

THE PALMER ACADEMY

Half term Newsletter 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of term, there is a wonderful sense of change in the air. The days are getting brighter, signs of spring are appearing all around us, and with that comes a renewed feeling of energy and growth across the school.

It has been a joy to see this season of new beginnings reflected in the children's learning. In Nursery, there was so much excitement as the children cared for and observed the hatching of chicks—an unforgettable way to learn about life cycles. Meanwhile, Reception have been busy outdoors, developing their green fingers as they explore their topic on growing and changing through gardening.

Further up the school, each year group has immersed themselves in rich and meaningful learning. Year 1 have been discovering the wonders of London, designing and building their own bridges with great creativity. Year 2 have focused on understanding how to keep themselves healthy, learning lifelong habits in fun and practical ways.

In Year 3, Roald Dahl's *The Twits* has had everyone laughing while inspiring imaginative writing. Year 4 have channelled their efforts into caring for the environment, thinking thoughtfully about the impact we all have on the world around us.

Our older pupils have been equally engaged. Year 5 have tackled fractions, decimals and percentages, exploring how these skills apply to real-life situations. Year 6 have been gripped by *The London Eye Mystery*, using it as a springboard for impressive persuasive writing as they promote their own theme parks.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We wish you a restful and enjoyable break as we step into spring. And to all our families celebrating Easter, we wish you a very Happy Easter!

Kind regards,



Miss A Higginbotham
Headteacher



Nursery

We have had a fantastic half term with our topic 'Growing and Changing'. We have learned about the lifecycles of humans, chicks and butterflies and were lucky enough to watch the chicks hatch from their eggs and butterflies emerge from their chrysalis state.



Every Friday we take part in 'Explore and Learn' time when we spend time outside looking for signs related to the season, exploring the weather, mini beast hunting and listening to sounds of nature.



In maths we have been recognising, counting and ordering numbers and exploring addition and subtraction.



We have also had lots of fun describing and making up our own routes and then creating an assault course for our friends to complete.



The children have really enjoyed all aspects of their learning, both inside and outside



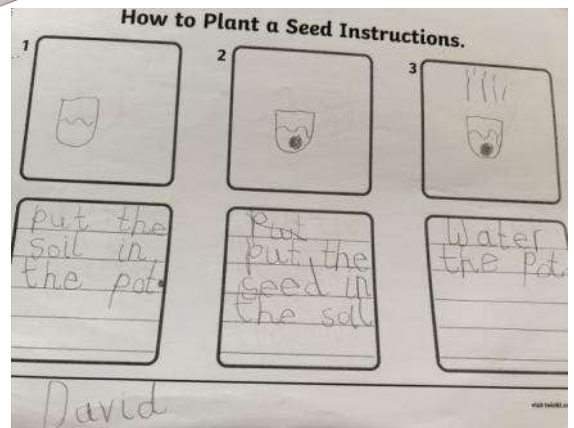
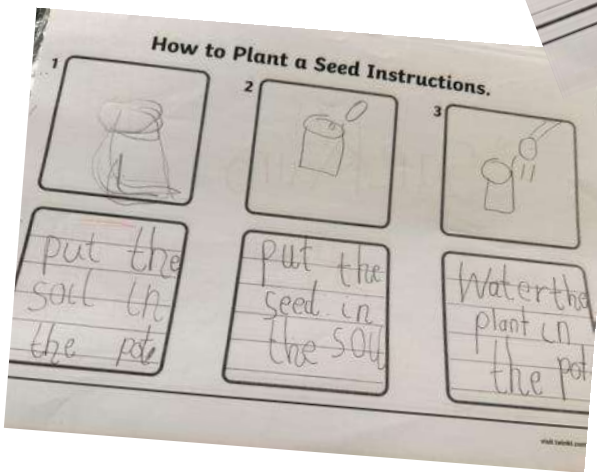
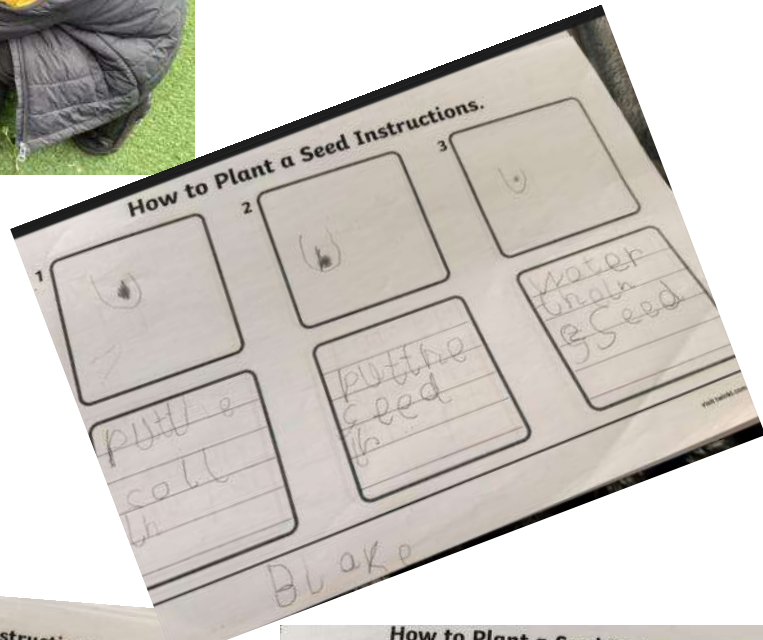
and we are all looking forward to next term when we will be welcoming some new friends to Nursery . . .

Reception

This term the Reception children arrived at school to find that a beanstalk had grown in the classrooms. We had a letter attached the beanstalk from the fairytale police asking the children to make wanted posters to warn people that the Giant may be in school.

As part of our learning about Growing and Changing, the children have taken part in lots of planting and weeding. The children have enjoyed going out and looking at different plants, trees, bushes and naming the different parts of them. We have been learning about the lifecycle of a flower and the children have been writing about it as well as writing instructions for planting





The children have also enjoyed painting, printing and drawing flowers as part of their creative learning.

The children have enjoyed using our Jack and the Beanstalk small world tray to act out the story and they have been learning to sight read tricky words in our Jack and the Beanstalk themed fine motor tray.

In maths this term the children have been learning lots of new language. We have been learning about number bonds, doubles, odds and evens and recognising and representing the number 7, 8, 9, and 10.

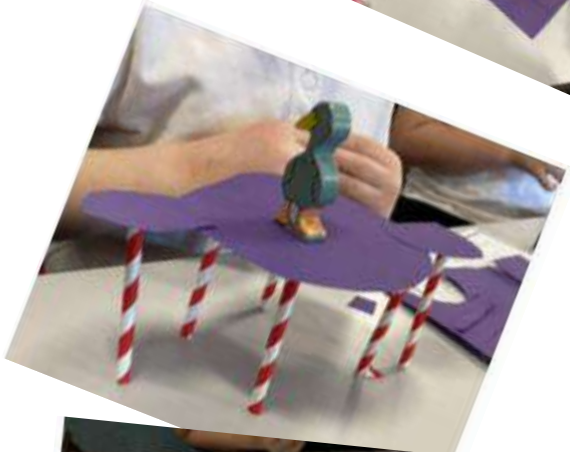
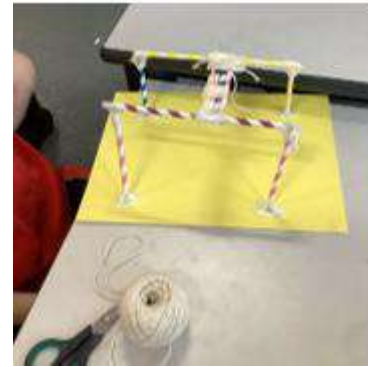
Year 1



Year 1 Spring Term 2 Newsletter

Year 1 has had a wonderful and amazing Spring Term! In our **English lessons**, we wrote a variety of different sentences such as compound, question and command sentences! We wrote sentences retelling what the characters did in the story “Giraffes Can’t Dance” and even explored using pronouns in our writing based on our class Reading book “Bilal Cooks Daal”. In **Maths**, Year 1 has been developing their addition and subtraction skills by exploring a variety of strategies, including doubles, near doubles, using number lines, and recognising related facts, all of which help build fluency and confidence in their mathematical thinking! In **Science**, we learned about *Everyday Materials*. This involved a lot of practical work where we explored different objects, identified what types of materials they are made from and then describing their properties. We looked at different objects around our classrooms and even tried to make a house using different materials to see which is best to stay upright. In our **PSHE**, we have been learning about how to be healthy and safe by exploring the main ways to keep our body and mind healthy and understand how medicine can help us feel better. To help us learn we sorted out the ways we think that are healthy or less healthy and sorted out products that we think are safe to use or if they are never safe. In **Geography**, we explored London and their landmarks by learning their names and how to identify them. We practiced our knowledge of directions and used this to create and use a grid map with the London Landmarks. In **Music**, the children explored how sound can represent different environments by using percussion instruments, vocal effects, and body sounds to create the feeling of calm and stormy seas. Finally in **D.T**, we learned about different types of bridges, their impact and importance and had the chance to design and create our own bridges using variety of materials.

Year 1 has worked incredibly hard this Spring Term and enjoyed a fantastic few months of fun and engaging learning. We're excited to continue this wonderful progress and look forward to even more great learning in the term ahead



Year 2

During this term, we celebrated 'World Book Day'. The children came dressed as their favourite book characters and brought in books to share with their classmates. It was a really brilliant day, sharing a love for books and reading.



In Writing, we have started a unit on instructions. The children started the unit by focusing on instructions to make a jam sandwich. In order to understand each of the steps, the children followed the instructions to make their own yummy jam sandwiches.



In Science, we have been learning about Plants. The children have learnt all about the parts of a plant, what plants need to grow and the life cycle of a plant. This included some exciting experiments, by growing seeds in different conditions to see which ones grew the best. We also planted some beans at the start of the term and have been enjoying watching them grow on our classroom windows.



Finally, in PSHE this term we have been learning about ways to keep our bodies healthy. In one of the lessons we looked at the 'eat well plate' and used it to understand how to keep to a balanced diet. The children then created their own fantastic eat well plates.



Year 3

We've had another wonderfully busy and exciting term in Year 3, filled with brilliant learning, creativity and curiosity across all our subjects.

Writing & Reading

In Writing and Reading, we began the term finishing *The Twits* by Roald Dahl, which the children absolutely loved; especially discussing the characters and Dahl's humor. We are now reading *Earth-Shattering Events* by Robin Jacobs, which has sparked fantastic conversations about natural disasters and the world around us. The children have shown great enthusiasm and are developing strong comprehension and vocabulary skills as we explore this fascinating non-fiction text.

Maths

In Maths, we have been exploring geometry. The children have been comparing angles, measuring and drawing accurately, and have recently begun learning about horizontal and vertical lines, as well as parallel and perpendicular lines and different types of polygons. They have enjoyed a range of hands-on activities and investigations.

Science

Our science topic this term has been Forces and Magnets. The children have explored how objects move on different surfaces and how magnetic forces work through contact and at a distance. They especially push and pull experiments using cars and predicting what might happen during investigations.

Geography

We have also explored 'What's Beneath Our Feet' learning about the layers of the Earth, volcanos, and how the Earth has changed over millions of years. The children were fascinated by seeing how the continents and tectonics plates fit together and move around to form mountains, or trenches.

RE

In RE, the children have explored the question: "Why do Christians call the day Jesus died 'Good Friday'?" We have discussed the Easter story, Christian beliefs about forgiveness and sacrifice, and why this day holds such importance for Christians around the world.

Design & Technology

Our DT project this term has been 'You've Been Framed!' The children have designed and made their own picture frames, learning how to measure accurately and how to cut wood safely using appropriate tools. They showed fantastic teamwork, patience and creativity as they assembled and decorated their finished frames.

Computing

In Computing, our focus has been Communication Online. We have explored how to stay safe online, how to communicate respectfully and responsibly, and how to write informal and formal emails. The children have been thoughtful and sensible as they develop essential digital age skills.

French

In French, we have been learning les saisons — the seasons. The children have been practicing pronunciation, joining in with songs, and using simple sentences to talk about weather and seasonal activities. Their confidence in speaking French continues to grow.

Music

This term in Music, we have explored pentatonic melodies and created our own compositions inspired by Chinese New Year. The children enjoyed experimenting with glockenspiels to create their own music.

PSHE

Our PSHE topic has been Healthy Me. We have discussed what is good or bad for our bodies, how to keep ourselves healthy, and why making positive choices matters. The children have shared thoughtful ideas about sleep, diet, exercise and wellbeing.

PE

In PE, the children have taken part in Tag Rugby and Hockey. They have been practicing teamwork, communication, ball control, and movement skills. Their confidence and resilience have grown as they play cooperatively and support one another.

We are so proud of the children's hard work, enthusiasm, and growing independence this term. They have approached every subject with curiosity and determination. We look forward to another wonderful term ahead!

Year 4

Learn the importance of caring for our environment

This term, our Year 4 pupils have been diving into an exciting new topic all about protecting and caring for the environment. Through class discussions, hands-on activities, and group projects, the children have explored why our planet needs tending and what small changes we can all make to help. They have been particularly enthusiastic about understanding how everyday actions—like recycling, switching off lights, and reducing waste—can make a big difference when everyone works together



As part of their learning, pupils investigated the impact of pollution, deforestation, and plastic waste on animals, habitats, and communities around the world. They were fascinated to discover how simple habits such as reusing materials, choosing eco-friendly products, or walking instead of driving can help protect wildlife and reduce our carbon footprint. The children also enjoyed watching short videos and reading stories that highlighted real-life environmental heroes who are working hard to make the world a cleaner, greener place



The highlight of the topic was the students' field trip to the Rain Forest, touring in small groups, solidifying what they learnt in the classroom, and through exploration of the school grounds. They designed posters, encouraging others in the school to be more environmentally responsible. Their ideas included allotment for a vegetable garden, wildflower patch, bird boxes, and growing wildflower patches to attract more pollinators. We are incredibly proud of their enthusiasm, creativity, and a developing sense of responsibility. It's clear that Year 4 is becoming true eco-champions, ready to inspire others to care for our world!



World Book Day Celebrations



Year 4 had a wonderful time celebrating World Book Day! The children arrived in an amazing variety of costumes, proudly dressed as characters from their favourite stories, and it was great to see so many of them joining in with such enthusiasm. Throughout the day, they enjoyed sharing the books they had brought from home and wrote thoughtful reviews about what made their chosen stories so enjoyable. Classrooms were filled with excitement as pupils read aloud, swapped books with friends, and discovered new authors and characters. It was a fantastic day celebrating reading, creativity, and the joy of stories



Year 5

What a fantastic term it has been in Year 5! We've packed in an impressive amount of learning, creativity and activity, and the children should feel incredibly proud of all they've achieved. Here are some highlights from our busy spring term:

Writing

In English, we completed our own **Greek quest narratives**, filled with mythical creatures, daring heroes and imaginative settings. More recently, we've begun working on our **space-themed non-chronological reports**, learning how to organise information clearly and use technical vocabulary to explain complex ideas.

Reading

Our class text this term has been *Rooftoppers* by Katherine Rundell. The children have enjoyed exploring its rich language, exciting adventure and themes of courage, resilience and friendship.

Maths

In Maths, we have tackled **fractions, decimals and percentages**, discovering how they link together and using these skills in a variety of real-life problem-solving activities.

Science

Our Science topic, **Earth and Space**, has taken us on a journey through the solar system. We have investigated the movement of planets, the phases of the Moon, and what causes day and night.

Geography

In Geography, we have been studying **Coasts**, learning about features such as beaches, headlands and bays, and how erosion and deposition shape our coastline over time.

PE

This term in PE we've developed our teamwork and strategic thinking through **hockey** and **tag rugby**, learning new skills and building confidence on the pitch.

DT

In Design and Technology, the children had great fun designing and building their own **cardboard pinball machines**, applying creativity, problem-solving and engineering skills.

Music

In Music, the children created their own **colour compositions**, inspired by the vibrant festival of Holi. They experimented with sound to express colour, energy and emotion.

Additional Achievements

A big well done to all the children who completed **Bikeability**, gaining valuable skills and confidence when riding their bikes safely. We're also incredibly proud of those who represented our school at the **hockey tournament** and at the **Rocksteady music concert**—wonderful ambassadors for Year 5!

Thank you for your continued support this term. We wish all children and their families a **restful and happy Easter break**. We look forward to seeing everyone refreshed and ready for an exciting summer term ahead! 🌸 😊



Year 6

We are delighted to share an overview of the fantastic learning that has taken place in Year 6 this half term. The children continue to impress us with their hard work, maturity and enthusiasm across all areas of the curriculum. Here is what we have been up to:

Reading

This half term we have been diving into *The London Eye Mystery* by Siobhan Dowd. *The story has sparked thoughtful discussion, particularly around the main character, whose autism means he experiences the world differently. The children have been fascinated by his unique way of thinking and how this helps him piece together clues. We are very much looking forward to solving the mystery after half term!*

Alongside our class text, we have continued developing a range of reading skills. The children have made excellent progress with inference questions, becoming more precise and confident in justifying their ideas with evidence. We are still working on improving accuracy with impression questions, but the children are becoming increasingly reflective and aware of how authors shape meaning

Writing

In Writing, the children began the half term by producing persuasive theme park leaflets. They used a wide range of persuasive devices—including the rule of three, superlatives, similes and metaphors—to entice readers and bring their theme parks to life.

We then moved on to a more formal style of persuasion. Drawing on our class text, the children wrote letters addressed to the London Eye, exposing flaws in its safety procedures and respectfully requesting improvements. This provided a wonderful opportunity to master both the passive voice and the subjunctive mood—key features for writing formally and with authority. The children approached this challenge with maturity and produced some truly impressive letters.

Maths

In Maths, we completed our unit on Fractions, Decimals and Percentages. The children have worked hard to learn key facts such as $\frac{1}{2} = 0.5 = 50\%$, *and they know how to calculate these equivalences if they ever forget. We spent a significant amount of time finding fractions and percentages of amounts—an area the children found challenging, but one in which they showed great resilience.*

.Towards the end of the half term, we moved on to Area, Perimeter and Volume. The children have been learning to apply formulas accurately, and their secure knowledge of times tables and unit conversions has been especially helpful. Their accuracy and confidence in working with shapes has grown noticeably.

Science

This half term we explored *classification*. *The children enjoyed a very hands-on approach: classifying sweets, using classification keys to identify animals, and even creating their own branching databases for invertebrates. They are now far more confident in recognizing the features that define different groups of animals.*

We have also discussed **why classification is important**, exploring how scientists use these systems to identify species, understand relationships between organisms, and monitor biodiversity in changing environments. The children were particularly interested in how classification helps us protect endangered species.

Humanities

In Humanities, we have been learning about *Our Blue Planet*. *We explored the different layers of the ocean and investigated the creatures that inhabit these unique environments. The children have enjoyed presenting their learning in a variety of formats, including posters, non-chronological reports and even speeches addressed to the Houses of Parliament about pollution and plastic waste. Their passion and sense of responsibility for protecting the oceans has been inspiring.*

PSHE & Personal Development

In PSHE, we have continued learning about what it means to be a good citizen. This half term, we focused particularly on **tolerance, respect and staying safe**. The children have spent time discussing body autonomy, consent and the importance of respecting other people's boundaries. These lessons helped the class understand how to communicate clearly, look after themselves and show respect in their relationships with others.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. The children have worked incredibly hard this half term, and we are very proud of their progress. We look forward to another exciting and productive half term ahead. Should you have any questions about our learning, please do get in touch.



Red Nose Day raised **£181.86**. Thank you everyone for your support.



Thank you to everyone, the preloved uniform sale made **£123.60**



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
88.6%	89.1%	83.7%	90.5%	88.5%	95%	95.1%	84.2%
Year 3		Year 4		Year 5		Year 6	
Benjamin	King-Smith	Binch	Pullman	Hughes	Morpurgo	Horowitz	Lewis
90.7%	94%	93.7%	96.8%	91.6%	95.2%	89.3%	95.7%



Attendance for The Whole School Year Is Currently 91.6%

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!

**2 Ahlberg from lower school
4 Pullman from upper school**



Johnson - Red is the winning house. - Congratulations!



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		

Reminders and Information for Parents

PE DAYS	
CLASS	DAYS
RECEPTION	TUESDAY
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 FRIDAY

REAch2 Academy Trust and The Palmer Academy

Mobile Phone Statement

This statement outlines the Trust's position on mobile phone use by children to ensure a safe, focused and respectful learning environment. It supports safeguarding, reduces distractions, and promotes positive social interaction.

Scope

This statement applies to all children enrolled at a REAch2 school. It does not apply to staff or visitors, who are expected to follow separate guidance on appropriate mobile phone use.

Statement

Mobile phones are not permitted to be used by children during the school day, including during lessons, break times and lunch periods in any REAch2 school. This includes smartwatches and other connected devices with communication capabilities.

Rationale

Safeguarding: Mobile phones can be used to access inappropriate content, take unauthorised photos or videos, or engage in cyberbullying.

Learning focus: Phones are a distraction and can disrupt lessons and concentration.

Social development: Encouraging face-to-face interaction support emotional and social growth.

Equity: Reduces pressure on families to provide expensive devices.

Implementation

Before and After School:

Children who need a phone for safety reasons (e.g. walking home alone), must hand their mobile phone into the school office upon arrival and collect it at the end of the day.

Phones must be switched off and stored securely by staff during school hours.

During School hours:

Children are not permitted to use or access mobile phones.

Any phone seen or heard during the school day will be confiscated and will need to be collected by a parent.

(Schools have the power to confiscate mobile phones or similar devices as a disciplinary penalty. The law protects staff from liability in any proceedings brought against them for any loss or damage to items they have confiscated as a sanction, providing they have acted lawfully. Staff should consider whether the confiscation is proportionate and consider any special circumstances relevant to the case)

Communication with Parents

This statement will be shared with parents/carers via the school's newsletter, the school website and when a child starts at the school.

Parents are asked to support the Trust's position by not contacting children directly during the school day.

Medical Exceptions

We recognise that there are exceptional circumstances where access to a mobile device is necessary for health and safety reasons.

Children with documented medical conditions that require the use of a mobile phone e.g. to monitor blood glucose levels, manage asthma, or communicate with healthcare providers, may be exempt from this policy. In such cases, parent or guardians should provide appropriate medical documentation and work with school staff to develop an agreed-upon plan.

Monitoring and Review

This statement will be reviewed every 2 years by the Trust's Head of IT and updated as necessary to reflect changes in technology, safeguarding guidance or Trust/school needs.

Diary Dates

13 th April	Children return to school
20 th April	Earth Week – Litter Picking
22 nd April	Earth Week – Walk to School Day Reception trip to Brooklands Museum
23 rd April	Y4 Swimming
24 th April	Earth Week
30 th April	Y4 Swimming

Parents reminders

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. Please speak to the school office if you need a reminder of how to order through Parent Pay.

