Civitas Academy Bulletin

23/07/18



**Welcome from Mr Wieder**

Welcome to the last bulletin of the year. I hope that the entire school community has a great break and that everyone returns refreshed in September.

At this point of the year, it is appropriate to reflect on what has went well and what we will be working on improving next academic year. As I have mentioned before, as a school we believe in continual improvement. Feedback is important to us and we consider this when identifying school improvement priorities.

Academic results across the school are positive. Analysis of end of year data shows that children who have been with us the longest perform highly. Children in Y2, who have been with us since at least Y1 have achieved considerably above the 2017 national averages at both Age Related Expectations (ARE) and Greater Depth (GD). Please note that 2018 national averages are not announced until later this year, but are usually similar to the previous year. I have included a table below of the performance of children in Y2, who have been with us for at least a year:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Reading | | Writing | | Mathematics | |
| School  2018 | National  2017 | School  2018 | National  2017 | School  2018 | National  2017 |
| Age Related  Expectations | 81% | 76% | 78% | 68% | 86% | 75% |
| Greater Depth | 28% | 25% | 25% | 16% | 33% | 21% |

In Y1, the proportion passing the Y1 Phonics Check is 79%. This is broadly in line with the 2017 national average of 81%. The result is made more impressive when considering the cohort has changed by almost 40% over the academic year. We will continue supporting any child that did not pass the check in Y2.

The proportion of children meeting a Good Level of Development (GLD) has improved from 2017 and is also in line with national averages. Children have made good rates of progress in order to reach this figure. As you are well aware, we do not have a nursery and children enter Civitas with varied starting points and experiences. However, on average, children in Reception have made the equivalent of an extra 13 weeks’ worth of progress this academic year.

Well done to the entire school community for these impressive results. It is our intention that by the time children leave the school in Y6; academic results will be significantly above national averages in all areas of the curriculum. In order to achieve this, we have already begun implementing our Key Stage 2 strategy (Y3 to Y6). We now have a plan in place about what topics will be taught in each year group all the way up to Y6! Children in Y3 will begin our new reading scheme with online comprehension quizzes in September. We have also invested in ways to further improve our teaching of handwriting and grammar with a consistent approach being implemented across the school. We will also be looking to introduce an online system to support children and parents at home with mathematics.

Academic results are very important to us, but we passionately believe in developing the whole child. During their time at school, we want children to have a range of different opportunities. This term, we were able to increase the amount of extra-curricular clubs on offer and plan to add to this next academic year. However, we have not had as many trips and visits as we would have liked. Staff have had extra time to begin booking trips for next year with the aim of the year plan being finalised by the end of September. As a school, we also be embracing the Reach2 initiative of 11b411. This initiative is about creating 11 amazing experiences for children before they leave primary school. We will begin to implement this initiative next academic year.

Sport and exercise is another area where we will be further developing. The appointment of our own P.E. team will ensure that we can increase the amount of sports clubs and opportunities to be active throughout the week. As children progress through the school, we will be looking at increasing the opportunities to participate in competitive school sport.

Community involvement has also increased considerably this year. Civitas is the Latin word for community and it is one of our Civitas Certainties. We have made links and raised money for local charities. CAFFS has been re-established and the amount of events for parents to visit the school has increased considerably.

Along the way, we have made mistakes and learnt lessons. We have followed the community strategy that we shared in January. As a new school, we accept that we cannot get everything right first time. Some things have been improved quite quickly whereas others have taken more time. Our motto is ‘Hand in hand we learn’ and I would like to finish by thanking everyone for working together and welcoming me to the school community this year. I shall look forward to updating you with all the new exciting developments next academic year.

**Staffing Update**

We have made some adjustments to the original staffing structure that was originally circulated at the start of July. Miss Taylor, who has taught in Paddington this year, will now be the teacher in Rosen Class when she returns to Civitas in September. Mrs Henry, who was originally named as the class teacher, will now be working at one of our partner schools. Mrs Maddison will be moving back to Palmer Academy.

Mrs Hussain, who has provided regular cover at the school this academic year will now become the teacher in Elmer Class for two days a week. Miss Vaal, our newly appointed P.E. teacher will teach Paddington Class on Friday afternoons.

We still have a Learning Support Assistant (LSA) vacancy in Y2 that needs filling. We were also unsuccessful in recruiting a P.E. Learning Support Assistant this time. We will advertise again in the Autumn term and in the interim propose to use agency support staff to cover the two support staff vacancies.

We are still finalising after school club for next academic year. We are hopeful that we will be able to extend the opening to 5:30pm on Monday to Thursday next year, with Friday remaining at 5pm. We will be able to confirm the arrangements for definite next term.

Please find the amended staffing structure for teachers and at the school next year.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Year Group** | **Class Name** | **Teacher (s)** | **Learning Support Assistant** |
| R | Elmer | Mrs Witkowski (Early Years Lead)/ Mrs Hussain | Miss Parsons |
| R | Paddington | Miss Bradburn | Mrs Das |
| 1 | Gruffalo | Mrs Carey | Mrs Cekaj |
| 1 | Pinocchio | Mrs Brooks | Mrs Jain |
| 2 | BFG | Miss Gundry (Assistant Head) | To be appointed |
| 2 | Matilda | Miss Boman | Miss Tuthill |
| 3 | Kinney | Miss Frain | Mrs Aram (Trainee Teacher) |
| 3 | Rosen | Miss Taylor |

**Return to School**

Please note that pupils return on Thursday 6th September. Both Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th September are INSET days and school will be closed to pupils on those dates.

**After School Club**

Please note that there is no after school club on Tuesday 24th July.