



1<sup>st</sup> February 2017

## Newsletter 11

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a busy few weeks – such a lot of varied and interesting activities are happening in school at the moment.

### NSPCC workshops in Y5 & 6

Following on from an assembly by representatives of the NSPCC, Year 5 and Year 6 took part in a workshop around their 'Speak up Stay Safe' programme. This session reinforced important messages about what the NSPCC do; who it involves and how it can help children who are in vulnerable situations. The key message to all children was that they should "Speak out and stay safe". Each child took home a 'Speak out. Stay safe' kit in which they can record the people, places and things that make them feel happy and safe. The children were encouraged to keep their kits safe and use them as a reminder of what they can do if they feel sad, worried or unsafe. This is what the children said:

*"It has enhanced our knowledge of being able to keep safe and healthy."*

*"We know there are people who will listen to any concerns we might have."*

*"It helped us to think about what's right and wrong."*



### Bring a bear day in Reception

On Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January the Reception class had a 'Bring a bear to school day'. All the children brought their favourite bear from home and the children and their bears took part in lots of activities. First of all, in the morning, they all went on a bear hunt around the school grounds. The children then made crowns and labels for

their bears. After lunch, the children made honey sandwiches and they all had a teddy bear's picnic.



### Bentley visit to Year 5

Year 5 were introduced to four Bentley engineers who explained that the company were considering different ways to power a new building currently under construction. After discussing the pros and cons of various power sources, the Bentley crew set a challenge for the class to design and construct an efficient wind turbine.

The children had to think carefully about blade size and shape, how to fix their design to a chassis and how to make it sturdy enough to spin without falling over or being damaged. The winning design would be the one that withstood its structure and could lift the most weight in a cup when spun.

The team of engineers said how well the children worked and how much they were impressed by each groups' design. We've received lots of positive feedback from Year 5 who all agreed that they thoroughly enjoyed the workshop.

*"The task was competitive but lots of fun."*

*"It was great that it linked to our science topic – forces."*

*"I liked that we had a chance to improve our designs after they were initially tested!"*

*"We learnt a lot about different energy sources."*

*"It was a good challenge."*

### Sports hall athletics

On Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January, we took a team of 19 athletes from Year 5 and 6 to compete in the Alsager Community Trust Sports hall athletics competition. During the event, participants were tasked with competing in running, jumping and throwing events against 5 other local schools.

There were lots of exemplary performances, with many first and second place finishes in many of the track events. Field events were also strong, as was evident in the soft javelin event at the end of the competition.

The top three finishers had just 20 points between them. Tensions were high as we awaited the results. After the other teams were announced, we discovered that we had come a close 2nd, missing out by just 8 points.

Everybody who participated did Excalibur proud and showed what fantastic, hard-working athletes we have in our school. As usual, a phenomenal attitude was evident throughout the team. Congratulations!

### Yellow Brick Road workshops

Year 2 and Year 3 enjoyed 'sparkling starts' to their spring term topics by taking part in fun drama workshops. Year 2 learnt about The Great Fire of London and Year 3 had an introduction to life in Anglo-Saxon Britain. The children and staff thoroughly enjoyed these sessions which provided an inspirational platform for more learning!



### Infants celebrate Chinese New Year

The classes in infants learnt all about Chinese New Year last Friday; learning the animal names for the year and tasting some Chinese food – yum!



### Social media

Mrs Bailey organised an e-safety evening for parents/carers recently – thank you to those who attended. We hope that you found it useful.

Our e-safety officers began by explaining their role in school and how they help to support Excalibur – well done to Leonie, Eva and Callum for their presentation and hard work. The rest of the evening involved updates and guidance from PC Amy Fletcher. PC Fletcher was very impressed with the ways in which our school strives to ensure that pupils and the wider community understand how to behave and stay safe online.

As a school, we have very clear policies and procedures on safeguarding, including digital safety.

A policy I would like to draw your attention to is Social Media Policy for Staff, Pupils, Parents and the Wider Community. This policy, along with many others, can be read at your convenience from the school website under the School Information tab, then click Policies.



### Oliver rehearsals

Y6 are working on their rehearsals for the Oliver production with Mr Galley from the high school. Y6 are due to join the performance on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March. Y4 are the lucky class who will get to watch this performance.

### And Finally...

Should you have any concerns or worries, do come in to see us, make an appointment or give us a call.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Lise Houldsworth  
Headteacher

## Diary Dates

A list of dates currently in the school diary.

01-02-17	NSPCC sponsor money deadline
01-02-17	Road safety workshop Y6
<b>07-02-17</b>	<b>Y6 enterprise winners to AHS – details to follow</b>
09-02-17	Life Education IN Y3-6 E-safety
<b>10-02-17</b>	<b>Y3 charity sale - lunchtime</b>
<b>10-02-17</b>	<b>F.O.E meeting 2pm school hall</b>
15-02-17	Governors – Strategic leadership
15-02-17	Reception trip to Runway visitors park
16-02-17	Y3 Class assembly 9.15am
<b>17-02-17</b>	<b>Y3 charity sale - lunchtime</b>
<b>17-02-17</b>	<b>School closes</b>

<b>27-02-17</b>	<b>School opens</b>
01-03-17	Y6 join AHS Oliver performance pm and evening – details to follow
<b>01-03-17</b>	<b>Y4 watch Oliver at AHS – details to follow</b>
02-03-17	Book Fair delivered
<b>07-03-17</b>	<b>Y1 to Spaceport – details to follow</b>
10-03-17	Y2 class assembly 9.15am
14-03-17	Y4 Standon Bowers
16-03-17	Class photographs
<b>17-03-17</b>	<b>Mid-year report card sent home Y1-6</b>
22-03-17	Governors – Learning & Teaching 5pm
23-03-17	Parent/teacher consultations 4-7pm
24-03-17	Y5 class assembly 9.15am
28-03-17	Parent/teacher consultations 3.30-5pm
29-03-17	Full Governors 5pm
31-03-17	Easter service – Juniors 9.15am
<b>31-03-17</b>	<b>School closes</b>

<b>18-04-17</b>	<b>School opens</b>
26-04-17	Governors – Community 5pm
08-05-17	Y6 SATS week
19-05-17	Y4 class assembly 9.15am
22-05-17	Sports week
26-05-17	Sports day KS1 9.15am, KS2 1.30pm (parents/carers welcome)
<b>26-05-17</b>	<b>School Closes</b>