



30<sup>th</sup> March 2017

## Newsletter 14

Dear Parents/Carers,

We love this time of year at school – we are beginning to see more of the sun, the days feel longer and we can take more of our learning outdoors. As we look forward to the summer term, please can I remind parents/carers to ensure that the children are appropriately prepared for the weather – in this country that means with a rain coat, sun cream applied before school or a sun cap – depending on the forecast! Many thanks.



### Y3/4 reading project

Some of the children in year 3 and 4 have been taking part in a reading project with other children from local schools. This has involved several trips to the library, a visit to Stoke City FC and a morning at Cranberry Academy for an art/drama workshop based on the stories shared. The children involved engaged really well, concentrated and showed exemplary attitudes.

### Mother's Day Gift Wrap

FOE ran the gift wrap again this year and raised a terrific £211.07 for school funds. The children really love this event and we hope that mums/carers enjoyed their gifts. Thank you to everyone who gave up their time to help the children.



### Y2 visit to Ford Green Hall

On Monday all the Year 2 children went to Ford Green Hall in Stoke on Trent. We were very lucky to spend the whole day in a house that is nearly 400 years old. We met a Samuel Pepys character who told us about his experiences during the Great Fire of London.

In the afternoon, we handled artefacts and learned about their uses. No-one guessed the watering can. The staff at Ford Green Hall commented on how well the children listened. *Mrs Weatherby*



### Comic Relief

Well done everyone who supported comic relief last week with their wacky socks and tights. Excalibur raised £189.44 in total.

### Y4 Standon Bowers residential

Y4 spent 2 days at Standon Bowers on an outdoor education visit. They enjoyed lots of exciting activities which promoted teamwork and personal challenge. The children were a credit to the school. Thank you to all staff who gave up their own time to accompany the children: Mrs Tomkinson, Mrs Bundy, Miss Taylor and Miss Rigby.



### Y5 assembly

Y5 shared some of their learning for parents/carers in their 'rocking' assembly last week. In addition, Love Music Trust tutors joined us to show parents/carers how well their children had progressed in the half term of whole class brass tuition. Well done Y5! We hope that you all enjoyed the morning.

### Social Media....again!

Whilst we recognise that social media platforms such as Facebook can be useful, Excalibur does not have an official page on any social media sites. All our information and correspondence is done via our website or parentmail.pmx.

It has come to our attention that Facebook pages related to Excalibur school have been set up by other people unofficially. Before you post anything on these pages, please consider carefully what you are doing. Even if you are happy to post images or video of your

own child, others are not. Furthermore, posting images/videos could be a significant safeguarding risk to other children. Any direct reference to the name of the school or individuals will be reported and guidance sought from legal. If unsure, as already stated on previous newsletters, we have a very clear policy available on our website [http://www.excalibur.cheshire.sch.uk/serve\\_file/80235](http://www.excalibur.cheshire.sch.uk/serve_file/80235). Please help us to keep everyone safe at our school by using social media responsibly.

### **Y5 visit to Wesley Place**

Y5 walked to Wesley Place last week to take part in a series of activities exploring the Easter story. The children participated well and learnt a lot.

### **Author visit to Y5**

Author John Mayhew spent an afternoon in Y5 sharing his expertise in writing and working with the class explaining how real authors find ideas and craft a novel. The pupils enjoyed this experience.

### **Attendance and lateness**

Well done to all those children who have achieved 100% attendance this term – you will be receiving your certificate at the end of the week. As we all know, there is a direct link to the progress and well-being of pupils and attendance at school. The government considers less than 90% attendance as 'persistent absenteeism'. The majority of our pupils are well above this attendance rate and whole school attendance overall since September is 96.65%, which is good.

More of a concern for us is lateness. We still have some children who are persistently late, arriving after gam. This impacts on their whole day. It is so important that pupils arrive in school ready to learn and relaxed. In addition, it also impacts on learning for others if teachers have to go through an introduction to a lesson again. Cheshire East Education Welfare Officers regularly check

our registers for attendance **and** lateness. They will intervene if a child is seen to be persistently late. Everyone has had their latest individual figures for attendance and lateness on the mid-year report card, so you can see if an improvement is needed. If there are difficulties which school might be able to help with, then do let us know.



### **Cheshire Hockey Finals**

On Thursday 16th March, our hockey team, which came runner up at the Sandbach Partnership Final, competed at the Cheshire & Warrington County School Games event. Held at Crewe Vagrants Hockey Club, the competition consisted of 16 teams from across the entire of Cheshire & Warrington. The team played fantastically, adapting well to the level of competition and holding their own against the opposition. Overall, they won two matches, drew three matches and lost two matches.

This year is the first time that we have reached a County Final in hockey and only the second time we've reached a county-level event in the past 7 years. Well done to Stella, Lewie, Alex, Layla and Callum.

*Mr Hancock*



### **And Finally..**

Enjoy the Easter break everyone! I hope that you manage to get out and about to enjoy some family time together.

We welcome everyone back to school on **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017.**

Best wishes,  
Mrs Lise Houldsworth  
Head Teacher

## Diary Dates

A list of dates currently in the school diary. New dates are added in **bold**.

31-03-17 Easter service – Juniors 9.15am – details to follow
<b>31-03-17 School closes</b>

<b>18-04-17 School opens</b>
26-04-17 Governors – Community 5pm
<b>28-04-17 Artist in school</b>
01-05-17 May day – school closed
04-05-17 Phonics workshop for parents 6pm – details to follow
<b>05-05-17 Artist in school</b>
08-05-17 Y6 SATS week
<b>12-05-17 Reception class to Stockley Farm – details to follow (please note this is a change of date)</b>
12-05-17 FOE children's discos
<b>17-05-17 Y4 Bikeability – details to follow</b>
<b>18-05-17 Y5 Bikeability – details to follow</b>
19-05-17 Y4 class assembly 9.15am
19-05-17 FOE meeting 2pm school hall – all welcome
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)
<b>26-05-17 School Closes</b>

<b>05-06-17 School opens</b>
<b>07-06-17 Team photos</b>
08-06-17 Y2 Alsager sport activity day – details to follow
12-06-17 Y1 Phonics screening week
13/14/15-06-17 FOE Father's Day gift wrap at lunchtimes – details to follow
20-06-17 Y6 Alton Towers – details to follow
22-06-17 Y1 class assembly 9.15am
28-06-17 Y6 at Alsager High School – taster day
<b>28-06-17 Governors – teaching &amp; learning 5pm</b>
29-06-17 Alsager interschool sports
30-06-17 Reception class assembly
30-06-17 FOE Summer Fair 5-7pm
<b>05-07-17 Full Governors 5pm</b>
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
<b>21-07-17 School closes</b>