Civitas Academy Bulletin

14/10/19



**Welcome from Mr Wieder**

Thank you to all of the families for their kind donations of food for our Harvest Collection. We held a special assembly on Friday where Grace from New Beginnings visited the school to talk to the children about how the food would be used.

Year 1 children also made special packs for the homeless community, which were also presented to New Beginnings on Friday. Children made the packs as part of the awareness raising for World Homeless Day. Thank you to Mrs Carey for organising this.

Following feedback from the question and answer session, I have started a section in the bulletin about supporting learning at home. For the next few weeks the focus will be on how to support your child with developing their reading comprehension skills.

I am also pleased to announce that we have made links with the Autism Advisor for Families in Reading, Jenna Redmond. She will be running a series of coffee mornings this academic year where families will be able to meet and discuss challenges and share good practice amongst one another. The coffee mornings are for families where a child has social and communication difficulties. The first coffee morning will take place on Wednesday 6th November at 9am.

**Car Parking**

Please could I reiterate to families the importance of following highway regulations when parking. There continues to be a large amount of double-parking and parking in the bays marked for residents only. I appreciate that there is not a large amount of parking in the area, so please could families allow extra time to park further away and stride into school. I have previously been in contact with the local authority and they will continue to send parking wardens to take action against parking offenders.

**Club Cancellations**

Lego Club will not take place on Tuesday after school this week. Wednesday lunchtime football will also not take place this week.

**Head lice**

Last week we had several reports of head lice across the school. Please could families ensure that they regularly check their child’s hair and that children with long hair have it all tied up when they are in school.

**Ordering Lunches**

Now that Tucasi is fully up and running, please could families use the website to order school dinners a week in advance please. For families unsure about how Tucasi works, there will be a workshop on Wednesday 23rd October.

**Taking Photographs/ Videos in School**

Please can I remind parents that this is not permitted as by doing so, you may be also be capturing images of other children.

**P.E. Reminders**

Miss Vaal would like to reiterate that earrings should not be worn on P.E. days and that as the weather is getting colder tracksuits should be worn for P.E.

**Homework Expectations**

Last week we held a MyMaths workshop for parents and during the meeting it was identified that parents are not sure about homework expectations. As a result, I will clarify the approach being used in each year group below:

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| **Year Group** | **Reading Expectations (please note that children may also bring home a reading for pleasure book as well)** | **Homework Set (Set and Day Day)** | **Feedback Provided** |
| EYFS | Banded Reading Book/ Reading Record |  |  |
| Y1 | Banded Reading Book/ Reading Record | Project Homework  Spellings (linked to phonics) to be introduced after half-term.  Maths homework later in the academic year | Verbal acknowledgement/ celebration via project celebration.  Score recorded in reading records. |
| Y2 | Banded Reading Book/ Reading Record | MyMaths (set Friday and due Friday)  Spellings (initially from Y1 common exception list and then moving on Y2 exception list this term) | Score on MyMaths website.  Child to write their spelling score in the homework book. |
| Y3 | Accelerated Reader Book | MyMaths (set on Wednesday and due on Monday)  Y3 Spellings set on Wednesday and tested on Monday | Score on MyMaths website.  Child to write their spelling score in the homework book. |
| Y4 | Accelerated Reader Book | MyMaths (set at the start of the mathematics topic and available for the duration of the topic for families to work through at own pace)  Y4 Spellings (set on Wednesday and tested on Wednesday)  Weekly Multiplication | Score on MyMaths website.  Any worksheet activities will be peer marked.  Child to write their spelling/ multiplication score in the homework book. |

I would like to apologise for parents in Y2 for the late arrival of the reading records. These will be with the children by the start of next half-term at the latest. We are planning to launch a new reading certificate system where children will get certificates for reaching a certain amount of reading record entries. This will be launched after half-term.

**Individual School Photographs**

This will be taking place on Monday 14th October.

**Accelerated Reader Workshop (Y3 and Y4)**

This is the individual reading system used from Y3 upwards. A workshop for parents will be held on Thursday 17th October.

**Project Celebrations/Parent Appreciation: Monday 21st October**

Project celebrations are when families are invited in to celebrate their children’s work at the end of each half term. These take place in classrooms between 3:30 and 4pm. On this occasion we will also be staying open for families to meet in the hall until 4:30pm. Families are invited to bring food into share.

**Learning Focus: Reading Comprehension**

Feedback from parents indicated that they would like a section in bulletin that focuses on how they can support learning at home. For the next few weeks, I will focus on aspects of reading. There are two main focus areas that we teach the children at Civitas- word reading and comprehension. When children start their learning in Reception, the focus is mainly on word reading and as they progress throughout the school and they become sight readers, the focus shifts more and more onto comprehension. We begin by using a programme of phonics to develop word reading, which is used in EYFS and KS1. Comprehension in simple terms is the understanding of the content that is read. If a child is struggling to read the words, then it is less likely that they will comprehend a text. Generally speaking, if a child cannot read at least 90% of words, they will struggle to understand what they are reading. So the first check if you want to support your child in developing their comprehension is whether or not the book is at the right level to develop comprehension. Therefore re-reading familiar books can be a good thing as children will be familiar with the words, so they can be supported to develop comprehension skills.

Comprehension has several different aspects. This week we will focus on prediction. Prediction is an essential aspect of comprehension as children have to use clues from pictures and what they have read previously to make sensible suggestions. If you would like to support your child develop their prediction skills in reading, you could use the following question stems:

* Look at the cover/title/first line/chapter headings…what do you think will happen next? How have the cover/title/first line/chapter headings…helped you come up with this idea?
* What do you think will happen to the goodie/baddie/main character? Why do you think this?
* What will happen next? Why do you think this? Are there any clues in the text?
* Can you think of another story, which has a similar theme; e.g. good over evil; weak over strong; wise over foolish? Do you think this story will go the same way?
* Which stories have openings like this? Do you think this story will develop in the same way?
* Why did the author choose this setting? How will that effect what happens next?
* How is character X like someone you know? Do you think they will react in the same way?

The key to supporting your child develop their prediction skills is always to ask why and guiding your child to make their answers link back to what they have previously read.

**2019-20 Key Dates**

**Autumn**

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| **Date and Time** | **Event** |
| Wednesday 9th October(9-9:30am) | MyMaths workshop for parents and carers in Y1-Y4 |
| Friday 11th October | Harvest Collection: Bring a tin or packet to wear your own clothes in school |
| Monday 14th October | Individual School Photographs |
| Thursday 17th October (9-9:30am) | Accelerated Reader workshop for parents and carers in Y3 and Y4 |
| Monday 21st October (3:30-4pm) | Project Celebrations (Reception- Year 4) |
| Monday 21st October (3:30-4:30pm) | Parent Appreciation (Please bring food to share) |
| Wednesday 23rd October (9am) | Tucasi Workshop for parents |
| Thursday 24th October (9-9:30am) | Y1 Diwali Assembly |
| Wednesday 6th November | Coffee morning for parents with children that have social and communication difficulties |
| Wednesday 6th November (3:30-6pm) | Parents Evening |
| Thursday 7th November (3:30-6pm) | Parents Evening |
| Monday 11th- Friday 15th November | Anti-Bullying Week |
| Monday 11th November (9:30-10:30) | Open Morning for Prospective New Reception Families 2020 |
| Friday 15h November | Dress in blue clothes for Anti-Bullying Day |
| Monday 18th- Friday 22nd November | Road Safety Week |
| Monday 18th November (9:30-10:30) | Open Morning for Prospective New Reception Families 2020 |
| Friday 29th November (3:30-4pm) | Art Exhibition/ Christmas Fair |
| Friday 6th December | Autumn Clubs Finish |
| Friday 13th December | Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day |
| Monday 16th December (3:30-4pm) | Project Celebrations (Reception-Year 4) |
| Tuesday 17th December (9:15-10am) | Christmas Performance (Dress Rehearsal suitable for families with young children) |
| Wednesday 18th December (9:15-10am) | Christmas Performance (No young children please) |
| Friday 20th December | Last Day of Term |

**Spring**

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| **Date and Time** | **Event** |
| Monday 6th January | INSET Day |
| Tuesday 7th January | Children return to school |
| Monday 13th January (3:30pm- 4pm) | Term Overview Meeting |
| Wednesday 15th January (9-9:30am) | Question and Answer Session with Head of School |
| Friday 30th January (To be confirmed) | NSPCC Number Day (parents welcome to spend upto 9:25am in classes to join in with maths activities. Children can come in wearing clothes with numbers on for £1 donation to NSPCC) |
| Monday 10th February (3:30pm-4pm) | Project Celebrations |
| Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February | Half Term |
| Thursday 5th March | World Book Day (parents welcome to spend upto 9:25am in classes to join in with reading activities. Children can come in dressed as a book character) |
| Wednesday 11th March (3:30-6pm) | Parents’ Evening |
| Thursday 12th March (3:30-6pm) | Parents’ Evening |
| Friday 13th March | Sports Relief |
| Monday 30th March (3:30pm-4pm) | Project Celebrations |
| Thursday 2nd April | Y3 Easter Assembly |
| Friday 3rd April | End of Term |

**Summer**

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| **Date and Time** | **Event** |
| Monday 20th April | Children return to school |
| Monday 27th April (3:30-4pm) | Term Overview Meeting |
| Thursday 7th May (9am-9:30am) | Question and Answer Session with Head of School |
| Monday 18th May (3:30-4pm) | Project Celebration |
| Monday 18th- Friday 22nd May | Mental Health Week |
| Monday 25th-Friday 29th May | Half Term |
| Thursday 4th June (9:10- 9:40am) | Y2 Eid Assembly |
| Monday 8th-Friday 12th June | Cultural Diversity Week |
| Friday 12th June | International Day |
| Friday 12th June (3:30-4pm) | International Food Festival |
| Tuesday 30th June (AM) | Sports Day |
| Wednesday 1st July | Transition Day |
| Friday 3rd July | Sports Day (Reserve date in case of bad weather on Tuesday 30th June) |
| Thursday 9th July | Question and Answer Session with Head of School |
| Friday 10th July | Reports Out |
| Friday 17th July | Last day of term for children |