



## *Spring Bulletin – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March – Message from Salima Ducker – Executive Headteacher*

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a busy week across the school with children working on end of term assessments, some year groups preparing for project celebrations and visits from our local PCSOs. I've also had the privilege to teach across a few of our year groups this week and listen to pupil feedback around learning and readiness for learning, being safe and respectful. I too have been able to share views from staff feedback and from our last parent survey.

With regard to our being **READY, RESPECTFUL** and **SAFE**, I'd just like to go through a few reminders.

**READY** – Gates open at 8.40am and close at 8.55am when the register is taken followed by class input and lessons beginning. Please support your children by ensuring they are not rushing to school and are in a good place **READY** to learn.

The uniform policy was updated and shared at the start of this year, we were really grateful for pupils, parents, governors and staff feedback around this. We made some changes to support our families and have made considerations around footwear in particular from your direct feedback. Please support your children being **READY** for school in the correct uniform. If children are wanting to wear earrings, these should be small, plain studs only, they will need to be able to remove them themselves for PE lessons. Please use the link below as a reminder.

[Uniform | Civitas Academy](#)

**SAFE** – There are almost between 600-700 people on site at the end of the school day when our children are being collected. We have continued with the one-way system to support the **SAFE** dismissal and handover at the end of the day. If you also need to collect siblings who finish at 3.25pm we have asked you to wait in the space in the middle of the playground. Please remind your children that you may have collected from Reception or Y1 or Y2 classes not to run around the playground or walk along the wall of the flowerbeds while you wait; they need to be with the adults that have collected them.

To support the pace of people leaving the site safely, those of our children in Y5 or Y6 that walk home alone are now waiting with their school adults until the majority of children are collected so we can **safely** see them off site and they are sensibly leaving the site. If your child goes home alone, please remind them about **safety**; we will review this procedure at the end of this Spring term.

**RESPECT** – As you know we are an inclusive school, **RESPECTFUL** of our diverse community. As stated in our RHSE policy:

***We understand our responsibilities in relation to the Equality Act 2010; specifically, that we must not unlawfully discriminate against any person because of their age, sex or sexual orientation, race, disability, or religion/belief. The teaching of our relationships, health and sex education curriculum reflects these requirements set out in law so that pupils understand what the law does and does not allow, and the wider legal implications of the topics that are being taught.***

***We will ensure that all teaching and materials are appropriate for the ages of the pupils, their developmental stages and any additional needs, such as SEND. Curriculum plans will: provide appropriate challenge for pupils; be differentiated for pupils' needs; give an equal focus to boys and girls; support the reduction of stigma, particularly in relation to mental wellbeing; encourage openness through discussion activities and group work; challenge perceived views of protected characteristics through exploration of, and developing mutual respect for, those different to themselves.***

At the beginning of the summer term, we will be asking for your feedback around this area of the curriculum as we review our policy. If you have any questions about curriculum content for your child, please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance.

I look forward to seeing many of you in school next week when you are attending your child's review meetings.

# Celebrations and Achievements

Reception:		
Elmer	Ayira	For always being ready, respectful and safe.
Paddington	Klara	For trying so hard with writing in her morning book.
Key Stage 1:		
Gruffalo:	Amuraaga	For making good choices.
Pinocchio:	Malak	For making better choices at school and helping her friends to learn.
BFG:	Jasmine	For trying hard with her writing.
Matilda:	Umaima	For trying really hard in our new maths topic and always being ready to learn.
Key Stage 2:		
Rosen	Atharv	Showing motivation and determination in Math lessons.
Kinney	Anjana	For following the school rules, listening to instructions and helping others.
Richards	Dhruv	For always showing he is ready, respectful and safe
Murphy	Arfa	Contributing respectfully during our PSHE discussions
Zephaniah	Anthony	For his incredible effort and focus during our assessment week.
Avery	Vova	For settling in brilliantly.
Draper	Toni-Ann	For being focused and having a positive attitude towards her learning.
Lewis	Rinchhen	For always being ready, respectful and safe in class and on the playground.

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

House:	Points this week:	Total:
Aqua	350	8712
Ignis	292	8619
Terra	238	8316
Atmos	265	8466

Class	Sports Star of the Week
Elmer	Pradwyut
Paddington	Estelle
Gruffalo	Aurora
Pinocchio	Zoraiz
BFG	Leila
Matilda	Astera
Kinney	Divine
Rosen	Karen
Murphy	Anne-Marie
Richards	Alaiyah
Avery	Daniel
Zephaniah	Sasha
Draper	Augusto
Lewis	Nicoleta

**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	24/02	03/03	10/03	17/03	24/03	31/03
Reception	94.3%	92.6%	92.5%	91.1%		
Year 1	92.3%	93.2%	90.0%	90.5%		
Year 2	91.1%	95.9%	93.5%	94.7%		
Year 3	91.1%	90.9%	93.3%	93.1%		
Year 4	94.3%	96.2%	94.6%	93.4%		
Year 5	93.7%	97.1%	96.8%	92.2%		
Year 6	98.6%	97.5%	94.5%	93.8%		

# What have we been learning this week?

## Reception

This week in maths we continued to learn about 3D shapes. We have been singing a 3D shape song, and we have looked at printing 3D shapes in playdough. In our maths carousels we have been looking at the numbers nine and ten, and we have been sorting animals in different ways. For example by the amount of legs they have or the type of animals they are, such as farm animals or sea creatures. In our music lesson, we have been listening and responding to the song 'Beyond The Sea' by Robbie Williams. We have been singing songs like Incy Wincy Spider, Old Macdonald and The Wheels on the Bus together. In Literacy we have looked at some of the countries the princesses are from, from the book King&King. We looked at the world map and we looked at the different names for castles in different countries. The children have been working very hard to write a sentence about the story. In the construction area, the children have been making different sorts of castles, and in the mud kitchen, the children have been 'baking' wedding cakes.

## Key Stage 1

**Year 1:** In Maths, we have continued exploring measurement and have used our rulers to measure various objects around the classroom. In English, we each wrote our narratives based on our text, 'Grandad's Secret Giant.' We were very excited to choose our own characters to replace the giant. We had a great time conducting our 'Confusing cans' experiment to celebrate British Science week. In PSHE, we have been learning all about 'A Healthy Me' and how we can take care of our bodies and keep them healthy. We had a blast from the past in History where we compared hospitals and nurses past and present. DT took us through another experiment to test how strong cardboard would be to build a bridge. We then drew sketches of the bridges that we would like to build and labelled the materials that we could use.

**Year 2:** In English this week, year 2 have written a narrative to alongside their book 'Yasmins Hammer'. The children have tried really hard with their writing and have created some fantastic narratives. In maths, we started a new topic which is fractions. The children have been looking at halves and quarters. The children have enjoyed colouring in halves and quarters. In science the children have all planted some cress. The children are very excited by this and are looking forward to watching their cress grow.

## Key Stage 2

**Year 3:** In English, the children have used all the features of diary writing that they have learnt about over the past weeks to plan their own diary entry. They pretended that they were Henry Box Brown and had escaped from slavery and recorded a diary entry. In Math, the children are learning about mass. They have measured mass in grams, and kilograms, found equivalent masses using kilograms and grams and they have compared mass. In DT we have started designing, planning, cutting, and gluing our frame using straws. The most interesting patterns are forming. In Science we learnt about what a flower is. Its uses and features, including pollination. We looked at real flowers and the inside of the flower, identifying the stamen, anthers, filament, pollen, ovary, sepal etc. We checked up on our plants in our science experiment and we can notice much more prominent differences between the test groups. In our investigations into Human Rights in History, we read different reward posters issued in the late 1800's. We explored the language used, discussed the human rights that slaves held and the features of a reward notice. We then created our own reward posters. Everyone loves 'Romans on the Rampage' especially the daredevil antics of Perilus. In RE we are learning about the miracles of Jesus in the Easter story.



**Year 4:** This week has been a busy week for year 4! We started the week by completing our termly maths and English assessments. Everyone should be super proud of how much effort was put into these! Once we had completed the assessments, we started work on our project outcome – The Year 4's Well-Being Workshop! We chose our groups and got to work on our selected well-being topic. We have a range of different feelings/topics that will be covered at our workshop including:

- Anger
- Sadness
- Worry
- Happy
- Meditation
- Zones of Regulations

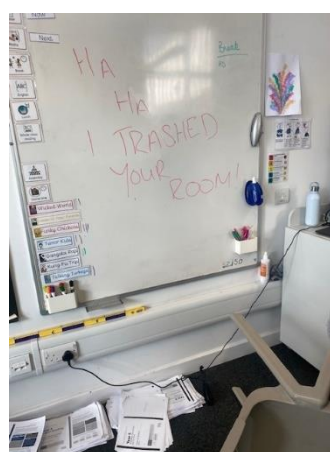
A reminder this will be held Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 2:30pm in the hall. Please sign in via the office.

During our English lessons we used the iPads and chrome books to research our selected feeling/topic and begin to plan our information booklet. It is all

coming together nicely, and we look forward to welcoming you to our workshop soon! We were also lucky this week to be visited by our local PCSO, Charlie, who came into year 4 talk about the importance of making good choices and the role of the PCSO's in our local community. The children asked some great questions and completed some creative posters that will be given to Charlie to be displayed! What a great week we have had in year 4 and we look forward to all of the fun activities we will be doing next week!



**Year 5:** This week we had our hook for our next piece of writing – newspaper articles. Both our classrooms were trashed, and the perpetrators are still at large! As a result, we produced some fantastic newspaper reports for the Civitas Times. In maths, we have been rounding decimals; next week we will be representing decimals and fractions as percentages. In science we made a moon phase dial; we look forward to sharing them with Key Stage 2 in our science assembly next week.



**Year 6:** This week we have been focusing on our newspaper getting ready for us to do some non-narrative writing in Year 6. We have also been revising hard in maths by looking into area and perimeter and getting ever closer to those exam dates. We have been helping around the school a lot more, in Year 6 we were helping with assessments and in EYFS we have been helping the teachers get ready for the day. In the afternoon this week we started to investigate why the civil rights movement in America was so important and how this affects our life today in Reading.

## News items from this week

**Parents evening:** Parents evening bookings close today at 4pm. Please contact the office if you need support with booking an appointment.

Dates are Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. For Year 6 Draper only it will be held on 20<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

**Class photos:** We are having class photos taken on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Please ensure children come to school in **school uniform**. Zephaniah and Reception class will need to bring their PE kit in to change after their photo.

**RED NOSE DAY 2023 AT CIVITAS ACADEMY – message from Mr Williams, LKS2 lead**



A reminder of how Civitas Academy will be celebrating Red Nose Day...

When: **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

What: **How many skips can you do in 10 minutes?**

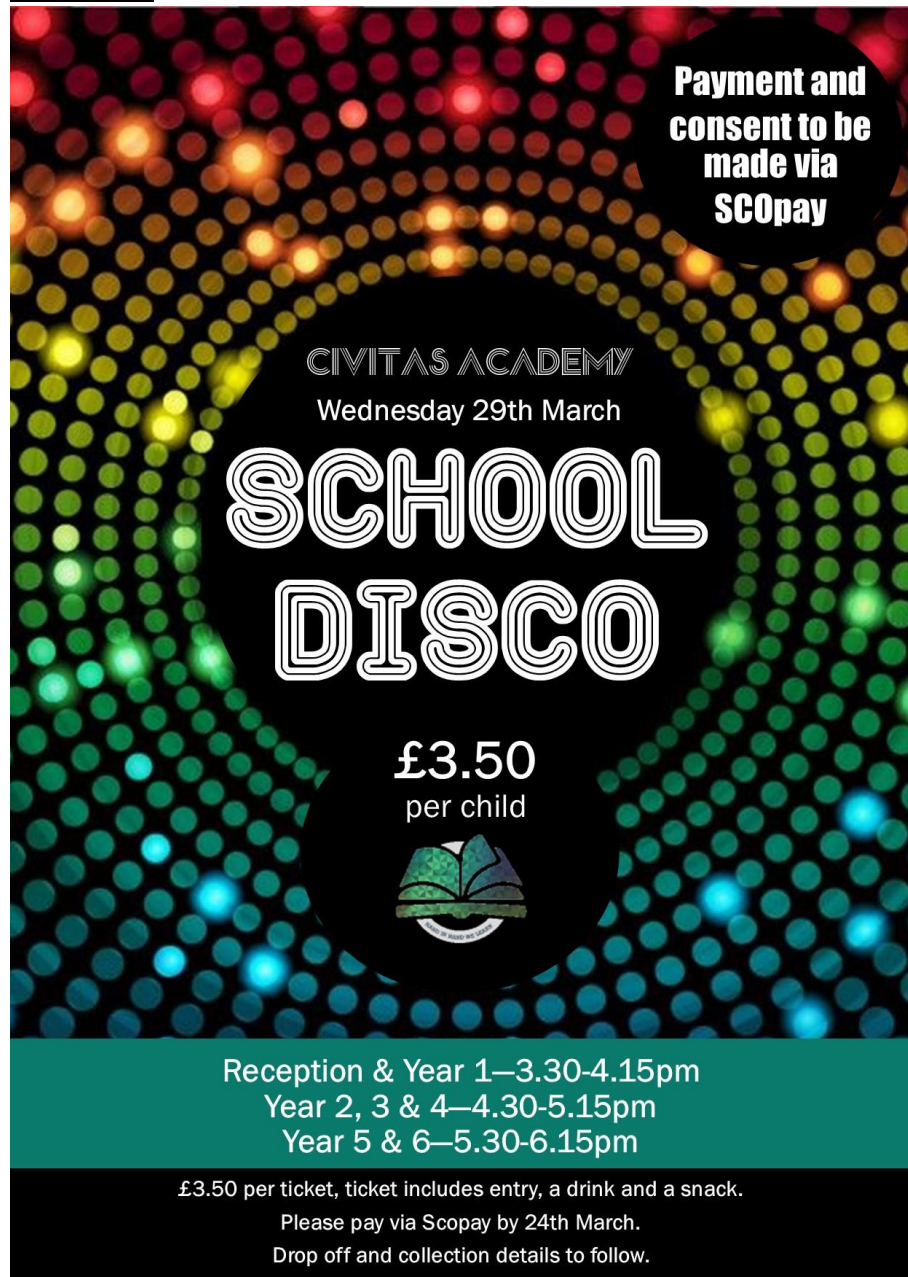
Why: **Raise money for DEC charities to support Turkey/Syria and Comic Relief**

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023 will be a non-uniform day where the children are encouraged to dress up/wear something red – maybe even hair spray or face paint!

Donations can be made through Scopay.

With many thanks for your support. Even the smallest donation together can make a difference.

**School disco:**



Payment and consent to be made via SCOpay

CIVITAS ACADEMY  
Wednesday 29th March

**SCHOOL DISCO**

£3.50 per child

Reception & Year 1—3.30-4.15pm  
Year 2, 3 & 4—4.30-5.15pm  
Year 5 & 6—5.30-6.15pm

£3.50 per ticket, ticket includes entry, a drink and a snack.  
Please pay via Scopay by 24th March.  
Drop off and collection details to follow.

**CAR PARKING in GREAT KNOLLYS ST – message from Mrs Lelliott, School Business Manager**

During this period of cold and wet weather, we recognise that parents may wish to bring children to school by car, and there is no problem with this.

Unfortunately, a number of parents are parking on the far side of Great Knollys St, which is **REIDENTS PARKING ONLY**. Over the last half term the school has received many complaints from the Residents of our community that they are unable to use their spaces that they pay for on an annual basis. Plus they are returning home from work and are unable to park their own vehicles.

Parents are also choosing to park in the middle of Great Knollys St across Resident cars making it impossible for them to leave and on a number of occasions causing residents to miss vital hospital appointments. We have also been reminded by the Fire Brigade that such parking hinders the ability of Emergency Services to respond to issues which may be happening at the school.

So please can we work together and use spaces on Great Knollis St nearest the school or other roads in the neighborhood where you can park temporarily and walk to collect children and stay safe.

**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

**Dates for the Diary:**

Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	Civitas Red Nose Day and Skipping DEC Fundraiser
w/c 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents evening 22 <sup>nd</sup> and 23 <sup>rd</sup> DRAPER CLASS ONLY – 20 <sup>th</sup> and 23 <sup>rd</sup>
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Class photo day
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Wellbeing Wednesday and SCHOOL DISCO (See poster for timings)
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Last day of term
3 <sup>rd</sup> April – 14 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter holidays
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	Children return to school (Gates open at 8.40am and close at 8.55am)

**Communication to the school:**

Absence reporting still needs to be done via [office@civitasacademy.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:earlyyears@civitasacademy.co.uk)

Year 1: [year1@civitasacademy.co.uk](mailto:year1@civitasacademy.co.uk)

Year 2: [year2@civitasacademy.co.uk](mailto:year2@civitasacademy.co.uk)

Year 3: [year3@civitasacademy.co.uk](mailto:year3@civitasacademy.co.uk)

Year 4: [year4@civitasacademy.co.uk](mailto:year4@civitasacademy.co.uk)

Year 5: [year5@civitasacademy.co.uk](mailto:year5@civitasacademy.co.uk)

Year 6: [year6@civitasacademy.co.uk](mailto:year6@civitasacademy.co.uk)