



11<sup>th</sup> October 2017

## Newsletter 3

Dear Parents/Carers,

You may have noticed the appearance of the Life Education van in the car park this week. This is a mobile interactive classroom where each class engage in learning about healthy lifestyles. This has been funded again this year by the Friends of Excalibur (FOE) and is an 'added extra' to our PSHCE and science curriculum. Many thanks to them. Be sure to ask your child about their experience in the 'van' this week!



### **Physical Literacy Day**

The children in Year 1 to Year 6 recently took part in a range of physical exercises and assessments. These are a series of age appropriate timed tasks and drills. As you know, at the end of last year we sent out information on accessing your child's online 'locker' to see how they are doing and ideas on how to easily increase fitness levels at home. If you have any questions, please speak to Mr Hancock or enquire at the office. What it helps teachers to do in school is to plan very specific lessons and activities to support the development of core fundamental physical skills; which in turn supports the children's ability to successfully access and participate in a range of sports and develop healthy lifestyles.

### **Volunteers in school**

We are very fortunate to have a team of willing volunteers in school who help us to enhance our provision; helpers who work with small groups sewing or cooking, reading with individual children, supporting the teacher with administrative tasks or helping on educational visits. This support benefits every child in our school and we welcome their input. If you are willing to offer any time or maybe you have a specialist skill which could be shared, then please

do get in touch with a member of the team and we would be happy to discuss this more with you. Please note – all volunteers must complete DBS checks, adhere to the guidance outlined in the school's volunteer handbook and provide two references.

### **Reaseheath Visit**

Year 1 visited Reaseheath College to support their topic work. They met lots of interesting animals and on their return were keen to tell us all about their learning; explaining terms such as 'nocturnal' and 'mammals'. Miss Robinson was very pleased with the knowledge, questions and interest from the children and they had a great day!



### **One World**

Y4 have been working alongside a dancer learning a Caribbean dance in preparation for the One World festival which takes place on Saturday at Alsager High school. This is always a great event and everyone is welcome to attend.

### **Y5 are evacuated**

Our Y5 class were evacuated to Woodcock's Well school and Congleton museum last week where they took part in a range of activities to support their study of World War Two. The pupils even 'enjoyed' a wartime lunch and sang songs in the air raid shelter. The children looked fabulous - thank you for providing their costumes – it helped the day to feel even more authentic. Miss McArdle was pleased with the way the children conducted themselves – well done Year 5!



### **Staff Development and school improvement**

As an 'outward facing' school, Excalibur is always developing and seeking to improve in any way we can. Staff have ongoing training and networking opportunities throughout the year. Recently, we have had training in: coaching, emotionally healthy schools, food hygiene, global learning, fire safety and reading. All staff had their annual safeguarding refresher training.

We have also recently had the autumn term visit from our school improvement partner (SIP). The SIP's role is to quality assure our self-evaluation and school priorities. Our SIP is a current OFSTED inspector. In her report she comments that: "Excalibur is an excellent school that offers a great deal to all of the pupils. Rich and exciting opportunities are used to support learning at every stage...this is a school that everyone is proud of" and on the "ambitious drive to continue to provide the best possible education for all the pupils at the school."



### **Hygiene report**

We have also had a spot check hygiene audit and I am very pleased to tell you that Mrs Preen and her team in the school kitchen retained their grade 5 rating; which is the highest grade which can be achieved.

### **A message from the school office**

This is a polite reminder that we will no longer be accepting the old £1 coins after the 15<sup>th</sup> October.

Also – please note that we check any cash notes sent into school and any counterfeit notes will be returned to the sender and not accepted. Thank you.

Remember, most things can be paid for online using ParentMail PMX.

### **And finally**

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Lise Houldsworth  
Head Teacher

## **Diary Dates**

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

12-10-17 Parent/carer lunch for reception class
12-10-17 Parent/carer teacher meetings 4-7pm
14-10-17 Alsager One World Festival @ Alsager High school
17-10-17 Parent/carer teacher meetings 3.30-6pm
18-10-17 Reception Welly Walk
19-10-17 Y3 visit to Chester
20-10-17 FOE Bake sale afterschool
<b>20-10-17 School closes</b>

<b>31-10-17 School opens</b>
03-11-17 FOE children's discos (details to follow)
<b>03-11-17 Infants bonfire (in the school day)</b>
<b>06-11-17 Y4 visit to West Park Museum (details to follow)</b>
07-11-17 Academy photos - individuals
08-11-17 Governors meeting – Resources & Personnel 5pm
<b>24-11-17 Fire Service IN – Y5 – Escape to safety</b>
<b>27-11-17 Infants visit to Wesley Place – Nativity puppet show (details to follow)</b>
29-11-17 Governors meeting – Standards & Curriculum 5pm
30-11-17 FOE non uniform day – details to follow
01-12-17 FOE Christmas Fair – details to follow
<b>01-12-17 Y2 to Y6 visit to the New Vic – Treasure Island (subsidised by FOE – details to follow)</b>
05-12-17 FLUENZ (Reception – Y4)
06-12-17 Full Governors meeting 5pm
07-12-17 Infants Christmas celebration at St.Mary's 2.15pm – details to follow
12-12-17 KS2 Christmas performance – hall - 2pm – details to follow
<b>13-12-17 Reception &amp; Y1 visit to The Lowry – The Gruffalo (subsidised visit by FOE – details to follow)</b>
<b>20-12-17 School Christmas lunch – details to follow</b>
<b>22-12-17 School closes</b>

<b>09-01-18 School opens</b>
07-02-18 Governors meeting – Resources & Personnel 5pm
<b>16-02-18 School closes</b>