

Spring Bulletin – Friday 18th February 2022

Message from Mrs Ducker – Executive Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

Even as we have approached this final week towards half term it has been jam packed with the buzz of learning and community spirit all around school. We had 'Stageability' in on Monday carrying out a drama workshop with some of our pupils. Our children have been spreading kindness with our community flowers that seem to be appearing all around Reading! We have been extremely proud of our older pupils this week who have been spending some time 'giving back' to our younger pupils be that through some writing work, reading activities, music or helping them with their pupil surveys. As part of our learning theme on human rights we have also had a speaker from Amnesty International talk to our children in Year 2 via TEAMS about the 'rights of the child.' I look forward to the children telling me all about this!

I wrote to our Year 4 parents on Wednesday to let them know that Miss Burbidge who started as a newly qualified teacher (NQT) with us in September 2020 during the global pandemic will be leaving us today. Miss Burbidge wants the opportunity to gain some more experience in different settings before completing her NQT period. We thank her for all her contributions to our Civitas community and wish her well for the future. Due to school being closed today with the red alert weather warning, we have invited Miss Burbidge back on the afternoon of the 28th February so we can all say a proper goodbye.

PARKING REMINDERS – I recognise this can be a frustrating topic of conversation, however keeping our community safe and continuing to be respectful towards each other is so important.



Recently the Highway Code made some updates – 29th January 2022 – relevant reminders to keep us all **safe** outside of school and remain **respectful** to our whole community include:

Rule 241 – you **MUST NOT** park in parking spaces reserved for specific users, such as residents, unless entitled to do so. Our residents pay £200 a year for their permits.

Rule 242 – you **MUST NOT** leave your vehicle or trailer in a dangerous position or where it causes any unnecessary obstruction on the road.

Rule 243 – you **MUST NOT** park

- Near a school entrance
- Anywhere you would prevent access for Emergency services

Please just take a moment to think about these and consider your own actions, let's please do all **WE** can to keep ourselves and our children **safe**.

Wishing you all a fantastic and happy half term, we look forward to welcoming you back on **Monday 28th February**, the gate will be open at **8:40am** 😊

Celebrations and Achievements

Reception:		
Elmer	Luca	For working extra hard to ensure he is always ready to learn.
Paddington	Yousuf	For always working really hard in class and showing resilience.
Key Stage 1:		
Gruffalo:	Alice	For trying really hard with her writing.
Pinocchio:	Adarsh	For persevering with his learning.
BFG:	Yvie	For working hard in Maths and being respectful towards others.
Matilda:	Marvin	For settling into Matilda class and being ready, respectful and safe.
Key Stage 2:		
Rosen	Thanvi	For always striving for personal excellence in everything she does
Kinney	Baboucarr	For always setting a wonderful example for his peers and for consistently demonstrating his readiness to learn.
Richards	Flynn	For making an effort in his writing and showing improvement in his writing.
Murphy	Natalie	For contributing more in class.
Zephaniah	Adithya	For working really hard in class and being ready for learning in class.
Avery	Neha	Coming back into school with a great attitude! Keep up the good work.
Draper	Arnav	For being ready, respectful and safe.

Weekly Attendance – Our overall school target for the year is 96+% - let's work together to be in school every day. The attendance shown is weekly for each year group.

Year Group	14/01	21/01	28/01	04/02	11/02	18/02
Reception	91.0%	91.5%	87.8%	94.5%	93.0%	93.8%
Year 1	92.1%	91.6%	76.0%	94.9%	93.0%	93.9%
Year 2	93.4%	94.0%	89.1%	91.6%	89.7%	97.1%
Year 3	92.1%	84.0%	81.3%	74.4%	94.5%	93.5%
Year 4	94.0%	90.8%	85.4%	87.7%	92.3%	94.9%
Year 5	90.8%	83.1%	62.4%	82.7%	98.0%	95.6%
Year 6	92.9%	86.3%	76.8%	79.7%	88.7%	92.1%

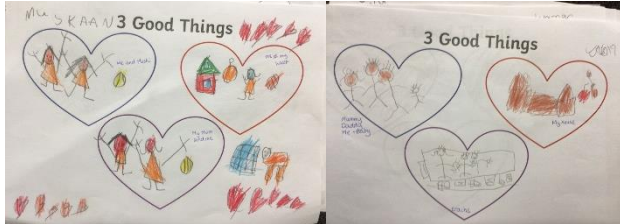
House Points - Well done Atmos house for gaining the most house points this week

House:	Points this week:	Total:
Atmos	654	11028
Terra	328	9939
Aqua	348	10651
Ignis	481	11033

What have we been learning this week?

Reception

This week, the children have been continuing their learning about endangered animals. We have continuing to explore the book “The Rainforest Grew All Around”, we have been focusing on the non-fiction writing in this book and the children have been expanding their knowledge of jungle animals. The children have enjoyed writing animal facts. In maths we have been looking at measuring objects and measuring time. The children have really loved exploring the different ways we can measure and have been trying hard to use the correct vocabulary to go with this. The children had a fantastic time on Wellbeing Wednesday and did lots of activities relating to mental health and wellbeing. They have been sharing things that they are grateful for, talking about their aspirations for the future and sharing positive thoughts about themselves and their friends.



Key Stage 1

Year 1: This week, children have been working on writing their own version of the story ‘A squash and a squeeze’. They have changed the characters and animals. It has been so exciting to see their wonderful ideas. In Maths, we have counted by 2’s and 5’s. In Science we looked at different ways to record weather, such as a thermometer and wind vane. In Geography we learned about the equator and what type of weather we can experience close to the equator and far away from the equator.

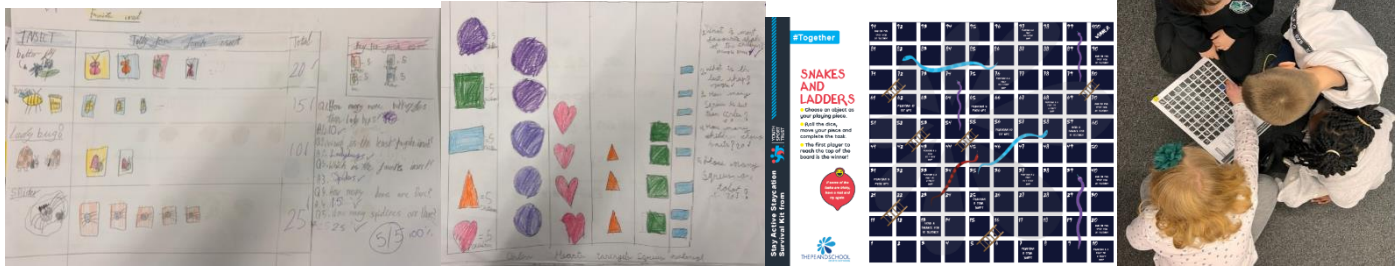
Well being Wednesday was an amazing day, filled with meditation and our 5 keys to happiness. We know have many tools to keep our minds and bodies happy!

Year 2: This week in English, year 2 have been writing recounts about “The Last Garden”. The children have looked over their writing plans and checked all the features, before creating their draft write. We are looking forward to publishing and displaying our work around the school! In Maths, we have continued to be looking at 3D shapes and learning the correct vocabulary to support our learning. This week we were incredibly lucky to have Y6 come to visit us in year 2. The year 6’s were able to help complete the Reach2 Survey alongside the children, support the children to purple pen their English work and even joined in during music lesson. During wellbeing Wednesday, we had many excited children come into school with their clothes inside out! During the day, we created our own kindness fortune tellers and followed a video on how to draw a sloth.



Key Stage 2

Year 3: In English, this week we have completed writing a persuasive letter about our concerns of human rights abuse. In English, we have used emotive writing, conjunctions, rhetorical questions, fronted adverbials as well as facts and concerns. This has been published in a traditional letter format. In Maths we have interpreted, used, and drawn the tally system and pictograms. On Wellbeing Wednesday, we created our own pictogram with questions that our friend answered, and we then marked. In Science we used our learning and understanding about the topic ‘Plants’ and identified whether food items our teacher brought was a root, stem, leaf, flower seed or a fruit. Broccoli was a surprise! We worked on our ‘Big book of Big Freedoms.’ In this we collected our paintings on human rights, descriptions, letters, glossaries, and list of school rules that protect our human rights.



Year 4:

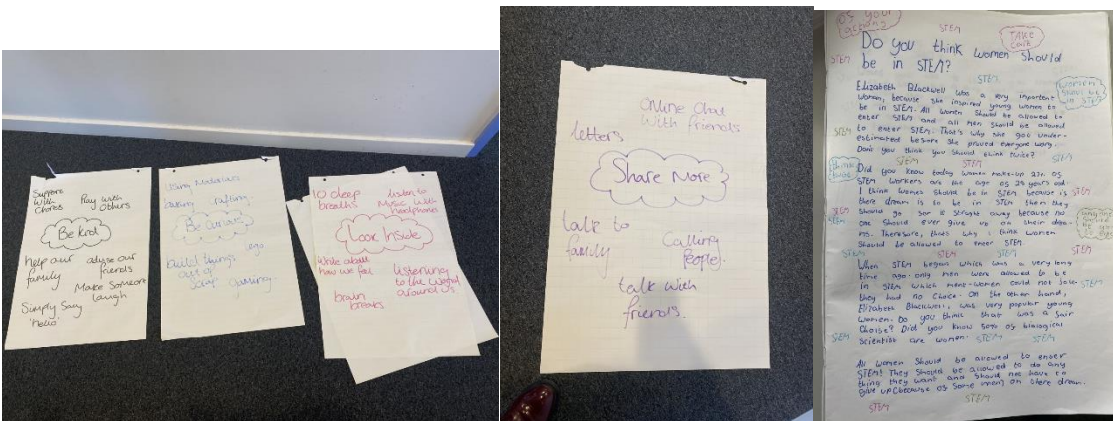
A lot has happened this Spring term and the children are looking forward to a well-deserved break to get rested and refreshed. On Wellbeing Wednesday the children have learned about and practised mindfulness and meditation; they have learned all about how this helps them regulate their emotions and feel calmer. This term the children have learnt many new things about sustainable development in their geography lessons; we have focused on looking after our oceans and rainforests. In English, their skills of writing a biography and a poem are coming along well – good effort Year 4! They have written about looking after our oceans and animals and their work is published and ready to be proudly displayed. The children have learnt to sew in D&T, explored and experimented with sound in science, learned fractions and how to work out the area in maths. The children crafted goodbye cards to Miss Burbidge to say thank you and good luck for the future. The children in Richards class guessed who their new teachers would be before they were announced and then we discussed responding to changes and being adaptable. The children were very excited to hear they'll be making a documentary next term and after practising they're oracy skills a lot in all their lessons, I think they're ready for the challenge! Well done Year 4, you've worked very hard. Hope you keep safe and well during the storm. Enjoy the well-earned break!



Year 5:

This week in English we have been focusing on our English grammar skills and continuing to edit our argument over whether Women belong in STEM. Below is an example of a student's work, it is coming along great! For Maths we are still working on our fractions and this week we saw the end of our Geography Topic on agriculture in Afghanistan.

Our well-being Wednesday was focusing on ideas that we could use to make use happier and other people happier. The students came with some great ideas and hopefully this is something we can incorporate into our lessons.



We have been really lucky in Year 5 to have had Miss Burr teach us in Year 5 and today is her last day on placement! Thank you for all you have done for the staff and students Miss Burr. We hope to see you again soon!

Year 6:

We are so proud of what the children have achieved this half term. They have worked really hard and had a well deserved well-being Wednesday this week. We framed the day by using the 5 keys to happiness as set out by the charity we are working with called Inside Out. Attached is a well-being guide that you can do over half term.

<https://www.theinsideout.org.uk/>

Have a great rest.

News items from this week

Monday 28th February	Return to school – Staff and Pupils
Monday 28th – Friday 4th March	Year 5 and 6 Bikeability

Accident/medication reporting in school – From Monday 28th February we will be changing the way we report accidents and hold medical information. More information to follow, but please keep an eye out for emails from donotreply@medicaltracker.co.uk as this will be an accident/medication notification.

PTA

Do you have wonderful ideas to share? Are you keen to help raise money for the school? Do you want to meet other parents? If so, then the PTA is for you!

The PTA cannot run without members of Civitas Academy having active roles to make sure the PTA runs smoothly.

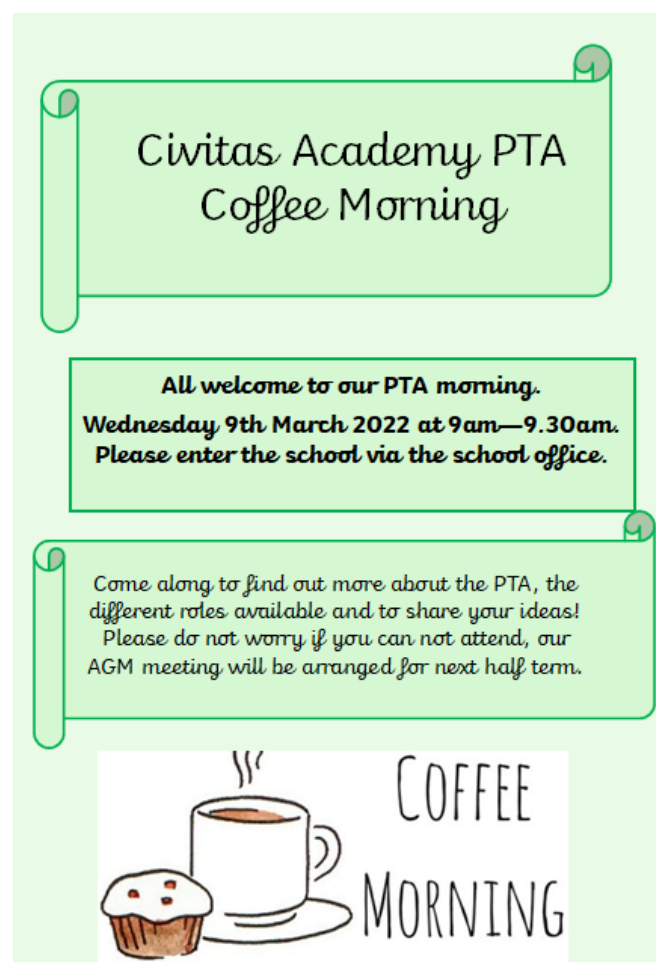
We are looking for parents, carers and grandparents for the following positions.

Chair – Are you a leader?

Main job role: To lead the committee, ensuring the PTA is run in line with the constitution and according to the wishes of all members.

Class links – To be a class link to make sure your year group gets all the information shared from the meetings.

If any of these roles are of interest to you, please send an email to Mrs Aram at Year2@civitasacademy.co.uk to share your interest and for further information.



The graphic is a light green background with three white scroll-like boxes containing text. The top box says 'Civitas Academy PTA Coffee Morning'. The middle box says 'All welcome to our PTA morning. Wednesday 9th March 2022 at 9am—9.30am. Please enter the school via the school office.' The bottom box says 'Come along to find out more about the PTA, the different roles available and to share your ideas! Please do not worry if you can not attend, our AGM meeting will be arranged for next half term.' At the bottom of the graphic is an illustration of a white coffee cup with steam, a brown muffin, and the words 'COFFEE MORNING' in a hand-drawn font.

Contacting Class teachers – If you have a query and would like to contact your child's class teacher, please see the relevant emails below. Absence reporting still needs to be done via office@civitasacademy.co.uk

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



At the end of each half term we would like to share ideas and information with our school community, from our local community, about different activities and resources that everyone can benefit from.

Free TRIAL
4 SESSIONS INCLUDED

Nemesis Martial Arts and Fitness would like to extend an opportunity to all staff, students and parents, of a free four session trial at any of our three locations across Reading.

We have been training and mentoring Martial Artists since the early 2000's, and we continue to grow our family orientated club by offering the best support, advice and training to all of our students

Please head to www.nemesismartialarts.co.uk to sign up and to find out more, alternatively email info@nemesismartialarts.co.uk or call Sensei Peter Felix on 07811085778.

I like that we learn how to protect ourselves but at the same time we exercise.
Maria Year 5

We're Going on a Bear Hunt Messy Play Session (Half term)

Thursday 24th February. 10-11am at Southcote Children Centre.

A super messy session where children can explore different textures and materials based on the famous book 'We're going on a Bear hunt'.

Free online copy of Family First magazine:
https://issuu.com/sevenstarmedia/docs/ff_issue_9_digital100122

Mr Wolf's Pancake Party! (Half term)
Monday 21st February. 10 – 11.30am at Southcote Children Centre.

Do you and your child love pancakes? If so, come along to our Pancake Party! Where we will be tasting and making pancakes and their yummy toppings along with fun Pancake themed activities.



ff familyfirst
Building a happier, healthier family lifestyle

Discover THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF WINTER WILDFOWL

Top Tips FOR RELUCTANT WRITERS

Advice for AN ACTIVE PREGNANCY

HEALTHY LUNCHBOXES YOUR KIDS WILL LOVE

Plus delicious NUTRITIOUS RECIPES

MAKING MEMORIES WITH YOUR family

Logan's General SPORTS DIRECT Starling Bank

FREE Bi-Annual Magazine | ISSUE 9