

Spring Bulletin

Friday 23rd February 2024



Message from Sean English, Deputy Headteacher



Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you've all had a good week and it's great to see that the rain has eased up a little, even if it's only for Friday! This week the children have returned to their learning after half term, and it has been so impressive to see how settled they have been within their lessons. I was particularly impressed within our Celebration Assembly, where a number of pupils received their award for their excellent Writing. From Reception all the way up to Year Six, the pupils continue to maintain high expectations for themselves and their own learning so well do to everyone!

World Book Day – Thursday, 7th March

Reading is such an important skill, that can allow pupils to broaden their imaginations and give them access to new information. This year, we will be joining schools across the nation in celebrating the love of Reading through World Book day and we want to mark this occasion with some different activities that will be taking place within school.

We will also be running two competitions, where each year group will have the chance to win the prize of a high quality text!

Firstly, we will be asking all pupils to dress up as their favourite literary character for the day. With this, we want to encourage you to be creative and even upcycle anything you have at home for the perfect costume! The costumes will be shown to all children in an assembly, where a winner for each year group will be announced.

The second competition is one we will be asking pupils to complete outside of school. We know we have a lot of avid readers within the school, who will take any chance to read their next few

pages or chapters. So, for the second competition we want you to find the most unusual place a child has been caught reading and take a photo! We will be judging how committed the pupils are to reading so the more unusual or creative the better! Please send any photos to your year group email account by Wednesday, 6th March and we will compile, judge and announce the winners on World Book day.

We look forward to seeing all the amazing ways you celebrate reading and alongside this, please take any time you can to continue to read with your children or give them opportunities to read at home. As I previously mentioned, Reading is such an important skill for all children and once pupils are fluent in this area then it can really open up the world to them.

We hope you all have a lovely weekend and we look forward to seeing you all next week.

PE Timetable – Spring 2

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
AM	Year 4	Year 3	Year 6	Year 5
PM	Year 1	Reception	Year 2	

Celebrations and Achievements

Reception		
Elmer	Maciej	For an incredible piece of writing about the Rainbow Fish.
Paddington	Zargham	For an incredible piece of writing about the Rainbow Fish.
KS1		
Pinocchio	Amelia	For working hard to improve her focus during learning time.
Gruffalo	Revansh	For wonderful progress in writing by building on feedback and learning every day
BFG	Javeriya	For displaying great enthusiasm when exploring new reading texts and suggesting insightful predictions!
Matilda	Musfirah	For always challenging herself and using fantastic oracy to respectfully share her ideas and contribute to discussions.
KS2		
Rosen	Raisa A	For working hard to learn her times tables.
Kinney	Leila	For being a great example of what a Civitas child is. Being ready , respectful and safe.
Richards	Kaleema	For consistency working hard both in school and at home on her timetables.
Murphy	Antonia	For doing such great work on her phonics and passing the phonic screening test!
Avery	Aadhya	For showing self-reflection and for making a conscious effort to improve.
Zephaniah	Dhrwi	For excellent progress in Math.
Draper	Jasleen	For applying her knowledge in history to write an excellent diary entry.
Lewis	Adiana	For her increased, and valuable, contributions in class.

House	Total House Points this week	Total
Aqua	329	6341
Terra	546	5850
Ignis	338	5488
Atmos	609	5939

Well done **ATMOS** for achieving the most house points this week.

Class	Sports Star of the Week
Elmer	Harry
Paddington	Aiden
Gruffalo	Nadia
Pinocchio	Lila
BFG	Danny
Matilda	Kwasi
Kinney	Zahra
Rosen	Raisa
Murphy	Jasmine
Richards	Chakresh
Avery	Teniola
Zephaniah	Melanie
Draper	Sneha
Lewis	Vinnie

Achievements outside of school

Name	Class	Achievement

Attendance

Our overall school target for the year is 96% - let's work together to be in school every day.

Each week we will share attendance for each Year group for that week, this is not accumulative from the beginning of the year.

	23.02.24	01.03.24	08.03.24	15.03.24	22.03.24	29.03.24
Reception	94.1%					
Year 1	93.2%					
Year 2	93.1%					
Year 3	95.5%					
Year 4	95.1%					
Year 5	95.7%					
Year 6	95.3%					

What have we been learning this week?

Reception:

In Reception, we have been reading "The Rainbow Fish", a story about the importance of being kind and sharing. Our learning challenges have been inspired by the lovely story, the children have become published authors of their own retelling of the story of "The Rainbow Fish" and have used various materials to create a collage for the front cover. In Maths we have been looking at height and length and exploring the vocabulary used to compare objects according to size. In phonics we have been consolidating our understanding of phase 3 sounds (ai, ee, igh, oa, oo, or, ar, ur, ow, oi, ear) and have been focusing on building fluency while reading.

Thank you to everyone who puts pictures of learning you have done at home on Tapestry, the children have really enjoyed sharing their experiences with their peers.

Key Stage 1

Year 1:

In Year 1 we have been reading the book, "My Two Grannies" by Floella Benjamin. We have identified and used verbs in our writing and planned and wrote a fact file about an older person as part of our global learning theme of "Social Justice". In Maths we have learnt to find the difference between two numbers and work out missing numbers by using a numberline (eg. $13 - _ = 2$ or $_ + 4 = 17$). In Science we are investigating plants and this week the children were very excited to plant their own bean which they will document over the next few weeks before they bring it home. In RE we are learning about Palm Sunday and this week we considered how we would welcome someone special into our life. For History we considered the life and contributions to society of Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole. The children completed a venn diagram to show the similarities and differences between the two nurses. In Computing we are learning about data this term. This week we learnt the importance of labelling and grouping objects to simplify our world. In PSHE this term we are learning how to have a healthy life and focused this week on food and sleep in particular. In DT we started to investigate bridges in preparation for us creating our own bridges later in the term!

Year 2:

What a lovely start to the second half of our Spring term! In English, we have begun to read our new text called "Yasmin's Hammer" which links to our global learning theme of 'peace and conflict'. The pupils have loved reading this text and learning new words in 'bengali/bangla' as the text is set in Bangladesh – also the same language that Mrs Alim speaks! In Maths, we recapped our knowledge of the x2 and x10 times tables to support us with division number sentences; along with a focus on doubling, halving and odd and even numbers. In Computing this half term, Year 2 are learning about the importance of data collection – this week's learning was based around tally charts. As part of our science unit, we are learning about plants, so we investigated a range of seed packets and compared the instructions and labels. For Humanities, Year 2 explored and discussed the changes over time since free education was introduced by Dr Barnardo. In PSHE, our unit of learning is about "being healthy" relating to a healthy body and a healthy mind. This week, we discussed how different emotions affect our mental health then explored coping strategies to help us feel better.

Key Stage 2

Year 3:

This week we have been identifying and exploring a range of recounts and narratives in English. We began reading our new text 'The first drawing' which over the next three weeks, we will explore further with an outcome of writing a recount of the story. In maths we have been learning about measurement of length and perimeter of shapes and objects. We have used lots of pictorial resources to support our learning. In P.S.H.E our new topic is 'Healthy me'. We discussed healthy diets and lifestyles and what we can do to keep ourselves balanced with our eating habits and our physical activities. We set ourselves challenges of physical activities we can do now and set ourselves goals of where we would like to be.

In History we have continued learning about the Stone Age. We explored the history of drawing and cave paintings. We created our own cave paintings which we hope to show to parents at an Oracy story telling presentation nearer the end of term.



Year 4:

We welcomed back our Year 4s this week with some brand-new topics. We are focusing on art this half term and looking into the works of William Morris who was a printer 200 years ago and has come up with some classic wallpaper designs still used today! We will be creating our own design by carving into potatoes and printing on sheets of paper. In Science this half term, we are learning about states of matter and if they can change. This will lead on to the water cycle and how water can change states and what effect that has on the planet.



This term, our project outcome is Identity and Diversity and we have been investigating hidden disabilities. Our focus has been on mental well-being and focusing on events and charities that can help people with this throughout their lives. Later in the term, we will invite you to join Year 4 for a well-being workshop they will host along a Bake Sale. We will be raising money for a charity about mental well-being.

Year 5:

Year 5 have had a brilliant first week into this half term. We have started this half term with our Maths and English assessments, all of year 5 have shown a great attitude towards these assessments. In the afternoons, we have continued our guided reading book 'The Jamie Drake Equation' and continued to practise our skills such as retrieval and inference and investigated the links between these skills. In History we have compared the lives of Spartans and Athenians and took on the roles to hold

a class debate to discuss who should run Greece. In science we have begun our new topic of materials and explored the ways in which we could separate soluble and insoluble materials from water. We have held some fantastic in-class discussions this week and look forward to continuing this further throughout the rest of the Spring term.

Year 6:

This week in English the children have been focusing on diary writing skills. We have revisited using formal and informal language, time adverbials and using different tense forms. We will then be applying these skills to write our own diary entries inspired by the Wolves of Willoughby Chase (our whole class reading text) next week. In maths we learnt how to find percentages of amounts and completed our end of unit assessment on fractions, decimals and percentages. We had a very interesting lesson about the Great Plague in London in history. The children loved discovering facts about how the plague spread, its symptoms and the strange and shocking measures that people took to avoid getting sick. The children then applied their new knowledge and diary entry as if they were there at the time. In science we discussed characteristics and traits inherited from our parents and in D.T we made our basic hat structures using card.

Communication to the school

Absence reporting still needs to be done via office@civitasacademy.co.uk

If you have a query and would like to contact your child's class teacher, please see the relevant emails below.

Reception: earlyyears@civitasacademy.co.uk

Year 1: year1@civitasacademy.co.uk

Year 2: year2@civitasacademy.co.uk

Year 3: year3@civitasacademy.co.uk

Year 4: year4@civitasacademy.co.uk

Year 5: year5@civitasacademy.co.uk

Year 6: year6@civitasacademy.co.uk

KEY DATES

- Thursday 7th March – World Book Day
- Friday 15th March – Red Nose Day