



17<sup>th</sup> February 2017

## Newsletter 12

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for all your support – this half term has been packed with activities and opportunities for our children.

It is clear when I spend time with our children that not only are they progressing well academically, but their understanding of the world and what it means to be part of a community and a citizen grows all the time. They are genuinely interested in the wider world around them; they ask good questions; they understand how important it is to be a team and they want to help others less fortunate than themselves.

### World Book Day - Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March

For World Book Day this year, each group will be immersing themselves in the book "The Day the Crayons Quit". In order to make this a special day, we are inviting the children to come to school dressed in their favourite colour.



### Netball league

On Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2017, our team of Year 5 & 6 netball players attended the final fixtures of the Alsager Community Trust netball competition.

After two wins the previous week, we had everything to play for and the team started off solidly with a draw. We were still in the running for taking the championship.

Our final match was against Alsager Highfields, pitting us against a strong team. We had to win the match to win the tournament. Starting well, the score was reasonably even during the first

two quarters. Unfortunately, things didn't quite go our way during the final two quarters as our opposition pulled ahead to clinch the match. We were runners-up.

Despite the obvious disappointment, the team had a fantastic attitude throughout and did Excalibur proud. Well done to Isobel, Jasmine, Alex, Lewie, Layla, Eva and Josh for putting in great sporting performances.

### Sandbach Sports Partnership Hockey Tournament

On Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February, we attended the Sandbach Sports Partnership Hockey Tournament at Sandbach High School. Taking a team of five Year 5/6s, all of the players performed fantastically, far exceeding all expectations.

We were fantastic runners- up out of eight teams. During the awards ceremony, we discovered that the top two finishers would be invited to the County School Games in March, a fantastic achievement where we will compete against the best hockey schools in the whole of Cheshire.

The whole team must be commended for representing Excalibur so well and proving that with grit, determination, resilience and effort, you can get far. Well done to George, Alex, Lewie, Layla and Stella.

### NSPCC

The response to the NSPCC spellathon fundraiser has been fantastic and we have now managed to donate an amazing £2,125.55. Thank you to everyone for this brilliant effort!

### Staffing Update

Y1 parents/carers will be aware that Mrs Woodcock has been absent from work for a few weeks. This is due to ill health – we are fortunate that we have Mrs Townson who has stepped in during Mrs Woodcock's absence. We wish Mrs Woodcock a speedy recovery.

Mrs Bain is due to have an operation in March and we expect her to be away from school for approximately 5/6 weeks. Her weekly half day class cover for Y5 will be covered by Mrs Rebecca



Zartarian (deputy headteacher of Pikemere school).

Miss Alice Rigby (schools direct associate teacher) has left us for a while to start her second placement at another school, but she returns to us later in the year. In the meantime, we welcome Mrs Dawn Maddock to our school for her schools direct placement which will see her working alongside Mrs Weatherby and Mrs Newbould in Y2.



### **Enterprise Champions**

On Tuesday 7th February, two groups of Year 6 children competed in the annual Alsager Community Trust enterprise competition with other Alsager primary schools.

Last term, the whole of Year 6 was involved in a business and enterprise project: they were tasked with working in teams to create home-made products to sell at our school's Christmas fair. All groups did fantastically, raising plenty of money for their chosen charities in the process.

After the fair, the groups were challenged to present their products and ideas to three in-school judges: Mrs. Houldsworth, Mrs. Hilditch and Mrs. King. They selected two teams to represent Excalibur at a competition at Alsager School against other local competitors.

At the competition, the teams (named Magic Crafterz and Lord Sugars) presented to the Alsager Community Trust judges and children from other schools. In addition, they had to set up their stalls and convince Alsager School students to vote for them as the best team.

After the judges had compiled the scores from the presentation, the stall and the student vote they made the decision and prepared to announce the results. Both of our teams did fantastically, with Lilly receiving a special prize for outstanding presentation skills. Brilliantly, Magic Crafterz were crowned the overall champions, retaining the trophy from last year. All parts of their presentation, stall and products were fantastic and they were the deserving champions.

Well done to all the team members for doing Excalibur proud and special congratulations to Magic Crafterz for bringing home the trophy.



### **E-safety day**

All children took part in activities on e-safety day last week. Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 had specific workshops with the team from Life Education.

The year 4 children talked about the issues around staying on their computers and other devices for long periods of time. They then talked about what makes a good password, what to do if they receive a nasty email and what to do if someone asks you to share a photograph. They then looked at cyber-manners.

Year 5 and 6 started by exploring what we already knew about internet safety. We knew quite a lot! Then, we discussed age ratings and why age restrictions are applied. After watching a short film, we talked about what we should do to stay safe. We learnt about the 3c's: contact, content and conduct and then thought about cyber bullying and how we protect ourselves on the internet.

*"It was educational and interesting. I now know what CEOP is and how it can help me." - Josh*

*"This morning was interesting. I know more about bullying online." – Stella*

*"I thought that it was good that we learnt that if you have a problem on your devices use EDS. Evidence - take a screen shot. Delete - delete the message. Show - show it to a trusted adult / friend/ the police." - Louis*

*"I learnt not to trust anyone you don't know in real life." - Emmy*

### **House Point winners**

This half term winners are Arthur. All children in this house have earned the privilege of coming in non-uniform on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February. Well done!



### Y3 charity sale

A group of Y3 pupils have held a charity sale in school during two lunchtimes. These children came to us independently and asked for the opportunity to raise money for Cancer Research (which also happens to be the school council's chosen charity this year). The pupils were fabulous and they raised a terrific £72. Well done to Eloise, Millie, Lowenna, Martha, Faith and Isobel. Also thank you to parents who helped prepare the items at home and to Mrs Bailey and Mrs King who helped the pupils set up at lunchtimes.

### And finally

Just a reminder that our website has lots of information for you. Accessible 24 hours a day and we do try our best to keep it up to date.

Have a great half term everyone and we will see you back at school on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February.

Mrs Lise Houldsworth  
Head Teacher

## **Diary Dates**

A list of dates currently in the school diary.

**17-02-17 School closes**

**27-02-17 School opens**

28-02-17 Non uniform for winning house **Arthur**

01-03-17 Y6 join AHS Oliver performance pm and evening – details to follow

01-03-17 Y4 watch Oliver at AHS – details to follow

**06-03-17 Y5 to Weaver Hall museum**

**02-03-17 World Book Day-children to dress in their favourite colour**

02-03-17 Book Fair delivered

07-03-17 Y1 to Spaceport – details to follow

**08-03-17 FOE AGM – 7pm Excalibur – all welcome**

09-03-17 Y2 class assembly 9.15am

14-03-17 Y4 Standon Bowers

16-03-17 Class photographs

17-03-17 Mid-year report card sent home Y1-6

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

**31-03-17 School closes**

**18-04-17 School opens**

26-04-17 Governors – Community 5pm

01-05-17 May day – school closed

08-05-17 Y6 SATS week

19-05-17 Y4 class assembly 9.15am

22-05-17 Sports week

24-05-17 Governors – Strategic Leadership 5pm

26-05-17 Sports day KS1 9.15am, KS2 1.30pm  
(parents/carers welcome)

**26-05-17 School Closes**

**05-06-17 School opens**

**08-06-17 Y2 Alsager sport activity day – details to follow**

**12-06-17 Y1 Phonics screening week**

**20-06-17 Y6 Alton Towers – details to follow**

**28-06-17 Y6 at Alsager High School – taster day**

**29-06-17 Alsager interschool sports**

**30-06-17 Reception class assembly**

**06-07-17 Reserve date for interschool sports**

**07-07-17 End of year reports OUT**

**11-07-17 Y5/6 production – afternoon**

**12-07-17 Y5/6 production – evening**

**19-07-17 Y6 leavers garden party/rounders 5pm**

**21-07-17 Y6 leavers assembly 9.15am**

**21-07-17 School closes**