



The Palmer Academy

Weekly Round-up



Edition 23

Friday, 26th March 2021

Note from the Executive Headteacher

As we come to the end of the penultimate week before we finish for the Easter break, there is much to look back on over this term – however long or short it may have appeared to be! We held a one-minute silence on Tuesday to mark the one-year anniversary of the national lockdown and remembered those who had lost their lives to COVID-19, and those who had suffered because of it. The last year has been difficult for each one of us, but I continue to be impressed by the children's resilience and ability to adapt to the ever-changing world in which we seem to now live. It has been truly wonderful to have all the children back over the last few weeks, but like many of the teachers, I have recognised how exhausted the children have become so quickly. Building up their stamina in a return to full-time education has been key over the last couple of weeks, and I know the children (and staff) will deserve a much-needed break from school when next Thursday comes. Just as a reminder, school finishes for the end of term next Thursday, 1st April at the normal school time. Have a lovely weekend – and remember the clocks go forwards one hour on Saturday night; don't be late on Monday morning!



A. A. Wanford.

Mr. Aaron Wanford

Appointments during the school day

Please do not book dentist or doctor's appointments during the school day, make an appointment after 3.30 or during the school holidays. If your child has a hospital appointment, which cannot be avoided during the school day, then please give the office a weeks' notice and provide evidence of the appointment. Thanks for your support.

New IT equipment and classroom TV screens!

This week, we were really excited to install two new TV screens to our Reception Rosen class and Year Four Pullman; our fundraising over the last year or so has helped us to pay towards replacing our out-dated boards in the classrooms, which the children were finding difficult to read and look at. Our new TV screens are touchscreen, much slimmer and eco-friendly, and best of all – never have bulbs which need replacing! Thank you for all your donations at non-uniforms and collections which go towards making these happen. We are hoping to install these in each of our classes over the next few years for the benefit of all children at Palmer.



Wear an Easter Bonnet/Non-Uniform School Fund Raiser

Thursday 1st April children can wear an Easter Bonnet and/or Non-Uniform in exchange for £1 to raise some much-needed school funds. Funds raised will continue to help support new technology and equipment such as the new TV screens above for each class.

Bags2schools

On Thursday 1st April we will be collecting Bags2schools again. A good opportunity to get rid of all your unwanted clothes that your children have out grown, they also accept soft toys. Bags2schools cannot accept school uniform. We have not been given any bags this time so please put your unwanted clothing in black bin liners and only bring your bags on 1st April as we have nowhere to store the bags. Thank You

Attendance

Now that we are back at school, it's really important that the children make every opportunity to make use of their learning time, and not miss any further school unless there is an exceptional circumstance or illness. Naturally, if your child is displaying any of the COVID symptoms (e.g. high-temperature, new cough etc.) then they should be kept home until a test can be booked and taken, but for most other minor ailments, children should continue to come to school. If you are ever unsure, please do just ask us – we can let you know if you should book a test or whether your child is safe to come to school.

Please also be aware that any requests for holidays during term-time are generally not exceptional, and as such will not be authorised and parents/carers will likely receive a fixed-penalty notice and fine from Reading Borough Council for taking their child out of school unnecessarily. As a reminder, under the current national laws, travelling abroad (unless for the permitted reasons) is illegal and children should not be being taken out of school unnecessarily.

Reading with Children at Home

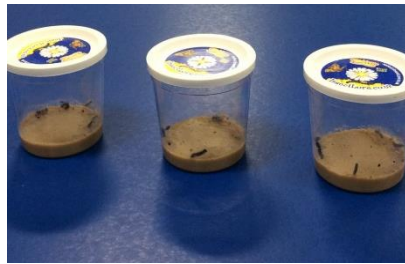
The Parts of a Parent Reader



Here is a useful image as a reminder of how often to be reading at home with your child and some useful tips to make it an engaging, supportive and enjoyment experience. Reading impacts all areas of the curriculum and is an important shared activity that should become part of a daily routine. Please let your child's class teacher know if you would like any further advice about reading at home.

What have Nursery been learning about this week?

This week in Nursery we have been learning about the butterfly lifecycle, we have been lucky enough to watch the caterpillars grow bigger, turn to chrysalises, and then hatch out as orange butterflies.



What have Year One been learning about this week?

It's been a wonderful week in Year One this week! We are continuing to learn about Plants in Science and we began our week with a wonderful lesson in the sunshine exploring trees in our school environment. Ask your child at home to explain the difference between Evergreen and Deciduous trees – they have become experts this week! In English, we have started learning to write our news articles about the Ant and the Grasshopper. In history we have continued our unit on Explorers by learning about life in the 1960's and in Maths we have continued our unit on Measurement, this week learning to compare mass using the terms lighter and heavier. In our final week of the Spring Term we will finish our Reading unit on The Gruffalo. The children have really impressed us with their perseverance and effort in searching for the answers in the text. Have a lovely weekend Year One and we can't wait to see you next week! 😊

What have Year Three been learning about this week?

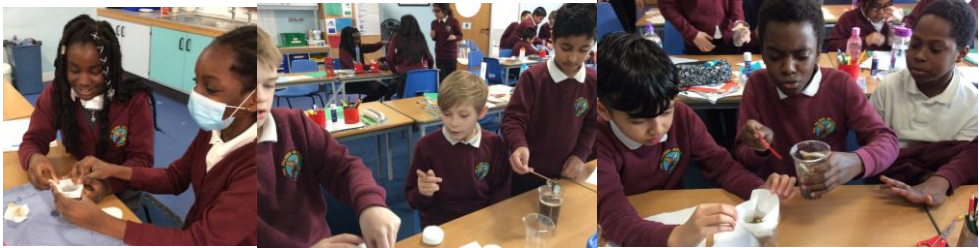
What an amazing week it has been in Year 3! We have continued our class book of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, where some lucky children have found golden tickets to go to Willy Wonka's exclusive factory! Be on the look out for some golden tickets arriving in the class next week! In Maths, we have begun a new topic of measurement so be sure to practise reading measurements in cm and m. In History, we have continued learning about the Ancient Egyptians and have seen some amazing homework projects. Well done to everyone that completed their homework last week. Our Science unit on Rocks culminates this week with learning how to make fossils and we even had the chance to create some of our own. It has certainly been a jam-packed week full of lots of new learning and excitement. Have a lovely weekend 😊



What have Year Five been learning about this week?

We cannot believe this term is almost over – and what a term it has been! Year 5's have been enthusiastically learning all about fractions and percentages in Maths, really challenging themselves to do their best in our weekly arithmetic tests. It has been pleasing to see the fantastic use of vocabulary in their writing pieces, especially their balanced argument they wrote up last week. This past week we have been exploring diary entries and look forward to writing our own diary entry next week in English. In Science, we continue to experiment and observe various materials, this week investigating how materials filter dirty water (see pictures below). In History, we learnt about

the Mayan calendar and designed one using the Mayan symbols. Next week, we look forward to completing our Art perspective designs and collaborating on creating a year 5 street map. Have a wonderful week everyone and we look forward to seeing you back for your last week of the Spring term.



What's happening next week at Palmer?

Monday 29 Mar	
Tuesday 30 Mar	
Wednesday 31 Mar	
Thursday 1 Apr	Rocksteady Music Lessons Easter Bonnet/Non-Uniform Day £1 Children finish for the Easter holidays
Friday 2 Apr	SCHOOL CLOSED – GOOD FRIDAY

Attendance Information



Nursery AM	Nursery PM	YR Kerr	YR Rosen	Y1 Cole	Y1 Donaldson	Y2 Ahlberg	Y2 Butterworth
94%	80.4%	90.3%	98.1%	99.6%	97.9%	94.1%	91.3%



Y3 Benjamin	Y3 King-Smith	Y4 Binch	Y4 Pullman	Y5 Hughes	Y5 Morpurgo	Y6 Horowitz	Y6 Lewis
98.4%	97.2%	94.4%	90.8%	95.6%	98.4%	99%	96.9%



Attendance for the whole school year is currently 95.6%