

# THE PALMER ACADEMY WEEKLY ROUND-UP

Edition 114

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope this message finds you well as we move into the festive season!

## Christmas Events Reminder

Our calendar is brimming with exciting Christmas events, so please take a moment to review the dates and details included in this newsletter. We don't want you or your children to miss out on any of the holiday fun!

## Year 5 Rowing Event Success

This week, a group of Year 5 children with special educational needs attended a rowing event at The Reading School. It was a wonderful opportunity for them to try something new, and they had a fantastic time learning the basics of rowing. We are so proud of their enthusiasm and engagement in this unique experience!

## Learn to Ride Update

Last week, we were delighted to host Learn to Ride sessions for our pupils. The trainers were incredibly impressed with the determination shown by all the children. Although not everyone was pedalling independently by the end, there were amazing moments of growth and perseverance throughout the sessions.

Special recognition goes to several pupils who displayed exceptional perseverance and enthusiasm. One standout moment was when one of our students essentially taught himself to ride by observing others, a truly inspiring display of independence and determination!

Many children mentioned they do not have bikes at home. If this applies to your family, we encourage you to explore Reading Bicycle Kitchen, a local organisation offering refurbished bikes at low cost. You can find more information [here](#).

Thank you to all the staff and families for supporting these sessions, and we look forward to hosting Bikeability next year!

Wishing you all a wonderful December,

Wishing you all a restful and happy weekend.

Kind Regards

Miss A Higginbotham

Headteacher



## In This Issue

- Attendance
- Important Dates
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## Reminders and Information for Parents

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

## Important dates

9<sup>th</sup> December- Xmas carol service @ New Christchurch church for Years 3-6

After school clubs will finish Week beginning 9<sup>th</sup> December

10<sup>th</sup> December -Lower school open classes after school – (Nursery- Year 2)

11<sup>th</sup> December -Lower school open classes before school; ( Nursery- Year 2)

12<sup>th</sup> December – Upper school open classes after school (Year 3-6)

13<sup>th</sup> December – Upper school open classes before school (Year 3-6)

16<sup>th</sup> December – Reception Xmas Carol concert in school

17<sup>th</sup> December -Year 1 and 2 Xmas Carol concert

19<sup>th</sup> December -School Xmas lunch

19<sup>th</sup> December -Xmas Jumper DAY

19<sup>th</sup> December -Xmas Fayre

## Reminders

### 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. 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 note there are no jacket potatoes on Tuesday 's and Thursday's- it will be pasta in tomato sauce.**

**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.**

## **Menu changes and parents to re-order**

Thursday 19/12/2024 has been changed to the Christmas lunch menu  
Wednesday 18/12 /2024 have been switched with Thursday 19/12 original option- so  
Parents will need to re-Order for both days as applicable

With the festive period approaching FIS/SEND Local Offer have had an increase in requests from parent carers and young people around support.

Young people requests are around things to do and mental health support, also included links to pages based on parent request themes and trends.

- [Reading Directory | Young People & Mental Health](#)
- [Reading Directory | Things to do](#)
- [Reading Directory | Special Needs Activities](#)
- [Reading Directory | Childcare](#)
- [Reading Directory | SEND Short Breaks \(all ability activities & overnight breaks\)](#)
- [Reading Directory | Family Support](#)
- [Reading Directory | Support - Food, Clothing & Winter Warm Spaces](#)

# SEND Local Offer Newsletter Winter 2024 (Issue 36)

- Click [here](#) to view the newsletter



It's here! The Winter edition of the new look **SEND Local Offer Newsletter 2024**. It's packed with lots of information including blogs from:-

- Blog - Ramona Bridgeman, Special United/Me2
- Blog - Joysree Saikia, Community Engagement and Research Officer at Brighter Futures for Children
- Blog - Joanne Brown, Travel Trainer & Assessor
- News items, what's on/events available throughout the Christmas holiday's
- Early Years - updates from the sector
- What's on, events and workshops
- Preparing for adulthood - 16-25 updates
- Short breaks, support services and much more... please remember, this is just a snapshot of the wealth of information that can be found on the [www.readingsendlocaloffer.org](http://www.readingsendlocaloffer.org)

Please feel free to give us feedback on this latest edition, all suggestions are welcomed! If there are any topics you would like us to include in the next newsletter, please do let us know. We will continue to update the newsletter, as new events and activities are sent to us up until the end of August.

Information can also be found here [SEND Local Offer - Newsletter | Reading Services Guide](#)

Short Breaks for the Christmas holidays can be found here - [SEND Short Breaks \(all ability activities & overnight breaks\) | Reading Services Guide](#)  
SEND Local Offer 16+ Guide - [SEND Local Offer 16+ Guide | Reading Services Guide](#)

Please keep visiting the SEND Local Offer for updates on local services  
[www.readingsendlocaloffer.org](http://www.readingsendlocaloffer.org)

## Family Information Service/Local Offer

Delivering the **Family Information Service**, including the **SEND Local Offer**, on behalf of  
**Brighter Futures for Children**  
Reading Borough Council  
Civic Offices, Bridge Street,  
Reading, RG1 2LU

*Please see below information about Me2Club, who provide support for CYP with additional needs to attend after-school activities and clubs:*

Have you and your families heard about Me2Club?



The graphic features a dark blue background with several circular images and text elements. At the top left, a woman and a young girl are smiling, with the girl wearing a 'HEAD CHEF' apron. At the top right, a boy and a girl are hugging. In the center, the 'me2 club' logo is displayed in a white circle. At the bottom left, a QR code is shown in a white circle. At the bottom right, two girls are standing together. Text bubbles are scattered around the central logo.

Ready for new referrals  
tell your families about Me2Club!

Supporting CYP with additional needs to attend **mainstream**, after-school activities and clubs

## SEND Short Breaks Christmas Holiday - Sessions 2024



### Chance to Dance

[Reading Directory | SEND Short Breaks -Chance to Dance Stars CIC - Dance and Multi Activity Program \(includes half terms & holidays\)](#)

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### Reading Play

[Reading Directory | SEND Short Breaks - Reading Play - Christmas Holiday](#)

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### Make Sense Theatre

[Reading Directory | SEND Short Breaks Christmas Holiday Club 2024 - with Make/Sense Theatre - MLD/SLD](#)

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### Make Sense Theatre

[Reading Directory | SEND Short Breaks - Christmas SEND Holiday Clubs 2025 - Make/Sense Theatre](#)

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### Make Sense Theatre - February Half Term 2025

[Reading Directory | SEND Short Breaks - February Half Term 2025 - Make Sense Theatre](#)

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Schools and Grassroots fixture of 2024-25 Season!**

This is a reminder that we have just under 3 weeks to go until our 2<sup>nd</sup> Schools and Grassroots fixture of the season v Blackpool on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December 3pm Kick off.

We're thrilled to welcome all our local schools and grassroots clubs! Your support truly enhances the atmosphere, and the players genuinely appreciate it. So, let's do it all over again!

Full details of how to get involved can be found below so please share with all your children, friends, family and staff and let me know if you require any further information.

### **You have been invited to Reading Football Club's 2<sup>nd</sup> Schools and Grassroots Fixture of 2024-25!**

#### **When?**

Reading vs Blackpool  
Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December, 3pm kick off

#### **Where?**

Select Car Leasing Stadium

#### **How to qualify for the discount and confirm your attendance?**

To redeem, please visit <https://ticketing.readingfc.co.uk> and enter the following unique coupon code: **#ThePalmerAcademy** in the basket once you have logged in and selected your tickets which will be discounted to the below prices:

**13 and Under: £1**

**17 and Under: £4**

**18 to 24: £7**

**65 and over: £7**

**Adult: £10**

#### **How many tickets can we purchase?**

There is no limit on the number of tickets you can buy using your unique code.

**Important!** This offer applies to tickets in the Eamonn Dolan Stand blocks and Y19/Y20 of the Sir John Madejski Stand. Coupon codes are valid up until 4 hours before kick-off.

#### **6 great prizes to be won for your School!**

Select your School [here](#) to cast your vote and be in with a chance to win one of 6 great prizes!

If you have any questions about this offer, please email [sales@readingfc.co.uk](mailto:sales@readingfc.co.uk) or call 0118 968 1313.

Come on URRRZZ!!

Yours Sincerely

Paul Collins

**Head of Ticketing**

**Reading Football Club**



## **Parent safe- keeping your children safe: online & beyond**

**It's never easy to know how to keep our children safe when they aren't with us, and sometimes even when are, if we don't know what's happening in their lives or on their devices! Who are they talking to, what are they doing, are they okay? Don't despair though...scroll through this page for help or click a button to go straight to a particular topics.**

[Home \(lgfl.net\)](#)

**Being a parent has never been easy. There are no manuals for it, and previous generations may not be able to provide the insight you're looking for. The family unit is more dispersed than ever, with some families existing hundreds of miles from what may be called a 'core unit'. The rapid pace of societal change in the UK rapidly outstrips the knowledge of the immediate past. The result is that many parents may find themselves lost in a maelstrom of contradictory advice. For adults, time has never been more compacted. Family Lives has produced a series of online parenting courses, to make this challenge a little easier. If interested please follow the link below:**

**<https://www.familylives.org.uk/how-we-can-help/online-parenting-courses>**

**Family Lives offers a confidential and free\* helpline service for families in England and Wales (previously known as Parentline). They can be contacted on 0808 800 2222 for emotional support, information, advice and guidance on any aspect of parenting and family life. Their website is also a rich source of useful support and advice.**

***(\* Free from landlines and most mobiles)***



# Teen Writing Group

## AT WOKINGHAM LIBRARY

JOIN IGNITING WRITING,  
WOKINGHAM LIBRARY'S TEEN CREATIVE WRITING CLUB

FACE TO FACE SESSIONS EVERY SATURDAY  
(EXCEPT SCHOOL HOLIDAYS)

SESSION FOR YEAR 6-8 9.45AM TO 11.15AM  
SESSION FOR YEAR 9-13 11.45AM TO 1.15PM

THE SESSIONS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO ALL  
YEAR 6 TO YEAR 13 STUDENTS

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SESSIONS WILL INCLUDE:

- FUN WRITING ACTIVITIES
  - USEFUL WRITING TIPS
  - GROUP DISCUSSIONS ON STORY IDEAS
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ALL SESSIONS NEED TO BE BOOKED IN ADVANCE  
TO SIGN UP FOR SESSIONS, VISIT THE EVENTS PAGE ON OUR  
WEBSITE: [HTTPS://WWW.WOKINGHAM.GOV.UK/LIBRARIES](https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/libraries)



**WOKINGHAM**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

# HEXHAM COMPUTER AND COFFEE CLUB

**Hexham Community Centre**

**Suitable for all  
abilities, including  
beginners**

**FREE!**

**Last Thursday of  
the month 11am -  
1pm**



DO YOU KNOW  
ABOUT...

**FREE**



UNIVERSAL INFANT  
SCHOOL MEALS?



**EVERY** child in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2  
can have a cooked school lunch

**FRESHLY MADE**

**HEALTHY**

**NUTRITIOUS**

at absolutely no cost to you! -  
funded by the Government

Please contact your school for more information!

**caterlink**  
feeding the imagination





Thanks  
for being  
**amazing**



"A room without books is like a body without a soul."

— Marcus Tullius Cicero

**If you would like to purchase books for our new reading spine, scan the code and shop away!**

# 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		

## 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.

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
85.3 %	89.1%	87.9 %	95.9	94.1 %	98.9%	98.9%	98.1%
Year 3		Year 4		Year 5		Year 6	
Benjamin	King-Smith	Binch	Pullman	Hughes	Morpurgo	Horowitz	Lewis
91.6%	95.3 %	88.9%	97.7%	91.4%	87.7%	94.9%	97.9%


**Attendance for The Whole School Year Is Currently 93.2%**

### Attendance Raffle

You have to 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 to:

Classes Donaldson and Ahlberg from  
Lower School & Pullman Class from  
Upper school



Turingwins House  
of the week-  
Congratulations.