

Civitas Academy Bulletin

04/12/20



Friday 11th December: Christmas Jumper Day. Donations via Tucasi.

Update from Mr Wieder

This week we held our first Civitas Engagement Group meeting on Wednesday. I started off by giving the rationale behind the meeting- to provide updates from the school; an opportunity for families to provide feedback and ask questions; how parents could support the school in the current circumstances. Abby Stevens, the Chair of Governors at Civitas Academy, also attended the meeting. I will attach the Powerpoint used during the presentation with the email edition of the bulletin.

I started off the meeting to give context of things that we did prior to COVID and how this group could work factoring in some of the past work that went on previously. I then shared the three main priorities that we have been working on this term:

- 1) Increasing rates of attendance at the school.
- 2) Reading and phonics
- 3) Implementing our Catch Up strategy to cover any missed learning during the lockdown period earlier this year.

During the feedback part of the meeting, a large part was spent discussing the ongoing parking issues around the school and the fact that some families continue to park illegally, and some exceed the 20 mile per hour limit. As you are all aware, parking wardens are now patrolling the area regularly as a result of this illegal parking which causes additional danger for pedestrians. One option that I raised as a potential option to eliminate this is to designate Great Knollys Street as a 'School Street.' This is a recent initiative by Reading that some other schools are pursuing. What this means in essence is that during drop off and pick up, Great Knollys Street will be closed for drivers with the exception of drivers registered as disabled and local residents. If this process was chosen as a way forward, then both the school community and local residents would need to be consulted formally. Details about the scheme can be found on the link below:

<https://www.reading.gov.uk/transport/travel-to-school/school-streets/school-streets-guidance/>

In order to gather initial thoughts about this, I have attached a quick questionnaire on the link below. I will feedback the response to the survey in next week's bulletin.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=EGorfMwEtEi30d9QFOXNLCCcSNhcvLIHveaIAppgTMtUNkxZTKyZWi_dYSUpVR04yVlpVUE1VUEIWRS4u

Another item that was brought up was concern that not all families are following the Tier 2 rules outside of school and the impact that this may have potentially on school. I explained that we all have a duty of care to each other and to follow the most up to date guidance from the government.

It was also discussed about how parents could stay connected as a community and Abby Stevens shared that there is a parents Facebook page for the school. In order to join you need to answer a set of questions to ensure you are a parent at the school. To access the group, please search for 'Civitas Academy Parent's Club on Facebook.

Next it was discussed about how parents could support the school and I reiterated the best way possible to support at this time is to refer the school to friends, write positive reviews and make the wider community aware of us. This is particularly important this year where we are unable to offer the usual on site visits for prospective families joining Reception next year. Schools get funded on a per pupil basis and if a school is not full (our capacity is 60 per year group), this can have a

significant impact on the school budget. For example, our current capacity is 360 pupils and we currently have 292 pupils on roll. The school gets funded approximately £4,000 per pupil each year. Therefore, if these 68 spaces had been filled by the October census day, the school would have had approximately a further £272,000 in its budget.

We have set up a dedicated page on the school website for the Reception Intake in 2021, but the school would be extremely grateful for any families that could put positive words out there for anyone who is looking for next year. Also, the school would appreciate if any parents could write positive Google reviews to support prospective new families looking for schools for next year. As you are probably aware, the deadline for completing applications for next year is the 15th January 2021.

From email correspondence, I received from parents unable to make the meeting, I can confirm the following:

- 1) The school has applied for 50 Vodafone data SIM cards which are due to arrive in January. This is for families that do not have access to the internet in the event of any future lockdown/ bubble closures.
- 2) The school has also successfully applied for additional laptops under one of the government grants that when ready can be loaned out to families without a computer in the event of a future lockdown/ bubble closure.
- 3) The school has purchased text bundles from our management information system- Arbor that can be used in the event of urgent information being communicated.
- 4) There is a weekly 'Star of the Week' and there is a virtual assembly being held each week to celebrate the child chosen for their efforts that particular week.

Feedback from the meeting was positive and the next meeting will take place in Spring term. I would like to thank all families that attended.

Christmas Cards

Please note we will be quarantining Christmas cards that come into school for 72 hours before they are handed out. Please could children avoid licking down the envelopes and leave the flap open or use tape instead. Therefore, the latest date for Christmas cards to be handed out is **Tuesday 15th December**.

Message from Go Beanies

Breakfast and After-school Club – now taking bookings for the New Year

We are pleased to announce that we have been able to open up some new places at the breakfast and after-school club for parents and carers who don't currently use the club. Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis so if you would like to make a booking for your child the quickest way to do so is by texting 07710566727 or emailing (info@gobeanies.org) **'More information please'** followed by the name of your child/children, their class name/year group and your email address. We would be grateful if all initial enquiries could be received by Friday, 11th December.

Please note that the club operates from the school premises with the breakfast club running from 8am to school start and the after-school club running from school finish to 5.45pm weekdays during the school term. 2020/21 session rates for season pass bookings will be £4 for breakfast club and £11 for after-school club which includes food, activities and resources.

Y5 Victorian Day: 16th December

A letter went out regarding this to Y5 parents this week.

Donations for Christmas Jumper Day, Online Theatre and Crafts

It has been brought to my attention that the original wording for this on Tucasi was confusing. Therefore, this has been re-named in order to bring greater clarity.

Flu Vaccinations

A reminder to complete the online form if you wish for your child to have the flu vaccination on Wednesday 16th December.

Donations to New Beginnings

Accompanying the bulletin today will be a letter from Miss Boman regarding our plan to support one of our local charities- New Beginnings, who perform amazing work for our local community. Thank you in advance for all of your support.

Attendance

I am pleased to report that rates of attendance remain high at the school this week with attendance being over 95% each day this week. Our average attendance for the year remains at 95.9%.

Year 2 Phonics Test

Children in Y2 who would have taken their Y1 phonics test in June will now take a screening test in the week beginning 7th December. The school will then need to submit results to the government and report on the proportion that passed the check. Any child that does not pass the check will have the opportunity to retake again in June 2021. Further information about what the phonics check entails as well as past papers can be found on the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum-assessments-practice-materials#phonics-screening-check-resources>

COVID 19 Symptoms Procedure

A reminder that the main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms. If you or your child present with any of these symptoms, you must not attend school and should arrange to get a coronavirus test. You should stay at home and do not have visitors until you get a test result-only leave your home to have a test. Anyone you live with, and anyone in your support bubble, must also stay at home until you get your result.

You can book a coronavirus test on the following website:

<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

You must inform the school if you suspect that you or your child requires a coronavirus test and you should inform us immediately if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus.

In the event of a child displaying any symptoms in school, we would move your child to our isolation room and you would be asked to collect, isolate and arrange for a test.

In the event of a confirmed case of coronavirus, parents would be informed and the children identified as close contacts in the bubble would be required to isolate. Remote home learning would then be provided during that time.

Events Diary

Date (Time)	Event
Wednesday 2 nd December (10am)	Parent Engagement Group
Friday 11 th December	Christmas Jumper Day-£1 donation to be made on Tucasi
Tuesday 15 th December (PM)	KS2 Online Pantomime
Wednesday 16 th December	Y5 Victorian Day
Wednesday 16 th December	Flu Vaccinations
Wednesday 16 th December(PM)	EYFS/ KS1 Online Pantomime-£1 donation to be made on Tucasi
Thursday 17 th December	Christmas Dinner
Thursday 17 th December	Christmas Crafts
Friday 18 th December	Last Day of Term