

Autumn Bulletin – Friday 14th October 2022

Message from Miss Frain (Deputy Headteacher and English Lead)

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to share my passion for writing. As the English lead of our school, I believe strongly that writing is a skill that can enable all children to showcase their creativity and express themselves.

Our curriculum is developed in a way to allow for a whole range of genres to be covered across the year groups. Wherever possible, our writing also links to our current learning in the wider curriculum subjects and global theme and is underpinned by inspiring texts.

Across the year groups, the writing process of exploring genres, learning relevant skills, planning, drafting and editing and publishing are all followed to enable our children to become 'real-world' writers; who understand that their writing has a purpose and an impact on the world around them.

Below, you can see the factors we consider when choosing books on our reading spine, and an example of our reading spine for Year 5, Autumn term:

How do we choose the books on our Reading Spine?

Global Curriculum Links Reading Aloud

Where appropriate, our texts all link to one of the 6 global themes that underpin our wider curriculum. This allows children to develop a deeper knowledge within a particular area and fully immerse them in that particular context of learning - therefore providing opportunities for purposeful application of knowledge.

Pitched at appropriate standard

Most texts are pitched above the standard of reading expected for that age group - this gives children the opportunity to access texts they would otherwise be unable to and expose them to the high level of vocabulary these texts embody. Some texts are pitched at age-appropriate level to support all abilities.

Doug Lemov's 5 Plagues

Our reading spine provides exposure to the 5 plagues of reading identified by Lemov: archaic texts, non-linear time sequences, complexity of narrator, complexity of plot/symbol and resistant texts.

Representation

Our reading spine represents our multi-cultural school and ensures that children see themselves and their families in the texts we are using through BAME characters. Our texts also reflect neuro-diverse children, and characters from a range of socio-economic backgrounds.



Award-winning & Evolving

Our reading spine will evolve each year to reflect new authors and award-winning text as well as the current local and global climate.

Autumn Sustainable Development



My own passion for reading and writing developed whilst I was at university, when I began to realize the power that words could have. More recently, I have enjoyed writing poetry in my free time to express my experiences of the local area. I currently have a poem on display in a local art gallery, which is based around the demolition of the final Gas Tower in Reading.

Over the course of the year, we look forward to sharing more examples of children's writing with you through the bulletin and through our twitter account.

Miss Frain

Celebrations and Achievements

Reception:		
Elmer	Shaheer	For always being ready, respectful and safe.
Paddington	Dash	For working very hard in our Phonics lessons.
Key Stage 1:		
Gruffalo:	Amira	For being ready, respectful and safe in class and around school.
Pinocchio:	Vedhanth	For always working carefully and neatly in his school books.
BFG:	Amina	For working hard on her fact file about Emmeline Pankhurst and challenging herself with her writing.
Matilda:	Musa	For settling in well and always being respectful to her new class.
Key Stage 2:		
Rosen	Zeon	For following classroom rules
Kinney	Niha	For always following the school rules and working hard in all lessons
Richards	Alicja	For working independently in all lessons.
Murphy	Mitya	For working hard to communicate in English with his peers
Zephaniah	Jenisha	For always being ready to learn
Avery	Ali	For engaging with our lessons amazingly well and having a fantastic start to his Civitas journey!
Draper	Szymon	For doing really well in long division for Maths.
Lewis	Faya	For settling into the Civitas Academy really well and working really hard in English.

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

Year Group	9/9	16/9	23/9	30/09	08/10	14/10	21/10
Reception		96.4%	94.4%	94.4%	90.7%	91.8%	
Year 1	82.4	86.2%	94.0%	94.1%	91.5%	91.7%	
Year 2	96.4	99.1%	95.0%	95.2%	93.0%	94.3%	
Year 3	83.8	91.5%	95.0%	94.5%	95.7%	97.4%	
Year 4	88.1	94.3%	92.5%	94.5%	94.4%	96.1%	
Year 5	92.0	93.8%	94.5%	96.6%	94.7%	95.9%	
Year 6	96.5	94.9%	98.5%	98.8%	97.6%	96.4%	

What have we been learning this week?

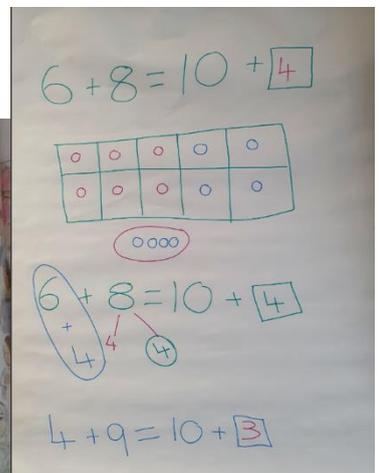
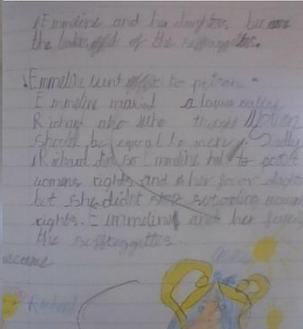
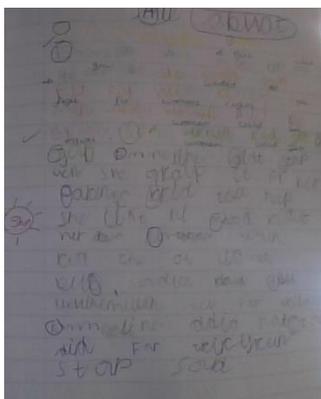
Reception: In Reception this week in Literacy, we have been reading the book 'Super Duper You' by Sophie Henn. After reading this book, we talked about what makes us all unique and special. The children have been drawing pictures of things they like, and it was lovely to see so many children sharing their pictures in front of their peers! In Maths we have been reading the book 'A Squash and a Squeeze' by Julia Donaldson, as we are learning about 'fewer' and 'more'. We tried to see how many children we could 'squeeze' into different hula-hoops and have been looking at if that were more than we predicted, or fewer/less. On Thursday we were lucky to get someone to help us plant bulbs in our Early Years garden ready for spring. We learned about what we need when planting bulbs and seeds, and why we should not put our fingers in our mouth after digging in the soil.

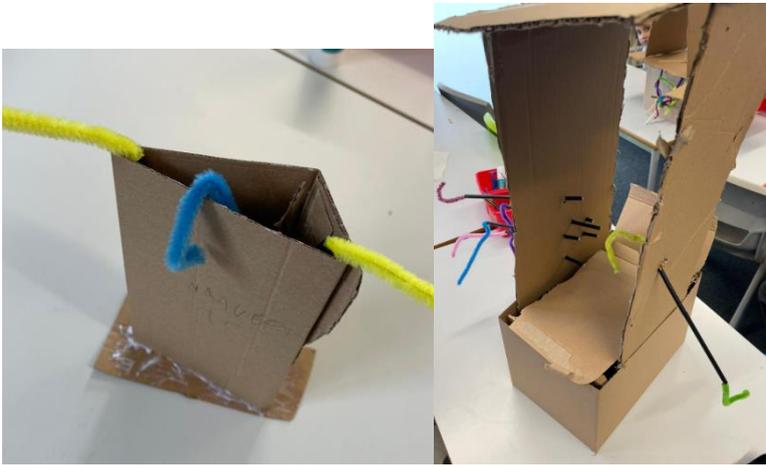
Key Stage 1

Year 1: Year 1 have been writing their fact files all about themselves. They have practiced using capital letters, full stops and finger spaces. They are writing about their family, friends, likes and dislikes. In maths, the children have been adding single digits within 10 and beginning to recognise the number bonds to 10. They have used multilink cubes, counters and tens frames to help work these out visually. In RE, the children created natural mobiles and tried to work as a team. We looked at the human and geographical features of Reading then discussed whether there were any we recognised. It would be great to go for a walk this weekend to see if they can spot the landmarks of Reading.



Year 2: This week Year 2 have been creating their fact files on Emmeline Pankhurst. Phoebe said, "Emmeline was a very important woman from history who fought for women's rights." The children were able to use clear facts from the core text and features learnt last week to create some fantastic pieces of writing! Some examples can be found on our school twitter page. This week in maths we have been bridging 10, the children found this quite tricky, but I am sure they would love to show you what they have been taught at home. During DT the children worked in groups to create structures and were able to evaluate their design ready for their final build next week. We would appreciate any empty/clean boxes, kitchen roll tubes and bottles that the children can use to create their structures.





Key Stage 2

Year 3: This week in maths we have been looking at addition and subtraction with no exchange. The children have used column addition and subtraction as a preferred method to support them with their learning. As well as using base 10 to make connections. In English the children have been busy planning a fact file about water, they have used information that they have learnt throughout this term to create a factual piece of writing. In Science this week we continued learning about light and shadows, the children have made their own shadow puppets ready to put on a puppet performance to their friends next week. In art we have continued using our primary colours to make some wonderful pictures. The children looked at ways we could paint without using a brush, they found things on their way to school and things from around their homes to experiment with a range of techniques to apply colour..



Year 4: In English, we have continued learning about fact files and have looked at the skills needed to write these. We learnt about coordinating and subordinating conjunctions. In maths this week we continued our addition and subtraction unit. We have been learning how to add and subtract two 4-digit numbers with exchanges and then with multiple exchanges. We spent a lot of time this week, finalising our designs for our bread products in D.T. We then spent a day focused on creating the dough and shaping our products. We learnt how to mix dough, knead dough and shape dough. We had so much fun and got to take them home to eat on Wednesday! We look forward to evaluating them next week. We also enjoyed watching an engaging performance by Alter Ego all about E-Safety and then created posters about E-Safety.

Year 5: In English this week we have been exploring the skills we will be using when we write our biographies next week. In maths we have been finishing our addition and subtraction unit by comparing calculations using the greater than or less than symbol. This week we have further explored our Global Learning topic, sustainability, by visiting Green Park Turbine! The children had a fabulous time discovering how wind turbines can help power our planet using renewable energy. We learnt that the Green Park Wind Turbine is 120m tall with blades 35m in length and made of carbon fiber. Later in the week we had a fabulous time planting bulbs at Victoria Park which we all enjoyed and can't wait to see blooming in the Springtime. We had visitors from Alter Ego showing us the importance of online safety through their amazing, interactive performance. It's been a busy week in year 5!

REMINDER: As of next week, Avery class PE day will permanently move to a Tuesday so all Avery children must attend school in their PE kit. Thank you.



Year 6: In Year 6 this week we have been finishing our English report on evacuees for WW2, we have been focusing on the impact this had on the UK and how it affected the economy and social issues in the wider world. We have finished our history module of WW2 and next term will be focusing on Geography in the Congo. We have finished our RE unit which was investigating the 5 pillars of Islam and how Muslims can show their comment to their beliefs.



The Year 6s were very lucky this week as we were able to go to the park outside our school and plant some new bulbs ready for spring. We take real pride in our environment and our school, and this was a great opportunity to help our community. Year 6s are very excited for next week. Half of us will be going to the Isle of Wight to have our residential, the other half of the year will be stay for enrichment week which will be full of fun activities for the Year 6s to do. We can't wait to tell you all our stories and show you all our pictures.

News items from this week

Parents evening – For our autumn parents evening, this will be held online. Please see the dates below for the different year groups. Appointments will need to be booked via SCOPay/Tucasi. If you need any support with access to your account, please let the office team know.

Year group:	Parents evening date:	Book from:
Reception	2 nd and 3 rd November	Booking opens from 17 th October
Year 1	16 th and 17 th November	Booking opens from 1 st November
Year 2	16 th and 17 th November	Booking opens from 1 st November
Year 3	Kinney 7 th , 8 th , 9 th November Rosen 14 th and 15 th November	Booking opens from 17 th October Booking opens from 1 st November
Year 4	14 th and 15 th November	Booking opens from 1 st November
Year 5	15 th and 17 th November	Booking opens from 1 st November
Year 6	14 th and 15 th November	Booking opens from 1 st November

Lunch ordering – if you require a hot school lunch or a school packed lunch, these must be ordered a week in advance via Tucasi/SCOPay. This must be done before midday on a Wednesday. If you need any support with ordering, please contact the office.



REMINDER we are a no nuts school. We have children with severe nut allergies so no products containing nuts are allowed in school. This include chocolate spread.

Allergies and Medication – Please make sure that if your child suffers from any allergies or receives any medication, you have informed the office team. Any medication bought into school needs to be signed off by the office and a form completed and signed by the parent/carer.

Contacting Class teachers – If you have a query and would like to contact your child's class teacher, please see the relevant emails below. Absence reporting still needs to be done via office@civitasacademy.co.uk

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

Bike/Scooter shed –Our bike/scooter storage shed is available at school; these will be left at the owner's risk. We advise all children travelling to school on Bikes/Scooters to be wearing a helmet.

Monday 10th October	Autumn Term Clubs Begin
Tuesday 11th October	Year 5 Green Park trip
Wednesday 12th October	Flu vaccinations Year R-6. Consent required
Monday 17th – Friday 21st Oct	Y6 Residential Week
Wednesday 19th October	Wellbeing Wednesday
Friday 21st October	Last day of Autumn 1 term
Monday 31st October	Inset day – No school
Tuesday 1st November	Pupils back in school
2nd and 3rd November	Reception Parents evening
Tuesday 8th November	School photos
14th and 15th November	Year 3, 4 and 6 parents evening
15th and 17th November	Year 5 parents evening
16th and 17th November	Year 1 and 2 Parents evening