

Autumn Bulletin

Friday 20th October 2023



Message from Salima Ducker, Executive Headteacher



Dear Parents/Carers,

As we head towards this first half-term break, and I have been reflecting back through this term there has been so much to be proud of. Each week it is great to look at the learning our children share with us and the great celebrations of our values across the school. This week bot our Year 6 children that have been away on residential or here back at school have gained so much in the different experiences they have had; we are so proud of them.

Also, this week, we had our 'Make a REACh2 Record' As a whole school, each year group took it in turns to skip for two minutes and count how many skips they did as a year group, just as they finished the next year groups started skipping and so forth...The final total of skips will be revealed in our celebration assembly when we return after half term. The children were absolutely fantastic at supporting each other in trying to further their personal records, using the counters on their skipping rope



THANK YOU

We would like to say a big thank you to Mrs. Stonham who has been supporting us in the office as our new team have been appointed, we have been so grateful and wish you the very best for you and your family.

It is also the last day for Ms. Weber in our office team, Ms. Weber has been with us this last year and supporting us in the finance department. Thank you for all your guidance, we wish you all the very best in your new role.

Miss Hay joined our team back in January 2023, she has worked alongside a range of different staff and pupils across the school, we are grateful for the time spent here at Civitas and wish her all the very best for the future.

Thank you to all of you for your support, we wish you a great half-term and look forward to welcoming you back on **Tuesday 31st October 2023 at 8.40am**

PE TIMETABLE – Autumn Term

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

Celebrations and Achievements

Reception		
Elmer	Oliver	For being ready, respectful and safe all well! Keep it up!
Paddington	Ammar	For doing great counting and drawing wonderful pictures of his local area. Bravo!
KS1		
Pinocchio	Anish	For making a good effort with his factfile.
Gruffalo	Yaw	For wonderful focus and attitude to learning.
BFG	Aurora	For contributing within all lessons and showing resilience when finding tasks tricky!
Matilda	Ezekiel	Being respectful and resilient, trying to make a difference with his positive learning approach.
KS2		
Rosen	Jasmine	For always working hard and following the school rules.
Kinney	Sahas	For using his oracy skills well in group discussions
Richards	Myles	For being resilient this week and trying his best, especially during our Maths lessons.
Murphy	Evie	For her thoughtful contributions to class discussions.
Avery	Zaid	For showing improved attitude towards learning.
Zephaniah	Mason	For excellent work in english lesson- expanded noun phrase
Draper	David	For excellent teamwork to plan and teach a lesson for "Be a teacher" day
Lewis	Mason	For excellent teamwork to plan and teach a lesson for "Be a teacher" day

House	Total House Points this week	Total
Aqua	819	819
Terra	568	568
Ignis	695	695
Atmos	682	682

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

Class	Sports Star of the Week
Gruffalo	Ravneet
Pinocchio	Eri
BFG	Matei
Matilda	Aya
Kinney	Michael
Rosen	Tegjot
Murphy	Lily

Richards	Adaeze
Avery	Elif
Zephaniah	Mason
Draper	Erin
Lewis	Ali

Congratulations to all our students who have been chosen to represent their peers as part of the Student Leadership Team:

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.

	08/09	15/09	22/09	29/09	6/10	13/10	20/10
Reception		84%	92.9%	93.4%	95.7%	96.1%	94.7%
Year 1	83%	87%	90.2%	92.6%	92.7%	93.7%	94%
Year 2	90%	90%	93.9%	94.4%	94.5%	97.9%	96%
Year 3	95%	97%	98.8%	94.1%	94.4%	97.9%	94.4%
Year 4	88%	91%	93.5%	94.2%	95.1%	95.2%	89.8%
Year 5	94%	93%	94.5%	96.8%	95.8%	96.1%	96.%
Year 6	90%	91%	92%	93.3%	94.1%	95.7%	98.3%

What have we been learning this week?

Reception:

In Reception, we had an amazing week filled with fantastic learning experiences and rainbow challenges. This week we went for a walk in our local area. We saw buses, cranes, cars lorries etc. The children were very excited. Every child also had a beat the street card to tap the points on the lamppost to gain points and to show the children how easy the cards are to use. We had such a fun time exploring our local area. In Maths we have been learning to create and recreate repeating patterns. We have been using all different resources including natural materials. In Phonics we have now learned s,a,t,p,I,n,m,d,g,o,c,k,u,e,r,h,b,f,l,ck. We have focused on the tricky words 'I 'is' 'the'. In Literacy and Global Learning our book has been 'All kinds of people'. We have been drawing and labelling body parts and drawing a map of our local area. We have also been learning and writing about people who help us. We hope everyone has a fantastic half term and we look forward to seeing you on the 31st October 2023.

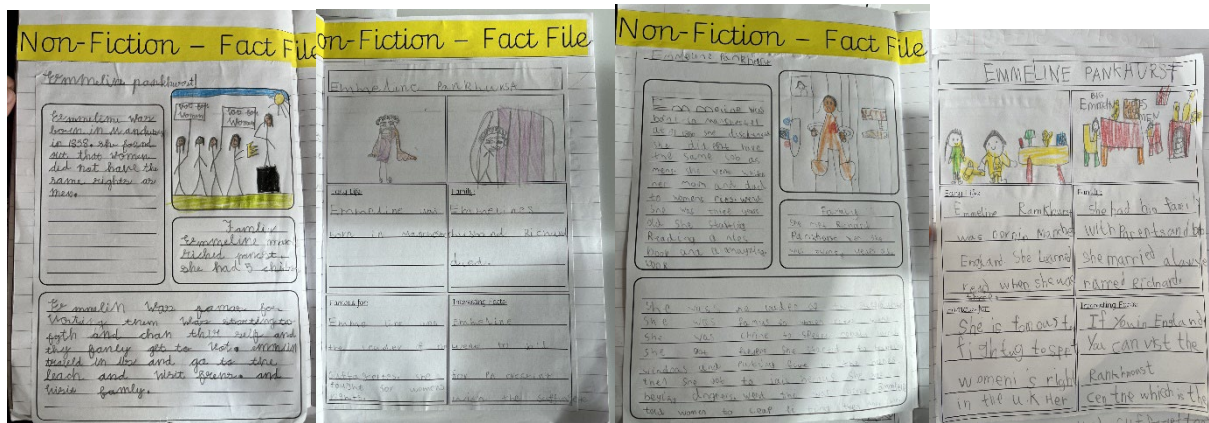
Key Stage 1

Year 1:

This week we have read a new book called 'Giraffes Can't Dance' which looks at resilience as a core theme. The children loved Hot-Seating and pretending to be the main character in the book. We learnt about questions and how to write them. In all writing we are embedding the skills of letter formation, using our phonics knowledge, finger spaces, punctuation and ensuring our sentences make sense. In Maths, we have learnt how to work systematically when answering a question and have started learning our number bonds to ten. In Geography, we debated and learnt what Geography was as a subject. We looked at the physical and human features around us and recorded them pictorially. In Computing, we learnt how to keep safe using the computer or other mobile devices and made posters to portray this. In PSHE we reflected on our personal achievements since joining Year One. We are so proud of every Year 1 child this term and thank you for your help with Reading at home and homework. We hope you have a lovely half-term and look forward to welcoming you back next term. We have some unnamed clothing on the trolley so please do come and look after school.

Year 2:

Wow, what a fantastic end to a busy half-term! In English, we completed and edited our fact files about Emmeline Pankhurst using the features learnt last week. In Maths, we continued with addition and subtraction focusing on two-digit numbers. As part of our history lessons, we studied the suffragette movement and how this has impacted society in present day. For Computing, Year 2 discussed how we can make good and bad choices when using IT, so it is important to stay safe. We created a chart representing a 'digital diet' - hopefully your child can apply this when using digital appliances. We thoroughly enjoyed wellbeing Wednesday competing in a school 'skip2benefit' competition! As part of our science unit, we created a Jane Goodall mural to display in the corridor using our fact files and artwork. Thank you to those completing their homework - please note to complete the specific pages of the week in homework books. We look forward to seeing your spooky selves on 31st October - have a great half term!



Key Stage 2

Year 3:

In English this week we have revisited everything we have learnt this term about slavery. We used bullet points to remind ourselves of all of the important facts about slavery and the underground railroad, we then wrote an extension of our narratives with all of this information. In maths we have been learning to exchange 1's for 10's using place value charts and column addition to support our learning. In Geography we looked at geographical features of capital cities. We discussed physical and human features that we could see on maps and compared them to other cities. We used our knowledge of these features to guess which city would have the biggest population judging on these key features. In Spanish this week we completed our first terms block of learning and completed an end of unit quiz about everything we have learnt so far.

Wellbeing Wednesday- The children really enjoyed the 11b411 break a Reach2 record. They cheered on all of the classes while they skipped then gave it their best try to see how many skips they could do in 2 minutes. It was a great team effort by both children and teachers.

Year 4:

Year 4 have had a very exciting week this week! In, English we have published our letters from the point of view of a character in a war-torn country. We have also been recapping how we use conjunctions to join two clauses together. In Maths, we have continued our topic of addition and subtraction. we have focused on adding two four-digit numbers using column addition when there is an exchanged involved. We have been really resilient this week in



Math! As part of our Design Technology project this term 'On the roll' we have made bread this week. We thought about what makes good bread roll and created a design criteria. We then, made sure we had the correct ingredients, we kneaded the dough, let it prove and then shaped it to match our designs. It was then baked in the oven. We enjoyed trying our bread at home!

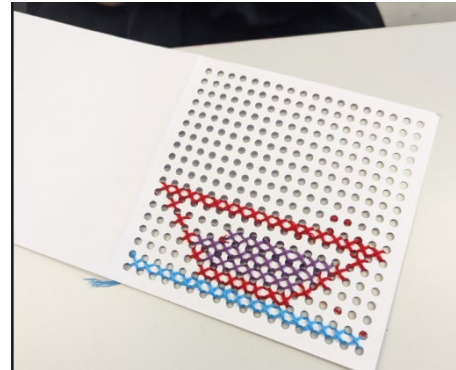
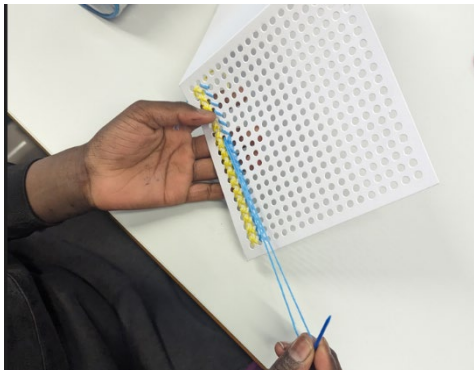


Year 5:

Now that we have reached end of our first half-term, we can't help but feel inspired by the incredible progress Year 5 has made. This week was no exception, as we dove into a range of subjects and activities that challenged us to think critically and creatively. From revising key skills in English to exploring the complexities of sustainable development, we rose to the occasion with enthusiasm and determination. In maths, we embraced the challenge of learning about factors, prime numbers, and squared numbers, all while supporting each other along the way. Our Wellbeing Wednesday was filled with laughter and joy as we connected with each other through traditional games and the REAch 2 Skipathon. In PSHE, we took a moment to reflect on our responsibilities and set new goals for the next term. We're filled with gratitude and excitement for all that is yet to come next half term. Thanks for being a part of our journey!

Year 6:

Year 6 has had a bit of a different week this week. Those children who stayed in school had an 'enrichment week' where we developed different skills, from helping in EYFS to being film critics. Our favourite activities throughout the week were learning to sew, where every child learnt a new skill, and be a teacher day, where every child planned and taught a lesson to a class in school. We learnt exactly what it was like to be a teacher, by planning a lesson, creating the resources and teaching it. Although we had some small technical difficulties, we were successful, and the children enjoyed the experience!



Dates for the Diary:

- Monday 23rd Oct – Friday 27th October – Half Term Break
- Monday 30th October – INSET Day
- **Tuesday 31st October – Children return to school 8.40am**

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

News

ROCK AND POP BAND LESSONS WITH ROCKSTEADY!

Exciting news! From 6th November, we will be welcoming Rocksteady Music School into Civitas. It's an incredible opportunity for your children to learn to play their favourite songs in their very own band with a choice of drums, keyboards, electric guitar, bass guitar or vocals.

As well as learning new musical skills, lessons also boost children's confidence, wellbeing, social skills and teamwork. Lessons take place every week during school time.

These fun and inclusive lessons are taught by highly trained, professional musicians who know how to inspire a life-long love of music. At the end of each term each band will perform in a concert for the school and their families, so you can see how far they have come! A musical workshop has already taken place in school, where the children tried out the instruments and saw what it is like to learn to play in a band.

Here's what you need to know:

- All instruments are provided
- No musical experience necessary
- Suitable for all ages
- Most lessons take place during school time
- Your child will learn up to 300 instrument, band, and performance skills
- You'll receive regular online updates via the Rocksteady Parent Timeline
- There's a money back guarantee for the first month
- You can cancel at any time.

You can sign up for lessons online at bit.ly/parent-sign-up

If you have any questions about Rocksteady band lessons, you can call 0330 113 0330 (local rate, office hours are Mon – Thurs 8am – 8pm, Fridays 8am – 6pm).

BEAT THE STREET

Hello all! I hope you have all been enjoying tapping the Beat the Street transport boxes in West Reading this month. Beat the Street have some exciting half term FREE events happening for families to attend to gain some extra bonus points for Civitas Academy to check out at this link:

<https://www.beatthestreet.me/westreading/events/>

Come along to our free "Find Your Way" taster session at Prospect Park on Sunday 29 October from 1pm - 4pm! It's fun for the whole family. There will be an orienteering activity from Berkshire Orienteers and nature wellbeing activities led by Nature Nurture and Sport in Mind. You'll also have a chance to visit our Mobile Beat Box for double points and be in with a chance to win great prizes - including a £25 Decathlon voucher for the MapRun player who completes the orienteering routes the fastest! There's a selfie competition too! Find out more about the event here:

<https://www.beatthestreet.me/westreading/events/find-your-way/>

Find Your Way - Taster Session



When: Sunday 29 October 1pm-4pm

Where: Prospect Park - left of the
Ranger Station

Come along to our free "Find Your Way" taster session. It's fun for the whole family! There will be an orienteering activity from Berkshire Orienteers and nature wellbeing activities led by Nature Nurture and Sport in Mind. You'll also have a chance to visit our Mobile Beat Box for double points and be in with a chance to win great prizes - including a £25 Decathlon voucher for the MapRun player who completes the orienteering routes the fastest!

Get ready for the event

1. Download the free MapRun app in advance - this will give you a better experience during the orienteering activity
2. Sign up, choose "Events near me" and select "FYW" and download the Prospect Park courses
3. If you choose not to download the MapRun app, you can still download the course maps in advance using the QR code below

