Civitas Academy Bulletin

15/10/18



**Welcome from Mr Wieder**

Welcome to the last bulletin of this half-term. I hope that all families and staff enjoy the break next week and return back refreshed.

Thank you to everyone who has spoken to me about the OFSTED report. We were happy with how it went; now we are looking at how we can secure the outstanding judgement by the time we are next inspected. I have been in contact with the Reading Chronicle and we are hoping that an article on our recent inspection will be included in a forthcoming edition.

One thing that we are looking to do this year is to further build the profile of the school. Many people in the area are still unaware that the school even exists. I see the newspaper article as a useful first step, but we need to do much more. This week, the local governing body of the school will be meeting to discuss how we can do more to build the profile of the school in the local community. If parents/ carers have any ideas about anything we can do to advertise the school more, then please get in touch.

Successfully marketing the school and securing more admissions is critical to being able to offer as many opportunities to the children as we can. The budget that our school receives is very limited and I believe ours is currently the lowest in the local authority. Schools are funded by the amount of pupils on roll on the October census day. In a recent article on the shrinking budgets of schools on the getreading website, it said that schools plan to spend an average £4,319 per pupil this academic year. To put things in perspective, Civitas receives nearer £3,500 per pupil each year. Being a new school, there are less maintenance issues that require funding, however this gap of £800 per pupil makes a significant difference to our budget. On the census day this year, we had approximately 200 pupils on roll. The capacity of the school currently is 240 pupils. If the school had been full, this would have brought an additional £140,000 of funding this academic year. Therefore building the profile of the school and securing more pupils is critical.

Last academic year, the school made a loss of around £27,000, which the academy trust covered for us with an interest free loan. This academic year, we are currently looking at another deficit budget. We have to be innovative in our approach to secure more funding and look at more ways in which we can increase our self-generated income. We will be looking at how we can possibly secure grants to fund particular projects. We will also need to reach out to local businesses to form potential partnerships. I would welcome meeting with anyone who has potential ideas about any businesses that we could make links with.

Last week, a letter went home about a ticket-buying scheme for Reading F.C. This is a win-win scheme for all parties. Reading F.C. get a wider audience, families get access to reduced ticket prices and the school gets a proportion of each ticket sold. I would like to thank Miss Vaal for setting up this worthwhile scheme.

Early next half term, the CAFFS (the name for our parent teacher association) will be scheduling a meeting. This will be another way in which families can contribute their ideas and get involved in particular projects that raises additional income for the school.

**After School Club**

We will continue running the after school club until 5:30pm on Monday to Thursday and 5pm on Friday until the new company takes over the running of the club. We have decided to keep the prices at the current level for now, but these prices will then go up when the new company takes over, which is likely to be in January 2019. When the new company takes over, the after school club will extend its opening time to 5:45pm each day. Please note as a school, we are currently subsidising the cost of the after school club, so these price increases will be unavoidable. The new provider will be available to meet at the forthcoming parents evening.

**Staffing Update**

Mrs Brooks returned back to Civitas on Thursday last week. Mrs Aram and Miss Parsons are unlikely to return until after half term. Mrs Lelliott underwent a planned operation this week and will not be returning to Civitas until late December.

**Trips/Visits Letter**

Please accept our apologies for the delay in releasing this letter. We have been short staffed in the office and are working on getting the letter out as soon as possible

**Project Celebrations**

These will be taking place on Thursday after school from 3:30pm to 4pm. This is your chance to visit the classroom and view your child’s learning this half-term.

**MyMaths Parent Workshop**

This will be taking place on Thursday at 9am in the hall. MyMaths is an online website that the school has subscribed to and will be used to complete mathematics homework from year 1 upwards. It also provides additional opportunities to work through the mathematics curriculum at home. There are also tutorials available to show how to complete the homework.

**Harvest Collection**

Thank you for all of your amazing efforts in bringing food in. We collected over 500 items of food. We will be splitting the collection between Holy Trinity Church and New Beginnings to distribute to the local community.

**Reception Junk Modelling**

Reception classes have requested cereal boxes, shoe boxes and kitchen towel rolls for their junk modelling this week. If you have any of these items, please bring them to the Reception classes.

**Nut-Free School**

I would like to remind families that we are a nut free school. Any lunches containing nuts will be removed and children provided with a school dinner. This dinner would be chargeable if your child is in Y3.

**Parents Evening**

These will be taking place on Tuesday 30th October and Thursday 1st November in the school hall. This year we will be using Tucasi to book appointments. An email will be going out on Friday this week, advising you that bookings will be open. At that point bookings are issued on a first come, first served basis. If any parent or carer is having difficulties with logging on to Tucasi, then please see Mrs Newman in the office at some point this week.

**Civitas Certainties: Independence**

Towards the end of last year, I introduced the Civitas Certainities to parents and carers. These were introduced towards the end of last term to reflect the identity of the school and the way in which we work. This academic year we are working on raising the profile of the Civitas Certainties around school. Over the next few weeks, I will focus on one of the particular certainties. For anyone who needs a reminder of the Civitas Certainties, they are: Community, Independence, Values, Innovation, Teamwork, Arts and Success. This week the focus is Independence.

During your child’s time at Civitas, we want them to grow in independence. This independence will be age and stage appropriate. By the time, your child leaves us in Year 6; our aim is to ensure that they are resilient, confident, determined and ambitious. We want our children in this school to have key learning skills but also the life skills to succeed.

The plan over the next few years, is to embed a programme that encourages good mental health. I have signed the school up for a mindfulness project that will be rolled out later this academic year. We will continue to develop our approach in order to ensure that when children leave Civitas with all the right skills to continue to succeed in life.

**Attendance**

Thank you to everyone for ensuring that their children attend school regularly. The average percentage so far this academic year is 95.7%. Although attendance is still not at our target figure of 97%, this is the highest the attendance percentage has been. Last academic year, attendance was at its lowest in the second half of Autumn term and the second half of the Spring term. To incentivise good rates of attendance, we will be running specific attendance challenges in conjunction with Reading Local Authority during both of these half terms. I have included details of the attendance challenge next term at the end of this bulletin.

**P.E. Message from Miss Vaal**

Please could children ensure that they keep their P.E. kit in school even on none P.E. days. Also the weather is getting colder now, so children are encouraged to bring in a dark tracksuit for when they go outside. In addition, children will need to have a change of footwear for P.E. activities.

**Autumn Key Dates (Trips/Visits to be added)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Date and Time** | **Event** |
| Monday 15th October | Individual Photographs |
| Thursday 18th October (9:00-9:30) | MyMaths workshop for parents and carers in Y1,Y2 and Y3. |
| Thursday 18th October (3:30-4pm) | Project Celebrations (Reception- Year 3) |
| Tuesday 30th October (3:30-6pm) | Parents Evening |
| Thursday 1st November (3:30-6pm) | Parents Evening |
| Tuesday 6th November (9-9:30am) | Y1 Diwali Assembly |
| Friday 9th November | World War I Day |
| Monday 12th- Friday 16th November | Anti-Bullying Week |
| Friday 16th November | Dress in blue clothes for Anti-Bullying Day |
| Monday 19th- Friday 23rd November | Road Safety Week |
| Thursday 22nd November (9-9:30am) | Question and Answer session with Head of School |
| Friday 30th November (3:30-4pm) | Art Exhibition |
| Friday 7th December | Autumn Clubs Finish |
| Friday 14th December | Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day |
| Tuesday 18th December (9:15-10am) | Christmas Performance (Dress Rehearsal suitable for families with young children) |
| Wednesday 19th December (9:15-10am) | Christmas Performance (No young children please) |
| Thursday 20th December | 11b411 Event: Whole school visit to Reading Hexagon |
| Thursday 20th December (3:30-4pm) | Project Celebrations (Reception- Year 3) |
| Friday 21st December | Last Day of Term (No afterschool club) |
| Friday 21st December | Christmas dinner for pupils |



Stephen Kitchman

# Director of Children,

# Education and Early Help Services

# Reading Education Welfare Service

Children’s Action Team West,

The Avenue Centre, Conwy Close,

Tilehurst, Reading, RG30 4BZ

🕿 0118 937 6545

Fax: 0118 937 6899

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Your contact is: | Camilla Webb, Education Welfare Officer |

Dear Parents/Carersblockpage[2]

**THE EDUCATION WELFARE SERVICE &**

**CIVITAS ACADEMY**

**ARE PLEASED TO PRESENT AN ATTENDANCE CHALLENGE STARTING ON**

**Monday 5th November**

* Your child will receive a mini 100% attendance certificate for each full week they attend.
* If your child attends school every day and on time for 6 weeks they will be rewarded with a 100% certificate and prize in assembly.

We hope this challenge is a positive and fun experience for your child, and raises the level of attendance for the whole school.

Yours sincerely

Camilla Webb

Education Welfare Officer