

Friday 8th May 2026

THE PALMER ACADEMY WEEKLY ROUND-UP

Dear Parents and Carers,

KS2 SATs - Starting Next Week

Next week marks KS2 SATs week for our Year 6 pupils. These assessments are a national requirement and give us helpful information about pupils' learning in reading, maths and grammar.

We are incredibly proud of how hard our Year 6 children have prepared. Over the past year, they have shown resilience, commitment and a willingness to challenge themselves. Next week, our focus will be on helping pupils feel calm, confident and supported.

Good luck to all our Year 6 children – we are so proud of you!

Pupil Voice in Action

We are proud to share a great example of pupil voice this week. A Year 6 pupil felt that we needed football goalposts with nets in the football cage and decided to take action. Using their persuasive writing skills, they wrote a thoughtful letter explaining why new goals were needed and how this would improve playtimes for everyone. They outlined the positive impact they would have on teamwork, safety and enjoyment.

The letter was shared with school leaders and, as a result, the goalposts have now been installed. This is a wonderful example of how pupils at Palmer Academy can use their voices to make positive changes in our school.

Thank you for your continued support

Kind Regards



A Higginbotham

Miss A Higginbotham

Headteacher

Dates to Remember

May

11th May	Year 6 SATs week
21st May	Y4 Swimming
	Second hand uniform sale
	Year 5 trip to Cotswolds Wildlife Park
	Children break for half term
22nd May	Inset Day

June

1st June	Children return to school
3rd June	Reception Blue Reef Aquarium Portsmouth Trip
4th June	Y4 Swimming
10th June	Year 2 Beale Wildlife Park Trip
11th June	Y4 Swimming
15th June	EYFS Sports Day Morning
16th June	Lower School (Y 1-3) Sports Day 13.45
17th June	Upper School (Y4-6) Sports Day 13.45
18th June	Y4 Swimming
25th June	Y4 Swimming
30th June	Governor Meeting

July

2nd July	Y4 Swimming
6th July	Pupil Parliament proposed trip to Parliament
7th July	Year 1 Sandbanks Trip
9th July	Y4 Swimming
13th July	Year 6 Book Presentation
	Year 4 Buster Farm Trip
14th July	Year 3 Legoland Trip
15th July	Year 6 Production Dress Rehearsal
16th July	Year 6 Production afternoon & evening performances



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 wate 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

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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
90.4%	93.3%	98.7%	94.8%	95.3%	100%	97.8%	96.3%
Year 3		Year 4		Year 5		Year 6	
Benjamin	King-Smith	Binch	Pullman	Hughes	Morpurgo	Horowitz	Lewis
93.1%	97.9%	97.3%	92.9%	96.7%	93.8%	94.4%	98.4%

Attendance for The Whole School Year Is Currently 95.9%

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

6 Lewis from upper school



Hawking – Green the winning house. - Congratulations!



Do I need to keep my child off school?

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

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 22nd December 23rd December, 2nd January 2026

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