

Autumn Bulletin – Friday 16th December 2022 – Message from Mrs Rapley – Assistant Headteacher (Pastoral, People & Culture) and Science Lead.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Science has always been one of my passions as I love to question everything! Since I was a young child, I have asked lots of questions and always wanted to know how things worked, and why. Science is full of enquiry and exploration so ticks many boxes. Naturally, children want to know more about the world they live in; it's important that we allow opportunities for exploration to enable the Civitas children to make sense of the world around them. What better way than scientifically?! It's no coincidence that I went on to study Science at University and graduated with a degree in Environmental Biology.

Here at Civitas, Science is applied and connected through discreet teaching and embedded use of age-appropriate language and observations. Children use high level vocabulary in context to ensure they are confidently and accurately able to articulate their understanding of new and previous topics and why and how things work and what happens in the environment. As they move further through the school, they learn to apply their knowledge to their understanding of science, including mathematical knowledge collecting, presenting and analysing data. Throughout the development and application of Working Scientifically, our children are presented opportunities to persevere, observe, challenge and explore the community and world around them. Through the study of influential scientists, children are challenged to learn from previous discoveries and apply their problem solving, determination, empathy and understanding to further their enquiry of how the world works, grows and changes over time.

*From a pastoral perspective, please be aware that next **Tuesday 20th** is Wellbeing Day where children can attend in non-school uniform. Our Inside Out theme for the day will be 'Share More' focusing on connection, teamwork and communication. We would like to invite all our families to continue with this theme - at home - over the holidays. Why not create a 2023 family bucket list (we've included some ideas below to get you started), that will give your family a chance to get excited about adventures that are big and small while creating great memories that last a lifetime?*

Have a Family Game Night Marathon

Stay in for the evening, get cosy in your jammies and have a game night marathon. Different games you could play, completely free of charge, include Charades, Who am I? and Hangman. You can make it even more fun by adding prizes for the winner, like store like gift cards, sweet treats or extra TV time.

Bake Cookies

Baking cookies with kids can get a little messy, but who doesn't like a home filled with smiling faces and the smells of fresh-baked cookies? It doesn't matter whether it's snickerdoodles, oatmeal raisin or simple chocolate chips, spend an entire day just baking. The one who does the most work gets to lick the spoon!

Make Fresh Squeezed Lemonade

This family-friendly activity goes hand-in-hand with your lemonade stand. So, instead of using a standard lemonade mix, make some fresh squeezed juice of your own. Squeezing your own lemonade allows you to add a bit of your own flair into the mix. Go wild and let the inner mixologist come out and play! Four easy homemade lemonade recipes can be found [here](#).

Create an Herb Garden

Gardening can be a lot of fun and growing your own herbs is a great way to promote a healthy lifestyle and teach the same to your kids. They will definitely have a blast digging in the soil and planting seeds, growing seedlings and watering them. You don't need a lot of space and the vessel can be anything from a wooden crate to a mason jar to an old tire.



Farewell 😊 – Occasionally when we come to the end of a term, we sometimes need to say a sad goodbye to a member of our team. Our Assistant Head and Key Stage 1 Lead, Miss Eleanor Boman, is moving out of the Reading area. We are of course delighted for Miss Boman and her family as well as feeling a little sad for all of us that Miss Boman will be leaving Civitas. In the last few years that Miss Boman has been with us, she has worked extremely hard to ensure our curriculum supports the needs of the children we serve and that they will grow up to be great citizens wanting to make the world a better place. We all wish you the very best for this next exciting chapter!
Salima Ducker – Executive Headteacher

On Tuesday 20th December I shall be sending out a short letter with a few updates and reminders and will also be sharing our staffing structure and informing you of new staff starting from January 2023!

Celebrations and Achievements

Reception:		
Elmer	Pradwyut	For settling into his new class and growing in confidence.
Paddington	Estelle	For writing a lovely Christmas wish list independently
Gruffalo:	Matei	For trying his best in all areas of learning this term.
Pinocchio:	Caryn	For being more settled and happy to be at school.
BFG:	Eudora	For always participating and answering questions
Matilda:	Isla	For really focusing on her behaviour and being ready, respectful and safe.
Rosen	Chandrika	Showing dedication and commitment to learning to count in Spanish
Kinney	Layla	Always being polite and well-mannered and being a great role model to her class
Richards	Baboucarr	For contributing more to classroom discussions
Murphy	Rose	For being confident when contributing to class discussions
Zephaniah	Julius	For his conscientious approach to his work and consistently wanting to improve further
Avery	Hriday	For an improved attitude towards his learning
Draper	Azmaan	For making outstanding progress in maths. Azmaan has worked incredibly hard in our fraction's unit. Well done!
Lewis	Eesa	For having a great attitude to learning and really working hard in their work.

Class	Sports star of the week
Elmer	Revansh
Paddington	Filip
Gruffalo	Omari
Pinocchio	Leya
BFG	Amina
Matilda	Benyamin
Kinney	Wajiha
Rosen	Thibigka
Richards	Mason
Murphy	Dhairya
Zephaniah	Natalie
Avery	Ashir
Draper	Eva
Lewis	Jude

Attendance – Our overall school target for the year is 97% - let's work together to be in school every day. Each week we will share attendance for each Year group for that week.

Year Group	31/10	7/11	14/11	21/11	28/11	05/12	12/12
Reception	90.0%	94.6%	80.4%	85.0%	91.3%	94.1%	82.1%
Year 1	92.0%	95.4%	85.5%	86.0%	91.1%	87.5%	88.1%
Year 2	91.4%	95.1%	88.5%	85.9%	93.9%	93.1%	76.7%
Year 3	96.3%	97.3%	96.1%	91.6%	94.9%	87.1%	88.5%
Year 4	94.1%	97.9%	94.6%	96.1%	96.3%	92.1%	88.7%
Year 5	98.3%	96.5%	93.2%	91.5%	95.5%	90.2%	86.4%
Year 6	88.1%	88.7%	92.7%	94.0%	95.4%	90.9%	83.4%

What have we been learning this week?

Reception

This week in Literacy, we read 'Stick Man' written by Julia Donaldson. Stick Man goes on an adventure across the seasons as he runs from a playful dog, gets thrown in a river, escapes from a swan's nest and even ends up on top of a fire. Luckily Santa brings him back to his lovely stick family just in time for Christmas. The children really enjoyed this story, and we have been writing about Stick Man and his adventures in our morning books. The children have been retelling the story so both Elmer and Paddington created their own story map. We have been singing Christmas songs and the children have been dressing up in the role play area as stars, angels, elves and as lots of other Christmas characters or animals. They had so much fun! We made Christmas cards in the Art area and have been using our cutting skills to cut out shapes to create Christmas pictures. In Maths this week we revisited and extended concepts already taught. We concentrated on time, understanding night and day. We learned about 'yesterday', 'today' and 'tomorrow'. We also looked at squares and rectangles again. We talked about their sides and corners, but also discussed the difference between them.

It was lovely to see so many recipes coming in already, as we will use them to create a Community Recipe Book for our project outcome. Thank you all for this. If you haven't done so yet, please make sure you do so asap.

Key Stage 1

Year 1: In English this week, we have been revisiting capital letters and full stops. We have used them in our writing to describe a winter picture. We have also used adjectives to write a 'shape poem'. In Maths, we have consolidated our learning from this term. We completed activities on shape and patterns, added and subtracted using part whole models and bar models. In history, we designed our own toy, based on what we have learned about old and new toys and how they are made. We each had the opportunity to create a work of art on the iPad, using the tools that we explored this term.

Well done to all the Year 1 children for an amazing Year 1 performance! Thank you to all parents and carers for your support.

Year 2: This week in English the children have been planning their vlogs on Human rights. The children have been working in groups for their vlogs and they will record these vlogs on Friday. In maths this week the children have finished their shape unit and have been looking at vertices and edges of shapes. The children have really enjoyed this unit and have been able to recognise 3D shapes in the classroom. In whole class reading the children have finished their book 'Georges Marvelous Medicine'. The children have really enjoyed this book and have formed lots of discussion on the characters and what might happen to Grandma if she has round 5 of the medicine.

The children also had their parents in for their Christmas performance. The children have really enjoyed learning their songs and practicing their lines. Thank you to those parents who were able to attend. We hope you have a lovely half term with your friends and family!

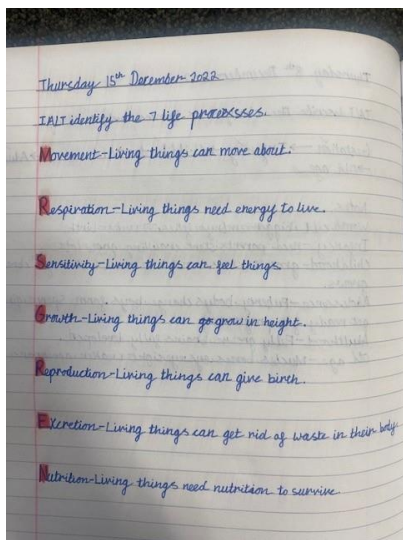
Key Stage 2

Year 3: This week in English the children have continued reading 'How to wash a woolly mammoth', they have created their own instructions on how to wash an animal of their choice. They have also created instructions on how to do tasks at home such as making a cup of tea. In maths this week the children have revisited multiplication as recap lessons to strengthen the children's knowledge and understanding in this area. They have spent time looking at multiples of 5 and 10 and looking at comparisons in these multiples. They have used grouping and bar models to help them work out how many multiples of 5 and 10 are in a number. In Global learning the children looked at different types of houses from the stone age. They looked at similarities and differences between the houses and their current homes. In Whole class reading the children have started their new book 'Romans on the Rampage' They have predicted what they think the book will be about based on the blurb and illustrations. The children also had their parents in for an assembly showcasing what we have learnt during our topic sustainable development. The theme was water and the children researched facts about water to share with the parents. Thank you to those of you who were able to attend, we hope you all enjoyed it as much as the children did.

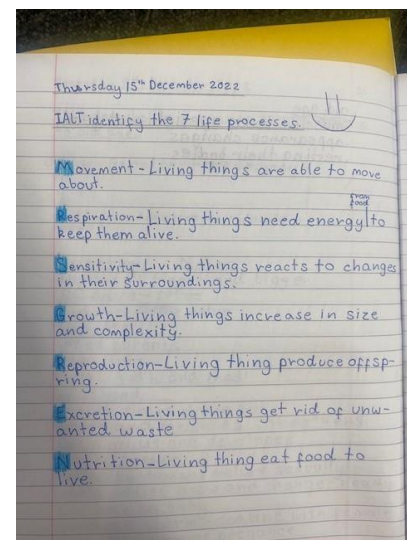


Year 4: This week, the children have been working hard in all lessons. We started the week with maths and exploring our 11-and 12-times tables. We played lots of games and had some great discussions around the reasoning behind the times tables. For example, 11×6 is the same as 6×11 . 11×6 is 6 groups of 11 or 11 groups of 6. It was fantastic to see the children using their maths knowledge to explain and articulate this to each other. In English, we research the impact Julius Caesar and wrote a biography. We continued to publish our work for display: we made Roman posters, wrote diary entries and published our narrative from our English lessons! In art, we used 3-D shapes to show shadows and where the light would be touching the shapes. We applied our knowledge of cross-hatching to help create a shadow effect. We finished our week by spending some time in EYFS reading Christmas books.

Year 5: In our English this week we put the finishing touches to our public service announcements on climate change. We have been so impressed with the standard and cannot wait to share them with you. Please look out for the email requesting special permission! In maths we have completed our unit on fractions and have been adding and subtracting mixed fractions; next week we have the end of unit assessment. In history we enjoyed being curators, selecting our three favourite Benin artefacts to share with visitors to the 'museum.' MRS GREN paid us a visit in science; we learnt about the seven life processes – Movement, Respiration, Sensitivity, Growth, Reproduction, Excretion and Nutrition. Focusing on these life processes helped us work out whether certain objects were living or non-living.



	M	R	S	G	R	E	N	Living?
Tree	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Stone	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓
Dog	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Post box	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓
Fish	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Car	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓



Year 6: This week year 6 finished off writing their podcast scripts about the Congo Basin. We learnt how to write informally to engage our listeners, and we learnt how to use formal language features to inform our listeners. We had lots of fun recording them and the children were very professional and spoke passionately about the issues the Congo is facing. In maths we concluded our fractions unit. We learnt how to find fractions of an amount and we completed our fractions end of unit check. All of year 6 have worked incredibly hard this term and we are so proud of them. Keep up the hard work year 6!

Civitas LGB



Are you interested in becoming a Parent Governor?

Want to find out more about the role, and meet some of our governors?

On Monday 9th January – 9:00 – 9:30 we are hosting a drop in for you to meet our governors and find out more about what this role entails!

News items from this week

Dates for the Diary

Wednesday 4 th January 2023	INSET day – staff training
Thursday 5 th January 2023	All children return to school – 8:40am – gates close at 8:55am sharp!
Monday 9 th January 2023	9:00-9:30 – Meet our governors and find out about becoming a parent governor
w/c 9 th January 2023	Year 6 swimming starts
Week of 16 th January	Year group parent drop ins – day and time to be confirmed
Week of 16 th January	Energy Saving Week
w/c 16 th January 2023	Year 5 and 6 Bikeability
Thursday 19 th January	Census Day
Week 23 rd January	Clubs to begin
Monday 24 th January	Fencing workshop – details to follow
Wednesday 26 th January	Athlete Visit – Team Superschools

Communication to the school:

Absence reporting still needs to be done via office@civitasacademy.co.uk

If you have a query and would like to contact your child's class teacher, please see the relevant emails below.

Reception: earlyyears@civitasacademy.co.uk

Year 1: year1@civitasacademy.co.uk

Year 2: year2@civitasacademy.co.uk

Year 3: year3@civitasacademy.co.uk

Year 4: year4@civitasacademy.co.uk

Year 5: year5@civitasacademy.co.uk

Year 6: year6@civitasacademy.co.uk