Civitas Academy Bulletin

09/07/18



**Welcome from Mr Wieder**

Last week we had the opportunity to welcome our new Reception cohort to Civitas. The rest of the school had the opportunity to visit their new classroom and meet the staff working in that year group next academic year. I would like to thank CAFFS who kindly supported us by talking to new parents and organising tea and coffee.

On the Friday INSET day, detailed handovers took place between current and new class teachers. There was also an opportunity to look strategically at the planning for the next academic year. One of our improvement areas for next year is to increase the amount of trips and visits. This year when we attempted to book certain trips, we found that the places were fully booked. Therefore as part of the INSET day on Friday, staff decided on the trips and visits that were going to take place throughout the next year and began booking them in. We aim to have a letter going out in September detailing what trips and visits will take place that academic year alongside the total cost.

We will also be looking to increase the amount of physical activity that children complete in school. We have appointed, Miss Vaal who will teach P.E. in the school and we are currently recruiting a P.E. Learning Support Assistant to work alongside Miss Vaal. As the school grows, we will be looking to increase the amount of competitive sport offered by the school and work towards the School Games Gold Award over the next few years. We plan to introduce swimming when children are in Y4.

One of our successes this term has been the amount of free club spaces on offer to children. This term we were able to offer 170 free club spaces in a school that has only 150 children. I would like to thank staff for giving up their own time to provide additional opportunities for the children. In order to add further breadth to our club offering, it is likely that we will move to a mixed model next year with some free and some paid for external clubs. This will allow us to further add to our offering. I have already secured an arrangement with a Bollywood dance club and will look at more options over the next academic year. If parents/ carers would like us to offer a specific club, then please speak to me and I will see if we can accommodate the request.

**Miss Taylor (Paddington Class)**

Due to personal reasons, Miss Taylor is unlikely to return to Civitas Academy before September. We have made arrangements to cover the class for the rest of the academic year. The class will be covered by Miss Harris, the EYFS Lead from Palmer Academy and Miss Bradburn. Miss Bradburn is one of the new Reception teachers, who will be starting with us on Tuesday.

**Civitas Certainties**

At the transition day, we shared our ‘Civitas Certainties’ with new parents and carers. These certainties have been created in order to highlight what the school stands for. This is something that has been developed to give us a clear identity and these will become high profile throughout the school.

The school motto is ‘Hand in hand we learn’ and the certainties have been created to demonstrate how we meet the school motto. I will go into more detail with particular aspects of the ‘Civitas Certainties’ next academic year.

The Civitas Certainties are:

**C**ommunity

**I**ndependence

**V**alues (Honesty, Inclusion, Cooperation, Diversity, Respect and Aspiration)

**I**nnovation

**T**eamwork

**A**rts

**S**uccess

The Civitas Certainties will feed into the day to day operation of the school. For example, each half term, assemblies will tie in with the school values. We will also explore each certainty with the children throughout the school year.

**Civitas Talent Show**

This will take place during the afternoon of Wednesday 18th July. It was explained in assembly today that children who wish to take part in the event, should prepare something for the classroom heats taking place on Friday. Two acts will go through to the school performance on Wednesday 18th  July. On this occasion, we have decided not to invite parents and carers. The reason for this is that most of the children taking part would have limited experience of performing in front of an audience and it may be too overwhelming for some with a large hall filled with adults and children.

Next academic year, we are planning to introduce year group assemblies that celebrate the diversity of the different religions in school. Parents and carers will be invited to these.

**Reports**

These are scheduled to go out on Tuesday 10th July. If you wish to discuss the contents of the report, then please make an appointment with your child’s class teacher. There will be an opportunity for parents and carers to provide feedback on the letter that is attached to the report.

**Y1 Palaeontologist/Scientist Day**

To celebrate the end of their dinosaur topic, Y1 are having a dress up day on Monday 23rd July. Children are to come dressed as palaeontologists or scientists. Children in Y1 can enter school wearing shorts/ T-shirts. Some may come dressed up with hats, helmets or anything else that you might think a scientist or palaeontologist may wear!

**Attendance**

The end of year reports will contain attendance data. Please note that this was calculated to the 30th June. Alongside the attendance, a comment from our leaflet on what good attendance looks like is included next to the figure. I have included the table with the relevant comments below:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Attendance** | **Description** | **Days Lost Per Year** | **Weeks Lost Per Year** |
| 99-100% | Excellent | 0-4 | Less than 1 |
| 97-98% | Good | 5-9 | 1 to 2 |
| 96% | Satisfactory | 10-13 | 2 to 3 |
| 90-95% | Unsatisfactory | 14-18 | 3 to 4 |
| Below 90% | Persistent Absence | More than 19 | More than 4 |

Obviously, all children get ill from time to time and parents may have provided medical evidence. The initial comment is based solely on the attendance figure. However as a school, we mainly plan our actions based on the unauthorised figure. The percentage of unauthorised and authorised absences can be noted on the attendance summary sheet included with the report.

Please note that all term time holidays are unauthorised and will usually result in a fine issued by the local authority.

**Clubs**

Please note that this is the last week for all clubs in the school with the exception of singing and P.E. clubs that have already finished.

**Summer Key Dates**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Date and Time** | **Event** |
| Tuesday 10th July | Reports to Parents |
| Wednesday 18th July | Civitas Talent Show |
| Tuesday 24th July | Last Day of Term (No afterschool club) |