

# THE PALMER ACADEMY WEEKLY ROUND-UP

Edition 112

Friday 22nd November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Palmer, the safety of our children is a priority. Throughout the curriculum we teach them life skills so they can keep themselves healthy and safe in their future.

Next week children in upper key stage 2 will be starting their **Bikeability Training**. This program is designed to equip children with essential cycling skills and knowledge to ensure their safety on the road.

Cycling is a wonderful way to stay active and build confidence, but safety is key. Bikeability will teach our children how to cycle proficiently, navigate traffic, and understand the rules of the road—all vital skills for their independence and well-being.

We know the children will enjoy themselves over these two days, along with picking up some key skills.



*A Higginbotham*

Kind Regards

**Miss A Higginbotham**

**Headteacher**

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11b411 Promise	Activity	Year Group
Hiking Heroes	Year 4 go on a hike around the local lake reservoir in the Autumn term, exploring changes in seasons and using senses to support writing	Year 4
Perfect a pitch	Using the leadership for change programme Year 5 will be taking part in the discussions around leadership and sharing their opinions in the online lesson. This will result in them writing a pitch to submit to the competition.	Year 5
Ride a large Animal	All children in Year 3 visit the local stables and ride a horse. They learn how to look after a horse and care for it.	Year 3
Culture Vulture	West End show in London- travelling to London by bus, train and tube. Experiencing West End Theatre.	Year 6
Sleepover under the stars	A sleepover in the school or the science museum (depending on numbers interested) under the stars projector/stars planetarium. Encouraging independence and resilience.	Year 5
Seeds to Supper	Planting carrot seeds to have as part of their lunch in the school dining hall after they have grown.	Year 2
Messing about on water	The Year 1 trip to the beach involves them experimenting and paddling in the water.	Year 1
Create something amazing	A whole school talent show. Audition rounds so all children can showcase a talent	Whole School
10 good deeds in 10 days	Children in Reception and Nursery complete 10 good deeds within the school community and for their families	Reception and Nursery
Wildlife Warriors	Creating bug hotels as part of their mini beast topic for the area and creating bird feeders to encourage the bird life.	Year 1
Shake it up Shakespeare	A Shakespeare workshop using different drama and expression to bring to life a Shakespeare story	Year 4

## 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

26th November 2024 to 2nd December 2024, [Travelling Books for a Book Fair](#) will be in the hall afterschool; bringing you an unbeatable range of the latest and best children's books

27th and 28th November- Learn to ride Bikeability course

29th November Yr2 trip to Beaulieu- Please wear full uniform

29th November- see poster below Non-Uniform Chocolate Day- This excludes Year 2 as they are on a school trip

9th December- Xmas carol service @ New Christchurch church for Years 3-6

After school clubs will finish Week beginning 9th December

16th December – Reception Xmas Carol concert in school

17th December Year 1 and 2 Xmas Carol concert

19th December School Xmas lunch

19th December Xmas Jumper DAY

19th December Xmas Fayre

# Chocolate Non-uniform Day!

On Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024, you are invited to wear your own clothes (rather than school uniform) in return for a chocolate donation for our chocolate tombola at our Christmas fair. Please bring in some unopened chocolate bars, boxes of chocolates, selection boxes, multipack bars or sweets. All must be in original packaging with best before date. Alternatively, you can bring in £1 so that we can buy some chocolates.



**Please remember we are a NUT FREE school!**

Please make sure that clothes worn are suitable for the cold weather and practical for the playground.

All donations should be given to the class teacher.

## **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.

### **Menu changes and parents to re-order**

Thursday 19/12/2024 has been changed to the Christmas lunch menu

Wednesday 18/12 /2024 have been switched with Thursday 19/12 original option- so Parents will need to re-Order for both days as applicable

*We just wanted to make sure that you and your school community were aware of this brilliant opportunity for families this November and December.*


## **LANTERN MAKING WORKSHOPS**

There's still time to make a lantern for the parade!

Each lantern workshop will be supported by professional artists who will show you how to make your lantern and provide information on where to come on the day of the parade.

Suitable for all. So far we've had families, first dates, groups of friends and solo makers. All welcome.


### **Lantern making workshop dates**

 Saturday 23 November


 Various time slots from 9am - 3pm

 Jelly Studios

More info and **BOOK HERE**

 Saturday 30 November

 Various time slots from 9am - 3pm


 Jelly Studios


More info and **BOOK HERE**


These workshops are free with a £2 booking fee.

## **THE PARADE**

### **Reading Lantern Parade - GLOW (Lantern light up)**

 Hosier Street Back of Broad St Mall by Blue Collar

 Saturday 7 December

 If you are joining us with a Lantern - meet us at 4pm (no later than 4.15pm) so we can prepare your lantern for the parade.

Walk together in candlelight and follow the drummers to Reading Town Hall

Please share this link with your school communities and don't miss your opportunity to GLOW UP.

We would love you to share your lanterns with us on all social media channels using the hashtag #readytoGLOW we can't wait to see your lanterns!

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

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**Reading Play**

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

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**Make Sense Theatre**

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

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**Make Sense Theatre**

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

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**Make Sense Theatre - February Half Term 2025**

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

## **Letter from Kendrick School**

Dear Parent/carer

### **KENDRICK SCHOOL – WIDENING HORIZONS**

We are writing to you as a parent/carer of a girl in school Years 3, 4 or 5, who is in receipt of pupil premium (free school meals or who has received free school meals in the last six years), service premium or is in care or has previously been in care, and who lives within our designated area.

We would like to invite you to our **Information Evening on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2024 from 4.15pm – 5.30pm to explain what Widening Horizons at Kendrick School is, and for you to find out how we can help to support your child on their academic journey, and the opportunities that are available to them at Kendrick School during School Years 3,4 & 5, completely free of charge.**

These opportunities are to enrich the academic lives and learning of any girls who fall within this category, and not just for those who are considering Kendrick as a secondary school, (although these students would be accepted with a lower score and be provided with free practice papers, an online learning programme and a test familiarisation day in the summer holidays, should they decide in due course to sit our Admissions Test.)

We are also delighted to inform you that Kendrick School has been awarded the Sutton Trust Fair School Admissions Award at **Gold** level. The top **Gold** level is awarded to schools who have made significant changes to their admissions policies to ensure that there is fair access to all pupils regardless of socio-economic background. Kendrick was recognised for the multiple systems we have in place to support access for children eligible for pupil premium funding within our Widening Horizons project.

The programme for the **Information Evening on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November** is as follows:

- 4.15pm Registration
- 4.30-4.45pm Welcome and introduction from Ms Kattirtzi, Headteacher
- 4.45-5.30pm Activities for children, Tour of the School and Q & A/refreshments for parents

If you would like to attend this event, then please email Mrs Nicholson at [GNicholson@kendrick.reading.sch.uk](mailto:GNicholson@kendrick.reading.sch.uk) who will register you for the event and answer any questions you may have.

We do hope you will come along to find out what a friendly and welcoming school we are and how we can support you and your child on their learning journey.

We look forward to hearing from you.

With kind regards

**Ms Christine Kattirtzi**  
**Headteacher**





## **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)***

# 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

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SESSIONS WILL INCLUDE:

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

WALK TOGETHER ON A WEDNESDAY



MEET AT HEXHAM ROAD COMMUNITY CENTRE

1:15PM TO 2:30PM

ALL AGES AND ALL ABILITIES WELCOME

SEPTEMBER 4TH, 11TH, 18TH, 25TH

OCTOBER 2ND, 9TH, 16TH, 23RD

NOVEMBER 6TH, 13TH, 20TH, 27TH

HEXHAM.ROADCC@READING.GOV.UK

0118 937 3352

FOUR REASONS  
TO GO ON A WALK



# 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  
**amazon**



"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?

<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		

## 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



<b>Nursery</b>		<b>Reception</b>		<b>Year 1</b>		<b>Year 2</b>	
am	pm	Kerr	Rosen	Cole	Donaldson	Ahlberg	Butterworth
89.0 %	92.4%	89.4 %	90.5%	88.1 %	88.5%	95.8%	96.9%
<b>Year 3</b>		<b>Year 4</b>		<b>Year 5</b>		<b>Year 6</b>	
Benjamin	King-Smith	Binch	Pullman	Hughes	Morpurgo	Horowitz	Lewis
93.5%	95.1 %	92.2%	98.5%	90.5%	86.6%	94.0%	97.4%

**Attendance for The Whole School Year Is Currently 93.0%**

### **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!**

**Well done to: Butterworth Class from  
Lower School & Pullman Class from  
Upper school**



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