

Spring Bulletin

Friday 15th March 2024



Message from Salima Ducker, Executive Headteacher, Mrs. Wareham and members of our Eco Warriors, Rayan – Y5 and Shanmukha - Y4



Dear Parents/Carers,

Rayan and Shanmukha would like to share the following information with all our families!

Civitas Academy recently put in an application to be a 'School Street!' This was approved by our local council on the 6th March 2024. We think this will really help children and adults cross the street outside our school without any fear of harm.

This will improve air quality around these local streets by our school with less car fumes, helping people breathe fresher air as currently not enough people are driving electric cars, however this would not stop the traffic build up outside of our school.

What will School Street look like at Civitas?

School Street is where the roads around a school have restrictions in place at school drop off and pick up times, this will help to keep us safer! Residents, businesses, blue badge holders and emergency services will of course all still have access.

The roads that will be closed to our school start at the top of Bedford Road with the junction of Great Knollys Street, turning right! The times will be as follows:

Monday to Friday – Term Time Only
Drop off – 8.30am -9.00am
Pick up – 2.55pm - 3.40pm

Look out for posters and more information about how you can help us with this scheme.

Thank you for your time.

Eco- Warrior Update:

We at Civitas Academy pride ourselves on learning about the world and understanding who we will be in it when we venture off on our journey. In all year groups we learn to some extent about sustainability and how we can continue to live in our world without taking all the natural resources and being conscious about what we take and need. Our Eco-Warriors have been hard at work thinking of ways to start to make our school more sustainable and environmentally friendly and how we can outreach this to our community. We have some very exciting news....

Reading Borough Council and CALM (Exploring Reading Air Quality program) are inviting our school to take part in a project to increase knowledge, awareness, and local action on indoor and outdoor air quality. CALM - Exploring Reading, will provide schools with a choice of curriculum-linked resources and activities alongside free use of AQ monitoring technology, support from external experts and wider celebration of all the school's activities.



We will be visited by men and women working in STEM at the University of Reading and our Eco-Warriors we will monitoring our quality of air, collecting data and sharing with the local community. This will start in April so get ready for some pictures and announcements.

We also have an exciting RECYCLING COMPETITION for you to take part in at home. RE3 Recycling Centre and the waste management partnership between Bracknell Forest, Reading, and Wokingham Borough Councils, invites all pupils to unlock their creativity and participate in the 'Fantastic Foil' competition. The challenge is to create a sculpture entirely made from aluminum foil, with a spring or nature theme.



How to Enter? Simply email a photo of your entry with your name & school to re3info@reading.gov.uk with a subject line: Fantastic Foil. Closing date is 19th April. Winners will be announced within 2 weeks.

Winning Prizes for schools? £100 voucher each to the winning school in Bracknell Forest, Reading and Wokingham Borough and £50 voucher to the runner up in each borough. Prizes for winning pupils in each borough: 1st Prize: £20 voucher, 2nd Prize: £15 voucher, 3rd Prize: £10 voucher. Please also send them into your class Teacher as we would love to put up a display of all your creations.

Mrs. Wareham

PE Timetable – Spring 2

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	Kiara	For always working hard and being kind to her peers!
Paddington	Johari	For being a wonderful friend and always working hard in all that she does.
KS1		
Pinocchio	Yaashvi	For being happy and cheerful arriving at school.
Gruffalo	Levi	For wonderful progress in Phonics and doing his very best in class.
BFG	Rikden	For his fantastic geographical knowledge when learning about continents and oceans – keep it up!
Matilda	Sharvi	For her fantastic contributions during our science lesson.
KS2		
Rosen	Nehemiah	For working hard to improve his handwriting.
Kinney	Annmary	For focusing in lessons this week and working hard on fractions in Maths
Richards	Mersana	For settling in well and showing fantastic resilience when learning about fractions.
Murphy	Dhananjay	For always being so well mannered and polite to the teacher and the students in the class.
Avery	Sai	For consistently working hard in all she does.
Zephaniah	Shaina	For making amazing progress in her writing.
Draper	Deekshita	For working incredibly hard in lessons
Lewis	Fatima	For listening well in class then editing and improving her writing


House	Total House Points this week	Total
Aqua	532	7565
Terra	690	7280
Ignis	358	6700

Atmos	486	6945
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Well done **TERRA** house for achieving the most house points this week.

Class	Sports Star of the Week
Elmer	Aniyahh
Paddington	Dimitrij
Gruffalo	Skyla
Pinocchio	Zamira
BFG	Matei
Matilda	Jedaiah
Kinney	Sabrina
Rosen	Lara
Murphy	Umair
Richards	Amelia
Avery	Elif
Zephaniah	Sabya
Draper	Julius
Lewis	Anna

Achievements outside of school

Name	Class	Achievement
Mysha Franklyn	Murphy Class	Well done Mysha for getting Tumbler of the Week in Gymnastics! I expect to see you at the Olympics soon!!! 

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.

	23.02.24	01.03.24	08.03.24	15.03.24	22.03.24	29.03.24
Reception	94.1%	93.9%	94%	93.4%		
Year 1	93.2%	93.2%	93.2%	93.4%		
Year 2	93.1%	93.4%	93.6%	94.6%		
Year 3	95.5%	95.4%	95.3%	92.2%		
Year 4	95.1%	94.8%	94.9%	98.1%		
Year 5	95.7%	95.6%	95.5%	92.6%		
Year 6	95.3%	95.2%	95.2%	92.0%		

Fantastic Attendance from our Year 4 this week

What have we been learning this week?

Reception:

In Reception this week we have been exploring the classic fairytale "Little Red Riding Hood", carrying on with our topic of 'Overcoming Prejudice', before we look at the twisted version of the story next week to explore the stereotype of the wolf in this story as well. We have been doing some exciting challenges this week, children have loved writing 'Get Well Soon' cards to grandma and some have even written 'Thank you' cards to the brave woodcutter. We have been exercising our fine motor skills by weaving paper baskets for Little Red Riding Hood. Our this week has been about using shapes to help us draw familiar characters. In maths we have continued exploring the composition of 9 and 10 in both our maths lessons and our maths challenge. In phonics we have continued to look at longer words including many words with the suffix '-ing'. Paddington Class, in particular, made a huge effort to welcome Mrs Stanley into their classroom and have worked hard to show off their best behaviour!

Key Stage 1

Year 1:

We have had a fun and varied week and continue to apply our growing reading, writing and maths skills across our exciting curriculum. In English we have planned and written our own unique stories based on 'The Secret Giant' by David Litchfield. We changed the Giant to our own character and focused on varied sentence starters, adjectives and using 'and' to make longer sentences. We can't wait to share these stories at Parents' Evening shortly. In Maths we have started a new unit about measurement. We learnt how to measure using different units including cubes, paperclips and rubbers for example. Having investigated the disadvantages of non-standard units, we moved on to measuring in centimetres and how to use a ruler. We have been practicing counting forwards and backwards in tens too. In Geography we have learnt about the key features of Northern Ireland and the flags of the countries within the United Kingdom. We learnt about the Easter story in RE and acted out some of the story to understand how Jesus was welcomed in Jerusalem. We learnt about deciduous and evergreen trees and how they differ in Science. In our computing lesson we learnt how to sort. Phonics continues to be of

great importance. Each week the learning covered is sent home to you on a A4 sheet. Please can you recap this with your child; we appreciate your support.

Year 2:

What a superb start to our week with British Science Week! Each morning, we were introduced to a new scientist working in STEM related jobs with transferable skills thinking about how we can demonstrate these attributes. On Monday, we took part in a live interactive lesson via 'the STEM hub' showing how green technologies support net zero factories. In Maths this week, we have started a new unit of learning about length and height exploring the different forms such as centimetre and metre. In English, we studied the features of a diary entry and began to write our own based on the main character in Yasmin's Hammer. As part of our science unit about plants, we looked closely at the parts of a seed that will grow into a plant and discussed how this will germinate. We will review this next week through our investigation of chickpea seeds. In Geography, we recapped physical features and human features. Later, we investigated what is meant by slums and explored the largest slum in Mumbai! In RE this week, we recapped how Muslims around the world are observing the holy month of Ramadan – happy Ramadan to the families celebrating! We discussed the importance of fasting at suitable ages, how this affects our mind, body and energy and respecting one another. What a great end to our week with Red Nose Day – filled with lots of fun activities linked to various charities. Thank you to everyone for taking part. We would like to thank parents for supporting us and your child through extra phonics practice – the children are making good progress and this is preparing them for Phonics Screening tests in summer term.

Key Stage 2

Year 3:

In English this week, we have been started our new genre of writing 'instructions'. We have explored a variety of instructions in order to identify the key features of instructions. We have also been exploring 'imperative verbs' which are a key feature when writing instructions. In maths we have continued looking at fractions with a main focus using fractions on a number line and counting fractions on a number line. When the children were secure with this learning, they created their own number lines using a variety of different fractions. In Geography, we have been comparing volcanic eruptions- The Icelandic eruption and the Mount Vesuvius eruption on Pompeii. We explored what was different between these eruptions and found out why the Icelandic eruption caused less devastation than the Mount Vesuvius eruption. We looked at the advanced technology used in modern times that give warnings on unusual volcanic activity. In Art, we started to make the base for our photo frames as part of our topic 'You've been framed'. Next week we will put the frames together and begin decorating our frames.





Year 4:

In Year 4 this week we have started to prepare for our well-being workshop where we have invited you, the parents, to come and see the children's work and purchase some cakes. Here is just one of our amazing displays showcasing some great work.



We have also been finishing our final project for the Spring Term. For example, we are slowly coming to the end of our History and Geography modules which have focused on Anglo-Saxons and Scot and Earthquakes. We have also been finishing off our Art project where we follow the works of William Morris and create prints but using potatoes. We have a few more lessons on state of matter left but this week we have investigated the life of Scientist Stephen Hawking and what he contributed to the world. We look forward to seeing you all again at your parents' evening next week.

Year 5:

This week has been very exciting for year 5. We started the week by finishing our balanced arguments on gender stereotypes. On Wednesday, we started our new writing genre – a newspaper article. To introduce year 5 to this genre, year 5 had to become top reporters and investigate a crime scene. They had to share their stories in the format of a well-written article. In maths this week we have stretched our understanding of decimal numbers further by rounding to whole numbers and one decimal place, then we began to convert decimals into percentages. In science this week we have been exploring the different properties of materials with a range of different experiments to test flexibility, magnetism, transparency and solubility. Finally, year 5 have begun preparing for their exhibition on gender stereotypes. This will be after school on Thursday 28th March. Letters and emails have been sent to year 5 parents, please don't forget to return the consent form if you would like to attend. We are looking forward to showing you the amazing work year 5 have done throughout the spring term!

Year 6:

This week year 6 focused on including hyperbole in their writing, using synonyms and parenthesis as an aside. By focusing on these skills, next week we hope to produce an excellent explanation text about a domestic appliance. Our maths unit of area, perimeter and volume has continued as we found the area of different types of triangles and parallelograms. We really enjoyed our PSHE lesson where we learnt that some people can be exploited and made to do things that are against the law. We followed a story about Kiran and Ava, who were exploited by Tyler, highlighting the danger and choice points in the story. In geography we compared different grassland biomes and in art we investigated self-portrait techniques that inspired us with our own selfies. As it has been British Science Week, each day, we were introduced to a new scientist working in STEM related jobs with transferable skills thinking about how we can demonstrate these attributes in our daily lives.

Communication to the school

Absence reporting can also 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

KEY DATES