

**Friday 1st May 2026**

THE PALMER ACADEMY

# WEEKLY ROUND-UP

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of another busy and positive week, we would like to share a few highlights from around the school.

## Earth Week

Last week we celebrated Earth Week, and we are delighted to share that we raised £165.65 through our activities. Thank you to all our pupils, families, and staff who supported the week so enthusiastically. Not only did the children deepen their understanding of how we can care for our planet, but they also showed great teamwork and commitment to making a difference. We are very proud of them all.

## Year 4 Swimming Lessons

Our Year 4 pupils have begun their swimming lessons, and it has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm and confidence building already. Swimming is a vital life skill and an important part of the primary curriculum. Learning to swim helps children develop water safety awareness, coordination, resilience, and confidence, while also supporting their physical health and wellbeing.

We are incredibly proud of how Year 4 have approached the start of their lessons and look forward to seeing their progress over the coming weeks.

As always, we thank you for your continued support. We hope you have a restful weekend and look forward to welcoming the children back to school next week.

Kind Regards



*A Higginbotham*

Miss A Higginbotham

Headteacher

# Dates to Remember

## May

|                            |                                                              |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>4<sup>th</sup> May</b>  | <b>May Bank Holiday</b>                                      |
| <b>5<sup>th</sup> May</b>  | <b>Reception National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP)</b> |
| <b>7<sup>th</sup> May</b>  | <b>Polling Day – School closed</b>                           |
| <b>21<sup>st</sup> May</b> | <b>Y4 Swimming</b>                                           |
|                            | <b>Second hand uniform sale</b>                              |
|                            | <b>Year 5 trip to Cotswolds Wildlife Park</b>                |
|                            | <b>Children break for half term</b>                          |
| <b>22<sup>nd</sup> May</b> | <b>Inset Day</b>                                             |

## June

|                             |                                                        |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> June</b>  | <b>Children return to school</b>                       |
| <b>3<sup>rd</sup> June</b>  | <b>Reception trip to Blue Reef Aquarium Portsmouth</b> |
| <b>4<sup>th</sup> June</b>  | <b>Y4 Swimming</b>                                     |
| <b>11<sup>th</sup> June</b> | <b>Y4 Swimming</b>                                     |
| <b>15<sup>th</sup> June</b> | <b>EYFS Sports Day Morning</b>                         |
| <b>16<sup>th</sup> June</b> | <b>Lower School (Y 1-3) Sports Day 13.45</b>           |
| <b>17<sup>th</sup> June</b> | <b>Upper School (Y4-6) Sports Day 13.45</b>            |
| <b>18<sup>th</sup> June</b> | <b>Y4 Swimming</b>                                     |
| <b>25<sup>th</sup> June</b> | <b>Y4 Swimming</b>                                     |
| <b>30<sup>th</sup> June</b> | <b>Governor Meeting</b>                                |

## July

|                             |                                                     |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> July</b>  | <b>Y4 Swimming</b>                                  |
| <b>6<sup>th</sup> July</b>  | <b>Pupil Parliament proposed trip to Parliament</b> |
| <b>9<sup>th</sup> July</b>  | <b>Y4 Swimming</b>                                  |
| <b>13<sup>th</sup> July</b> | <b>Year 6 Book Presentation</b>                     |
|                             | <b>Year 4 Buster Farm Trip</b>                      |
| <b>14<sup>th</sup> July</b> | <b>Year 3 Legoland Trip</b>                         |



**Raised £165.65 for The Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust**



**Thursday 21 May 2026**



**We have the following in the office lost property box:**

- Specsavers black glasses case
- Black glasses
- Brown glasses
- You're a star keep shining key ring
- Pink knit flower hair band
- Pink "a wonderful day" water bottle
- Blue metal controller water bottle
- Pink Barbie watch
- Anna pink bracelet
- Pink plastic fork
- Male custom jewellery chunky "gold" chain
- Blue glitzy "cat" key ring
- Panda Bear & poppit key ring
- Fluffy brown bear
- Multi coloured friendship bracelet

## Dogs on School Premises

For the safety and comfort of all our pupils, staff, and visitors, we kindly remind you:

- Dogs are not permitted on school grounds.
- All dogs must remain outside the school boundary at drop-off, pick-up, and during any school events.
- Service dogs are welcome and are exempt from this restriction.

We appreciate your cooperation in helping us maintain a safe and welcoming environment for everyone

## Roblox and Parental Controls - South West Grid for Learning

Roblox, the popular Minecraft 'style' game has announced a new raft of parental controls. The website which ranks among the most popular games for children in the e-space, has previously been accused of possessing weak child protection tools. Their new raft of adaptations is important due to the game's position among school aged children. The new features have been adopted to allow parents to take control of their children's game time in a more comprehensive manner.

Parents will now be able to block individuals who communicate with their children, as well as have more detailed oversight over their usage of the programme. Real-time awareness measures have been increased, and these changes represent a big step forward in making popular multiplayer games more secure for underaged users.

If interested, the South-West Grid for Learning (SWGfL) has produced a comprehensive run down of these changes. Please follow the link below for more:

## **New Reading Books for Home!**

We're excited to share that we have new reading books available for children to take home and enjoy. As part of helping children develop a love for reading, we also want to teach them how to care for books responsibly. To ensure every child has access to these resources, we kindly ask that books are returned in good condition. If a book is not returned or is damaged beyond use, we will request a £5 contribution to help replace it. Thank you for your support in looking after our reading book collection.

## ROCKSTEADY MUSIC

If you are interested in your child joining the Rocksteady music club which is during school hours on Mondays, please can you use the link below to sign up.

The link for the parents to sign up is [Home - Rocksteady Music School](#)

## In This Issue

- Attendance
- Information

### 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.

### Holidays in term time

This is a reminder that we will not be authorising any leaves of absence in term time unless for exceptional circumstances. This academic year we have already issued 20 fixed penalty notices (fines) to families taking holidays or leaves of absence in term time. Missing large periods of education consecutively has a large impact on children's understanding of key concepts and can lead to large gaps in learning. Thanks for your understanding and cooperation on this matter.

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



| Nursery  |            | Reception |         | Year 1 |           | Year 2   |             |
|----------|------------|-----------|---------|--------|-----------|----------|-------------|
| am       | pm         | Kerr      | Rosen   | Cole   | Donaldson | Ahlberg  | Butterworth |
| 88.6%    | 92.9%      | 97%       | 90.5%   | 89.3%  | 98.5%     | 93%      | 98.4%       |
| Year 3   |            | Year 4    |         | Year 5 |           | Year 6   |             |
| Benjamin | King-Smith | Binch     | Pullman | Hughes | Morpurgo  | Horowitz | Lewis       |
| 92.7%    | 92.2%      | 94.4%     | 96.8%   | 94.4%  | 99.2%     | 96.4%    | 97.3%       |

## Attendance for The Whole School Year Is Currently 94.7%

### Attendance Raffle

You must 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!**

**1 Donaldson from lower school**

**5 Morpurgo from upper school**



**Anning – Yellow the winning house. - Congratulations!**



## Do I need to keep my child off school?

|                                                               |                                                                                       |                                                                                    |                                                                                        |                                                                                               |                                                                                                |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Chicken Pox</b><br>Until all spots have crusted over       | <b>Conjunctivitis</b><br>No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed | <b>Diarrhoea &amp; Vomiting</b><br>48 hours from last episode                      | <b>Glandular Fever</b><br>No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed | <b>Hand, foot &amp; mouth</b><br>No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed | <b>Impetigo</b><br>Until lesions are crusted & healed or 48 Hours after commencing antibiotics |
| <b>Measles or German Measles</b><br>4 days from onset of rash | <b>Mumps</b><br>5 days from onset of swelling                                         | <b>Scabies</b><br>Until after first treatment                                      | <b>Scarlet Fever</b><br>24 hours after commencing antibiotics                          | <b>Slapped Cheek</b><br>No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed          | <b>Whooping Cough</b><br>48 Hours after commencing antibiotics                                 |
| <b>Flu</b><br>Until recovered                                 | <b>Head Lice</b><br>No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed      | <b>Threadworms</b><br>No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed | <b>Tonsillitis</b><br>No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed     |                                                                                               |                                                                                                |

### Reminders and Information for Parents

| <b>PE DAYS</b>   |                              |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>CLASS</b>     | <b>DAYS</b>                  |
| <b>RECEPTION</b> | <b>MONDAY</b>                |
| <b>YEAR 1</b>    | <b>MONDAY and WEDNESDAY</b>  |
| <b>YEAR 2</b>    | <b>TUESDAY and WEDNESDAY</b> |
| <b>YEAR 3</b>    | <b>TUESDAY and THURSDAY</b>  |
| <b>YEAR 4</b>    | <b>MONDAY and THURSDAY</b>   |
| <b>YEAR 5</b>    | <b>WEDNESDAY and FRIDAY</b>  |
| <b>YEAR 6</b>    | <b>TUESDAY and FRIDAY</b>    |

Please could we request if you have changed any of your Contact details /mobile number/ or email address kindly please update the school office thank you

## **Parking**

A friendly reminder to please refrain from parking on double yellow lines or zig zag markings. Doing so poses a danger to our children as they enter and leave the school premises. Additionally, we kindly ask that disabled badge holders avoid parking in these restricted areas.

If you hold a disabled badge and require proximity to the school for accessibility reasons, please reach out to our office. We're here to support you in finding suitable parking arrangements.

## **Uniform**

Could we please ask Parents/Carers to make sure all uniforms are clearly labelled.

Nearly all the uniform emptied from the lost property bins is unnamed, making it impossible to return to the rightful owners.

## **School lunches**

Parents are now able to cancel and book school dinners up to 9am in the morning. Please remember to order for your child before this time and cancel any meals not required should your child be absent for the day, you will still be charged if meals aren't cancelled. Meals should only be ordered by the school office on the rare occasion that you may have forgotten to order. Please note the office are now only able to order jacket potato with beans and fresh fruit for pudding. We are still experiencing a high number of pupils every day that have no school dinner ordered – if this continues, we will phone parents to bring in a packed lunch so could you ensure you have booked for the week ahead. Please speak to the school office if you need a reminder of how to order through Parent Pay.

**Please remember we are a nut free school (this includes no chocolate spread as this contains nuts) – Please provide your child with healthy snacks for break times.**

# REAch2 Academy Trust and The Palmer Academy

## Mobile Phone Statement

This statement outlines the Trust's position on mobile phone use by children to ensure a safe, focused and respectful learning environment. It supports safeguarding, reduces distractions, and promotes positive social interaction.

### Scope

This statement applies to all children enrolled at a REAch2 school. It does not apply to staff or visitors, who are expected to follow separate guidance on appropriate mobile phone use.

### Statement

Mobile phones are not permitted to be used by children during the school day, including during lessons, break times and lunch periods in any REAch2 school. This includes smartwatches and other connected devices with communication capabilities.

### Rationale

- Safeguarding: Mobile phones can be used to access inappropriate content, take unauthorised photos or videos, or engage in cyberbullying.
- Learning focus: Phones are a distraction and can disrupt lessons and concentration.
- Social development: Encouraging face-to-face interaction support emotional and social growth.
- Equity: Reduces pressure on families to provide expensive devices.

### Implementation

#### *Before and After School:*

- Children who need a phone for safety reasons (e.g. walking home alone), must hand their mobile phone into the school office upon arrival and collect it at the end of the day.
- Phones must be switched off and stored securely by staff during school hours.

#### *During School hours:*

- Children are not permitted to use or access mobile phones.
- Any phone seen or heard during the school day will be confiscated and will need to be collected by a parent. *(Schools have the power to confiscate mobile phones or similar devices as a disciplinary penalty. The law protects staff from liability in any proceedings brought against them for any loss or damage to items they have confiscated as a sanction, providing they have acted lawfully. Staff should consider whether the confiscation is proportionate and consider any special circumstances relevant to the case)*

### Communication with Parents

- This statement will be shared with parents/carers via the school's newsletter, the school website and when a child starts at the school.
- Parents are asked to support the Trust's position by not contacting children directly during the school day.

### Medical Exceptions

- We recognise that there are exceptional circumstances where access to a mobile device is necessary for health and safety reasons.
- Children with documented medical conditions that require the use of a mobile phone e.g. to monitor blood glucose levels, manage asthma, or communicate with healthcare providers, may be exempt from this policy. In such cases, parent or guardians should provide appropriate medical documentation and work with school staff to develop an agreed-upon plan.

### Monitoring and Review

This statement will be reviewed every 2 years by the Trust's Head of IT and updated as necessary to reflect changes in technology, safeguarding guidance or Trust/school needs.

## Sent on behalf of Brighter Futures for Children



### [Reading Family Hubs - Brighter Futures For Children](#)

#### **In Reading, we are working together to support children, young people and families**

Our aim is to make sure everyone gets the right help at the right time, so that children can thrive and reach their potential.

We want this support to be available as close to home as possible. That's why we are developing **Best Start in Life Family Hubs** across Reading.

#### **Family Hubs will offer information, advice and support for different stages of family life:**

- from pregnancy and early years
- through childhood
- and into the teenage years, up to age 19 (or 25 for young adults with special educational needs or disabilities).

#### **Hub co-design**

We are designing the hubs together with our partners in health, employment, training, housing and the voluntary sector. Most importantly, we are listening to what children, young people and caregivers tell us they need.

#### **We'd love to hear your ideas.**

**Please share your views through our online surveys**

#### **Children and young people – take part in the survey [here](#)**

Are you aged up 19 (or up to 25 if you have additional needs) and living in Reading? Please tell us what kind of support you would like to receive that would mean you feel happy, safe, and well in your community.

#### **Parents and carers – take part in the survey [here](#)**

We're inviting input from parents and carers across Reading to help us make sure our new hubs offer the right services for you and your family.

## Sent on behalf of Short Breaks, Reading Borough Council

Dear Parent carers

Please see below short breaks available during the Christmas holidays. If you would like to book a place for you child/ren young person, please contact the short breaks provider directly. Thank you.



**Reading Play [SEND](#) December Holiday Short Break Sessions:** 29th December 2025 - Session one 10am – 12pm Age 5 to 7 years; Session two 2pm to 4pm – Age 8 to 12 years. Please use the following link for more details, use the link to find out more [Reading Directory | SEND December Holiday Short Breaks Sessions - Reading Play](#)



### Chance to Dance

**SEND Short Breaks -Chance to Dance Stars CIC - Dance and Multi Activity Program (includes half terms & holidays)** for more details on dates and times please use the following link, use the link to find out more [Reading Directory | SEND Short Breaks -Chance to Dance Stars CIC - Dance and Multi Activity Program \(includes half terms & holidays\)](#)



### Make Sense Theatre - December [SEND](#) Short Breaks Holiday Clubs

SEND specific holiday clubs rooted in creativity and play. Session on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2026

Use the link to find out more [Reading Directory | Make Sense Theatre - December SEND Short Breaks Holiday Clubs](#)