Civitas Academy Bulletin

30/04/18



**Welcome from Mr Wieder**

Last week was certainly full of action. Mr Bays led an informative session for Reception parents regarding Tapestry and mathematics in Reception. One of the key messages that I would like to reiterate is the importance of parents adding contributions to what their child is doing at home as part of the EYFS learning journal. Tapestry allows parents to do this and it would be great if we could increase the amount of parent contributions further before the end of the academic year. I will be spending some time updating the class pages for Elmer and Paddington this week as a result of what was discussed at the meeting.

Kristian Thomas’ visit was a great success. Children enjoyed participating in the sporting activities and the gymnastic show at the end certainly kept everyone engaged. We added a couple of photographs to the Twitter page. Thank you to everyone who sponsored the children. It will take a couple of weeks to process the prizes, so I am hopeful that the children will get these before we break up for half term.

This week there will be an opportunity for parents and carers with children in either Reception or Y1 to visit classrooms at the start of the school day. The focus will be on how we teach phonics. Please enter with your child at the start of the school day. The session will finish at 9:20am.

On Friday class photographs will be taking place. P.E. clubs will commence again.

**Bank Holiday**

A reminder that on Monday 7th May school will be closed.

**CAFFS Meeting Reminder**

This will take place on Friday 11th May at 9am. All parents and carers are welcome to attend.

**Head of School Question and Answer Session**

On Thursday 26th April, I held a question and answer session. Please find a summary of updates on previous issues and new issues identified at this meeting.

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| **Previous Issue** | **Progress** |
| **After School Club**  It was raised again about how we could extend the opening hours beyond 5pm. | We advertised for the position for three weeks, but there was not a suitable candidate. We will advertise again soon and hope to have this resolved by September at the latest. |
| **Parking**  This remains an issue and is likely to get worse when the new flats are built and as the school grows. | I contacted the local authority and communicated the response in a previous bulletin. |
| **Attendance**  Information was requested about why there has been a change in policy and approach to attendance. | As mentioned previously, increasing attendance and reducing persistent absence is a school improvement priority. This is why we have updated our policy. The amount of children classified as persistently absent by the government (attendance below 90%) has now halved since January. I would like to take the opportunity to thank and congratulate the families who have improved their attendance. |

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| **New Issue** | **Action Planned** |
| **INSET Days**  A question was raised why the school has 8 INSET days in an academic year? | As an academy school we have greater flexibility than local authority maintained schools. This is why the amount of INSET days can be different. Reach2 academy trust have a high focus on ensuring that staff have access to high quality training. The extra INSET days were used to implement a specific project. Next year on the dates circulated to parents there are six INSET days. All of these dates are before the particular term starts. |
| **Playground Equipment**  A parent asked if we could improve the amount of equipment on the playground. | We are currently looking at ways in which we can improve the playground further. The House Captains met with me and they have asked the children for their ideas. We will be using some of the money raised from the athlete visit to increase the amount of equipment outside.  We have also been trying to get some markings on the playground, however due to the type of surface used; the companies that we have tried so far are unable to mark the playground. As a result, we have referred the issue back to the architect to see if there is anything that can be done.  Looking into the long term, it would be great if we could invest in other activities for the playground e.g. climbing equipment, trim trails and table tennis. This is something that potentially a successful CAFFS could fund. |

**Summer Key Dates**

Dates of school trips are also to be added. These are still being finalised.

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| **Date and Time** | **Event** |
| Tuesday 1st May (8:50-9:20) | Reception and Y1 Phonics Classroom Visit for Parents |
| Friday 4th May | Class Photos |
| Friday 11th May (9-10am) | CAFFS Meeting |
| Thursday 17th May | Royal Wedding Celebration |
| Monday 21st May (3:15-3:45pm) | Reception and Y2 Project Celebration |
| Tuesday 22nd May  (3:15-3:45pm) | Y1 Project Celebration |
| Thursday 24th May (3:15-3:45pm) | Children’s Art Exhibition/ CAFFS Uniform and Cake Sale |
| Monday 4th June | INSET Day |
| Thursday 14th June (9-9:30am) | Head of School Question and Answer Session |
| Thursday 21st June | World Cup Day |
| Friday 22nd June (9-10am) | CAFFS Meeting |
| Friday 29th June  (9:15-10:30am) | Sports Day |
| Friday 6th July | INSET Day |
| Tuesday 10th July | Reports to Parents |
| Friday 13th July  (9:15-10:30am) | Sports Day (reserve date if the event on the 29th June needs to cancelled due to poor weather) |
| Wednesday 18th July | Civitas Talent Show |
| Tuesday 24th July | Last Day of Term (No afterschool club) |