Civitas Academy Bulletin

27/04/20



**Update from Mr Wieder**

We continue to be open as the hub school for childcare for key workers and vulnerable families. Last week, I was in at Civitas three times and I am in twice this week. It is certainly very different without having all of the children in the school and I am looking forward to the time when we can welcome everyone back.

**Art with Mr Milstead**

Mr Milstead who teaches P.E. at the school is also a professional artist. He has kindly put some documents together to support with teaching art at home during the school closure period. These resources can be found on the class pages section of the school website.

**Free School Meals**

I would like to remind families that it is only families that qualify for Free School Meals (FSM) and not Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) that qualify for the national Edenred voucher scheme. To receive FSM, families need to be receipt of certain benefits such as Universal Credit. Families that are known to have qualified are already in receipt of the vouchers. If your circumstances have changed, these will not show on the systems until you are in receipt of the qualifying benefit. If you are in receipt of the benefit and believe that you now qualify for FSM, then please send an email to Mrs Newman at [office@civitasacademy.co.uk](mailto:office@civitasacademy.co.uk) .Please note that Mrs Newman will continue to check eligibility on a weekly basis, but we cannot control when this will show on the external system that is used to check eligibility. Thank you for your continued support.

**Contract Preferences Survey**

Just before Easter, we sent out a survey regarding parental preferences regarding contact. We will be discussing this in more detail during our staff meeting this week to ensure that the approach used is consistent between the different year groups. Unfortunately, due to organisational requirements and the fact that many of our staff are also juggling with working and having children at home, we will not be able to meet every preference. The year group email addresses will continue to operate as usual.

**Signposting**

In these uncertain times, I would like to signpost families to relevant agencies for advice if they require support during this difficult period. Please find links to the following that may be able to support individual family circumstances:

**Citizens Advice:**

https://[www.citizensadvice.org.uk/health/coronavirus-what-it-means-for-you/](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/health/coronavirus-what-it-means-for-you/)

**Universal Credit:**

https://[www.understandinguniversalcredit.gov.uk/coronavirus/](http://www.understandinguniversalcredit.gov.uk/coronavirus/)

**ReadiFood is an independent Food Bank providing food parcels to those in severe need:**

https://readifood.org.uk/

**The Faith Organisation can also support with food parcels**:

Call 01189872672

**You can contact Reading Borough Council for any general enquiries such as housing, benefits or general advice:**

Call 01189373641

**First days charity are offering families in financial difficulty who are experiencing increased pressure due to coronavirus a pack including nappies, wipes and other essential toiletries to help them at this time.**

https://[www.firstdays.net/emergency-toiletries](http://www.firstdays.net/emergency-toiletries)

**Home start Reading offer support to parents who are overwhelmed by their difficulties:**

https://[www.home-start-reading.org.uk/](http://www.home-start-reading.org.uk/)

**Reading Voluntary Action:**

<http://rva.org.uk/coronavirus-community-action/>

**Support for children’s mental health:**

https://www.minded.org.uk/

[**https://youngminds.org.uk/media/3695/how-to-support-your-child\_corona.pdf**](https://youngminds.org.uk/media/3695/how-to-support-your-child_corona.pdf)

**2019-20 Key Dates (All subject to change)**

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| --- | --- |
| **Date and Time** | **Event** |
| Monday 18th- Friday 22nd May | Mental Health Week |
| Monday 25th-Friday 29th May | Half Term |
| Monday 8th-Friday 12th June | Cultural Diversity Week |
| Friday 12th June | International Day |
| Wednesday 1st July | Transition Day |
| Friday 10th July | Reports Out |
| Friday 17th July | Last day of term for children |