



13th November 2017

Newsletter 5

Dear Parents/Carers,



Sports Round-up

On Thursday 19th October, a team of Year 3/4 children attended the Alsager Community Trust football competition at Alsager School. During the tournament, they played against the other four schools in Alsager. All matches were incredibly close, with every player displaying grit and determination, constantly supporting their teammates throughout. Despite not winning the tournament, and in a relentless onslaught of rain, the team improved with each game that they played.

On Thursday 2nd November, a squad of eleven players from Year 4, 5 and 6 participated in the Alsager Community Trust Girls' Football competition. In one word, they played incredibly. Over the course of the tournament, we played four teams. In their first match we conceded in the first couple of minutes. But then, the team fought on to equalise by the end of the game. They went from strength to strength over the next three matches, beating Cranberry Academy 1-0 and drawing the other two games. The scores were checked and the results were in. Three teams drew on number of points, leaving the victory down to goal difference. In the end we came joint runners up!

On Thursday, a squad of nine children from Excalibur took part in the Alsager Community Trust Basketball Tournament. Our first match, against Cranberry Academy, was our first opportunity to test out our skills against another school; we won convincingly with many lay-ups being scored and outstanding defending. Our second match against Alsager Highfields proved trickier than the first but victory was always within reach - we won the second match, never conceding a basket. Our third

and final match pitted us against St. Gabriel's, where we conceded for the first and only time during the tournament. Victory was ours!

Friends of Excalibur

The bake sale generated £127.85 for school funds and the recent disco – popular as ever – raised £399.65. Thank you to all volunteers and staff for your support. As we plan for our next event – the Christmas Fair - Friends of Excalibur are holding a meeting tomorrow evening, Tuesday 14th November at 7.30pm in the school hall. Everyone is welcome!

Y4 Egyptian Adventure

Y4 recently travelled to Macclesfield to immerse themselves in Ancient Egypt; studying artefacts and making papyrus. The hands on sessions helped the pupils to learn even more about this fascinating period of history. The children were superb and Miss Taylor was impressed with the class – thank you Year 4.



Infants bonfire

As has become tradition at Excalibur, the infants enjoyed a bonfire recently. Mr Pickin prepared our very own bonfire and the children watched (from a safe distance) as the bonfire was lit. The children enjoyed their chocolate apples as they watched the flames dance. They were excited when the fire was extinguished with water. Everyone then had hot chocolate to warm up on a frosty morning.

PCSO's visit Reception class

As part of their 'People who help us' topic, Reception class had a visit from our local PCSO's who explained their role in our community. The children were very excited! The PCSO's even brought along their car for us to have a closer look at and the siren was super loud!



Parking

If you must drive to school, please can we remind everyone to park safely and also with respect for our neighbours – particularly by not blocking driveways. The safety of all our children must be the priority. Furthermore, as you can imagine, it is not very pleasant for Excalibur staff when they are on the receiving end of angry residents due to inconsiderate parking by parents/carers of the school. Thank you in anticipation of your co-operation and support.

Staff Development

Staff have recently enjoyed a day with Dr Barry Hymer to learn all about the importance of developing a growth mindset and how this supports pupil learning. This worked wonderfully to remind us of the importance of Excalibur's key curriculum drivers of resilient, resourceful, reflective, responsible and reasoning.

Teachers also had a year group network meeting with the Alsager schools, sharing good practice in mathematics. Mrs Tomkinson and I attended a data tracking session and Mrs Bailey recently undertook a day training in KiVa.



And finally

As the cold weather bites, please ensure that your child has a coat in school and hat and gloves as appropriate – we will always go out to play unless the weather is torrential!

Also – a plea please to label everything and check that written in labels haven't washed out!

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**.

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
12-01-18 Y2/3 Yellow Brick workshops
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