Civitas Academy Bulletin

06/09/18



**Welcome from Mr Wieder**

Welcome back to the new school year – I hope you’ve had a restful and enjoyable summer break. It was great to see everyone at school this morning, on time and ready to learn. The weekly bulletin will be sent to families via email, displayed on the school notice board and uploaded to the school website every Monday throughout the year. The next edition will be sent out on Monday 17th September.

**Attendance**

Regular and punctual attendance at school is key to both academic and social development, which in turn will improve the life chances of children and young people.

**What is good attendance?**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Attendance** | **Description** | **Approx. days lost per year** | **Approx. weeks lost per year** |
| **99-100%** | Excellent | 0-4 | Less than 1 |
| **97-98%** | Good | 5-9 | 1-2 |
| **96%** | Satisfactory | 10-13 | 2-3 |
| **90-95%** | Unsatisfactory | 14-18 | 3-4 |
| **Below 90%** | Persistent Absence | More than 19 | More than 4 |

Please continue to support your child’s learning by helping them get to school on time and every day.

**New Staff**

I would like to welcome all the new staff members to the school community. This September the following teachers have started at Civitas: Mrs Carey (Y1), Mrs Brooks (Y2), Miss Frain (Y3) and Miss Vaal (P.E. and cover teacher).

**Meet the Teacher (Y1, Y2 and Y3)**

There will be an opportunity to meet your child’s new teacher and find out what they will be learning this term on Thursday 13th September at 3:30pm. For anyone unable to make this, we will be updating the class page on the website afterwards with the information shared.

**School Management Information System**

A massive advantage of being a Reach2 school is their ability to be able to procure the best possible deals in a range of areas; this means that we can secure greater value for money. As a result, over the summer the school migrated to a new management information system. We are still having some teething issues with the new systems, but hope to have these rectified as soon as possible.

**INSET Days**

Over the last few days, staff having been busy preparing for the new academic year. We also had a very successful staff-training day with our other Reading schools about how we can create a culture of outstanding learning behaviour across the schools. The behaviour of the children has always been a strength of the school and what we are looking to do is to build upon these strong foundations. As part of this process, we commissioned an external review with Pivotal Education to ensure that we are following all of the best possible practice. We are currently in the process of rewriting our policy. We have already implemented some changes; please find a summary below:

**The school now has 3 rules for behaviour:**

* be ready
* be respectful
* be safe

This will provide a simple, clear and consistent approach to behaviour for the school, its pupils, parents and staff. You will see displays relating to these rules around the school.

Children are learning behaviour and mirroring it from the moment they walk into the school. Underpinning everything is the consistent approach in adult behaviour. We now have 5 pillars to adult behaviour for adults in our school and community:

* Consistent, calm adult behaviour
* First attention for best conduct (recognising and praising good behaviour)
* Relentless routines (to help our pupils feel supported and safe)
* Scripting difficult interventions (all pupils receive the same message using the same words and structure)
* A restorative follow up

This last pillar is very important. The most effective way to change behaviour is to help the individual see how they can change, how they can be better.

**Some of the ways we will recognise positive behaviour are:** praising and thanking, names on the recognition board, notes or postcards delivered to the pupil, notes, conversations and phone calls to you to share the success, our Friday celebration assembly as well as our termly awards. Please note that we will no longer be using Class Dojo.

We welcome any feedback from parents and carers about how the changes are progressing. These can be voiced in our termly forums or any other time that is appropriate.

**Dinner Money**

As mentioned previously, the infant free school meal scheme only applies up to the end of Y2. Children in Y3 upwards, unless entitled to free school meals will have to pay for them or bring a packed lunch. These payments will need to be made on Tucasi.

**Before/ After School Club**

This will begin on Monday 10th September. Bookings are now open on Tucasi. This half-term, we are initiating a trial where the after school club will remain open until 5:30pm on Monday to Thursday. Closing time on Friday will remain at 5pm. In mid-October, we will evaluate how this trial has went and make a final decision about the closing time for the rest of the year. During the trial period, there will be no increase in the cost of the provision. However if the decision was to be made to close at 5:30pm permanently, then it is likely that we would need to increase the cost or offer a tiered approach according to the collection time.

**P.E. Update from Miss Vaal**

This year all children in Years 1,2 and 3 will receive two PE lessons, one 30 minute lesson and one 90 minute lesson. Children in reception classes will receive two 1 hour PE lessons. These lessons will be linked to different sports with an aim to eventually play matches against other local schools. The lessons will begin from Monday 10th September.

Children are expected to wear the correct PE kit for lessons:

**Indoor Kit**

House coloured t-shirt with the **school logo** on it. If you haven’t got a house t-shirt then your child should wear a round neck white t-shirt.

**Black** shorts

No tights

No jewellery (ear rings, bracelets, head bands, necklaces, hair clips, rings, watches) is to be worn as it can lead to injuries to themselves and to others.

Children are allowed to do indoor PE in their bare feet; this will be expected in indoor gymnastic lessons.

**Outdoor Kit**

House coloured t-shirt with the **school logo** on it. If you haven’t got a house t-shirt then your child should wear a round neck white t-shirt.

**Black** jumper

**Black** shorts or **Black** jogging bottoms

Trainers

No jewellery

No tights

The school does not sell any school uniform on site. To buy any items you will have to buy them at Stevensons. Your items can be purchased in store (11 Market Pl, Reading RG1 2EG), online (www.stevensons.co.uk) or over the phone (0118 959 6462).

This year we will continue running extra-curricular clubs for the children. A letter will be going home in due course.

If you have any questions regarding PE or clubs, please speak to me.

**P.E. Timetable**

Elmer Class (Reception) will have P.E. on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Paddington Class (Reception) will have P.E. on Monday and Tuesday.

Year 1 classes will have P.E. on Monday and Tuesday.

Year 2 classes will have P.E on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Year 3 classes will have P.E. on Monday and Wednesday.

**Key Dates**

We are currently finalising our events and dates list for the year. These will be published shortly.