Civitas Academy Bulletin

18/06/18



**Welcome from Mr Wieder**

Happy Eid to all of the families who celebrated on Friday 15th June. I hope that you all enjoyed the day.

Thank you to all of the parents and carers that attended the Q and A session on Thursday. It was great to receive feedback and ideas from everyone present. As I have mentioned previously, I find these sessions invaluable for identifying additional areas for improvement in the school. Please find below a summary of the main questions asked and the response:

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| **Question** | **Response** |
| How will transition work from Reception to Y1?  Do the children still get the chance to learn through play? | Children will have the opportunity to meet their new teacher on Thursday 5th July. They will spend the morning with the new teacher in their new classroom.  On the INSET day, teachers will give a detailed handover to the new teacher about every child in the class.  During the Autumn term, there will be a transition plan in place to manage the differences between the EYFS and National Curriculum, which is used from Y1 onwards.  Children will continue to get opportunities to learn through play, explore and investigate as they move through the school. |
| When will parents/ carers find out who is teaching their child’s class next year? | As mentioned last week, we still have one teaching vacancy left for September. We have recruited permanent members of staff to start the year and we are hopeful that we can recruit a permanent member of staff for this final vacancy.  My aim is to publish who will be teaching in what class on Monday 2nd July. Children will also come home with a slip about what class they are in and their new teacher’s name on transition day. |
| How will the school use Learning Support Assistants(LSAs) as it grows? | As I have mentioned previously the school is funded by the amount of pupils attending at the census date, not per class. Therefore, once the pupil numbers in each class are above 26, it is financially viable in KS1 to have a teacher and a LSA in each class.  The long-term plan as children enter KS2, is to have one LSA per year group. The reason for this is to fund the development of teacher training on site. There is still a national shortage of teachers, which is why recruitment of high quality teachers in Reading is particularly challenging. By planning to train our own teachers ensures that we are building capacity from within and hopefully ensures more stability for children in the future.  We are currently advertising for graduate LSAs, who could potentially if they wish then train to become teachers in the future. A member of staff is currently training to become a teacher. |
| Are we planning to have a SENCO? | We are pleased to announce that from September, we have appointed a highly experienced SENCO to work two days a week at the school. She will bring a great wealth of knowledge to the school and we are looking forward to working with her. Until September, I am the SENCO for the school. |
| Is the uniform going to change? | No. In the original plans for the school, there is a minor change planned for when the children enter Y5. However, I will consult with parents and carers a long time in advance, if there were to be any future changes in uniform. |
| Can parents attend sports day? | Parents are welcome and warmly encouraged to watch the sports day on Friday 29th June. We are planning to host it at Victoria Park, which is opposite the school. |
| Could the school improve its communication e.g. use a text messaging service to communicate with parents? | We have stuck to our communication strategy, which was set out in January following our first meeting. However, it is reliant on two things:   1. The school having the most up to date contact details and the office being informed if anything changes. 2. Being informed if you are not receiving the weekly bulletin by email as it will be because of either a glitch in our system or us not having the correct contact information.   If it is a glitch our end, we can work to resolve it. We had difficulties with the text messaging service earlier this year and before relaunching it in September, we want to ensure that it is working properly first. |
| How will parents of children in Y3 book and pay for school dinners next year? | This will be via the Tucasi website. This can be accessed via the school website. |
| Are there any plans to launch a nursery? | Not at the moment. I understand that it is a massive inconvenience for families, but there is not currently the floor space to launch it. |
| Last year it was mentioned that children would be having an active start every day. What progress has been made since then? | We have appointed a P.E. teacher to take the lead for P.E. and sport within the school from September. She is trained to teach across the primary age range and has specialised in teaching P.E. She will be at the school all week either teaching P.E. or covering classes.  The active start mentioned is not a whole school project that we are currently pursuing. However as part of our school development plan for the next academic year, we will be looking at ways in which we can further engage children in active opportunities across the week. |

**World Cup Day**

On Thursday, we will be celebrating the World Cup by giving the children the opportunity to visit some of the countries taking part. For one day only each class will become a country that is taking part in the World Cup and each class will spend some time that day visiting each country to learn about it and take part in some activities linked to it.

**CAFFS**

There will be a meeting on Friday 22nd June to discuss how CAFFS will be supporting sports day on Friday 29th June. The meeting will begin at 9am.

**Sports Day**

This will take place on Friday 29th June at Victoria Park. Families are welcome and encouraged to attend.

**Attendance**

Well done to everyone who has maintained an attendance record of over 97%, which is our minimum school target for attendance. Last week, the weekly attendance for the school was **95.36%**. The class with the best attendance that week was **Paddington Class** with 100%. Well done also to **Matilda and Elmer** for being above our attendance target.

Please see a table below with the attendance breakdown for each class. At Civitas one of our improvement areas is increasing rates of attendance. When attendance rates drop below 95% it is of particular concern.

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| **Year Group** | **Class** | **Attendance** | **Comment** |
| 2 | Matilda | 97.83% | Excellent |
| 2 | BFG | 89.88% | Needs Improvement |
| 1 | Gruffalo | 89.06% | Needs Improvement |
| 1 | Pinocchio | 96.15% | Below Target |
| R | Elmer | 96.28% | Below Target |
| R | Paddington | 100% | Excellent |

**Stars of the Week**

Last week the following children were recognised:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Child** | **Class** | **Reason** |
| Temi | BFG | Improved effort |
| Ariyah | Matilda | Trying really hard to improve her growth mindset |
| Ivan | Pinocchio | Settling in well |
| Ellie | Gruffalo | Fantastic behaviour |
| Teodor | Paddington | Settling in well |
| Sasha | Elmer | Good letter formation |

**Summer Key Dates**

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| --- | --- |
| **Date and Time** | **Event** |
| Thursday 21st June | World Cup Day |
| Friday 22nd June (9-10am) | CAFFS Meeting |
| Friday 29th June  (9:15-10:30am) | Sports Day |
| Thursday 5th July | Transition Morning |
| Friday 6th July | INSET Day |
| Tuesday 10th July | Reports to Parents |
| Friday 13th July  (9:15-10:30am) | Sports Day (reserve date if the event on the 29th June needs to cancelled due to poor weather) |
| Wednesday 18th July | Civitas Talent Show |
| Tuesday 24th July | Last Day of Term (No afterschool club) |