



**The Palmer Academy**  
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**Headteacher:** Mr D. Prendergast  
**Deputy Headteacher:** Miss L. Thomassen

Company Reg Number: 08643729  
VAT Reg. No. 200 191625

7<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers



I would like to wish you a Happy New Year! My New Years Resolution is to get fitter. I started this by making my legs sore on the hills and in the valleys of Wales. I just need to stop eating sugar and chocolate too...

Miss Druce has resolved to read more for pleasure. Miss Thomassen's is to be more active. So far, she's done 10,000 steps every day in January and has been walking every evening.



***What's yours? Come and tell us!***

### Priorities this Term

- ✓ Deliver engaging teaching to create a buzz and enjoyment about learning.
- ✓ Continue to develop our curriculum offer and expertise.
- ✓ Develop further opportunities and activities at lunchtimes.
- ✓ Build up the experiences, visits and trips which children receive.
- ✓ Reintroduce opportunities for parents and carers to volunteer in school.

### COVID-19

With the increase in infection rates, the government have [tightened guidance on measures, testing and isolation](#).

**Staffing:** as with all sectors and education providers, we are expecting a real stretch on staffing capacity this term (this is already being tested with 15% of the staff off). I would ask for your patience and understanding as staff absence will always impact on the learning and progress of pupils. We have no intention of closing classes or year groups unless it is the absolute last resort

**Attendance:** please follow the flow chart for further information and guidance. Your child must attend school if they are well enough and not showing symptoms.

**Remote education:** if your child is isolating and not unwell, the school will email remote education packs, a letter with links and details and information. Your child must continue their learning at home (for Rec-Year 2 this should be for 3 hours a day and for Y3-6 for 4 hours a day). Evidence of this learning should be done via our online apps or by emailing work to your child's year group email:

Year Group	Email
Nursery	<a href="mailto:Nursery@thepalmeracademy.com">Nursery@thepalmeracademy.com</a>
Reception	<a href="mailto:Reception@thepalmeracademy.com">Reception@thepalmeracademy.com</a>
Year 1	<a href="mailto:Year1@thepalmeracademy.com">Year1@thepalmeracademy.com</a>
Year 2	<a href="mailto:Year2@thepalmeracademy.com">Year2@thepalmeracademy.com</a>
Year 3	<a href="mailto:Year3@thepalmeracademy.com">Year3@thepalmeracademy.com</a>
Year 4	<a href="mailto:Year4@thepalmeracademy.com">Year4@thepalmeracademy.com</a>
Year 5	<a href="mailto:Year5@thepalmeracademy.com">Year5@thepalmeracademy.com</a>
Year 6	<a href="mailto:Year6@thepalmeracademy.com">Year6@thepalmeracademy.com</a>

### Homework and Reading

Our homework policy is available on the [school website](#). In summary we expect all children to complete the following:

#### Nursery

- Talking homework
- Word/Story of the week

#### Reception

- Reading – Children need to read their book at home with an adult. This will be recorded in their reading record.
- Phonics homework
- Word/Story of the week

#### Y1

- Phonics/Spelling on Spelling Shed
- MyMaths assignment
- Reading – Children need to read their book at home with an adult. This will be recorded in their reading record.

Y2 - 6

- Phonics/Spelling on Spelling Shed
- MyMaths assignment
- Times Table Rockstars Independent practise
- Reading – Children need to read their book at home with an adult. This will be recorded in their reading record.

All pupils must read every day at home. Miss Fernandez will send out further guidance and support for reading later this month. We will also be opening up opportunities for parents/carers to volunteer to read with children in school again once the current COVID-19 wave dies down.

**Parent and Carer Volunteers**

As I shared in the newsletter before Christmas, we intend to build up our parent volunteers in school once again. We will however wait for the current COVID-19 rates to decrease and for a change in guidance from the Department of Education before we do. It is intended that we will focus on three strands initially:

1. Turning the allotments into a Palmer Families Community Garden.
2. Reading with individuals in school.
3. Fundraising activities.

In due course, I will ask for volunteers for each strand. Please note that all adults coming into school and working with children will be required to go through stringent safer recruitment checks in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education. This will involve gathering references for your suitability to work with children and an Enhanced Disclose and Barring Service check ('police check').

We very much look forward to having our parents part and parcel of what we do and supporting all the children.

**Dates for your diaries**

**4<sup>th</sup> February:** NSPCC Number Day (number themed clothing and raising money for the NSPCC)

**Week commencing 7<sup>th</sup> February:** Children's Mental Health Week

**8<sup>th</sup> February:** Wellbeing & Mindfulness Activity (£2 donation towards activity and the mental health charity [MIND](#))

**Week commencing 14<sup>th</sup> February:** Random Acts of Kindness Week

**Finally**, the Chair of Governors (Zaki Moosa) will be judging a Tweeting competition this term (follow [@R2PalmerAcademy](#)). Staff will receive a prize for the '**buzziest tweet**' and the '**coolest retweet**'. If you want to help, then get liking, retweeting and tagging those famous people! All tweets will be in like with permissions and guidance on safe use of the internet.



Have a great 2022!

*D Prendergast*

Mr. D Prendergast  
Headteacher

