

**Friday 6th February 2026**

# THE PALMER ACADEMY WEEKLY ROUND-UP

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of another busy and rewarding week, we would like to share some of the wonderful learning experiences our children have enjoyed, particularly around personal development and community engagement.

## Supporting Our Community – Visit to Cedar Court

This week, a group of our children visited Cedar Court as part of our commitment to supporting our local community. The children spent time with the residents learning how to play dominoes, sharing laughter, conversation, and smiles. It was a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to build confidence, show respect, and develop empathy while forming meaningful connections with others. Both the children and residents thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

## Our 11 Before 11 Promises at Palmer

At Palmer, we are proud that all of our children continue to work towards completing their 11 Before 11 promises—ensuring every child has rich, memorable experiences during their primary years. These opportunities help our pupils grow socially, emotionally, and personally, alongside their academic learning.

Next half term, we will be starting our exciting Seeds to Supper promise. Children in KS1 will learn how to grow vegetables, developing an understanding of where food comes from, how to care for the environment, and the importance of healthy living.

In Early Years, our youngest learners will begin their 10 Good Deeds promise, encouraging kindness, teamwork, and positive choices as they learn how their actions can make a difference to others.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We are incredibly proud of our children and the way they represent our school values both in school and within the wider community.

We wish you all a lovely weekend.

Kind Regards



*A Higginbotham*

**Miss A Higginbotham**

**Headteacher**

# Dates to Remember

## February

- 13<sup>th</sup> February** Children finish for end of term
- 23<sup>rd</sup> February** Children return to school

## March

- 5<sup>th</sup> March** World Book Day
- 9<sup>th</sup> 013<sup>th</sup> March** Bikeability Year 5 Level 1 & 2
- 16<sup>th</sup> March** Year 4 Trip to Living Rainforest
- 26<sup>th</sup> March** Lower School Awards Assembly (10.00 am)
- 27<sup>th</sup> March** Upper School Awards Assembly (10.30 am)
- 27<sup>th</sup> March** Children finish for Easter

## April

- 13<sup>th</sup> April** Children return to school
- 20<sup>th</sup> April** Earth Week – Litter Picking
- 22<sup>nd</sup> April** Earth Week – Walk to School Day
- 23<sup>rd</sup> April** Y4 Swimming
- 30<sup>th</sup> April** Y4 Swimming

## May

- 5<sup>th</sup> May** Reception National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP)
- 7<sup>th</sup> May** Polling Day
- 21<sup>st</sup> May** Y4 Swimming
- Children break for half term**
- 22<sup>nd</sup> May** Inset Day

## June

- 1<sup>st</sup> June** Children return to school
- 4<sup>th</sup> June** Y4 Swimming
- 11<sup>th</sup> June** Y4 Swimming
- 18<sup>th</sup> June** Y4 Swimming

## 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
86.7%	85.6%	100%	94.1%	91.9%	98.1%	89.8%	97.5%
Year 3		Year 4		Year 5		Year 6	
Benjamin	King-Smith	Binch	Pullman	Hughes	Morpurgo	Horowitz	Lewis
94.8%	93%	95.2%	94.4%	96.2%	96.7%	91%	93.2%

## Attendance for The Whole School Year Is Currently 94.3%

### 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!**

**R Kerr from lower school**

**5 Morpurgo from upper school**



**Hawking - Green is the winning house. - Congratulations!**



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

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

### Reminders and Information for Parents

PE DAYS	
CLASS	DAYS
RECEPTION	MONDAY
YEAR 1	MONDAY and WEDNESDAY
YEAR 2	TUESDAY and WEDNESDAY
YEAR 3	TUESDAY and THURSDAY
YEAR 4	MONDAY and THURSDAY
YEAR 5	WEDNESDAY and FRIDAY
YEAR 6	TUESDAY and FRIDAY

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.

# 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.

## **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.**

## **Keeping Children Safe Outside of School**

As children take part in activities beyond the classroom—whether it's sports clubs, tuition, or community groups—it's vital that parents and carers feel confident about their safety. The UK Government provides guidance to help you understand what safeguarding measures should be in place in out-of-school settings, including checks on staff, clear procedures for raising concerns, and safe environments for learning and play. The NSPCC also offers practical advice for choosing safe sports clubs, such as ensuring there is a welfare officer, safeguarding-trained staff, and appropriate supervision. Don't hesitate to ask questions—organisations should welcome your interest in your child's wellbeing. For more information, visit the [Government guidance](#) 1 and the [NSPCC's Keeping Your Child Safe in Sport page](#)2.

## **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](#).

## Cold Weather Safety Reminder

As the weather becomes colder, we kindly remind all parents, carers, and visitors to take extra care when entering the school grounds.

- The school will endeavour to grit and de-ice pathways where possible.
- Despite these efforts, surfaces may still be slippery, so please walk carefully.
- Your caution helps keep everyone safe during the winter months.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding

## 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:

<https://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/roblox-launches-new-parental-controls/>

## 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](#)