

Friday 17th October 2025

THE PALMER ACADEMY WEEKLY ROUND-UP

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic week it's been at school! As we head into the weekend, we wanted to share some of the highlights and celebrate the wonderful experiences our children have enjoyed.

Year 6 Residential at PGL

We are thrilled to welcome back our Year 6 pupils today after their exciting residential trip to PGL. The children showed incredible teamwork, resilience, and courage as they tackled a range of adventurous activities—from zip-lining and abseiling to raft-building and high ropes. It was heartwarming to see them support one another, conquer fears, and create lasting memories. We're so proud of their positive attitude and the way they represented our school.

Reception's Visit to Ella's Kitchen at Rushall Farm

Our Reception children had a delightful day out at Rushall Farm, hosted by Ella's Kitchen. They explored the farm, learned about where food comes from. The trip was a wonderful opportunity to connect classroom learning with real-world experiences, and the children returned full of stories and smiles!

Help Us Launch a PTA

We are still keen to form Parent Teacher Association (PTA) to help strengthen the partnership between home and school and are looking for volunteers. A PTA can play a vital role in supporting school events, fundraising, and building a vibrant school community. If you're interested in getting involved or would like to learn more, please contact the school office—we'd love to hear from you!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable weekend.

Kind Regards



A Higginbotham

Miss A Higginbotham

Headteacher

Dates to Remember

October

1st October	Black History Month 2025
15th – 17th October	PGL Year 6 trip
22nd October	Timestable Rockstar Day
23rd October	Second hand Uniform sale
	Reception 2026 entrance school tour
	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
7th November	Junior Music Festival Rehearsal at The Ridgeway
10th November	Armistice Day
	Anti-Bullying Week
12th November	Phonics workshop for Parents Year 1 & 2
13th November	Reception 2026 entrance school tour
14th November	Children in Need
20th November	Junior Music Festival at The Hexagon
25th – 28th November	Book Fair

December

8th – 10th December	Bikeability – Year 6 Level 1 & 2
11th December	Reception 2026 entrance school tour

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

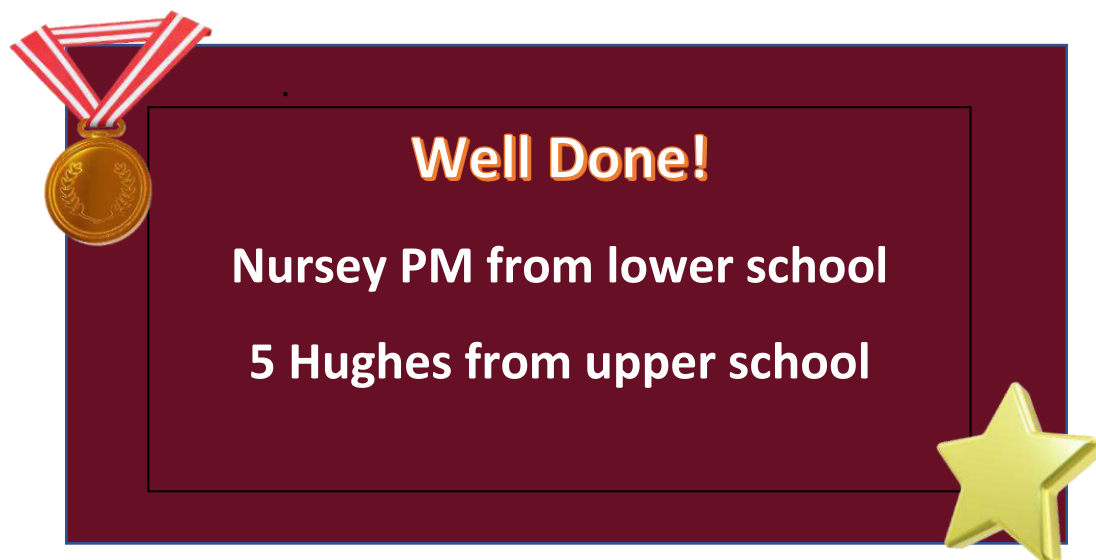


Nursery		Reception		Year 1		Year 2	
am	pm	Kerr	Rosen	Cole	Donaldson	Ahlberg	Butterworth
98.3%	98.7%	95.1%	90%	91.1%	97.8%	97.9%	86.5%
Year 3		Year 4		Year 5		Year 6	
Benjamin	King-Smith	Binch	Pullman	Hughes	Morpurgo	Horowitz	Lewis
92.2%	93.8%	97.2%	97.3%	99.2%	88.5%	98.8%	98.1%

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!



Hawking - Green is the winning house. - Congratulations!



Do I need to keep my child off school?

HSC Public Health Agency

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 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.

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 to 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.

ROCKESTEADY 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](#).

World Mental Health Day

Thank you for all who participated. We raised £218.20

Kala The Arts presents...

DIWALI

Light It Up 2025

A Spectacular Outdoor Event in Reading Town Centre

Sat 18th October 2025 from 4.15pm



Reading town centre will burst into colour and sound as Diwali Light It Up returns with its most spectacular celebration yet. Presented by Kala the Arts in partnership with Reading BID, this Festival of Lights has Giant 17ft Puppets and striking Lanterns in dazzling parades, music, dance, lanterns and joy filling the streets of Reading.

This year's festival carries the theme "Devi – Light and Earth," and is a free, family-friendly event open to all. Over 2000 spectators, young people, installation artists, dance artists, musicians and artists light up our town. There will be exciting dance performances from 4:15pm to 5pm at Reading Town Hall Square, and then the parade will leave at 5.30pm to go to Broad Street where it will finish at 6.30pm.

Please visit website for latest updates on the festival
www.kalathearts.co.uk, scan the QR code or follow us on social media



THE PALMER ACADEMY

SALE!

School Uniform 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!!!!



The Bounce Park Reading



School's out. Huge inflatable is in!

**River Academy
Open School Holidays**

www.thebouncepark.com/reading



WHAT'S ON OFFER?

- ⬇ Open Bounce,
SEN & Tots Sessions
- ⬇ Family Discounts
- ⬇ Birthday Parties
- ⬇ Exclusive Hires

Prices from £13.50 per Bouncer.
Open from 10:00 – 17:00

READY, SET, BOUNCE!
Open School Holidays

BOOK HERE



River Academy
7 Richfield Ave,
Reading RG1 8EQ

FOR MORE INFORMATION



WWW.THEBOUNCEPARK.COM



HALLOWEEN DRESS-UP PARTY

Email r.puno-levett@reading.ac.uk

10-11:30am
23rd October

WHITLEY WOOD STAY & PLAY

Playgroup for children aged 0-4

*Cute, spooky, silly? Who would you be?
Come for some fun treats,
crafts and activities!*



HALLOWEEN DRESS-UP PARTY

10-11:30am
24th October

Email r.puno-levett@reading.ac.uk

HEXHAM
Stay, Play & Stories
Playgroup for children aged 0-4

*Cute, spooky, silly? Who would you be?
Come for some fun treats,
crafts and activities!*

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





Mini Maestros

Come and try a fun, live music class for ages 0-7 at
your local music centre in Reading!

Thursdays:

Reception & Year 1: 4.40pm-5.20pm

Fridays:

Family Beats: 9.30am-10.15am

Baby Beats: 10.25am-11.10am

Saturdays:

Preschool: 9.45am-10.15am

Reception: 10.20am-10.50am

Year 1: 9.00am-9.40am

Year 2: 10.55am-11.35am

**Where to find us:**

Stoneham Court, 100 Cockney Hill, Tilehurst, Reading RG30 4EZ

To find out more visit our website www.berksmusictrust.org.uk
or email admissions@berksmusictrust.org.uk for a FREE taster session!



**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

CHOIRS OPEN DAY

**We're opening the doors to
our music centre choirs on
Saturday 18 October!**

Come and join the fun and discover the joy
of singing with others.



READING MUSIC CENTRE

Stoneham Court, 100 Cockney Hill, Reading, RG30 4EZ

Reception-Year 3

Reading Children's Choir

9.45-10.15am

Year 4 - Year 6

Reading Young Singers Choir

10.20-11.00am

Year 7 - Year 13

Reading Contemporary Voices

11.05-11.50am



PARTICIPANTS NEEDED!

Investigating Sensory Reactivity in Autistic Preschoolers (SNAP)



We are looking for parents of autistic children to take part in our research project investigating sensory differences, development and mental health in children.

This study aims to further understand the processes involved in children's engagement with the sensory environment and the relationship between this and their development.



What will the study involve?

Participation will involve completing online questionnaires and interviews. Your child will complete interactive game like tests with a member of the research team. Two tablet games, and sensor tasks while we measure their brain activity with non-invasive and pain free brain imaging device electroencephalogram (EEG). The visit will take around 4-5 hours total, including breaks between tasks.

Who can participate?

We are looking for parents of children aged 3 to 6 years and 11 months with or awaiting a diagnosis of autism.

What will you receive?

You will receive a £50 amazon voucher for your involvement. Your child will also receive a gift (sensory toy) for their participation.

Study Location

Centre for Integrative Neuroscience and Neurodynamics
School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences

University of Reading
Reading, Berkshire RG6 6AL

+

School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences **Harry Pitt Building University of Reading Earley Gate Reading RG6 6ES**

The study has been reviewed and approved by the University of Reading ethics committee.

Interested?

To express interest or questions/queries please contact a member of the research team

Zelal Gulbahce
z.gulbahce@reading.ac.uk

NEWSLETTER COPY FOR SCHOOLS.

Copy and paste from this document into your school's newsletter.

Existing Schools (use just after you've had your workshop day)

Rock and pop band lessons with Rocksteady

Did you know, we partner with Rocksteady Music School to deliver fun and inclusive rock and pop band lessons, right here at {SCHOOL NAME}! These weekly music lessons take place in school and are led by professional musicians who make learning music fun.

It's the perfect way for children to learn new musical skills, make friends and have a great time – all at school! Rocksteady lessons are also shown to amplify confidence, wellbeing and social skills.

Here's what else you need to know:

- *There's no experience necessary and all instruments for lessons are provided.*
- *Watch as your child performs in their end of term concerts, showing just how far they have come.*
- *Children learn up to 300 instrument, band, and performance skills, whilst playing songs they love.*
- *Children can achieve an Ofqual-regulated Music qualification, accredited by Trinity College London, without having to take a single exam.*
- *You'll receive regular progress updates, including photos and videos.*

There's a money-back guarantee for the first month and you can cancel at any time. Places are offered on a first come, first served basis.

Sign your child up for band lessons online at rocksteadymusicschool.com/parents

If you have any questions about Rocksteady, call **0330 113 0330** (Mon-Thurs 8am-8pm, Fri 8am-6pm, local rate) or email info@rocksteadymusicschool.com.

NEWSLETTER COPY FOR SCHOOLS.

Copy and paste from this document into your school's newsletter.

New Schools (use to advertise the workshop day)

Coming soon! Rock and pop band lessons with Rocksteady

Exciting news! From {DATE}, we will be partnering Rocksteady Music School to deliver fun and inclusive rock and pop band lessons, right here at {SCHOOL NAME}! These weekly music lessons will take place in school and are led by professional musicians who make learning music fun.

It's the perfect way for children to learn new musical skills, make friends and have a great time – all at school! Rocksteady lessons are also shown to amplify confidence, wellbeing and social skills.

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- *You'll receive regular progress updates, including photos and videos.*

There's a money-back guarantee for the first month and you can cancel at any time. Places are offered on a first come, first served basis.

Rocksteady workshop will take place on {DATE}

To introduce the children to Rocksteady, workshops will be held in school on {DATE}. These will be fun and interactive sessions giving children the chance to try out the instruments and learn all about being a musician in a band.

Please look out for a letter from Rocksteady, which your child will bring home with them after their workshop or visit rocksteadymusicschool.com/parents to sign up.

Hexham Community Centre

October 2025

Tel: 0118 9373352

Email: Hexham.RoadCC@reading.gov.uk



Mondays Over 50s FREE Fitness 2:15pm

30-minute seated activity. Fun, friendly group, suitable for all abilities.

Mondays FREE Reading FC Youth Group 6pm – 8pm 11 – 18 yrs

Tuesdays FREE Grassrootz Youth Group 6pm – 9pm

Group runs every fortnight. (6pm to 7:15pm 8 – 13 yrs / 7:30pm to 9pm 14 – 18 yrs)

Tuesday 21st October 10am – 12pm Housing and ASB drop-in

Speak to your local RBC officers about housing, damp / mould and ASB issues

Wednesdays Pantry 12pm – 2pm

Each visit is £5. Choose your food / household items.

Wednesdays 1pm – 2:30pm

Family friendly nature walks. Suitable for all ages and abilities.

Meeting at Hexham Community Centre. Term time only.

Wednesday Dance Fitness Class 6pm – 6:45pm

£3 per class. First session is free.

Thursdays Bingo and Social Club 2pm – 3:30pm

Friendly, fun, social group and low cost.

Thursdays FREE Brighter Futures for Children Youth Club

(5pm to 6pm 8 – 12 yrs / 6pm to 7pm 13 – 18 yrs)

Fridays 10am – 11:30am FREE Playgroup

Accompanied children, 0-4yrs

Term time only

Friday 17th October 10am – 12pm (3rd Fridays)

FREE Becoming Mums group Mums' support group

Tuesday 28th 2:30pm – 4:30pm

Pumpkin Carving

Children under 8yrs must be accompanied



Reading
Borough Council
Working better with you

JUNIOR SATURDAY ART CLUB

FOR 8 - 11 YEAR OLDS

Junior Saturday Art Club welcomes all young creative 8–11-year-olds to enjoy a mixture of art, design, and craft in our specialist art workshops!

You will have the opportunity to experience a range of fun, inspiring and challenging activities in our art studios

Our art studios and facilities are second to none and will provide an inspiring and creative environment for you to explore all sorts of creative disciplines. Come and have fun!

All abilities will be catered for. Activities are varied each series to accommodate returning students.

- ▶ Fee: £85 - all materials are included. Parents are very welcome to come along with their child, without extra costs.
- ▶ Timing: Series of 5 Saturday mornings 10am–12pm
- ▶ Date: See website for start date options
- ▶ Location: Reading College, Kings Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 4HJ

For full course information and to enrol visit:
adult.activatelearning.ac.uk/rdg-jr-art-club





Parenting Special Children

**Fridays, 10th Oct; 7th Nov; 5th Dec 2025
16th Jan 2026**

Community Parent/Carer Support Group,

A support group for family members who have children/young people with additional needs living within the community of Whitley and Reading.

A safe and supportive space for sharing experiences and gaining support with the unique challenges faced by families of children with additional needs.

Each session will include an hour talk about a topic around being a parent of a child with additional needs. The remainder of the session will be for discussion of the topic and social support time.

Topic; Lets talk.... Masking.

Date & Time

Monthly, See above for details
9:15-11:15am

Venue

South Reading Community
Hub, Northumberland Avenue
Reading, RG2 7QA

Main hall

Cost

Free (Refreshments provided)

Further information

Charlie Taylor

07831409731

charlie@parentingspecialchildren.co.uk

Children welcome under parent supervision



Family Science Roadshow

A fun, interactive workshop for Adults, Carers, Grandparents and their children aged 4 – 12 years

Carry out fun, scientific experiments, including :-

- ❖ DNA extraction
- ❖ Senses/flavours – how your senses can trick your brain.
- ❖ Microscopy
- ❖ How NOT to spread germs

This workshop will be led by a team of scientists from Reading Scientific Services Ltd, including STEM ambassadors (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)

All equipment and protective clothing will be provided.

**CHOOSE A MORNING OR
AFTERNOON SESSION**

Due to funding restrictions this workshop is open to residents of RG1, RG2, RG4, RG6 and RG41



**Thursday
30th October 2025**

10:00am – 12:30pm
(Registration at 9.45am)

OR

2.00pm – 4.30pm
(Registration 1.45pm)

**Booking Essential
Fee £20 per family**
(maximum 2 children per adult)



Information and Booking:

The Earley Crescent Resource Centre · Warbler Drive, Lower Earley, Reading RG6 4HB



Bus Route 21 from Reading – Beech Lane



0118 9210555 · www.earleycrescent.org

training@earleycrescent.org



www.facebook.com/earleycrescent/

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