



*Delivering an outstanding learning experience for all children so they flourish and thrive; enabling them to achieve their own individual excellence.*

21<sup>st</sup> December 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Well, what a fantastic festive few weeks it has been at Excalibur! Since the start of December, our calendar has been jam-packed with a variety of exciting opportunities for our children, from discos to concerts, nativities and rockstar performances.

We do hope you and your children have enjoyed the festivities and we wish you, your families and the wider Excalibur community a very Merry Christmas and happy holidays to all.

### **Reception and KS1 Nativity**

What an incredible musical Christmas we've enjoyed! For the first time in three years, we were able to invite parents to celebrate with us.

Last week, EYFS and KS1 performed the *Boogie Woogie Nativity* to audiences. The confidence of our children was truly remarkable, with singing, dancing, acting and narration done with such brilliance throughout. The rehearsals and effort put into practice clearly paid off. Well done to you all!

On Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December, our KS2 children attended St. Mary's Church for their Christmas concert. With the spectacular church backdrop, children from Years 3 to 6 took the audience through a plethora of songs, from traditional Christmas carols to more recent pop culture hits. In addition, the congregation were treated to musical performances from our children, including piano, guitar and violin. Our Year 6 children tied it all together as they told the Christmas story through their narration.

Much thanks to Ian White, a long-time friend of the school and pianist, who provided the accompaniment to most of the songs and to Reverend Michelle who enabled us to make use of the church once again. At the end of the service, the generous collection raised over £350 for three worthwhile charities: Alsager Food Bank; British Red Cross; and the Elizabeth Trust, which is a refuge for vulnerable mothers and their children.

### **Year 5 Yellowbrick Road Workshop**

Year 5 enjoyed a very informative and fun-filled afternoon with Yellowbrick Road. They started by looking at the chronology of some key events during World War II and then put it in context with other historical periods and events. By role-playing hearing the air raid siren and being inside an air raid shelter, the children were able to more easily understand what it might have been like during the Blitz. They were then given the opportunity to handle some artefacts from World War II and learnt how to do the Jitterbug. To finish the workshop, they role-played a street party to celebrate VE Day. Year 5 demonstrated their knowledge of the 1939-1945 war and asked lots of insightful questions. Miss Robinson was very proud of them all.

### **FOE School Disco**

On Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, our school discos took place for the first time this academic year. During the evening, children from Reception through to Year 6 danced to a variety of wonderful songs, provided courtesy of Flo's dad, who compiled a superb array of hits. Many thanks to all the parents who were involved in organising and running the event. The event raised a brilliant £450 for Friends of Excalibur (FOE), money which will be used to further enhance the opportunities available for all of our children at Excalibur.

### **FOE Christmas Hampers**

Over the past few weeks, parents and friends of Excalibur have been busy preparing the FOE Christmas hampers. Following the selling of raffle tickets, the winners were announced in the children's classrooms. Well done to all of our winners. Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to this fundraiser, from those who knitted items to parents who helped fill the hampers.

### **ROAR Project National Success**

As included on a previous newsletter, our KS2 classes entered the British Lions' ROAR Project for the first time this year. This involved the children working in groups to come up with a solution to a problem, and then designing a prototype of their solution. Following our in-school grand final, the judges selected a group of children from Year 4: BBDs. We are delighted to announce that BBDs have won one of the national awards! Eight winners were selected from across the country and Excalibur's BBDs won the award for District CN, a district which covers nine English counties, north Wales and the Isle of Man. This is a huge achievement and something of which we are all very proud. A trophy will be presented to the school on Thursday morning. Well done once again to Bodhi, Owain, Zach and Daniel!

### Rocksteady Performance

On Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December, children and parents from across the school were treated to a rockstar performance from the children who have been having music tuition with Rocksteady this term. Four bands, made up of children from across Excalibur, took to the stage to perform a variety of toe-tapping numbers, including Queen's *We Will Rock You*. Children and parents alike were inspired by the musical confidence on display, with performances on lead vocals, bass guitar, lead guitar, drums and keyboard. What a treat!

If your children do not currently take part in Rocksteady but would be interested in doing so, please contact the school office as there may still be some spaces available.

### Elf Run

On Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December, we took part in the Elf Run in aid of St. Luke's Hospice Cheshire. A staple of our charitable fundraising, children from across the school took time during the day to run, walk, skip, jog, etc. around the field, all in aid of a very worthwhile cause. Many thanks to everyone who brought donations into school. This is much appreciated. We will update you on the total amount raised in the new year.

### Christmas Parties and Christmas Lunch

This week, the festive season is in full swing, with Christmas parties taking place for all year groups in the hall. Today, our Christmas lunch has taken place, with school staff being involved in serving the children to help make the day even more special. We do hope your children enjoy their Christmas treats this week!

### Safeguarding

If you have any safeguarding concerns or need safeguarding advice, please contact the school or, alternatively, our website has links to useful phone numbers:  
<http://www.excalibur.cheshire.sch.uk/page/supportservices/6049>

### Support with the Cost of Living

With the current financial situation effecting families across the country, Cheshire East Council offer a variety of support, including a Cost of Living Crisis Team. For more information, please click on the following link:  
<https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/livewell/education-employment-and-money/money-matters/cost-of-living.aspx>.

Mrs Jones - Designated Safeguarding Lead  
Mrs Rogers - Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead  
Miss McArdle - Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead  
Mrs Hilditch - Safeguarding Ambassador  
Noah - Safeguarding Ambassador  
Imogen - Safeguarding Ambassador  
Ewan - Safeguarding Ambassador  
Ava - Safeguarding Ambassador

### Diary Dates

Date	Event
22.12.22	Year 5 & 6 Christmas Party
12.01.23	Year 6 Swimming
19.01.23	Year 5 Swimming Session (PM)
30.01.23	Young Voices
01.02.23	Year 5 Class Assembly
02.03.23 – 03.03.23	Year 4 Standon Bowers Residential
15.03.23	Year 1 Class Assembly
28.03.23 – 29.03.23	Year 2 Delamere Activity Centre Residential

Yours sincerely,

**Mrs Jones**  
**Head Teacher**

**Mr Hancock**  
**Assistant Headteacher**