Civitas Academy Bulletin

08/09/19



**Welcome from Mr Wieder**

Welcome back to the new school year and special welcome to new families joining us. 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. If you are reading this on the noticeboard or website and would like it sent to you via email, then please speak to the office team to rectify this. Sometimes emails from the school can go to junk email folders, so please ensure that you have checked this first and saved the office@civitasacademy.co.uk email address as a contact to your address book to prevent this from happening.

At the end of the bulletin, I have included the key dates for the year ahead. These are updated as the year goes on with new events highlighted in yellow for the first week that they have been added. I have also included the term dates for the year ahead.

This week I am attending several courses, so you may not see much of me on the gate. Miss Jackson will be in during the times that I am not on site.

**Miss Taylor/ Mrs Witkowski**

Congratulations to Miss Taylor and Mrs Witkowski on the birth of their babies. Miss Taylor had a girl, Erin, who was born on the 15th July. Mrs Witkowski had a boy, Phoenix, born on the 14th August. We wish both families well during their maternity leaves.

**Nut Free School**

Last week there were a number of packed lunches brought into school that contained nuts. I would to remind families that we are a nut free school as we have several children with nut allergies.

**Tucasi/ Scopay**

Tucasi (our system used to make payments and order lunches) received an upgrade over the Summer and is now branded as Scopay. Unfortunately the upgrade left some issues with accounts that we are rectifying. I would like to apologise for families that were not able to order meals on the first two days back. We now believe this to be rectified, however if you are having any issues with this particular system, please speak to Mrs Newman or Mrs Lelliott.

**Change of Details**

Please inform the office via email (office@civitasacademy.co.uk) if any details for your child have changed. This is especially important for contact information and medical/allergy details.

**Attendance**

Rates of attendance at the school continues to be a school improvement priority. This was also identified in our OFSTED report in September 2018. Last academic year, the average percentage for the school was 94.4%. This has improved by a couple of percentage points from 2017-18, but still remains extremely low when compared with other schools both in Reading and across the country. To put these figures in context, 95.2% was the average rate of attendance for primary schools in 2017/18 (the most recent national average shared with schools by the government). On the surface, this looks as though the school is 0.8% away from the national average. However, from a league table perspective, this would put us amongst the lowest schools for attendance in Reading. This year if we could add a further two percentage points (like we did in 2018-19), we could push the school above the national average and much closer to our minimum target of 97%.

We appreciate that children can get ill and some years there are more illnesses then other years. However, there also times when children are well but not in school e.g. term time holidays. What we need to improve is reducing the amount of absence that is not down to illness.

The proportion of children classified as persistently absent (attendance rates below 90%) was 15.5% last year. This is almost double the national average of 8%. This is worrying as there is a strong correlation between rates of attendance and academic progress. Again, this percentage would place us amongst the lowest schools in Reading. This is not a position that I want the school to be in.

Towards the end of the academic year, there was a large number of absent from learning requests coming in and on the last day of term, we had under 75% attendance. On our first day back, there was 80% attendance. Whilst I understand that families can save money by booking term time holidays, it is not something that the school condones. It impacts on learning and gaps in learning can emerge from these absences. All term time holiday requests will be unauthorised and may end up in a fine being issued by the local authority. To support families we have arranged for two of our staff training days to be at the end of the academic year. It would be appreciated if you could work with us and avoid booking term time holidays this year.

Feedback from some of the reports last year indicated that some families were surprised by the comments next to the percentage reported. Beneath I have included the table, where these comments have came from. This is in our attendance policy and was also shown in our first bulletin of the year in 2018-19.

**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: Miss Sturt-Hammond (Y2), Miss Edwards (Y3), Mr Martinez (Y3) and Miss Parry (Y4).

We also welcome Miss Ahmad (Y2) and Miss Vardalli (Y3/4) as Learning Support Assistants. Mr Milstead will also be teaching P.E. alongside Miss Vaal on Monday to Thursday each week.

We also welcome Mrs Banning and Mrs Surrisetty as Lunchtime Assistants. Fiona from Crumbs Food Company will be serving lunches to the children.

**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 Monday 16th 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.

**Community Events/ Fundraising Meeting**

This year we are looking to further improve our community events. On Wednesday 18th September at 9am, we will be discussing what events we want to run this year and explore any other fundraising ideas. It would be great to see as many of you there as possible at the meeting. If you are unable to make the meeting, but would like to contribute your ideas, please email the school.

**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 Scopay.

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

P.E. kits are to be brought in on Mondays and taken home Fridays. Black shorts/trousers, black sports hoodie, house coloured t-shirt and trainers are required. Please also be aware that ALL jewellery must be removed for P.E.

We are taking part in the Reading Football Club ticketing scheme again. For every adult ticket brought the school raises £5. Please phone 0118 968 1313 - Option 3. Or visit the website at [www.ticketing.readingfc.co.uk](http://www.ticketing.readingfc.co.uk/)  and enter the coupon code CAS-1920. This scheme is only available for selected home matches:

19th October vs Preston North End

7th December vs Birmingham City

8th February vs Hull City

21st March vs Brentford

2nd May vs Swansea City

**Swimming**

**Year 4** – please return any swimming letters to Miss Vaal. A reminder that a meeting for parents will be held on Tuesday after school at 3:30pm.

**Clubs**

Confirmation of club applications will be sent out week beginning 16th September.

**Aldi Shoppers**

This term the school has signed up for a scheme run by the supermarket Aldi. When you spend £30 or more in store you can pick up Team GB stickers. If we collect 300 stickers by 3rd November we will be entered into a prize draw to win £20,000 for the school. For more information go to [www.getseteatfresh.co.uk/kitforschools](http://www.getseteatfresh.co.uk/kitforschools)

**2019-20 Key Dates**

**Autumn**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Date and Time** | **Event** |
| Tuesday 3rd September | INSET Day (no children in school) |
| Wednesday 4th September | INSET Day (no children in school) |
| Thursday 5th September | School begins for pupils in Y1-Y3/ Home visits for new Reception children |
| Friday 6th September | Home visits for new Reception children |
| Monday 9th September | Reception Summer born children begin part-time |
| Tuesday 10th September (3:30pm) | Y4 Swimming Meeting for parents |
| Wednesday 11th September | Reception Spring born children begin part-time |
| Thursday 12th September | Reception Autumn born children begin part-time |
| Monday 16th September | Reception children begin full-time |
| Monday 16th September (3:30-4pm) | Meet the Teacher |
| Wednesday 18th September (9am) | Community events planning meeting for parents |
| Friday 20th September | Jeans for Genes (children may wear jeans to school in return for a £1 donation to the charity) |
| Monday 23rd September | Autumn Clubs Begin |
| Wednesday 25th September | National Fitness Day |
| Thursday 26th September (9-9:30am) | MyMaths workshop for parents and carers in Y1-Y3 |
| Tuesday 1st October (3:30pm-4pm) | Tapestry workshop for parents and carers in Reception |
| Thursday 3rd October (9-9:30am) | Question and Answer session with Head of School |
| Friday 11th October | Harvest Collection: Bring a tin or packet to wear your own clothes in school |
| Thursday 17th October (9-9:30am) | Accelerated Reader workshop for parents and carers in Y3 and Y4 |
| Monday 21st October (3:30-4pm) | Project Celebrations (Reception- Year 4) |
| Thursday 24th October (9-9:30am) | Y1 Diwali Assembly |
| Wednesday 6th November (3:30-6pm) | Parents Evening |
| Thursday 7th November (3:30-6pm) | Parents Evening |
| Monday 11th- Friday 15th November | Anti-Bullying Week |
| Friday 15h November | Dress in blue clothes for Anti-Bullying Day |
| Monday 18th- Friday 22nd November | Road Safety Week |
| Friday 29th November (3:30-4pm) | Art Exhibition/ Christmas Fair |
| Friday 6th December | Autumn Clubs Finish |
| Friday 13th December | Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day |
| Monday 16th December (3:30-4pm) | Project Celebrations (Reception-Year 4) |
| Tuesday 17th December (9:15-10am) | Christmas Performance (Dress Rehearsal suitable for families with young children) |
| Wednesday 18th December (9:15-10am) | Christmas Performance (No young children please) |
| Friday 20th December | Last Day of Term |

**Spring**

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| --- | --- |
| **Date and Time** | **Event** |
| Monday 6th January | INSET Day |
| Tuesday 7th January | Children return to school |
| Monday 13th January (3:30pm- 4pm) | Term Overview Meeting |
| Thursday 16th January (9-9:30am) | Question and Answer Session with Head of School |
| Friday 30th January (To be confirmed) | NSPCC Number Day (parents welcome to spend upto 9:25am in classes to join in with maths activities. Children can come in wearing clothes with numbers on for £1 donation to NSPCC) |
| Monday 10th February (3:30pm-4pm) | Project Celebrations |
| Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February | Half Term |
| Thursday 5th March | World Book Day (parents welcome to spend upto 9:25am in classes to join in with reading activities. Children can come in dressed as a book character) |
| Wednesday 11th March (3:30-6pm) | Parents’ Evening |
| Thursday 12th March (3:30-6pm) | Parents’ Evening |
| Friday 13th March | Sports Relief |
| Monday 30th March (3:30pm-4pm) | Project Celebrations |
| Thursday 2nd April | Y3 Easter Assembly |
| Friday 3rd April | End of Term |

**Summer**

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| --- | --- |
| **Date and Time** | **Event** |
| Monday 20th April | Children return to school |
| Monday 27th April (3:30-4pm) | Term Overview Meeting |
| Thursday 7th May (9am-9:30am) | Question and Answer Session with Head of School |
| Monday 18th May (3:30-4pm) | Project Celebration |
| Monday 18th- Friday 22nd May | Mental Health Week |
| Monday 25th-Friday 29th May | Half Term |
| Thursday 4th June (9:10- 9:40am) | Y2 Eid Assembly |
| Monday 8th-Friday 12th June | Cultural Diversity Week |
| Friday 12th June | International Day |
| Tuesday 30th June (AM) | Sports Day |
| Wednesday 1st July | Transition Day |
| Friday 3rd July | Sports Day (Reserve date in case of bad weather on Tuesday 30th June) |
| Thursday 9th July | Question and Answer Session with Head of School |
| Friday 10th July  | Reports Out |
| Friday 17th July | Last day of term for children |

**Civitas, Palmer and Ranikhet Academy Term Dates 2019-2020**

**Term 1**

**Staff Inset Day – Tuesday 3rd September 2019**

 **Wednesday 4th September 2019**

**Pupil start date – Thursday 5th September 2019**

**Pupil end date – Friday 25th October 2019**

**Holiday: Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November 2019**

**Term 2**

**Pupil start date - Monday 4th November 2019**

**Pupil end date - Friday 20th December 2019**

**Holiday: Monday 23rd December – Friday 3rd January 2020**

**Term 3**

**Staff Inset Day - Monday 6th January 2020**

**Pupil start date – Tuesday 7th January 2020**

**Pupil end date – Friday 14th February 2020**

**Holiday: Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February 2020**

**Term 4**

**Pupil start date – Monday 24th February 2020**

**Pupil end date – Friday 3rd April 2020**

**Holiday: Monday 6th April to Friday 17th April 2020**

**Term 5**

**Pupil start date – Monday 20th April 2020**

**Term end date – Friday 22nd May 2020**

**Holiday: Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May 2020**

 **Bank Holiday – Friday 8th May 2020**

 **Monday 26th May 2020**

**Term 6**

**Pupil start date – Monday 1st June 2020**

**Pupil end date – Friday 17th July 2020**

**Staff Inset Days – Monday 20th July and Tuesday 21st July 2020**