

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

# THE PALMER ACADEMY WEEKLY ROUND-UP

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Phonics Workshops

A huge thank you to all the parents and carers who attended our recent **Phonics Workshop for Years 1 and 2**. It was fantastic to see so many of you engaging, asking thoughtful questions, and joining in with the activities. Your involvement makes a real difference!

At The Palmer Academy, we believe that **strong partnerships between school and home** are key to every child's success. When we work together, we can give our children the very best start in their reading journey.

We're excited to share that there will soon be opportunities for parents and carers to **visit Year 1 and Year 2 classrooms to see phonics in action**. This is a great chance to experience how we teach early reading and learn strategies you can use at home. Please keep an eye out for further communication and sign-up details.

Thank you for your continued support in helping our children become confident, enthusiastic readers!

Wishing you all a restful weekend!

Kind Regards



*A Higginbotham*

**Miss A Higginbotham**

**Headteacher**

# Dates to Remember

## November

<b>10<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Anti-Bullying Week – Children can wear ODD socks</b>
<b>14<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Children in Need – Children can wear yellow, spots, Pudsey £1 contribution</b>
<b>20<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Junior Music Festival at The Hexagon</b>
<b>25<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Book Fair</b>
<b>26<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Maths Development Day</b>

## December

<b>8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Bikeability – Year 6 Level 1 &amp; 2</b>
<b>11<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Reception 2026 entrance school tour Clubs end of term</b>
<b>15<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Reception Christmas 09.30 Rocksteady concert 14.30</b>
<b>16<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Years 1 &amp; 2 Christmas afternoon 14.30</b>
<b>17<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Years 1 &amp; 2 Christmas evening 18.00 Christmas Jumper Day Christmas Dinner Day</b>
<b>18<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Christmas Sale</b>
<b>19<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>End of Term Awards Ceremony Years 4-6 10.15-10.45 Years 1-3 09.45-10.15 Children finish for end of term</b>

## January

<b>5<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Inset Day</b>
<b>6<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Children return to school</b>
<b>8<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Reception 2026 entrance school tour</b>

## 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

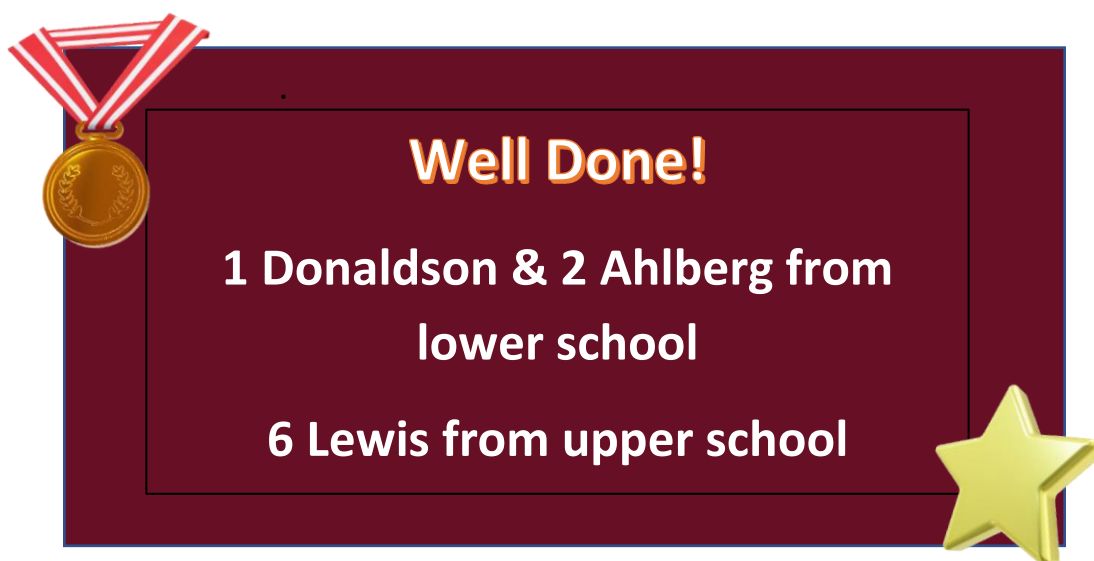


Nursery		Reception		Year 1		Year 2	
am	pm	Kerr	Rosen	Cole	Donaldson	Ahlberg	Butterworth
92.5%	97.3%	88.2%	84.4%	90.4%	99.2%	99.2%	93.3%
Year 3		Year 4		Year 5		Year 6	
Benjamin	King-Smith	Binch	Pullman	Hughes	Morpurgo	Horowitz	Lewis
95.2%	96%	92.1%	98.8%	98.2%	86.6%	97.1%	99.9%

## Attendance for The Whole School Year Is Currently 93.9%

### 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 - Blue 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 THURSDAY

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.**

## **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.

## **Children in Need**

We have raised **£162.70** for Children in Need, a massive thank you for all who made contributions

## **Sport in Mind**

We're often asked about the Sport in Mind sessions delivered at some of our Children's Centres and in the surrounding local areas. If you'd like to find out more, please visit their website. It includes:

- A full timetable of sessions
- Participants form you can complete
- Updates on upcoming sessions or any changes

Visit the Sport in Mind website

<https://www.sportinmind.org/mum-and-baby-timetables>

## **Reading Children's Centre Team**

### **Family Help | Directorate of Children's Services**

Reading Borough Council

Civic Offices

Bridge Street

Reading

[Reading.childreencentres@reading.gov.uk](mailto:Reading.childreencentres@reading.gov.uk)

## **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.

## **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](#).