Civitas Academy Bulletin

08/10/18



**Welcome from Mr Wieder**

On Friday a copy of our recent OFSTED report was sent home alongside an accompanying letter. A copy of the report can also be found on the school website. The report will also be uploaded onto the main OFSTED website towards the end of this week. As the school received a rating of good, the next inspection date for the school is likely to be in 2022.

**Late Collections**

A number of children are being collected late from school, with some children still being collected after 3:30pm. This is unacceptable. As a school, we accept that on rare occasions, something may go wrong and result in children being collected slightly late from school. However, some children are consistently late in being collected. This is unfair on both the child and the school. Members of staff are often delayed in attending important staff meetings or training that begin at 3:30pm. As a result of these late collections, we reserve the right to admit the children who are being picked up after 3:30pm into the after school club and issue a charge of £7.50 for late collection.

**Tapestry Workshop**

This took place last week in Paddington Class on Tuesday 2nd October. For anyone unable to make it, the presentation has been uploaded to the class page on the school website. For any parent/carer who wishes to be added to Tapestry to view their child’s profile should speak to their child’s class teacher.

**Accelerated Reader Workshop**

A workshop for parents will be held on Tuesday 9th October after drop off. Accelerated Reader is the reading scheme that is being used from Y3 upwards.

**Harvest Collection**

We will be collecting for Harvest on Friday 12th October. Any child who brings in either a packet or tin of food may come in non-uniform on Friday. Next Monday, a representative from Holy Trinity Church will do a brief assembly about harvest and collect any food that has been brought in.

**Civitas Certainties: Community**

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 Community.

During your child’s time at Civitas, we will look to make strong community links. We feel it is important that your child learns about where they live and what is available in the local community. Your child will learn in depth about Reading during a local history project in Y3. We will also look to make relevant trips to local area. We have and will continue to make links with local organisations. For example last year we established links with the local charity, New Beginnings. This year, we are looking to make links with other local organisations as well. This week I met with a representative from Holy Trinity Church on the Oxford Road about how we could work together in the future. If parents and carers are aware of any other local organisations that we could make links with then please speak to me.

**Head of School Question and Answer Session**

This took place last Thursday at 9am in the hall and a range of questions were asked. Most questions revolved around certain themes. I will include a brief summary below:

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| **Theme** | **Response** |
| **Clubs:** A request was made to further increase the club offering by using paid for external clubs in speciality areas such as martial arts. | This is certainly something that we can look into. We will look into seeking external providers to see if there is any availability. If anyone is aware of any providers that are of high quality, then please introduce them to the school. |
| **Musical Instruments:** A question was asked about how children could have specialist instrument tuition in school. | There is currently a scheme in place where funding is provided for each child at some point in Key Stage 2 to have a 12 week programme of group musical instrument tuition. I have been in touch with Berkshire Maestros and are awaiting their response about when in Key Stage 2 (years 3 to 6) they will be able to offer this programme at Civitas. I have also requested to see if they offer any individual private lessons in certain instruments. If we were able to introduce the private or small group sessions, these would incur an additional cost to parents. |
| **Homework:** Various questions were asked about homework. Some were year group specific, others wanted further clarification on the school’s approach to homework and the feedback that is provided. | Homework expectations were set out at the Meet the Teacher meetings in Y1, Y2 and Y3 at the start of the year. However, I also recognise that there needs to be greater clarity reflected in our Homework Policy, which we are scheduled to review this term. As I have mentioned in the past, homework is one of the hardest things to get right. What one parent says is too much, another will say is not enough. In the new policy, I am hoping to move to a model where there is a minimum expectation, but with the flexibility for children and families to complete more if they wish. This week we have purchased an online homework system called MyMaths. Staff will be trained on this shortly and there will be a workshop for parents on Thursday 18th October.  MyMaths is an online website where homework can be set. There is the option to view the tutorial before completing the homework and it is available for all years from 1 to 6. There is the opportunity to complete booster packs and additional homework relevant to the year group curriculum. It also shows parents what the children need to learn in mathematics for each year of the national curriculum. |

**Second Hand Uniform Sale**

This will now take place on Friday 12th October after school on the playground.

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

New dates are highlighted in yellow

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| **Date and Time** | **Event** |
| Tuesday 2nd October (3:30pm-4pm) | Tapestry workshop for parents and carers in Reception |
| Thursday 4th October (9-9:30am) | Question and Answer session with Head of School |
| Tuesday 9th October (9-9:30am) | Accelerated Reader workshop for parents and carers in Y3 |
| Friday 12th October | Harvest Collection: Bring a tin or packet to wear your own clothes in school |
| 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 |