

Friday 12th September 2025

THE PALMER ACADEMY WEEKLY ROUND-UP

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! It's been a fantastic start to the new school year, and we're thrilled to see the children return with such positive energy and a brilliant attitude towards learning. Classrooms are already buzzing with curiosity, creativity, and collaboration.

We'd like to take a moment to remind everyone of the importance of **daily attendance**. Being in school every day makes a huge difference—not only academically, but socially and emotionally too. Everyday counts, and we appreciate your continued support in ensuring your child arrives on time and ready to learn.

A special welcome to our youngest learners in Nursery and Reception, who have begun their exciting journey with us this week. They are settling in beautifully—learning routines, making new friends, and exploring their new environment with enthusiasm and confidence.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

We're looking forward to a term full of growth, discovery, and joyful learning.

Kind Regards



A Higginbotham

Miss A Higginbotham

Headteacher

Dates to Remember

September

16th September	Meet the teacher Year 6
18th September	Meet the teacher Year 3
19th September	Jeans for Genes Day 2025

October

1st October	Black History Month 2025
6th -10th October	No Clubbly clubs this week
7th October	Parents Evening
8th October	Parents Evening
13th October	Arts week
15th – 17th October	PGL Year 6 trip
22nd October	Timestable Rockstar Day
23rd October	Second hand Uniform sale
	Children break for half term
24th October	INSET DAY
27th – 31st October	Half-Term

November

3rd November	Children return to school
5th November	School Photographer
12th November	Phonics workshop for Parents Year 1 & 2
14th November	Children in Need

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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

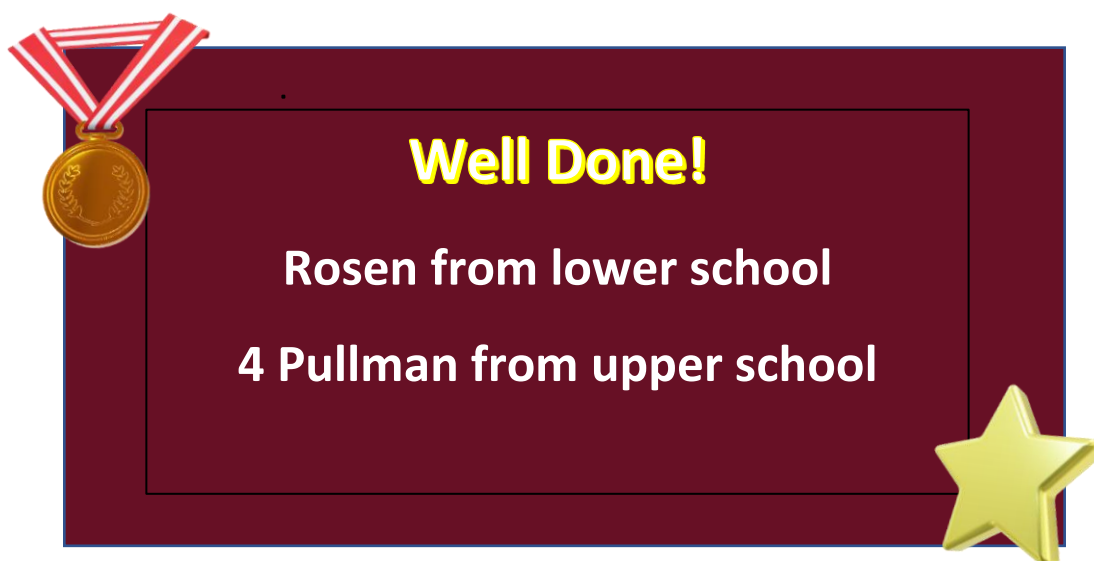


Nursery		Reception		Year 1		Year 2	
am	pm	Kerr	Rosen	Cole	Donaldson	Ahlberg	Butterworth
91.1 %	95.7%	98.8%	100%	93.6%	99.2%	98.2%	97.2%
Year 3		Year 4		Year 5		Year 6	
Benjamin	King-Smith	Binch	Pullman	Hughes	Morpurgo	Horowitz	Lewis
97.7%	92.5%	89.3%	98%	93.4%	92.7%	94.2%	90.5%

Attendance for The Whole School Year Is Currently 94.3%

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!



Johnson - Red is 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	MONDAY and THURSDAY
YEAR 4	TUESDAY 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.

Jeans for Genes Day On Friday 19th September, we will mark Jeans for genes day by wearing jeans alongside our normal school uniform jumper and shirt. We ask for a donation of £1 to support the charity Jeans for Genes which raises money to support those living with genetic conditions.

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.

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/>

Come and join us at
Hexham Rd Community Centre for...

STAY, PLAY AND STORIES



A FREE playgroup
for local
parents/carers
with little ones
aged 0-4.

A fun, supportive space;
learn together through
stories and free play.
Snacks, drinks and FREE
BOOK provided once a
month.

We meet 3 out of 4 Fridays each month,
10-11:30am (during term time)

Our Autumn Term dates:

12th and 26th September

3rd, 10th and 24th October

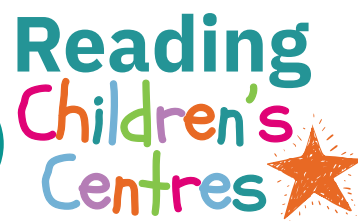
7th, 14th and 28th November

5th and 12th December



For more info, contact:
e.walker@reading.ac.uk





Mellow Bumps

Are you a mum-to-be? It's natural to worry about your baby when you're pregnant, or when they're newborn. You might worry if your baby will be healthy, or if you will be able to do all you need to look after them.

It can be especially hard if you have had challenges in your own childhood or you are under stress or experiencing health or social problems during your pregnancy.

Getting together with other mums-to-be and sharing ideas and experiences can be reassuring. They may know how you are feeling and you can support each other.

This antenatal parenting course is for pregnant mums and does not include partners.

Join us on our next Mellow Bumps course:

- ★ **Thurs 18 September - Thurs 23 October 2025**
- ★ **10am-12.30pm**
- ★ **East Reading Childrens Centre, Sun Street, Reading RG1 3JX**



For more information and to book your place, please contact Sue Blackwood or Alison Hanks:

- ★ sue.blackwood@brighterfuturesforchildren.org | 07921 403 349
- ★ alison.hanks@brighterfuturesforchildren.org | 07890 899 032

@BFfC_Child



Reading Children's Centres



Brighter Futures for Children



Mellow Mums and Babies

Are you a new mum? Welcoming a new baby is an exciting and magical time, but it is also completely normal to face worries and challenges.

This 14-session group will help you manage the challenges of parenting and to learn and grow as a parent while also focusing on looking after yourself. There will be opportunities to talk with other mums in similar positions as you, and reflect on your journey so far.

Getting together with other new mums and sharing ideas and experiences can be reassuring. They may know how you are feeling and you can support each other.

This group is for mums with babies aged from 12 weeks to 18 months.

Our next Mellow Mums and Babies course:

- ★ Tuesday 9 September - Tuesday 9 Dec 2025
- ★ 9.30am-2.30pm
- ★ Ranikhet Children's Centre, Thurso Close Tilehurst, Reading RG30 4YH

For more information and to book your place, please contact Sue Blackwood or Alison Hanks:

- ★ sue.blackwood@brighterfuturesforchildren.org | 07921 403 349
- ★ alison.hanks@brighterfuturesforchildren.org | 07890 899 032



Dads-to-be antenatal group

Are you about to be a new dad? Is this a whole new experience for you?

Meet other dads-to-be at a friendly **FREE** session led by a midwife and children's centre staff.

You'll get to learn or practice practical baby care skills and understand the importance of your role as a supportive partner during pregnancy and labour, and as a father when your baby is home.

Please note, you will need to attend both sessions.



East Reading Children's Centre
Sun Street, Reading RG1 3JX
(car park on site)



Thursday 25 September, 6.30-9.30pm
and



Thursday 2 October, 6.30-9.30pm

For more information and to book, contact:

Sue on 07921 403349

sue.blackwood@brighterfuturesforchildren.org

or Alison on 07890 899032

alison.hanks@brighterfuturesforchildren.org



@BFFC_Child 

Reading Children's Centres 

Brighter Futures for Children 



**Brighter
Futures for
Children**

Incredible Toddler Parenting Programme



Thursday 11 Sept 2025 - Thursday 27 Nov 2025



12.30-2.30pm



Southcote Children's Centre, 85 Coronation Square, Reading RG30 3QP

- ★ Is your child aged 1-3 years old?
- ★ Are they showing some unwanted behaviours?
- ★ Do you need some help to manage their behaviour?

The group aims to give you simple but effective techniques to strengthen your toddler's emotional and social competence. You'll learn how to use play, language, positive discipline strategies and more to build a good relationship with your toddler.

This 12-week programme also has a free Ofsted-registered creche available on-site for children under five years old.

To enquire or book your place, please contact:

reading.childrencentres@brighterfuturesforchildren.org

or sue.blackwood@brighterfuturesforchildren.org

or call **07921 403349**

**The
Incredible
Years**



Parents, teachers, and children
training series

THE PALMER ACADEMY

School Uniform Sale

SALE!

We will be selling secondhand uniform on Thursday 23rd October after school in the playground Cash only.

Prices

Shorts £2

Trousers £2

Jumpers £2

Dresses £2

Skirts £2

Black hoodies £2

Black trousers £2

White tops £1

PE t-shirts £1



Cash only!!!!