Civitas Academy Bulletin

03/12/18



**Welcome from Mr Wieder**

It was great to hear about how well the Art Exhibition went on Friday. I was informed that there was a good atmosphere and each class raised money to spend on activities for their class. Year 1 were also able to raise £89.20 for a guide dog charity. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

I would also like the opportunity to personally thank all of the volunteers from CAFFS with their attempts to raise funds for the school. As I have mentioned previously, the school has a very limited budget and any additional funds that can be brought into the school are vital. This year due to the fact that we had 40 spaces in the school on census day, the school has had to make the decision to lose 2.6 Learning Support Assistants from the staffing structure in order to reduce our large deficit budget. Therefore we will only be covering one out of our three maternity leaves for support staff this year.

Last week, attendance was down considerably. On most days last week, attendance was around 85% for the school. Attendance is usually closer to 96%. Classes in Year 1 were particularly hit by illness with over a third of the class of each day. There appears to be several illnesses going around at the moment, which is causing some children to be unwell. There have been reports of viral infections; sickness and diarrhoea; as well as a case of chicken pox. I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents that if your child has sickness or diarrhoea, they should remain off school for at least 48 hours. This will help prevent infection to other children.

**Pupil Premium Grant**

This is a grant of £1320 per pupil by the government, which the school needs to set a strategy of how it is spent. If your child is eligible, the school will receive the funding to spend on your child for the next six years, even if you child is no longer entitled to Free School Meals. The percentage of known children that we receive funding for is 8%. This is considerably below the national average. In the next few weeks, you will receive a letter and a request to complete forms. Please complete and return to school by January at the latest as a census is taken during that month and that informs funding for the school.

A child may be eligible to receive the Pupil Premium Grant/Free School Meals if a parent receives **any** of the following Income Support:

* Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
* Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
* Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
* the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
* Child Tax Credit (provided you’re not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
* Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
* Universal Credit

**Clubs Finish- Friday 7th December**

A reminder that all clubs led by teachers finish this Friday. A new timetable and sign up for clubs will be launched in January.

**Scholastic Book Fair**

The school will be running a Scholastic Book Fair on Tuesday to Thursday next week. The school receives a share of the profits from the sale, which we are hoping to spend on increasing the amount of books in our school library. Thank you to volunteers from CAFFS who will be running the stall.

**CAFFS News**

CAFFS will be running a second hand uniform and bake sale on Wednesday 12th December after school. This will be taking place on the same day as the book fair.

CAFFS are running a competition to design a new logo. Information regarding this was sent out in the book bags last week. It would be great to have as many entries as possible.

**Staffing Update**

Mrs Cekaj has now begun her maternity leave. Mrs Cole will now be working in Year 1.

**Late Notice for Collection Arrangements**

As a school, we understand that on rare occasions, there is a need to call the school to make us aware of a late change in collection arrangements due to an emergency or other urgent issue. Please could parents only use this service in emergencies. Last Wednesday, the school received over 15 phone calls from 2:30pm onwards. This made it very difficult to answer all of the phone calls and to ensure that all relevant staff were informed prior to the children being dismissed. Where possible, if your child is going to be collected by somebody else, please could you notify the class teacher at the start of the day.

**Christmas at Civitas**

The school will be doing the following this year:

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| Date | Event |
| Friday 14th December | Christmas Jumper Day: Bring a £1 donation to Save the Children to wear a Christmas jumper of your choice. |
| Tuesday 18th December (9:15-9:55) | Dress rehearsal for Christmas performance. This is suitable for parents with young children/ babies. |
| Wednesday 19th December (9:15-9:55) | Christmas performance. Reception will lead the nativity with other year groups singing carols. Please no young children or babies at this performance. |
| Friday 21st December | Christmas dinner for children. An order form for this went out in book bags last week. |

**Community News: Carols and Christingles Concert at Holy Trinity Church**

Holy Trinity Church on Oxford Road is hosting a carol and christingle service on Sunday 23rd December at 4:30pm. All are welcome to attend.

**Autumn Key Dates (New events highlighted in yellow)**

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| **Date and Time** | **Event** |
| Friday 7th December | Autumn Clubs Finish |
| Tuesday 11th, 12th and 13th December(3:15-3:45) | Book Fair |
| Wednesday 12th December (3:15-3:45) | CAFFS Bake and Uniform Sale |
| 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 |