

THE PALMER ACADEMY WEEKLY ROUND-UP

Edition 115

Friday 13th December 2024

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Dear Parents and Carers,

This week, some of our children had the incredible opportunity to travel to London to represent our pupil voice at a REACH2 Trustee meeting. They were invited by Cathie Paine (CEO) to showcase the work our school does to support pupil development. Highlights included visits to Cedar Court, participation in the *11 before 11* programme, interventions designed to support self-esteem and social-emotional skills, and reading time with our therapy dog, Bobby.

It was a fantastic day, and the children were a credit to our school. We are immensely proud of their efforts and the positive impression they made.

Our personal development work, led by Mrs. Druce, plays a vital role in these achievements. We are deeply thankful for her hard work and dedication to our children and families.

We look forward to seeing you at our Christmas Fayre on Thursday 19th December and I hope you have a lovely weekend.

A Higginbotham



Kind Regards
Miss A Higginbotham

Headteacher

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

16th December – Reception Xmas Carol concert in school

17th December -Year 1 and 2 Xmas Carol concert in school

19th December -School Xmas lunch

19th December -Xmas Jumper Day

19th 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.

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 - Joyshree 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

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

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 central white circle with the 'me2 club' logo. Surrounding it are several circular images: a woman and a child with a 'HEAD CHEF' apron, a boy and a girl hugging, a woman holding a baby, and two girls in winter coats. Text bubbles include: 'Ready for new referrals tell your families about Me2Club!' and 'Supporting CYP with additional needs to attend mainstream, after-school activities and clubs'. A QR code is located in the bottom left corner.

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 \(includes half terms & holidays\)](#)

Reading Play

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

Make Sense Theatre

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

Make Sense Theatre

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

Make Sense Theatre - February Half Term 2025

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

Support - Food, Clothing & Winter Warm Spaces



Reading Family Information Service (FIS) have created a dedicated page supporting access to information on local pantries, winter warm places and clothing support.

Use the following link to find out more - [Reading Directory | Support - Food, Clothing & Winter Warm Spaces](#)

Eligible families can also access the Household Support Fund, further information can be found on the Reading Borough Council website -

<https://www.reading.gov.uk/housing/money-matters/household-support-fund/>

 /ReadingFIS



FAMILY
Information
Service Reading



Free, impartial information for Reading families with children up to 19*
(*or 25 with special educational needs and disabilities - SEND)



Find out about:

- Childcare and children's centres
- Early education and childcare funding for 2, 3 and 4-year-olds including 30 hour funding
- Reading SEND Local Offer
- Support groups and what's on locally

 fis@reading.gov.uk

 0118 937 3777, option 2 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm)

www.readingfis.org

Letter from KENDRICK SCHOOL- Widening Horizons 2024-25

On **Tuesday 26th November 2024**, we were excited to launch our Widening Horizons programme for the **2024-25** academic year. Over 130 parents and primary school children from Years 3-5 in receipt of Pupil Premium (free school meals), Service Premium (children with a parent(s) in the British Armed Forces) and who live in our [designated area](#) and children in care or previously in care attended the **Widening Horizons Information Event** at Kendrick School.

Parents listened to talks from senior members of staff and heard how, as a result of the Widening Horizons and outreach work, Kendrick School has been awarded the prestigious Sutton Trust Fair Schools Admissions Award at the highest **GOLD** level. The primary school students participated in exciting art, library and English workshops, led by our staff and supported by our older Kendrick students, and it was lovely to see their excitement and enthusiasm as they left the workshops. Two parents with students who have taken part in the Widening Horizons programme and gone on to join our school community, spoke to the parents about their, and their child's, positive experience of Kendrick School and this programme, and gave some helpful tips and advice on making the most of this opportunity.

Our **remote Inspire Club** for Widening Horizons students will start on **Tuesday 14th January 2025** and continue every **Tuesday between 4pm to 5pm**, throughout the year during term time. Students will also be invited to events in school once a term. We are also planning to launch some exciting new Widening Horizons initiatives for 2025, including a Book Club and a new-look Inspire magazine.

Year 5 students who would like to take our admission test in September 2025, for entry into Year 7 in September 2026, will receive at least 6 familiarisation sessions before the tests, free online material and books, and the opportunity to attend a half-day session at Kendrick in the summer holidays. For the test itself, **a score of 5 points lower** than the qualifying score will be applied to applicants eligible for the Widening Horizons programme. This means that the eligible students who achieve this lower qualifying score and put Kendrick School as first choice on their Local Authority secondary school application form will be offered a place at Kendrick School (subject to satisfactory address checks and written confirmation of eligibility). Please see our website for more information on [eligibility](#).

If your child qualifies for the Widening Horizons programme, and you would like her to take part in this initiative, or you would like to check whether she would be eligible, please email admissions@kendrick.reading.sch.uk.

We would like to sincerely thank all the parents and primary school students that attended our launch event, the two Widening Horizons parents who spoke so well and with such enthusiasm, and all our wonderful staff and students that supported the event



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 \(lgfl.net\)](http://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)



WHITLEY WONDERLAND



MEET SANTA
Meet and talk to santa and
his elves!
Booking available in cafe



FESTIVE STALLS

Stocking fillers, cakes,
sweets and more!



FOOD AND HOT DRINKS

Get yourself some festive
food and drinks made by Mrs.
Claus!

Saturday 14th December

12pm - 5pm

252 - 260 Northumberland Avenue

RG27QA



Santa is here!

ho ho ho



£5

PER CHILD

14TH
DEC.

12 - 4:30

Santas Grotto

NICE LIST CERTIFICATE | PHOTO WITH
SANTA | A GIFT

At Whitley Wonderland

252 - 260 Northumberland Avenue RG27QA

Come and book inside the community
cafe



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

SESSIONS WILL INCLUDE:

- FUN WRITING ACTIVITIES
 - USEFUL WRITING TIPS
 - GROUP DISCUSSIONS ON STORY IDEAS
-

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?

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		

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

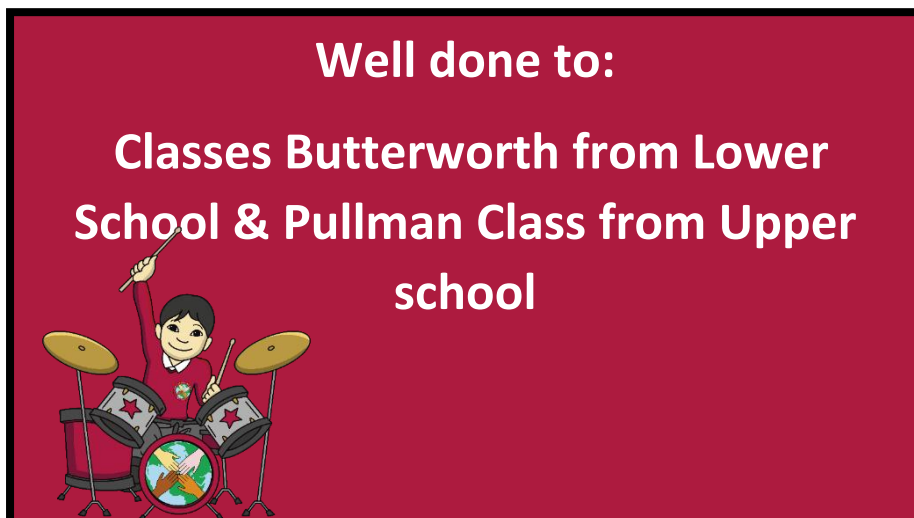


Nursery		Reception		Year 1		Year 2	
am	pm	Kerr	Rosen	Cole	Donaldson	Ahlberg	Butterworth
92.0 %	84.0%	90.9 %	93.6%	92.9 %	91.2%	95.8%	96.9%
Year 3		Year 4		Year 5		Year 6	
Benjamin	King-Smith	Binch	Pullman	Hughes	Morpurgo	Horowitz	Lewis
91.2%	88.0 %	91.6%	95.7%	91.9%	90.9%	95.4%	95.3%

Attendance for The Whole School Year Is Currently 93.1%

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!



**Turing wins House
of the week-
Congratulations.**