



31st October 2017

Newsletter 4

Dear Parents/Carers,



Welcome back to the second Autumn half term! We hope that you had a lovely time with family and friends and enjoyed yourselves. The colours on the trees are spectacular just now! We have much to look forward to this half term – lots of hard work and special events ahead of us.

Thank you for your attendance at the recent parent/teacher consultations. As always, it was great to see you there and we hope that you found the meetings useful. Thank you for your support and kind comments – it really is appreciated.

The next formal parent/teacher meetings are scheduled for March and classrooms will be open so that you can browse your child's books and look at how hard they have been learning! Please note, that due to capacity, in the future we are only able to offer one slot per child when booking a parent/teacher consultation. If there are exceptional circumstances why you are unable to attend your child's allocated time, then you will need to contact the school to arrange to meet with the teacher at a mutually convenient time on another day. Thank you.



Book Fair

Our recent book fair was a great success once more and we took a total of £721.09. As always, we receive a good percentage of commission on this amount which we then spend on updating our reading stock in school – the pupils often choose the books from the catalogue themselves. Many thanks for your support.



Y3 visit to Chester

Year 3 visited Chester to enrich their study of The Romans. They walked the Roman walls and learnt all about being a Roman soldier. They were very lucky with the weather and managed to do all their outdoor learning in the morning before the rain started; completing an indoor session with artefacts in the afternoon. Mrs Bailey was thrilled when the staff at the museum (and the Roman soldier) commented that our children were excellent in their behaviour, knowledge and attitude to learning. The DEWA experience staff were so impressed that they said that our Year 3 were welcome back every day and were an absolute pleasure to work with. Thank you, Year 3, for representing our school so well – we are proud!

Operation Christmas shoe box appeal update

A few weeks ago, school distributed leaflets for the Samaritans Purse shoe box appeal as we have done several times before, as parents/carers have wanted to support this. However, it has been brought to our attention by a couple of parents that there are many groups and organisations who are critical of the scheme because of the evangelical nature and messages in books which are added by Samaritans Purse to the box when it is distributed. School was not aware of these issues until now, so thank you for your support.

Whether or not one supports a specific charity is, of course, a personal choice and there is no obligation to contribute to any cause should you have concerns. Any boxes which arrive to school this month will be sent on. However, given the growing number of concerns surrounding this scheme, we will no longer send out the leaflets in future years.

With Children in Need just around the corner, we will work with our pupil school council to support this event. Look out for details!



Visitors from China

Excalibur was fortunate on the last day of half term to host four teachers from China. The teachers and their interpreter enjoyed a tour of the school;

visiting classrooms, joining us for stars assembly and having a 'big breakfast' for lunch with some of the staff and children. They commented on the many initiatives in our school which support the social and emotional needs of the children, they loved our displays and the outdoor space. We also chatted about education in China; the similarities and the differences. They left us with some beautiful gifts as a thank you; including a book, fans and paper weights. We hope to host more teachers from China later this term who are specialist PE teachers, so Mr Hancock is sure to be interested in finding out about new ideas and techniques!

Cheshire East Travel Consultation

Cheshire East Council is consulting about changes to its Education Travel Policies. If you are currently in receipt of school transport, it is important that you are aware of the proposed changes and have an opportunity to have your say.

You can access the consultation on line at www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/consultations or for a paper copy contact 0300 123 5012.

The consultation runs from 18th October to 6th December 2017.

Safeguarding and Extra Curricular Clubs

A polite reminder that the office must be informed if your child is not attending a club which they have registered for.

Furthermore, please do not be offended that adults do not open the front door for you to come in to the school building before clubs have finished – this is for safeguarding reasons. We cannot have adults waiting in the entrance hall because we have a range of clubs happening across the school which finish at different times and we need to know who is in the building. Thank you for your understanding and your help in keeping our children safe. Please pass this message on to anyone who may be picking up from after school clubs on your behalf 😊.

And finally

Thank you for your continued support. *How many sleeps is it until Christmas?!!*

Mrs Lise Houldsworth
Head Teacher

Diary Dates

A list of dates currently in the school diary.

New dates are added in **bold**.

31-10-17 School opens
03-11-17 FOE children's discos
03-11-17 Infants bonfire (in the school day)
06-11-17 Y4 visit to West Park Museum
07-11-17 Academy photos - individuals
08-11-17 Governors meeting – Resources & Personnel 5pm
14-11-17 FOE meeting 7.30pm School hall – all welcome
24-11-17 Fire Service IN – Y5 – Escape to safety
27-11-17 Infants visit to Wesley Place – Nativity puppet show (details to follow)
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
01-12-17 Y2 to Y6 visit to the New Vic – Treasure Island (subsidised by FOE)
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
13-12-17 Reception & Y1 visit to The Lowry – The Gruffalo (subsidised visit by FOE)
20-12-17 School Christmas lunch – details to follow
22-12-17 School closes

09-01-18 School opens
07-02-18 Governors meeting – Resources & Personnel 5pm
09-02-18 FOE film night – details to follow
16-02-18 School closes

26-02-18 School opens
6/7/8-03-18 FOE Mother's Day gift wrap – details to follow
14-03-18 Governors – Standards & Curriculum 5pm
16-03-18 Mid-Year report card home
22-03-18 Parent/teacher consultations 4-7pm
27-03-18 Parent/teacher consultations 3.30-6pm
28-03-18 Full governors 5pm
29-03-18 School Closes

