



22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018

## Newsletter 10

Dear Parents/Carers,

The weeks are already whizzing by with lots of fun and super learning taking place!

### Y1 visit to Wesley Place

Y1 recently visited Wesley Place to support their learning in RE where they explored epiphany. As always, our children were fantastic and Miss Robinson was very pleased with the way they all contributed and how sensibly they walked down to the village.



### Yellow Brick Workshops

Y2 and Y3 started their topics with a brilliant, lively and engaging drama workshop with the Yellow Brick Company. These sessions really brought the learning to life and ignited the children's interest. The actresses from Yellow Brick were full of praise for both classes and the way in which the children conducted themselves and got involved with the sessions.



### Staff Training

All staff, some governors and volunteers completed safeguarding training at the start of January. Mrs Tomkinson and Mrs Ling have received training in their role as local authority moderators. I have attended domestic abuse training in my role as designated safeguarding lead. Both Mrs Hilditch and I have had training around the new requirements of data protection due in May 2018. All teachers will be accessing a workshop on the learning and teaching of spelling in February.

### PE teachers from China visit

On Thursday 14th December, we had the privilege of being visited by six PE teachers from China, who were over in the UK for two weeks to find out about British education. In particular, they were keen to find out all about PE in British primary schools, and Mr. Hancock had the pleasure of showing them around for the day. In addition, they observed Year 3 and Year 6 during PE lessons. They started their day by sitting in on our Christmas-themed singing assembly before taking to the playground at break time - they were impressed with the diverse range of activities available for the children. Later on, during the tour of the whole school, they commented on the broad curriculum available and were very impressed with our displays. They joined members of staff for a school lunch, a choice of Spaghetti Bolognese or Cheese Pie. Before they left they kindly presented us with several gifts, including a Chinese scroll, origami animals and a variety of other wonderful items that will be displayed around school. Many thanks to our visitors, and the interpreter that came with them, for giving us the opportunity to share the similarities and differences about PE in China - it was an interesting and highly rewarding experience.

### Staffing

We have a vacancy for a permanent midday assistant. Our midday assistants work on a rota; so some of the work will be in the dinner hall and some outside on the playground. This is an opportunity to join a friendly, hardworking team and work with our lovely children – please come and see Mrs Hilditch as soon as possible if you are interested in this vacancy to find out more.

Mrs Bain, after many years of service, has decided to concentrate on her family, hang up her chalk board and will be leaving Excalibur at Easter. Mrs Bain joined the school at the same time as I did - as our Year 6 teacher, 15 years ago! She has more recently worked as a part time teaching assistant, but over the years carried out several roles. She will be missed, but has assured me that she will be popping in to volunteer with us from time to time. I am sure that you will join me in wishing her and her family all the best for the future. Mrs Townson

will be taking on some of Mrs Bain's duties after Easter.



### **Sportshall Athletics**

On Thursday 18th January, a squad of Year 5/6 children took part in the Sportshall Athletics events at Alsager School. Over the course of the event, each participant took part in a maximum of 4 events (2 track events and 2 field events). Field events included standing long jump, standing triple jump, vertical jump, speed bounce, chest push and soft javelin. Track events included obstacle and hurdle relays and sprint and long distance events. Throughout the competition, fantastic results were achieved across the board and it was inspiring to see the amount of effort that went in to each performance. When it came to the results we came in the bronze medal position, coming third out of six teams. A well-earned result through a fantastic Excalibur team effort.

### **Lunch Money**

It would be very helpful if you could please regularly check whether you have any outstanding balances on ParentMail PMX. When office staff are chasing up debts, it obviously takes time away from other duties. Thank you for your help.

### **Bentley visit to Y5**

Engineers from Bentley visited Year 5 last week to complete a 'Be Extraordinary' challenge. They spent the morning with Year 5 pupils to make wind turbines in a competition.

*It was good to experience how wind turbines are used as you don't usually get to see how one is made. Finlay*

*It was good because I haven't experienced anything like that before. Elinor*

*I think it was cool how we got to make them and see how they worked. Jessica*

### **And Finally**

As always, any concerns please do get in touch with a member of the team.

Should you need to speak with Mrs Tomkinson (Deputy Headteacher) or myself, we will always do our best to speak with you as soon as we can.

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**.

07-02-18 Governors meeting – Resources & Personnel 5pm
<b>07-02-18 Y1 trip to Spaceport</b>
07-02-18 Y6 – 2 teams at enterprise event at AHS – details to follow
09-02-18 FOE Movie Night
<b>12-02-18 FOE meeting 7pm</b>
<b>15-02-18 Reception trip to Runway Park – details to follow</b>
16-02-18 School closes
26-02-18 School opens
01-03-18 Class photos – Academy IN
6/7/8-03-18 FOE Mother's Day gift wrap – details to follow
7-03-18 Fire Service IN to Y6
08-03-18 Fire Service IN to Y5
12-03-18 Last week of clubs
14-03-18 Governors – Standards & Curriculum 5pm
16-03-18 Mid-Year report card home
<b>19-03-18 FOE non uniform day – bring an easter egg – details to follow</b>
22/23-03-18 Y4 Standon Bowers – details to follow
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
16-04-18 School Opens
<b>07-05-18 May Day – school closed</b>
<b>14-05-18 Y6 SATS week</b>
<b>18-05-18 FOE school disco – details to follow</b>
<b>21-05-18 Sports Week</b>
<b>23-05-18 Governors – Resources &amp; Personnel 5pm</b>
25-05-18 School Closes

