



# Headmaster's Bulletin For New Parents

9 July 2026

# Contents

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Key information</b>	<b>4</b>
What to expect each week from September	4
Keeping you updated every week	4
The 365 Fund	4
<b>School Community News</b>	<b>6</b>
Meet the Heads of Houses	6
<b>Reading School Events</b>	<b>8</b>
Dates for your diary 2026/27	8
External Events	8
Summer Coding Club	8
Brazilian Festival – Save the Date	9
<b>Incoming Year 7 Highlights</b>	<b>10</b>
Year 7 Summer Transition Day 2026	10
A warm welcome to the Class of 2033	15

# Introduction

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for joining us at our New Parent Welcome Evening on 17 and 18 June. It was a genuine privilege to meet so many of you and to welcome your sons into our community.

I hope you left the evening with a sense of what we believe Reading School is truly about. You have already given your son the most important foundation he will ever have. We consider it our privilege to build on it. This school will care for your son. That is our first job. Everything else is secondary.

As I shared during my address, I have five asks of you as we begin this journey together.

**Trust:** When your son gets something wrong, as he will, we face it together without making it the end of the world.

**Advocacy:** Speak well of this school and the mission we share: making society better, generation by generation.

**Finance:** Where circumstances allow, please consider supporting the 365 Fund. It funds the minibuses and coaches to sporting fixtures, the electives, clubs and co-curricular activities, and the resources and experiences government funding does not provide.

**Feedback:** Please write to me when we get something wrong, rather than the WhatsApp group, because I cannot fix what I cannot see.

**Family:** Above all, prioritise time around the dinner table, the family walk during the evening, the wisdom that sometimes simply listens. Your son needs you more in these next few years than he will ever let on.

Today, we hope your son has had an enjoyable and positive Year 7 Summer Transition Day and that it has given him an exciting first glimpse of life at Reading School. We appreciate that starting secondary school is a significant milestone for both pupils and their families, and we hope today's activities have helped him to feel welcomed, make new friends and begin to build confidence ahead of joining us in September.

Not wanting you, as parents, to miss out, we hope as many of you as possible can attend tomorrow's New Year 7 picnic.

We very much look forward to welcoming your son as he embarks on the next stage of his educational journey this coming September 2026.

Dr Chris Evans  
**Headmaster**

# Key information

## What to expect each week from September

### Keeping you updated every week

A Headmaster's Bulletin is shared with parents, students and staff each and every Friday. It contains a contents page (for easy reference), key information, School news and events and highlights of the week. We appreciate that parents are busy, therefore we prioritise convenience and consistency in communicating what parents need to know about life at Reading School.

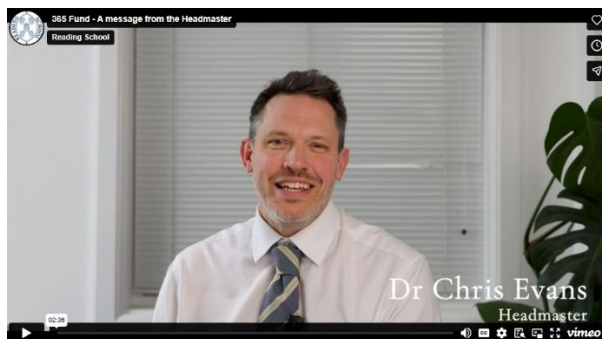
**Key Information** is essential information labelled by Year group. This could include exam timetables, end of term arrangements, safeguarding notices, urgent notices.

**School Community News** is nice-to-know news. Its purpose is to celebrate the life of the school and examples include student and team achievements, competition results, charity news and student-produced magazines.

**Highlights** is the closing section of the Bulletin – a visual, photo and video-led gallery that documents school that week. Examples include the breadth of school activity, from lessons, electives, House events, trips, sports, music, performances, visits, lectures, competitions and much more.

### The 365 Fund

Please click the thumbnail below to hear Dr Evans outlining the case for philanthropic support at Reading School and why community contributions are now more important than ever.



The 365 Fund helps sustain the co-curricular programme, electives, enrichment activities, events, and transport that go beyond what government funding covers. Like many schools across the country, we face significant financial pressures. Despite our strong reputation and exceptional outcomes, Reading School receives one of the lowest levels of per-pupil funding among selective schools nationally. Rising costs, increasing expectations and the ambition to provide the very best opportunities for our students mean that we must look beyond government funding alone to maintain and enhance the breadth of provision that defines a Reading School education.

If your family circumstances allow, parents and carers can make a contribution by [clicking this link](#), or scanning the QR Code:



A short step-by-step guide to donating can [be viewed by clicking here](#).

The strength of the 365 Fund lies in the collective support of our parent community. **Participation** matters. Every family who can support either through volunteering and/or financially supporting demonstrates a shared commitment to the opportunities that make a Reading School education exceptional. **Regular giving** enables us to plan with confidence well before the start of the academic year. It allows us to secure sports facilities, book coaches for fixtures, engage specialist coaches and practitioners to deliver electives and enrichment activities, enter regional and national competitions, and confirm inspiring speakers for our lecture programme. These commitments often need to be made months in advance, which is why we ask parents to consider a gift of just £1 a day, given around £30 per month or £365 annually. Individually, it is a modest contribution; collectively, it provides the certainty needed to ensure every student continues to benefit from the breadth of opportunities that define a Reading School education.

**Click the thumbnail below to watch a video from a current parent (2mins 47secs)**



# School Community News

## Meet the Heads of Houses

### County House



My name is Mrs Duxbury. I am thrilled to be Head of County House. Houses are a fantastic way to find your community and I hope you will quickly feel at home at Reading School.

As well as championing our wonderful house system, I'm also an English teacher. I never get bored of textual analysis! It's a superpower and I'm hoping I'll have the privilege of sharing my passion for all things Literature with many of you in lessons. In our House I will support and challenge you to be courageous. If we win, that's great (and we will celebrate victoriously) but my focus for us will always be to work as a team, put in all of our effort and to be brave.

### East House

My name is Ms Rosser-Evans and I am Head of East. I am extremely proud to have this role and be able to work with such fantastic students every day. I love witnessing East House students flourish, not only in the spirited competitions in the House Cup but also in the day-to-day experiences of school. Our house is a supportive environment where you will be able to thrive, make contributions and be proud to be part of the community. I can normally be found in a lab, where I also teach Chemistry and we get to learn things to help us understand the world around us. You may also find me in a canoe from time to time, as I'm lucky enough to get to take students out paddling on the river for an elective every week.

I am excited to get to know the new members of East House in September and find out all about what things they enjoy and what hobbies they have.



### Laud House



My name is Miss Batty and I am brand new to the role of Head of Laud House. Having started in April this year, I am really looking forward to all the adventures and celebrations that I am sure Laud House will experience over the coming years. The community that the students have built within Laud House is incredible - the commitment, the spirit, and the pride they take in all House events, and indeed across the school, are fantastic.

As a massive nerd, it probably makes sense that I am also a Chemistry teacher, often found going off on random tangents about how Taylor Swift and energy changes in reactions really are not that different! I am a keen runner, albeit a slow one, as well as a huge football fan.

As a third-generation supporter of the mighty Brentford Bees, I have, for many years, experienced the highs and lows of English football, from non-league to the Premier League. I truly hope that, just as this House has made me feel, all incoming year 7s, and indeed everyone who is part of Laud House, feels that it is their home away from home, where people look out for one another.

## School House

My name is Mr Betteridge and I am a keen lover of all things Maths! Those who I teach will most likely describe me as quirky and excited, especially when I am able to share some of the more beautiful pieces in Maths. Outside of the classroom, I have a keen spirit for life and fun and have made it my mission to instil healthy competition into School House. I know we can't always be the best, but we can be the best at giving 100% and that is what I love to see. I also manage the school's tennis teams (trips to South Africa included!) and often find myself looking for areas to engage with the students outside of my comfort zone!



I am the Head of School House, and I can't wait to welcome you and your family into our community, we will have a great time.

## West House



I'm Mrs Scott, Head of West, biology teacher and self-proclaimed nature nerd. I joined the Reading School community in 2025, and I've been having a fantastic time teaching science and working with our incredible young people. When I'm not in the lab with a Bunsen burner or a photosynthesis experiment on the go, you'll find me in the greenhouse tending to the plants and veggies I've been growing with my elective class this year.

Reading School is a special place. With a strong sense of community, and with each classroom representing a team working towards success, we support each other on this journey. I'm looking forward to welcoming you to our house and learning more about your interests.

# Reading School Events

## Dates for your diary 2026/27

- **Thursday 3 September** – Michaelmas Term begins
- **Saturday 5 September** – Annual Rugby Festival: Staff & Old Redingensians vs Leavers
- **Friday 16 October** – Commemoration Day 2026
- **Monday 19 October** – Reading Week
- **Monday 26 October** – Half Term
- **Sunday 22 November** – House Music Competition at the Hexagon
- **Monday 7 December** – Carol Service
- **Wednesday 16 December** – Michaelmas Term ends

## External Events

### Summer Coding Club



FunTech will once again be returning to Reading School to deliver their summer technology camps, giving children aged 7 to 17 the chance to code, create and build exciting digital projects.

With over 30 years' experience, FunTech makes coding fun and purposeful, helping children design games, code robots and create digital worlds while developing real coding skills in small classes. From Minecraft and Roblox to Python, Java and AI, each course turns children's interests into valuable technical skills.

FunTech has also launched its new **AI Vibe Coding** course for students aged 13+, helping them use AI to turn ambitious ideas into impressive coding projects.

For families balancing summer plans, FunTech also offers:

### Flexi Camps

Designed for hybrid-working families, Flexi Camps keep the full week experience while allowing children to attend from the centre or home on different days.

### Camp Swap

Families can secure the Early Bird rate now and change the camp date, location or course up to two weeks before the camp start date.

[Explore courses and book here](#) - £100 off using code: 26REA100

## Brazilian Festival – Save the Date



**Date:** Saturday 18 July

**Time:** 11.00am – 17.00pm

**Venue:** Reading School Refectory

**Tickets:** Free Entry

Enjoy authentic Brazilian food, live music, traditional dancing, family entertainment, bingo, games and much more.

# Incoming Year 7 Highlights

Join the Reading School community online and never miss a moment.



**Facebook:** ReadingSchoolOfficial **Instagram:** @reading\_sch **LinkedIn:** school/reading-school

## Year 7 Summer Transition Day 2026

Today, the boys joining us in September spent their first full day at Reading School, and the photographs below capture the moment a room of strangers started turning into a year group.



The day was built around familiarisation, not formality. New Year 7s moved through their houses [County, East, Laud, School and West], taking on the paper aeroplane challenge, Classmate Bingo and a guided walk of the site, then putting their questions to current Year 7s and prefects who remember exactly what the first week feels like.





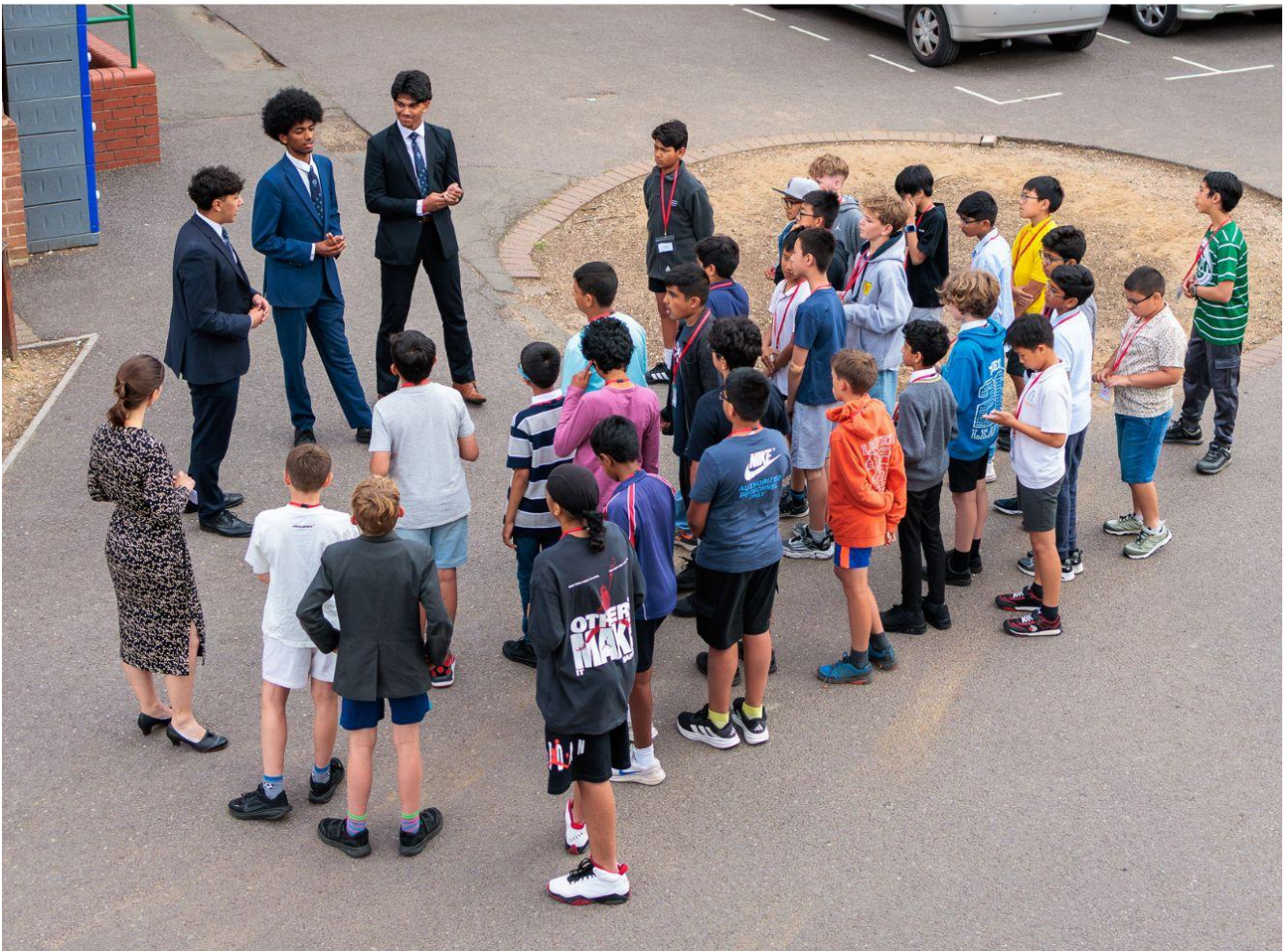


Every student found a familiar face, a route to the LRC and a House to call their own. September will feel a good deal less daunting for it.



A warm welcome to the Class of 2033







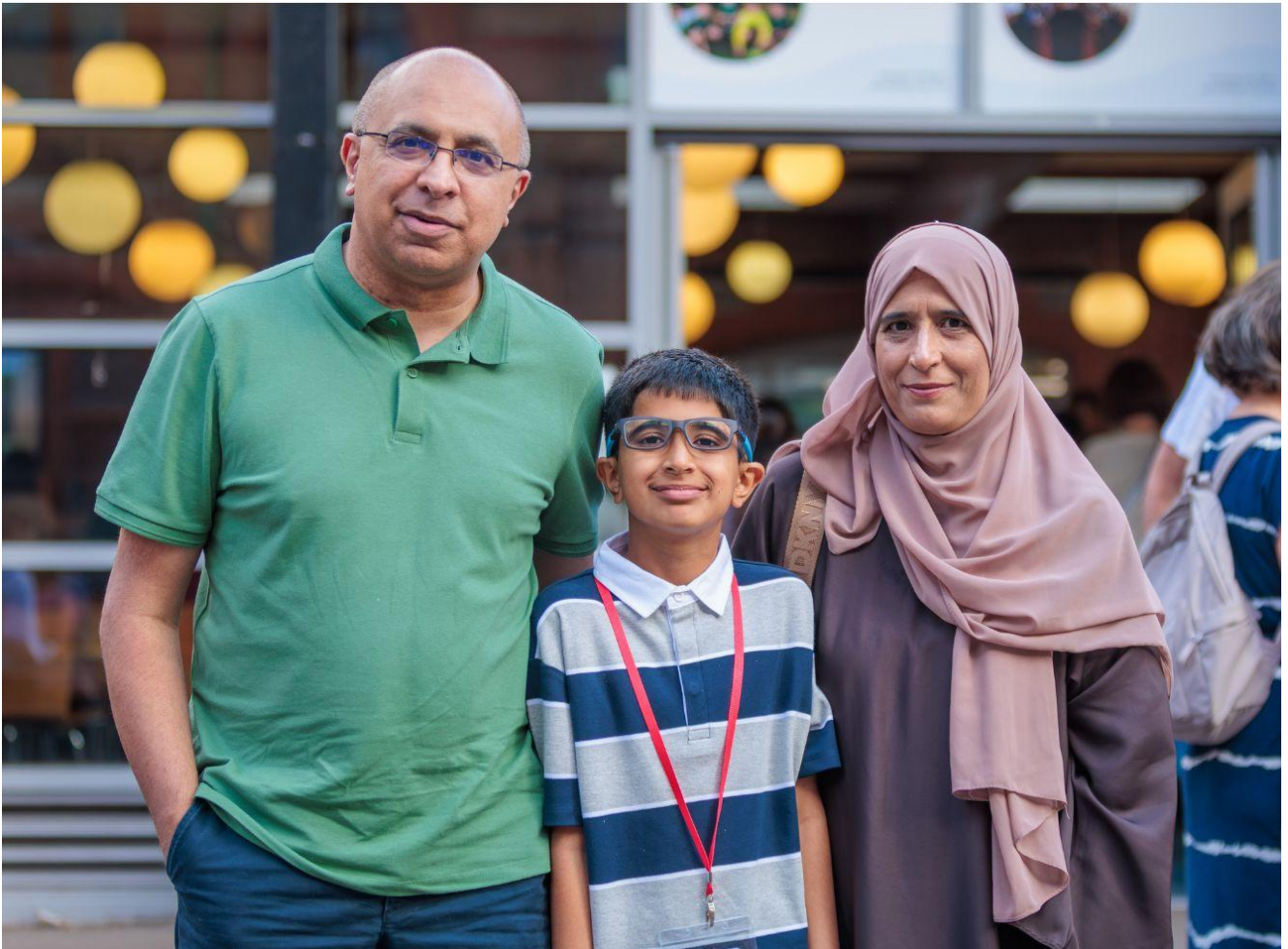


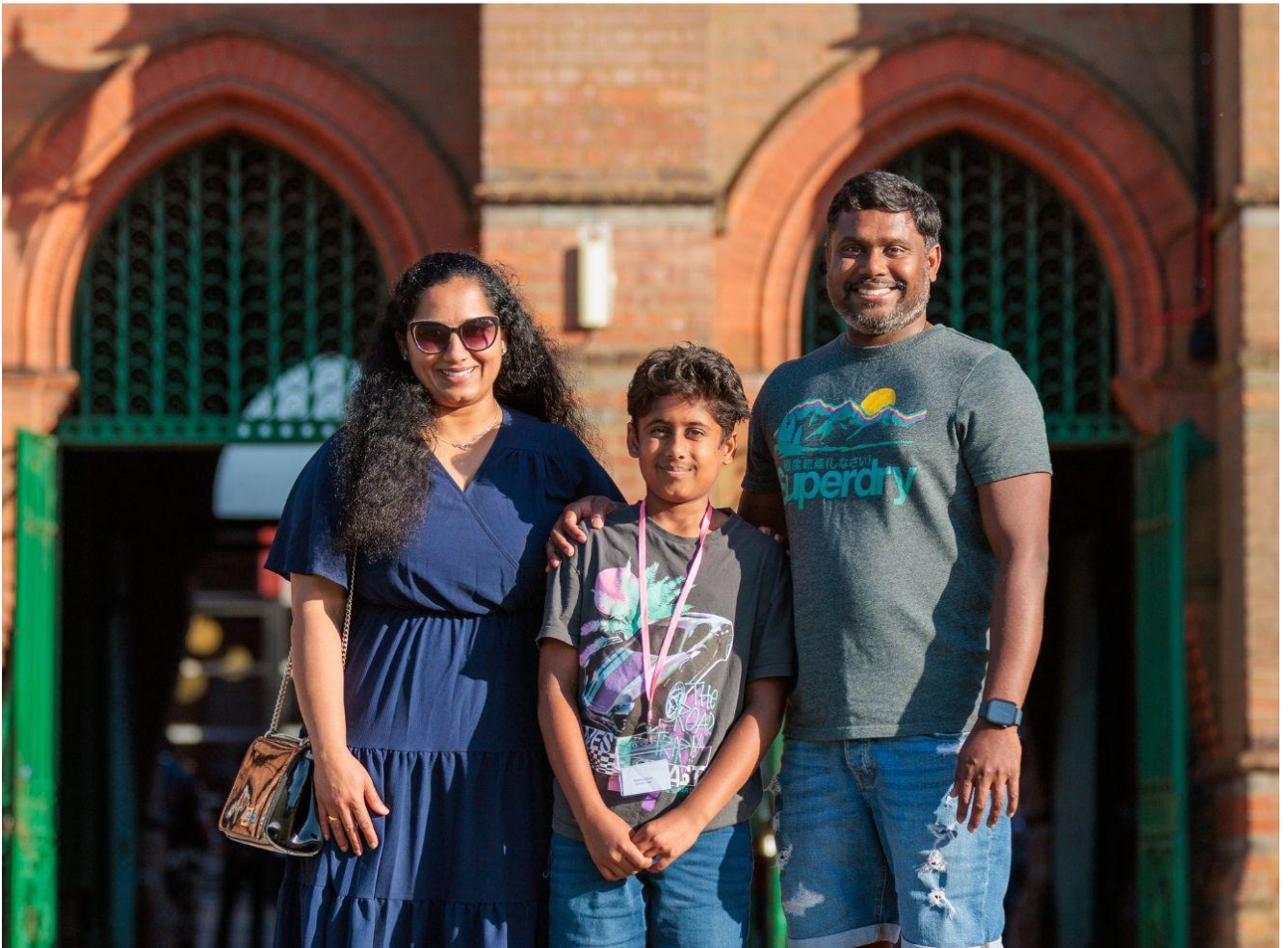




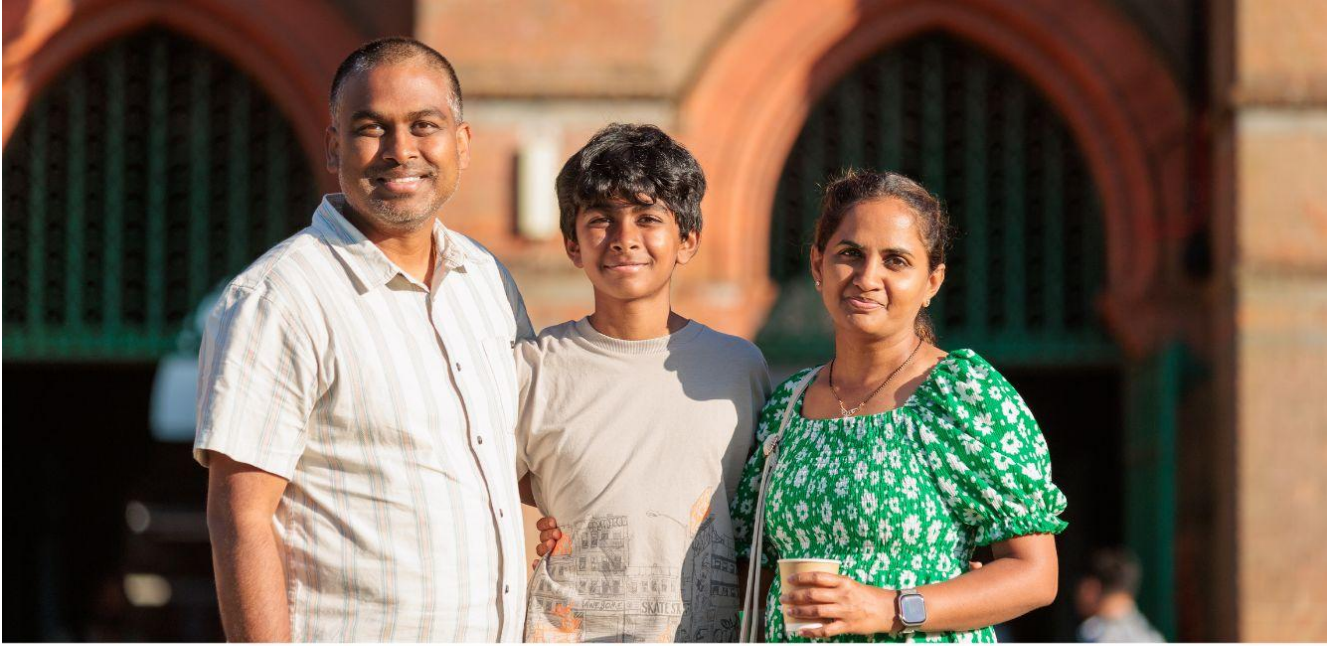


















Feedback is important to us and if you have any positive news, comments or suggestions, please contact the Community Relations Office by emailing [communityrelations@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:communityrelations@reading-school.co.uk)