

# Spring Bulletin

## Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024



## Message from Salima Ducker, Executive Headteacher



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the start of 2024 at Civitas. It has been fantastic to welcome back all our team and families and we also have a few new families who have joined us this week, a special welcome to all of you.

As you will see from our bulletin today, the children have been straight back into their learning as they have also been discovering what their global learning themes are for the term and what their project outcomes will be! A reminder of the six global themes that are a part of our curriculum here at Civitas:

Sustainable Development



Identity and Diversity



Human Rights



Social Justice and Equity



Power and Governance



Peace and Conflict



Ask your child/children what they are focusing on this term and if they know yet what their project outcome will be!

## Parent Surveys

Thank you to our families that participated in the parent surveys that came out in the Autumn term. One of the comments that was a running thread was some clarity around our school uniform policy, as it was felt that this was not always clear. A copy of our policy is attached to this week's bulletin and can also be found on the website. Following the revised Uniform Policy, most items should be available for our families to purchase from a variety of shops. The school colours for both uniform and footwear have been clearly stated in the policy. If there are any circumstances where we can support with uniform, as always please come and speak to us.

## **ONLINE Safety**

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February is Safer Internet Day** – we will be bringing together the work we do with our children about staying safe online, what you can do if things change online, talking to our trusted adults.



Let's work together to help keep our children safe online, here is a link to the [NSPCC website](#) that have some great guides to support families with online safety advice

PE Timetable – Spring 1 – Please note the change in day for Y5 and Y6

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

# Celebrations and Achievements

Reception		
Elmer	Elijah	For having a fantastic first week and remembering to be ready, respectful and safe!
Paddington	Ashna	For settling in so well to Civitas and being so kind.
KS1		
Pinocchio	Royal	For being ready to learn this week.
Gruffalo	Nadia	Outstanding learning at school and at home.
BFG	Fahad	For a wonderful start to 2024 challenging himself in Phonics – keep it up!
Matilda	Meet	For coming back to school with a great attitude for learning and tackling challenges independently.
KS2		
Rosen	Layla	For showing great compassion when helping a friend.
Kinney	Hayden	For working hard on his handwriting
Richards	Emily	For coming back to school with a positive attitude and has begun to ask for help when she needs it.
Murphy	Mukunthan	For always engaging with the lesson and taking part with the teacher in class discussions.
Avery	Santhosh	For showing a fantastic attitude and developing his zest for learning.
Zephaniah	Baboucarr	For a great start to the new term and showing a positive attitude towards learning.
Draper	Emma	For being caring and compassionate
Lewis	Flynn	For correctly identifying all the writing features in our WAGOLL

House	Total House Points this week	Total
Aqua		
Terra		
Ignis		
Atmos		

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

Class	Sports Star of the Week
Elmer	
Paddington	
Gruffalo	
Pinocchio	
BFG	
Matilda	
Kinney	
Rosen	

Murphy	
Richards	
Avery	
Zephaniah	
Draper	
Lewis	

**Achievements outside of school**

Name	Class	Achievement

**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.

	12.01.24						
Reception	94.5%						
Year 1	94.3%						
Year 2	89.9%						
Year 3	96.6%						
Year 4	85.8%						
Year 5	96.9%						
Year 6	94.9%						

**What have we been learning this week?**

**Reception:**

We have had a very settled first week back this year. We have started our new 'Global Learning' theme of Peace and Conflict, with a focus on 'Overcoming Prejudice'. We have begun this topic by looking at our 'Big Feelings' by Alexandra Penfold in our Literacy and Global Learning lessons. This book explores feelings that children may experience and the causes of them. Our focus for our rainbow challenge activities have emphasized the importance of labelling and discussing our feelings. In art we have been drawing faces with different expressions, in writing we have been writing simple sentences about our feelings and what caused them. In maths we are by exploring the importance of 0 (zero) and will be deepening our understanding of the numbers 6, 7 and 8. We are very excited to have started learning phase 3 phonics and have started with the sounds: ai (**rain**), ee (**feet**), igh (**night**) and oa (**boat**). The children have really impressed us with the work they have been doing over the families, we can see a huge difference in their handwriting, turn-taking, recognition of tricky words and number understanding.

The hard work you are putting in with your children really shows!

### **Key Stage 1**

#### **Year 1:**

We have had a wonderful start to 2024 and the children have settled beautifully into the new term. Our Global Learning theme this term is Social Justice and Equity. In Maths we are learning about the number system and the numbers 11- 20 in particular. The CPG Math's Homework Book has been sent home and it is due back in school every Monday. In English we have started reading our new fiction book, "Little Red Reading Book" by Lucy Rowland and Ben Mantle. This week we compared this story to the traditional Little Red Riding Hood fairytale. We predicted the ending of the story and focused on accurately forming sentences with punctuation too! This term we are learning about the United Kingdom in Geography. This week we named the countries and the seas and oceans around the UK. In Art we are creating self-portraits inspired by Picasso. Please can you save and bring into school some old magazines for next week so we can use them creatively. This term we are learning about materials in Science; this week we learnt about different types of materials like wood, plastic and glass. In RE we debated what a good friend does and does not do with images to support our thinking. Each child was given a special token in PSHE telling them why their teacher was proud of them. These are being kept in a special treasure chest ready for next week.

#### **Year 2:**

Happy New Year! What a fantastic start to 2024 in Year 2 sharing our new global learning theme "peace and conflict". In English, we explored our new text called "Hermelin" based on a detective mouse and made predictions about what mysteries he may solve or what clues he may find! In Maths, we are learning about money recapping counting pounds and pence in coins and notes. As part of our science lessons, we will be focusing on everyday materials. This week, we defined meanings of 'opaque' and 'transparent' then listed items that are made from a range of materials such as card, brick and glass. In RE, we are discussing the question 'does praying at regular intervals help a Muslim in his/her everyday life?'. We learnt about the 5 pillars of Islam and will focus on the importance of praying next week. In DT, we investigated where wool comes from and how it can turn into a product. Year 2 will be creating an exciting DT project with wool and materials. If you have any spare buttons, wool, felt or sewing needles we would be very grateful to receive them. Please continue to support your child by practising phonics, handwriting and regular reading. Homework books will be given out this week along with an additional copy of Collins Ebook logins and passwords.

### **Key Stage 2**

#### **Year 3:**

This term's Global learning theme: Sustainable development.

In English we have been focusing on our new text Escape from Pompeii and exploring narratives. The children used the I pads and laptops to research Pompeii and to find out about Mount Vesuvius. The children worked so hard in this lesson and found out some superb and interesting facts. In maths we have been working on multiplication with the main focus being the 4 times table. We have recapped some methods from last term (arrays) to support our learning. In Geography we are learning about volcanoes! We have so far learnt about tectonic plates and what they do. Next week we will be looking at the layers of the Earth. In Spanish this term, our focus is shapes. We looked at a variety of 2D shapes and tested ourselves to see if we could name them.

#### **Year 4:**

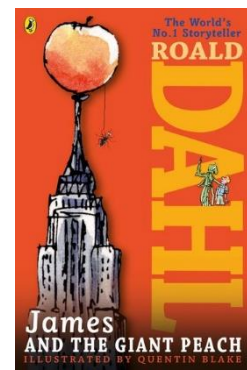
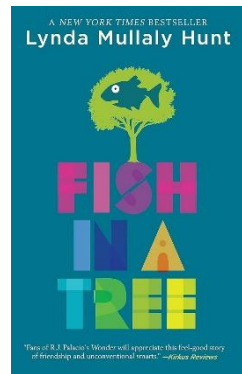
It was lovely to welcome all of the year 4 children back after the winter break. Everyone has returned with a real eagerness to learn! In Maths we have continued our topic of multiplication and division, learning about how we find factors pairs of a number. We have started our new English topic - playscripts. Our new book, 'A Fish in a Tree' focuses on a young girl who is dealing with going to school with a hidden disability. This has created some fantastic and meaningful discussions where the children were extremely respectful towards each other and each other's opinions. This learning links in with our Identity and Diversity learning theme, over the spring term we will be working hard towards our project outcome - to organise a wellbeing workshop for our parents and carers. In whole class reading we have also started to read a new book - James and the giant peach by Roal Dahl. So far we have loved exploring the life of James Henry Trotter and we are excited to see what adventure he will do on. It has been a great first week back in year 4 and we all look forward to continuing to learn all of our new topics!

#### **Year 5:**

Happy New Year everyone! We have welcomed the New Year in year 5 by going back in time to learn about the Ancient Greeks. In English, we've been reading Greek myths, particularly the story of Daedalus and Icarus, which teaches us about the concept of 'karma'. We also looked at the common features shared by myths and narrative writing. In maths, we've been focusing on column method multiplication using the area model. Although it was challenging at first to understand the area model for multiplying 2-digit numbers by 2 digits, we've learned that it's important to try different methods to solve mathematical problems. In history, we learned about the Ancient Greeks' civilization and how their ideas and achievements continue to influence society today, such as their architecture and the Olympic games.

#### **Year 6:**

In maths we've begun our new unit on decimals; we've explored place value to 3 decimal places and rounded decimals too. In English we started to read *The Wolves of Willoughby Chase* by Joan Aiken – in our hook lesson we designed a new front cover for the 2024 edition! We have read the WAGOLL and identified all the year 6 writing features included in a narrative. Our geography this term will focus on terrestrial biomes; using a world map, we located 5 different types of biomes: tundra, woodland, desert, grassland and savannah. In DT we enjoyed exploring hats: what they are made of and why people wear them. We can't wait to design and make our own hat (or fascinator) that can be worn at Royal Ascot! Next week we will be creating mood boards so if you have any unwanted magazines and paint colour charts at home, please send them in with your child by Wednesday next week – thank you.



## Communication to the school

Absence reporting still needs to be done via [office@civitasacademy.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:earlyyears@civitasacademy.co.uk)

Year 1: [year1@civitasacademy.co.uk](mailto:year1@civitasacademy.co.uk)

Year 2: [year2@civitasacademy.co.uk](mailto:year2@civitasacademy.co.uk)

Year 3: [year3@civitasacademy.co.uk](mailto:year3@civitasacademy.co.uk)

Year 4: [year4@civitasacademy.co.uk](mailto:year4@civitasacademy.co.uk)

Year 5: [year5@civitasacademy.co.uk](mailto:year5@civitasacademy.co.uk)

Year 6: [year6@civitasacademy.co.uk](mailto:year6@civitasacademy.co.uk)

## KEY DATES

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – Census Day – Remember to order your school meal

Wk beginning 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan – Clubs begin

Wk beginning 5<sup>th</sup> Feb – Children's Mental Health Week – My Voice Matters

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February – Safer Internet Day

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February – Wellbeing Friday