



The Palmer Academy

Weekly Round-up



Edition 3

Friday, 9th October 2020

Note from the Executive Headteacher

Over the course of this week at Palmer, I'm continuing to support the leadership team with ensuring that they monitor the children's learning and teaching across the school, so that all pupils have every opportunity to develop their *enquiring minds*. In particular I have looked at some of your children's Science books and checking to see how well they are making progress and learning the content being taught. By doing so, I have seen how Year 2 have been learning all about animals and their habitats, whilst Year Six have been learning all about light, and specifically about how it travels and how we see. Yesterday afternoon I spent time with Miss. Harriss undertaking a learning walk in Reception to see their fabulous opportunities for children's learning through play, and Miss. Chick and I also took a peek into our Key Stage One classes to look at how all children are being included in the curriculum. It's wonderful to be able to see the children working so diligently, and their resilience impresses me! Have a great weekend and see you all on Monday. Stay safe.



A. A. Wanford.

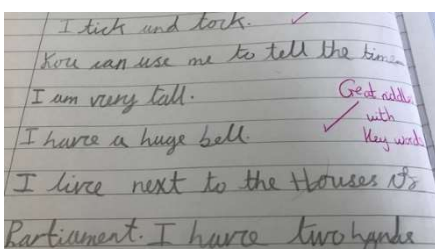
Mr. Aaron Wanford

What have Reception been learning about this week?

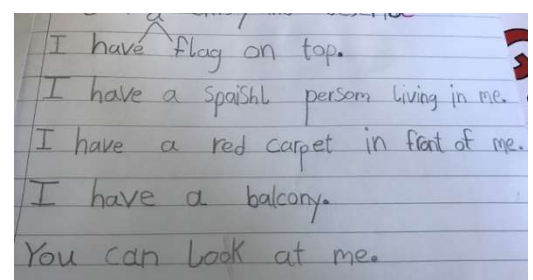
On Monday and Tuesday this week, Reception were invited by Giles, our visitor from Ufton Court, to join him on a "Bug Hunt". The children were very enthusiastic, heading off in all directions, with spades, forks, nets and Bug pots to search for the bugs. It was a successful 'hunt', finding worms, scorpions, a spider, earthworms and a ladybird. Afterwards Giles showed the children how he carefully released their 'catch'. An outside experience enjoyed by all.



What have Year Two been learning about this week?



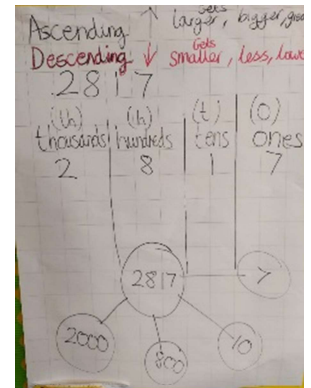
We have had a great start to Year 2 this year. The children have come back ready to learn and have remembered so much. We are enjoying writing our own versions of Paddington Bear. We are also counting in 2s, 5s and 10s



so keep practising at home too. In geography we have been learning about London. We have been exploring the landmarks, reading maps and have created our own riddles. Can you guess which landmarks we are describing in our riddles?

What have Year Four been learning about this week?

It has been a busy start for year four this term. We have been learning about place value in maths and have been exploring numbers up to 10 000 and counting in negative numbers. We have loved reading and have enjoyed exploring new words and characters in the books, 'Why the whales Came' and 'Claude'. Our English lessons have been filled with descriptive writing and we are learning how we can be more creative in our writing by using expanded noun phrases, adverbs and similes.

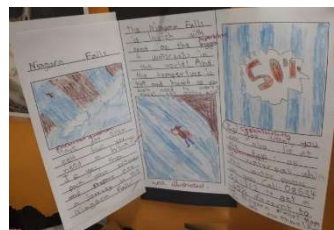


In the afternoons, we have loved learning about our different topic subjects. In Geography, we have learnt about the different animals and the layers of plant life in the rainforests. In Science, we have loved exploring the different sounds in the environment and conducted experiments to see how far sound can travel. RE has taken us on a journey, learning about Islamic weddings and birth ceremonies. We have all really enjoyed learning this term and are looking forward to learning even more!

What have Year Six been learning about this week?

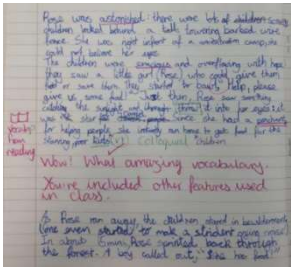


Year 6's overarching topic this term is 'North America' and so in Geography we have been completing some map work to show that we can locate the different countries. We have also researched a little more about our choice of capital cities and have created fact files on the places we would like to visit.

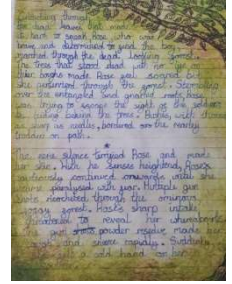


In our Light topic, we created periscopes and became scientists: we investigated how shadows change when we moved an item closer/further away from a light source. We enjoyed working collaboratively and discussing how to make it a reliable and fair test.





English has been just as exciting! We've been learning a model text and practicing key features before writing our very own descriptions. Next week we are writing an 'Escape' narrative. Here is a sneak-peak at some of the writing we've already completed that might appear in our final pieces. Notice how we've been editing as we go to make sure we are proud of the writing we turn in to our teachers.



School Photograph day

Just a reminder that individual school photos of your children will be taking place next Tuesday (13th October). All pupils will be photographed individually, standing up. There will be no sibling photo's this year due to COVID and Year Group bubble restrictions. Please ensure that your child is in full school uniform.

Parent Governor Nomination

We are pleased to announce that Mrs. Smitha Jayakumar put herself forward for the role of Parent Governor as part of the Local Governing Body at The Palmer Academy and has been duly 'elected' as Parent Governor to represent the parent/carer body, alongside existing Parent Governor, Mr. Michael Halliday. The Local Governing Body will meet next week for the first time this term and are looking forward to having an additional Parent Governor to support them in this vital role.

Lockdown practice

The safety and welfare of our pupils and staff are our highest priority at Palmer. We practice safety drills throughout the year to help our children know what to do in an emergency. We have already conducted a fire evacuation which was successful and new children to the academy now know what to do when they hear an alarm and how to exit the building quickly and safely.

Next Wednesday we will be conducting a lockdown drill. A 'lockdown' procedure may be activated in response to any number of situations at the academy but some of the more typical might be:

- A reported incident/civil disturbance in the local community (with the potential to pose a risk to staff and children in the academy);
- An intruder on the school site (with the potential to pose a risk to staff and children);
- A warning being received regarding a risk locally, of air pollution (smoke plume, gas cloud etc.); or
- A major fire in the vicinity of the school.

The goals of the drills are to improve our ability to protect children, save lives and reduce injuries. These practice drills allow us to evaluate our emergency operation plans and improve our response skills. Whilst we would not ordinarily notify you of such drills, as this is the first one your child may have experienced, we wanted you to be aware. You would normally only be notified if there were a real emergency.

The academy will conduct one lockdown drill each term. In this type of drill, we will secure the school building and safely shelter all children, staff and visitors inside the building. The purpose of this drill is to keep the children safe from any danger outside or inside the school building. During a lockdown drill all of the perimeter doors to the school building will be locked and will remain locked until the danger or issue outside or inside the building is removed. To enable everyone to remain safe, no one will be allowed to enter or leave the building until myself or a member of the Senior Leadership Team authorises such a release.

We prepare the children for such drills in an age-appropriate way – so for our youngest of children, we may talk with them about what were to happen if perhaps there was an animal that had escaped that could be dangerous. Therefore, if you hear your child coming home next Wednesday saying that a lion was on the loose, then please do not be alarmed!

If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to call the main office.

Piano – free donation!

We have an upright piano in the school which we no longer require. If you would be interested in this (for free) then please contact Mrs. Binks in the school office. The only thing we require is for you to collect – first come, first served so please get in contact as soon as possible!

Attendance Information

Well done to Y2 Ahlberg - best attendance possible this week – every child in, every day!

Nursery Carle AM -	93.0%	Y1 - Cole	98.0%	Y3 - Benjamin	96.6%	Y5 - Hughes	98.2%
Nursery Carle PM -	95.1%	Y1 - Donaldson	94.0%	Y3 – King-Smith	98.4%	Y5 – Morpurgo	96.7%
YR - Kerr	90.8%	Y2 - Ahlberg	100%	Y4 - Binch	99.6%	Y6 – Horowitz	98.0%
YR - Rosen	96.8%	Y2 - Butterworth	95.5%	Y4 – Pullman	98.5%	Y6 - Lewis	93.1%
Attendance for whole school to date this academic year: 94.8%							

What's happening next week at Palmer?

Monday 12 th	
Tuesday 13 th	Individual school photographs being taken (AM) 5.00pm – Local Governing Body Meeting
Wednesday 14 th	Lockdown practice (AM)
Thursday 15 th	
Friday 16 th	