Civitas Academy Bulletin

23/04/18



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| **Message from the P.E. team: Please could all children come to school wearing their P.E. kit on Wednesday 25th April. Children may wear tracksuits if the weather is cold.** |

**CAFFS**

Civitas Academy Family Friends and Staff (CAFFS) will be reforming this term. This your chance to join, make friends and have fun raising funds for Civitas Academy. Join us on Friday 11th May for an initial meeting in the school. The meeting will be held at 9am, just after drop off. CAFFS will be looking to arrange a second hand uniform and cake sale as part of the Children’s Art Exhibition on Thursday 24th May.

**Welcome from Mr Wieder**

2018 has certainly been a year of weather extremes so far. In March we had snow and in April we had the hottest day recorded since 1949! Therefore I would like to begin the bulletin with our approach to dealing with hot weather. We have a Summer uniform policy for children where they may wear black/grey shorts or green gingham dresses. Children can wear sunhats when outside. We will also limit sun exposure during break and lunchtimes by directing the children to areas of shade on the playground. I would recommend that parents apply sun lotion to the children in the morning as staff will be unable to do this during the school day. Children are allowed to bring in and apply sun lotion themselves if you wish. Please ensure that your child brings a water bottle to school.

I am also pleased to announce that CAFFS will be relaunching this term. In the past, CAFFS have made vital contributions to the school. As you may be aware, schools around the country are having to work on reduced budgets. Civitas Academy is the lowest funded school in the local authority and our budget is extremely tight. Schools get funded per pupil and not per class. The impact of having classes less than 30 can be huge. So far across the school, we have 30 spaces. This means that if these gaps are not filled, the school will lose out on over £700,000 worth of government funding in the next few years. At Civitas, we have learnt to how to be smart with our use of the budget and have used many innovative ways to reduce costs. We have utilised staff sharing across the three Reading schools. Being a Reach2 academy also helps as they can negotiate discounts on contracts on our behalf. We also receive excellent levels of additional support by the academy trust that would cost considerably more if we were to arrange it ourselves. However, we do not have the money to commit to all the projects that we would like to. It would be great if CAFFS could be used to fund projects that have a clear impact for the children. For example, a stage in the hall or climbing equipment/trim trail for the playground.

There are plenty of benefits of having a successful CAFFS in place. Firstly it helps build community engagement. Events bring the community together and that it is something that we really want to build at Civitas. Secondly it offers parents and carers a chance to network and build links with one another. Being a parent myself, I know that it can be challenging and talking things through informally with other parents and carers can be invaluable. I am hoping that through CAFFS, parents and carers can have the opportunity to meet each other and build their own networks. Finally, a successful CAFFS provides an opportunity to raise funds for specific projects that parents feel will add value to the existing offering.

**Clubs**

Clubs begin this week. I have included a timetable of the clubs this term and where they will be located. Please note that for clubs before and after school, drop off and exit will be via the main school office.

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| **Book Club** | **Go Noodle** | **Singing** | **Art** | **Chess** | **Sum Dog** | **Just Dance** | **Gymnastic** | **Multi-sports** | **Junk Modelling** |
| **Library** | **BFG** | **Hall** | **Matilda** | **Food Tech** | **BFG** | **Elmer** | **Hall** | **Hall** | **Elmer** |
| Mon | Tue | Tue | Tue | Wed | Thur | Fri | Fri | Fri | Fri |
| 3.30pm | 8am | 3.30pm | 3.30pm | 12.20pm | 8am | 8am | 8am | 3.30pm | 3.30pm |
| **Miss Rai** | **Miss Gundry** | **Miss Taylor** | **Miss Boman** | **Mr Wieder** | **Miss Gundry** | **Mrs Dunne** | **Mr Stiff** | **Mr Stiff** | **Mr Bays** |

**Gruffalo Parents’ Evening**

This will be taking place in Gruffalo Class on Monday and Friday this week.

**Tapestry/ Mathematics in Reception Meeting**

A meeting will take place in Elmer Class on Tuesday at 3:30pm. The purpose of the meeting is to give an overview of how to use Tapestry and the way that mathematics is taught in Reception. Mr Bays will lead the session.

**Kristian Thomas Visit**

A reminder that the Kristian Thomas visit will be taking place on Wednesday afternoon. All year groups will have the opportunity to meet and have their photo taken with Kristian Thomas. There will be an opportunity to take part in sporting activities and there will also be a special assembly. Please could parents/ carers arrange for sponsorship forms to be returned as soon as possible. Thank you once again for your continued support.

**Head of School Question and Answer Session**

This will be taking place in the hall at 5pm on Thursday. For any parent or carer unable to make it but wishing to raise a question, please email the school office. In a future bulletin, I will provide a summary of progress since the previous meeting and planned action against new points raised at the meeting.

**Parent Governor Election**

As of today, we have received no applications from parents wishing to become a governor. Therefore as it stands there will not be an election. If anyone wishes to become a governor, then please speak to me. We currently have a joint governing body with the two other Reach2 schools in Reading (Ranhiket and Palmer). Both of these schools have parent governors. It would be great if we could appoint our own parent governor.

**INSET Day**

A reminder that this Friday will be an INSET day, so school will be closed for pupils.

**Attendance**

Well done to everyone who has maintained an attendance record of over 97%, which is our minimum school target for attendance. Last week, the weekly attendance for the school was **97.21%**. This is great news and well done to everybody in ensuring that we have met the school target for attendance. The class with the best attendance that week was **Gruffalo Class** with 100%. A special mention to **Pinocchio and Matilda** classeswho also achieved above our attendance target of 97%.

Please see a table below with the attendance breakdown for each class. At Civitas one of our improvement areas is increasing rates of attendance. When attendance rates drop below 95% it is of particular concern.

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| **Year Group** | **Class** | **Attendance** | **Comment** |
| 2 | Matilda | 98.86% | Excellent |
| 2 | BFG | 95.29% | Below Target |
| 1 | Gruffalo | 100% | Excellent |
| 1 | Pinocchio | 99% | Excellent |
| R | Elmer | 95.09% | Below Target |
| R | Paddington | 95.54% | Below Target |

**Stars of the Week**

Last week the following children were recognised:

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| **Child** | **Class** | **Reason** |
| Sofia | BFG | Good independent learning |
| Mahathi | Matilda | Excellent self-correcting |
| Sanhith | Pinocchio | Super descriptive writing and making good choices |
| Leksha | Gruffalo | Always showing respect and modelling good behaviour |
| Imani | Paddington | Positive role model to others |
| Sila | Elmer | Super writing |

**Summer Key Dates**

Dates of school trips are also to be added. These are still being finalised. I have highlighted the two CAFFS dates this term.

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| **Date and Time** | **Event** |
| Monday 23rd April (3:30-6pm) | Gruffalo Parents’ Evening |
| Tuesday 24th April (3:30-4pm) | Tapestry/ Mathematics in Reception Meeting |
| Wednesday 25th April (1-3pm) | Kristian Thomas (Olympic Athlete) Visit |
| Thursday 26th April (3:30-6pm) | Gruffalo Parents’ Evening |
| Thursday 26th April (5-5:30pm) | Head of School Question and Answer Session |
| Friday 27th April | INSET Day |
| 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) |