children and staff demonstrated that they knew what to do in an emergency. Our site was secured, and within a matter of less than a minute, actions were taken in each class to ensure the safety of each pupil and the security of the site and building. We will continue to rehearse for these eventualities which we hope will never arise, but we do need to be prepared and vigilant at all times. We will notify you again when we carry out another practice.

Tissues

We would be grateful if you have any boxes of tissues you could donate to the school. Particularly at this time of year, there are lots of runny noses and we get through a lot of tissues! It would really help us if you could donate a box, so we have a bank ready to use – we inevitably always need more, particularly as we teach the children about the importance of good personal hygiene. If you can bring in a spare box, please do just pass it to your child's Class Teacher, thank you!

Pupil Learning Reviews – coming up

Yesterday you will have received a letter regarding the Pupil Learning Reviews which are being held in the first two weeks back after half-term. Due to COVID restrictions, the Pupil Learning Reviews will take place over the phone. You can make an appointment via your child's class teacher at the start or end of the day, or alternatively please e-mail or telephone the school office if you are unable to get onto the school site. The meetings are important so that we can work with you to best support your child and give you an update on their learning so please ensure that you take the time to make an appointment. We will be chasing you otherwise!

Arbor App

Please can we encourage as many parents/carers as possible to download the Arbor App. We are in the process of moving towards using the in-app messaging service, rather than sending SMS messages or using the Piota App, as this is a far cheaper option for the school. We appreciate your cooperation with this.

Non-uniform day – next Friday (23rd)

We will be holding a non-uniform day next Friday where children can come in their own clothes for the day, in return for bringing in a minimum donation of £1 towards our fundraising at The Palmer Academy. All of the money we receive can be put directly back into the school's resources for our children that they benefit from, and so we ask for as many of you to support this as you can! We have the potential to raise over £400 if every child takes part – that's a lot of books or a lot of equipment for our classrooms! If you are able to contribute, please send your donation in with your child next Friday morning, and class teachers or adult will collect this from the children as they enter. Thank you for your support in advance with this.

Prospective Parent/Carer Information Video – Reception 2021 intake

Unfortunately, due to COVID restrictions this year we are unable to hold prospective open events for next September. This would normally be a time for prospective parents/carers and children to come into the school and meet the team of staff. As we cannot hold the events as we normally would, Miss. Harriss has prepared an information video which is now available to view on our You Tube channel here.

The video will give you an opportunity to become familiar with the layout of the school, our vision and ethos, and helpful information to those parents and carers who are considering applying for a place here at Palmer. **Applications open on the 2nd November and close at 3.00pm on 15th January. National Offer day is on the 16th April 2021.**

What have Nursery been learning about this week?

As part of our 'All About Me' topic, we have been learning about our 5 senses. This week we have been using a range of words to describe the texture of different materials, smelling lots of flowers and herbs, listening for different sounds, playing 'Kim's Game' where the children have to say which item has been taken away and finally we have been tasting different foods and talking about the texture of them.

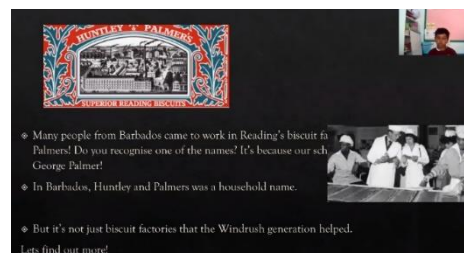


What have Year Three been learning about this week?

Black History Month

For Black History Month, Year 3 wrote, recorded and shared an assembly. In the assembly, we spoke out who started Black History Month in the UK, why Black History Month is important for our community in Reading and the great impact that Black Inventors have had on our world!

For our homework project this week, we are creating either a piece of art or a factsheet all about the Windrush Generation. Keep an eye out on Twitter next week as we will be sharing some of these!



Ufton Court

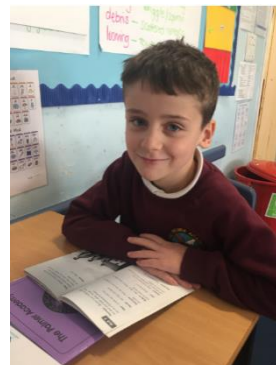
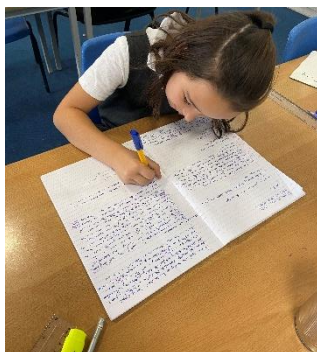
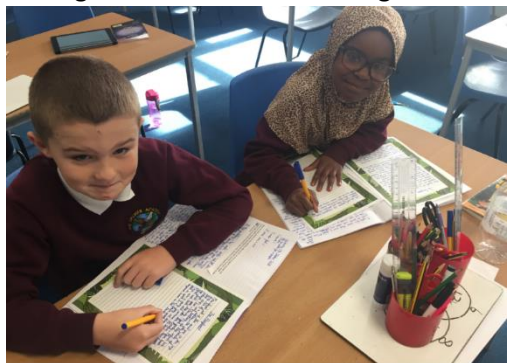


This week we had so much fun with Giles from Ufton court! Even though it was raining and we couldn't go outside this didn't dampen our spirits. Giles brought in an array of stuffed animals that were once alive! Among the animals he brought in were a fox, a badger, a hedgehog and many more. We studied them and created scientific sketches showing their characteristics.

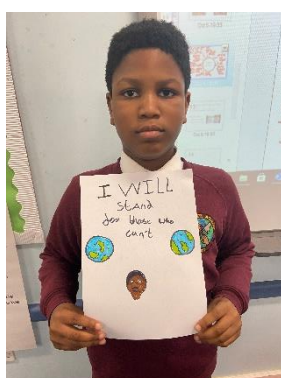
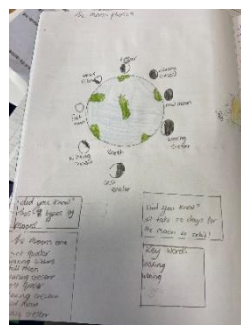
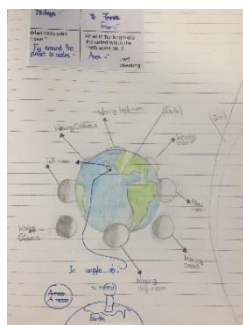
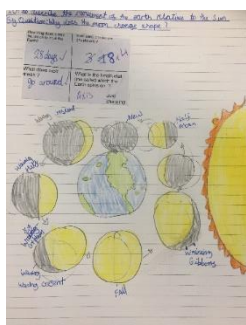


What have Year Five been learning about this week?

This week Year 5 have been working hard, learning to write a narrative. We have been using direct speech to introduce dialogue into our writing and have been developing our understanding of new features such as relative clauses to make our work more interesting! In maths we have been looking at factors and common factor pairs, testing our timetables knowledge.



In science we have been researching the phases of the moon and learnt that there are 8 different phases throughout the moon's 28-day orbit around the Earth! Have a look at our wonderful posters which identify the names of each of the phases.



This week we have also been learning about the Bristol Bus Boycott for Black History Month and we made our own protest signs to help us act out and imagine what it must have felt like to be involved in such an important part of history. Here are some photos of our signs and the protest we held in our classrooms!



Attendance Information

Well done to **Y6 Horowitz**- best attendance possible this week – every child in, every day!

Nursery Carle AM -	93.5%	Y1 - Cole	99.0%	Y3 - Benjamin	99.1%	Y5 - Hughes	96.4%
Nursery Carle PM -	95.2%	Y1 - Donaldson	91.0%	Y3 - King-Smith	97.9%	Y5 - Morpurgo	99.2%
YR - Kerr	91.1%	Y2 - Ahlberg	98.0%	Y4 - Binch	98.5%	Y6 - Horowitz	100.0%
YR - Rosen	98.9%	Y2 - Butterworth	96.7%	Y4 - Pullman	95.7%	Y6 - Lewis	89.9%
Attendance for whole school to date this academic year: 95.1%							

What's happening next week at Palmer?

Monday 19 th	
Tuesday 20 th	
Wednesday 21 st	
Thursday 22 nd	
Friday 23 rd	School finishes for half-term (usual collection time) Non-uniform day