

Spring Bulletin – Friday 13th January 2023 – Message from Executive Headteacher, Salima Ducker



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our first weekly bulletin of 2023! Our team have so much to share with you about our children’s learning since we have been and some wonderful celebrations too.

During our staff training day, we re-visited our behaviour approach at Civitas with all our staff and have started this new year with a reminder to our children too, so I thought I would just do a quick recap for our families.



Together with their teachers, the children agreed that this is how they wanted to be **READY, RESPECTFUL and SAFE**.

Be Ready – support our children by being on time for school, the gates open at 8:40 and registration is taken at 8:55. Ensure they have the best possible environment for a good night’s sleep followed by a healthy, balanced breakfast. Opportunities to be active and to talk through any worries they may have.

Be Respectful – be respectful to our school, property and community, celebrate our differences and others’ achievements and share our learning experiences.

Be Safe – be kind and caring to yourself and those around you, follow the school rules to keep yourself and others safe, know who your trusted adults are and talk to your trusted adults if you don’t feel safe.

Celebrations and Achievements

Reception:		
Elmer	Mivaan	For making great progress in phonics!
Paddington	Ikeoluwa	For always being focused in class.
Gruffalo:	Ivan	For being kind and respectful, always ready in lessons.
Pinocchio:	Maddison	For being kind and helpful to her classmates.
BFG:	Rosiyana	For always being ready to learn.
Matilda:	Benyamin	For always being ready to learn.
Rosen	Jasmine	Motivation and commitment to her maths counting and times table.
Kinney	Daniel	For starting the year with a positive attitude to learning
Richards	Tessanne	For working hard in all lessons and trying her best.
Murphy	Ann-Marie	For being ready to learn in all lessons
Zephaniah	Ethan	For positive contributions in all lessons
Avery	Amayah	For improving upon her Maths skills.
Draper	Zara	For being organised, focused and ready to learn.
Lewis	Meghana	For being a role model all the time and working really hard to improve their work in the class.

House Points – Well done **ATMOS** house for gaining the most house points this week.

House:	Points this week:	Total:
Aqua	200	5430
Ignis	285	5454
Terra	210	5208
Atmos	305	5318

Attendance – Our overall school target for the year is 97% - let's work together to be in school every day. Each week we will share attendance for each Year group for that week.

Year Group	13/01	20/01	27/01	03/02	10/02
Reception	96.8%				
Year 1	93.7%				
Year 2	97.1%				
Year 3	94.3%				
Year 4	92.1%				
Year 5	95.0%				
Year 6	98.3%				

What have we been learning this week?

Reception

Our Global Learning theme in Reception this term in Reception is Overcoming Prejudice. Our text in Literacy has been 'The Three Little Pigs'. We have created a story map together and we have used this to retell the story. The children discussed what their favourite part of the story was and why. We learned about the 'beginning', 'middle' and 'end' of a story. We had one of the children on the 'hot seat' pretending to be the wolf and answering questions from the other children, from her perspective of the wolf. It was amazing to hear what questions the children came up with and how the wolf was able to answer the questions. They asked questions like; 'Why did you go to the straw house first?' And 'How did you feel when you couldn't blow over the brick house?' The children have been exploring straw, sticks and bricks. In the role play area, they have been acting out the story of the Three Little Pigs. In our Art area we have been painting pigs on paper plates, and we have also been drawing about the story with our new colouring pencils. In Maths, we are learning about composition and comparing of numbers to five. We looked at the different ways of making five using our five frames and counters. We have also been throwing 5 beanbags in a hula-hoop. We looked at how many they managed to throw 'in' the hoop. We then looked at how many they threw 'outside' the hoop. And how that would make 5 altogether again. In PSHE we have been learning about how to make friends. We read the story 'Love Monster' by Rachel Bright. We talked about what challenge Love Monster faced and how the challenge made him feel. The children came up with solutions to help Love Monster with his problems.

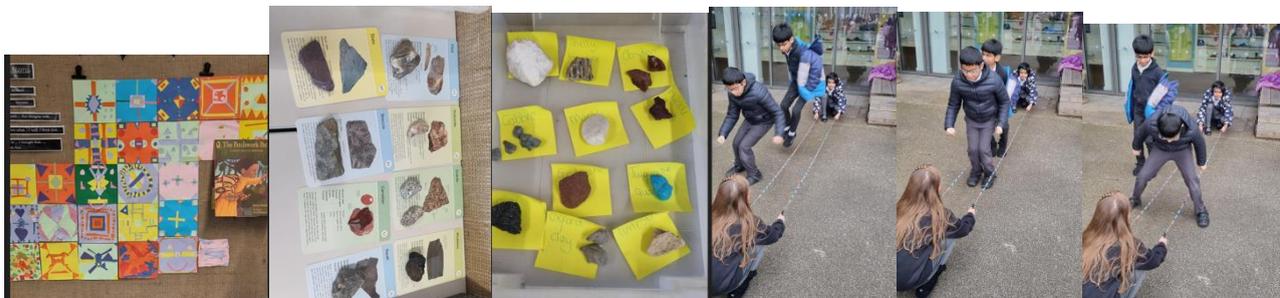
Key Stage 1

Year 1: We have had a busy and exciting start to the term in Year 1. In Maths, we are learning about place value to 20 and have focused particularly on numbers 11-20. We've learned to identify them as numerals and words. We have explored our new text called 'Little Red Reading Hood' and have been identifying the features of a narrative. Geography introduced weather. We discussed various weather conditions that we experience in the UK. In Art, we will be creating a 'sculpture' using the technique of card relief. Thank you to all the children who have returned their library books.

Year 2: This week year 2 have started a new book in English called Hermelin. The children have focused on writing sentences using the conjunctions 'and' 'or' and 'but'. The children have really enjoyed writing their own sentences. In maths the children have started a new topic on money and the child have enjoyed learning about pence and pound. The children have been able to recognise the different notes and coins. In geography the children have looked at the 7 continents. The children were using atlases to located the 7 continents and they really enjoyed doing this!

Key Stage 2

Year 3: The children have had a great start back to the new year. In English we have been exploring our new book 'The patchwork path, Quilt to freedom'. This book ties in with our Global learning theme 'Human rights'. We have created our own patchworks which are displayed on our writing board. We have explored the features of a narrative and have begun to plan to use our WAGOLL to support us when we write our own narrative. In maths we have been focusing on multiplication and division. We have been using grouping, partitioning place value charts to support us dividing a 2-digit number by a 1-digit number. We will be learning our 4 times tables this term so please practice at home!. In geography we have started looking at the United Kingdom and the countries that are within, we explored Atlas' to support us when identifying countries and towns across the U.K. We challenged ourselves by identifying and sharing our knowledge of the capital cities of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Mrs Fuchs taught the children a jump rope activity to help them remember the countries. In science this term, our focus is rocks. We have explored the different types of rocks, how they are formed and where they are from. We have a lovely collection of rocks in the class which the children have been using to help categorize rocks into shape, size and texture.



Year 4: Year 4 have had a great start to the Spring term. In maths, we have continued our unit on multiplication and division. We learnt how to multiply and divide by 10 and 100 using place value grids. In English, we recapped features of a narrative and looked at a new text, Escape from Pompeii. We found features of a narrative within our example and learnt about how to use a range of adjectives and dialogue to improve our writing. In science, we began our topic on living things and learnt how to classify and group different organisms. In geography, we began our topic on natural disasters and learnt about the layers of the earth and how volcanoes are formed. We learnt about the differences between shield volcanoes and composite volcanoes and identified that Mount Vesuvius is a composite volcano. In PSHE, we began our topic on dreams and goals and discussed our personal goals. In RE, we began to look at Judaism and the concept of not eating certain foods based on religious beliefs. In DT, we learnt about the history of quilting and are excited to begin designing and creating our own quilt squares.

Year 5: Year 5 has had an amazing start to 2023. Our new Global Learning topic is Identity and Diversity in which we will explore similarities and differences between the UK and another European country, Greece. We have begun our English this term by exploring Greek Myths, Daedalus and Icarus and Theseus and The Minotaur. We will be using these Myths to inspire our very own narratives. In Geography we have also been exploring Greece through the use of maps and locating cities and towns using 4-figure grid referencing. We will expand these skills even further next week! In our Maths, we have begun our new topic of multiplication and division

which expands on our previous learning by beginning to multiply 2-digit, 3-digit and 4-digit numbers by 2-digit numbers using either the area model or column multiplication. In our Science this week we have explored the differences between internal and external fertilisation and comparing gestation/ incubation periods of animals to their size. We look forward to seeing what the rest of this new term, and new year, has to offer!

Year 6: We have had a very exciting and positive start to the new year. In maths this week, we have completed our measurement topic. The children learnt metric and imperial measures, how to convert different units of measurement and they learnt how to complete measurement problem solving questions. In whole class reading, we began reading our new text 'The Wolves of Willoughby Chase.' The children thoroughly enjoyed reading the first chapter and we have had lots of interesting discussions about what we have read so far, including making predictions about key characters and plot. Our whole class reading text has also inspired our new WAGOLL narrative in our writing lessons. The children have identified key features from the modelled piece of writing, and they have begun 'boxing-up' the text. This is an important stage of the writing process as they will be using this to support their own narratives in the coming weeks. In geography we tested our atlas skills in locating Montgomery Alabama – a city we will be comparing with London Uk, and we have started our new topic in science 'Living Things and Their Habitats'. Along with lots of exciting learning taking place in class, year 6 also started their swimming lessons! We look forward to hearing about their progress over Spring term.

News items from this week

New PE timetable:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Avery am	Zephaniah am	Y6 – Swimming am	Y3 am
	Year 2 pm	EYFS pm	Y1 pm	Y4 pm

Primary admissions for Reception 2023-24 deadline:

The deadline for applying for your child to start school in September is this Sunday 15th January. Please see the link below to the Reading Borough Council Portal. Please spread the word among family and friends that anyone applying after the 15th will be considered as a late application and may not receive their first preference school.

<https://brighterfuturesforchildren.org/for-parents-carers/schools/primary-admissions/>

Lunches:

A reminder that lunches need to be ordered by midday on a Wednesday for the following week. This can be ordered via SCOpay. Those bringing a packed lunch from home – please remember this needs to be a healthy lunch, no NUTS and no fizzy drinks.

Dates for the Diary

Monday 16 th January	Parent drop ins – Year 1, Year 2 and Year 4
Tuesday 17 th January	Parent drop ins – Year 6
Wednesday 18 th January	Parent drop ins – Reception and Year 3
Thursday 19 th January	Parent drop ins – Year 5
Week of 16 th January	Energy Saving Week
Thursday 19 th January	Census Day
Week 23 rd January	Clubs to begin
Monday 24 th January	Fencing workshop – details to follow
Wednesday 26 th January	Athlete Visit – Team Superschools

Communication to the school:

Absence reporting still needs to be done via office@civitasacademy.co.uk

If you have a query and would like to contact your child's class teacher, please see the relevant emails below.

Reception: earlyyears@civitasacademy.co.uk

Year 1: year1@civitasacademy.co.uk

Year 2: year2@civitasacademy.co.uk

Year 3: year3@civitasacademy.co.uk

Year 4: year4@civitasacademy.co.uk

Year 5: year5@civitasacademy.co.uk

Year 6: year6@civitasacademy.co.uk