Civitas Academy Bulletin

21/10/19



**Welcome from Mr Wieder**

Last week, Miss Frain ran a successful workshop for parents on Accelerated Reader and this week Mrs Lelliott will be running one on how to use Tucasi.

In the final week of this half-term, there is a lot going on. We have project celebrations and the parent appreciation event taking place after school today. Y1 will be performing their Diwali Assembly to parents on Thursday.

We have also been busy behind the scenes, planning trips and visits for second half term. Reception will be visiting Prospect Park on the 14th November and Reading Buses on the 2nd December. Y4 will be visiting the cinema on 28th November and we are also planning a whole school trip to Reading Hexagon to watch the pantomime on the 13th December. Letters will be going out in due course.

**Ordering Lunches**

Now that Tucasi is fully up and running, please could families use the website to order school dinners a week in advance please. For families unsure about how Tucasi works, there will be a workshop on Wednesday 23rd October.

**Staff Update**

Mrs Cole, Learning Support Assistant in Y1 will be leaving Civitas Academy on Thursday this week. Mrs Cole has had a big impact with both staff and children during her time at Civitas and we wish Mrs Cole well for the future.

**Project Celebrations/Parent Appreciation: Monday 21st October**

Project celebrations are when families are invited in to celebrate their children’s work at the end of each half term. These take place in classrooms between 3:30 and 4pm. On this occasion we will also be staying open for families to meet in the hall until 4:30pm. Families are invited to bring food into share.

**Parents Evening**

This will be taking place on Wednesday and Thursday after half term. Please note that this year appointments will be booked via the Tucasi website. Bookings will go live on Tuesday 22nd October. Please note that the parent evening planned for Gruffalo Class on Thursday 7th November will now take place on Tuesday 12th November instead.

**Learning Focus: Reading Comprehension**

This week we will continue our focus on how to support your child at home with reading comprehension.

Comprehension has several different aspects. This week we will focus on drawing on knowledge of vocabulary to understand texts. Using both known and unknown vocabulary is an essential aspect of comprehension as children have to use clues from pictures and reading the whole sentence to make sensible suggestions for the meaning of unknown words. A good activity at home is to find word with the same prefix and discuss what the prefix might mean. Another good idea is to familiarise your child with using a thesaurus from Y2 upwards, so that they can find additional words to broaden their vocabulary. If you would like to support your child develop their skills in using vocabulary in reading, you could use the following question stems:

* What does this… word/phrase/sentence… tell you about… character/setting/mood etc?
* Highlight a key phrase or line. By using this word, what effect has the author created?
* In the story, 'x' is mentioned a lot. Why?
* The writer uses words like … to describe …. What does this tell you about a character or setting?
* What other words/phrases could the author have used?
* The writer uses …words/phrases…to describe … How does this make you feel?
* How has the writer made you and/or character feel …happy /sad/angry/ frustrated/lonely/bitter etc? Can you find those words?
* Which words and /or phrases make you think/feel…?

The key to supporting your child develop their prediction skills is always to ask why and guiding your child to make their answers link back to what they have previously read.

**2019-20 Key Dates**

**Autumn**

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| **Date and Time** | **Event** |
| Monday 21st October (3:30-4pm) | Project Celebrations (Reception- Year 4) |
| Monday 21st October (3:30-4:30pm) | Parent Appreciation (Please bring food to share) |
| Wednesday 23rd October (9am) | Tucasi Workshop for parents |
| Thursday 24th October (9-9:30am) | Y1 Diwali Assembly |
| Wednesday 6th November | Coffee morning for parents with children that have social and communication difficulties |
| Wednesday 6th November (3:30-6pm) | Parents Evening |
| Thursday 7th November (3:30-6pm) | Parents Evening |
| Monday 11th- Friday 15th November | Anti-Bullying Week |
| Monday 11th November (9:30-10:30) | Open Morning for Prospective New Reception Families 2020 |
| Tuesday 12th November (3:30-6pm) | Gruffalo Parent Evening |
| Thursday 14th November | Reception to Prospect Park |
| Friday 15h November | Dress in blue clothes for Anti-Bullying Day |
| Monday 18th- Friday 22nd November | Road Safety Week |
| Monday 18th November (9:30-10:30) | Open Morning for Prospective New Reception Families 2020 |
| Thursday 28th November | Y4 to Cinema |
| Friday 29th November (3:30-4pm) | Art Exhibition/ Christmas Fair |
| Monday 2nd December | Reception to Reading Buses |
| Friday 6th December | Autumn Clubs Finish |
| Friday 13th December | Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day |
| Friday 13th December | Whole School Trip to Reading Hexagon |
| 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 |
| Wednesday 15th 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 |
| Friday 12th June (3:30-4pm) | International Food Festival |
| 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 |