Civitas Academy Bulletin

24/06/19



**Welcome from Mr Wieder**

As usual, it was a busy week at Civitas last week. Y1 had a great time at Ruislip Lido on their school trip. Our programme of nursery visits for our new Reception cohort also began last week. This will carry on over the next few weeks.

This week governors will be visiting the school on Monday and we have a series of sporting events taking place in school for Y1 and Y2. We will also have children representing the school at the Change4Life finals at Bisham Abbey on Friday. Good luck to all children taking part.

This week, the weather is due to be hot. Therefore please could I remind families of the following sun safety advice:

* Drinks bottles (with water) to be in school at all times.
* Caps to be brought in (please write your child’s name in).
* Sun lotion to be applied before school. Please note that children are permitted to bring in and apply their own sun lotion throughout the day.

As a school, we will move children into shady parts of the playground during periods of extreme heat and limit the amount of running around that they do.

**Places Available at Civitas Academy**

As you may be aware, there is a lower than usual birth rate across the whole of Reading for next year’s Reception cohort. This has resulted in many schools across Reading, including ours with a lower than expected admissions number. According to the latest release to the school, we only have 37 pupils currently on roll for next academic year (space for 23 more). Our planned admission number is 60 for each year group. Where on the surface, this will look ideal with one class of 18 pupils and another with 19 pupils, the impact of this will cause the school extreme financial stretch. This is particular the case as in Y3 we have 40 pupils (space for 20 more) and in Y2 we have 50 pupils (space for 10 more). Current Reception and Y1 are almost full. Schools are funded on a per pupil basis. Therefore next year, we are currently planning to have ten classes, but due to a shortage of numbers in some year groups, we will be funded for eight classes. This is obviously not sustainable, particularly as the school has already ran on a deficit budget for two successive years.

We are currently looking at the ways in which we can improve the marketing of the school to attract a greater amount of the pupils in the future and we would be happy to hear suggestions. However, if any parents are aware of families wishing to transfer children to Civitas, please could you share that we have spaces. Alternatively if you know of any families with children that remain unplaced for next year or are unhappy with the current allocation, please could you redirect towards the school.

**Staffing Update**

Miss Taylor’s last day before she begins her maternity leave will be on Friday 24th June. Mrs Aram will be class teacher in Rosen Class for the remainder of the academic year.

**Clubs**

Please note that this is the last week for all clubs this academic year. All clubs will finish on Friday 29th June.

**Drop Off**

A growing number of families are leaving their children early before the bell rings. Please note that until the bell rings at 8:50am, children on the playground are the responsibility of parents. There are instances where families make arrangements with one another to look after each other’s children and this is completely acceptable as this is parental choice. However, what is not acceptable is when children are left before school without any agreed parental responsibility and this should not happen. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring the safety of all children.

**Uniform**

From walks around the school and observations of staff, it has been noted that a growing number of children are not always in the correct uniform. I would just like to reiterate the following key points:

* Long hair below shoulder length should be tied back.
* Hair bands should be plain and ideally in school colours.
* Green gingham summer dresses or shorts may be worn in the summer months.
* School shoes, not trainers should be worn to school. Trainers are used for P.E. or clubs and should be brought in separately when required. Please note that either trainers or plimsolls can be used for P.E.
* Earrings should not be worn on P.E. days and ear piercing in term time should be avoided. Miss Vaal suggests that if you intend on getting your child’s ear pierced, you should do this at the start of the summer holidays as this will provide adequate healing opportunities.

If anyone has any questions about school uniform, please could you speak to your child’s class teacher.

**Head lice**

There was a reported case of head lice last week. Please could also families remain vigilant with their checks.

**Sports Day: 2nd July**

Please note that a separate letter has been sent out from Miss Vaal regarding the timings of the day for this. Please note that if the weather is unsuitable and there is a need to cancel the event, the reserve date is Friday 5th July. The same timetable will apply. In the event of a cancellation, the front page of the website and Twitter account will be updated first.

**Transition Day: 3rd July**

This will take place next Wednesday where children will get to meet their new teacher for next year and spend the morning session with them in their new classroom. I will publish the full list of classes and the teacher associated with each class in next week’s bulletin.

**Y1 and Y2 Phonics Check**

I am pleased to announce that 86% of pupils in Y1 passed the phonics screening check and 96% of pupils passed the Y2 phonics check. Both these figures are school best and ahead of national averages. Well done to all the children and staff.

**CAFFS Update**

Please find the list of upcoming CAFFS dates:

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| **Date and Time** | **Event** |
| Friday 28th June (3:30pm) | CAFFS Tuck Shop |

**Summer Key Dates (new events in yellow)**

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| **Date and Time** | **Event** |
| Tuesday 25th June | Y1 Multisport Event at Civitas |
| Wednesday 26th June | Y2 Multisport Event at Civitas |
| Friday 28th June (13:15-15:15 | Change4Life Berkshire School Games Final (selected pupils) at Bisham Abbey |
| Tuesday 2nd July (AM) | Sports Day |
| Wednesday 3rd July | Transition Day |
| Thursday 4th July | Reception trip to Chessington Sea Life Centre |
| Friday 5th July | Sports Day (Reserve date in case of bad weather on Tuesday 2nd July) |
| Tuesday 9th July (9:30am) | Y3 Ukulele concert for parents |
| Thursday 11th July | Question and Answer Session with Head of School |
| Friday 12th July | Reports to parents |
| Tuesday 16th July | Y3 trip to Ufton Court |
| Tuesday 23rd July | Civitas Talent Show (children only) |
| Wednesday 24th July | Last Day of Term |