



9<sup>th</sup> May 2017

## Newsletter 16

Dear Parents/Carers,

Great learning is the core of all we do here at Excalibur and there are always plenty of valuable, engaging activities taking place. I am continuously proud of the commitment to learning shown by our pupils – it really is a privilege to see them growing and learning every day.



### Global learning – artist in residence

As part of our focus on global learning, each class over the last few weeks has had opportunity to work with an artist. There is some quality work being created. This will come together in a whole school display to encapsulate the important themes within global learning – interdependence, social justice, sustainability and the overlapping British values of democracy, liberty, mutual respect and tolerance. We will upload some photos of our work onto the website soon. Thank you to Friends of Excalibur for funding this enrichment activity for every child.



### Sports Round-up

**Orienteering** - on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017, a squad of over 30 children from Year 3, 4, 5 & 6 attended the Alsager Community Trust orienteering competition at Alsager School. During the activity, children worked in pairs to read a map and find orienteering stickers posted all over the high school's site. They then had to write down a word that was attached to the sticker and record the word on their answer sheet.

The five fastest teams counted towards the whole school results, with times being added together

to give the school's overall time. After some fantastic performances across the competition, we were able to come away as runners up!

Congratulations to the first 5 finishing pairs and well done to everybody; you represented Excalibur with exemplary sportsmanship, fair play and grit. Many thanks as well to the staff that assisted in the event.

**Year 5/6 Swimming Gala - 27<sup>th</sup> April 2017** -On Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April, a team of Year 5 & 6 children competed in the Alsager Community Trust swimming gala. The event was organised by Bridgestone Swimming Club. Throughout the competition, our children could compete in a maximum of 2 events, including: individual breaststroke, backstroke and front crawl; a girls and boys freestyle relay; a girls and boys medley; and a mixed cannon, involving 8 children from our squad in a single race.

With a mixture of club swimmers and some who were competing in their first gala, all of our children swam fantastically. Well done to you all and many thanks to Mrs Thompson and Miss Kirby for being fantastic team managers.



### Message from Cheshire East Safeguarding Team

We would like to alert you to a concern that Cheshire Police have in relation to a dangerous social media game called 'The Blue Whale'. There have not been any reported cases in Cheshire East but the Police are keen to increase awareness as a prevention strategy. 'The Blue Whale' is a dangerous game played online and spreads through social media. The game is being played by children of all ages, some as young as primary age, but predominantly by teenagers. Please be alert that the game is a dangerous safeguarding concern.

Please, as always, be vigilant with e-safety: ensure that all devices have parental controls; that children use devices under adult supervision and regularly talk to your children about what they are doing on the internet. Primary school aged children should not be using social media. Visit our website for lots of useful advice <http://www.excalibur.cheshire.sch.uk/page/e-safety/1340>



### Reception class visitors

Reception class had a visit from Mrs Cadman last week who kindly brought along some animals for the children to see. These included a bearded dragon, a tortoise, a red kneed tarantula and a family of guinea pigs. The children were all very brave and decided whether to touch certain creatures if they were allowed. Thank you to Mrs Cadman (and Charlie) for your time and assistance.

### Pupil Voice Co-ordinator

This half term, we have Imogen Gregory (Alsager Community Trust Pupil Voice Co-ordinator) working one day a week in school with the children. Imogen is an ex-Excalibur pupil. During her time with us she will be supporting and developing the school council.



### Y3 are invaded!

Last Friday, Y3 were subject to a Viking invasion! They had an amazing day outside, learning all about the Vikings from one of the invaders; lots of drama and using replica artefacts. The costumes were marvellous and this extra special activity really brought the topic to life for the children. Well done, everyone!

### Fidget Spinners, toys etc.

Please do not allow your children to bring in any toys, fidget spinners etc. or any of the latest crazes into school. We cannot take responsibility for such items in school and they cause too many distractions and disagreements with the children. Thank you for your support.



### Staff Development

Miss Taylor and I have recently visited a lead school in global learning to see if there are ways that Excalibur can embed this part of the curriculum further. Mrs Tomkinson and Mrs Ling are working on behalf of the local authority again

this term as end of key stage moderators. I am working with another school as a School Improvement Partner. Mr Hancock has been attending local sports leaders' meetings. Mrs Ling continues to meet with a range of professionals to enhance our SEND provision. Miss Taylor led a training session for associate teachers on the school's direct programme.

### And finally



A reminder that it is the Friends of Excalibur children's discos this Friday. Please note that junior children will not be allowed to enter the building until the infants have left the hall with their parents/carers, so juniors please don't arrive too early! ☺

Also, may I remind everyone that the school car park is for staff use only at all times. Please do not use the school car park when collecting pupils from after school clubs or evening events - unless you have prior permission from the school.

As always, any concerns, please get in touch with us. We are always happy to help and if necessary, for longer meetings, appointments can be made through the school office.



Long may the sunshine continue!

Best wishes,  
Mrs Lise Houldsworth  
Head Teacher

## Diary Dates

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

08-05-17 Y6 SATS week
12-05-17 Reception class to Stockley Farm –
12-05-17 FOE children's discos (pay on the door) Infants 5.15-6.15pm Juniors 6.30-7.30pm
17-05-17 Y4 Bikeability
18-05-17 Y5 Bikeability
19-05-17 Y4 class assembly 9.15am
19-05-17 FOE meeting 2pm school hall – all welcome
22-05-17 Sports week – letter to follow
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>
05-06-17 Y5 to AHS – drumming workshop – details to follow
06-06-17 Y4 to Tatton – details to follow
07-06-17 Team photos
08-06-17 School closed for Polling
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
28-06-17 Governors – teaching & learning 5pm
29-06-17 Alsager interschool sports
30-06-17 Reception class assembly
30-06-17 FOE Summer Fair 5-7pm
05-07-17 Full Governors 5pm
06-07-17 Reserve date for interschool sports
07-07-17 End of year reports OUT
W/B 10-7-17 Meet the Teacher – details to follow
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>